

Canadian adventist

Messenger

february 2015



Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Adventist Education Summit

PLUS Safe for Singles? (p. 5)
CUC Changes Status and Official Name (p.8)
Bringing Hope to Ukraine (p. 20)

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“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

—Acts 4:12, ESV



Where there is hope

These words of Peter are incredible when we consider that they were spoken to a group of religious leaders. Those who heard them were some of the greatest biblical and doctrinal scholars of all time. They were surrounded by the places that we read about in Scripture. The words of the prophets were still fresh. They were scrupulous in their observance of the Sabbath, the tithe, and biblical diet. In fact, we could learn a lot from them.

Scripture knowledge, though, had not protected them from making the greatest mistake ever made in the history of religion. Motivated by anger, they killed Jesus. Bible students can still be killers, unless Christ has access to the heart.

Here is a profound truth: Jesus alone holds the key to salvation; there is no alternate route. Jesus said it Himself: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6, ESV).

Salvation requires that change take place. That’s why the crucifixion was necessary. Our normal behaviour causes death and destruction. You and I must become different people. Paul summarized it this way: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20, ESV). It is this transformation by faith that provides the hope so many people desperately need today. It can be yours. It can be mine.

So I’m reading the Bible through again this year, perhaps a little more slowly than last time. I need to absorb again the great principles of salvation and life. I want a faith that is fresh and attractive to my neighbours and friends. I want to explore yet again the great teachings of Scripture. I need them to be mine.

Care to join me in the Book? ■

Mark Johnson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

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Communication Director/Editor Stan Jensen
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

Art Director Joan Tanasiychuk
tanasiychuk.joan@adventist.ca

Ad Manager/Circulation Aimee Perez
perez.aimee@adventist.ca;
messenger@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Mirkovich
messenger@adventist.ca

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Daniel Stojanovic
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

VP Finance Joyce Jones
jones.joyce@adventist.ca

General VP Dennis Marshall
marshall.dennis@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5,
phone 403/342-5044

British Columbia Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S
4P5, phone 604/853-5451

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1004 Victoria Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

Maritime 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E
1A6, phone 506/857-8722

Newfoundland 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl, NL
A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

Ontario 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H
1H8, phone 905/571-1022

Quebec 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H
3M3, phone 450/651-5222

Canadian University College 5415 College Ave.,
Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

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Cover photo: Daniel Stojanovic.

Dr. Larry Blackmer, NAD vice-president for education, opened the Summit by emphasizing the important role of Adventist education.



Teaching Trip To Kenya

Journeys of Inspiration | July 4 - July 17, 2015



Share your skills | Feel the difference | See the country | Make an impact

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- ✓ Help out and spend time preparing students and teachers for a brighter future
- ✓ Explore the local culture and connect with communities
- ✓ See the wildlife in the Maasai Mara and spend 3 nights in the famous game park

Estimated Costs (Per Person): * \$2,975

* Does not include visa fee (\$50.00) and vaccinations. Includes: Meals, Transport, Park Fees, Lodging. All prices are subject to change.

Estimated Airfare Costs: \$2,000

For more information contact:

Julie Stegmaier at the A Better World office at 403.782.0325 or info@abwcanada.ca.

Tour Host:

Keith Leavitt, Associate Professor

Keith Leavitt is an associate professor in the School of Education at Canadian University College. He has over 35 years of teaching experience and has worked in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Kenya. He has a passion for helping teachers teach better.

Tour Director:

Eric Rajah, Co-founder, ABW

Eric Rajah, Co-Founder of A Better World has been leading humanitarian trips since 1999. Providing a safe and comfortable trip experience is a priority for him. You will get a chance to understand the challenges of development work as well as see, and feel the success of the investment made by thousands of generous people.

A trip with mission and memories

Founded in 1990, A Better World is a Central Alberta-based, International Development Organization dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty in the developing world. A Better World has projects in 12 countries and is managed by volunteers from all walks of life. Over 2600 people have traveled with A Better World.

Sustainable
change to improve
lives.

A Better World Canada | www.abwcanada.ca
403.782.0325 | #103 5033 52nd Street Lacombe AB

safe for Singles



“Is your church congregation a place where singles feel welcome and included?”

If the 2006 Canadian statistics are accurate in identifying that 51.68 percent of the Canadian population is single, and it is true that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in the business of both church growth and member retention, then Darlene Reimche, Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) director in Alberta is correct when she says, “All our churches need to be places where single adults come and are an accepted part of their church family.” The North American Division ASAM mission statement beautifully echoes this sentiment: “Reaching and empowering single adults to create Christ-centred safe places for fellowship, nurture, and service.”

Is your church a safe place for singles? Or stated another way, “Is your church congregation a place where singles feel welcome and included?”

My wife, Vera, and I attended a recent Singles Ministries function. No, we’re not single, but the afternoon dialogue was an eye opener. I’ve been told repeatedly that singles feel ostracized at church—as though they don’t belong and are different. Of course, that is a general statement, and surely this would not have been true in my churches—but who knows?

The eye-opener came during the afternoon session. Two young women serving as moderators controlled the discussion with lead questions such as *Is it better to be single or married?* and *What defines you in your church?* To the first, the answers ranged from “I felt better married because we thrived on doing things together” to “Single is better because I have more time now.” But all agreed that in either context we can be content in the Lord.

The second question (What defines you at church?) revealed some true feelings. Most agreed that unfortunately, identity comes by marital status. The married cluster together, leaving singles on the periphery. Some affirmed that former friends disappear after you become single. Others felt members avoided them as though singleness were a disease. On the other hand, some sensed that how they were treated was not tied to their marital status and nonetheless felt included in church fellowship.

After listening, I had a question of my own: “What advice would you give to conference officials who could

help change the culture of the church so that singles would feel more accepted?” Here’s what I got.

- Educate the church leadership to be sensitive to the feelings of singles. The congregation will imitate the leadership’s attitude.
- Inform members that singleness is acceptable. Jim Smoke, in his book *Suddenly Single*, says, “Singleness is not a disease cured by death or marriage.”¹ Scripture is clear that marriage is honourable (see Heb. 13:4) but equally clear that singleness can be embraced (see 1 Cor. 7:8).
- Advise members to listen to the implications of their own statements. Though spoken in jest, statements such as “How come you’re not married?” or “We need to find you a nice man/woman” implies there may be something wrong with you or the state of singleness. Such statements are not in good taste.
- Develop forums where socially problematic issues can be addressed. Addictions abound and may be the root cause for the inflicted pain.
- Promote seminars that instruct healthy family relationships, parenting skills, forgiveness, and acceptance.

I appreciated this dialogue that Sabbath. I learned much and determined I don’t want my attitude, words, or actions to devalue anyone. Our God is in the business of reclaiming souls for His kingdom, and we are His ambassadors. I want to treat everyone with the respect that Jesus would.

On a personal note: When my mother became widowed at 68, she deeply felt her loss and loneliness. For 17 years her pastor and church family became her source of emotional support. I forever thank God and will always be grateful to the pastors and church family in Brandon, Man., for the way they embraced my mother, including her in as many activities as she desired during those years.

Ken Wiebe is president of the Alberta Conference.

¹ (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1984), p. 26.

teen talk

Q: I have a nephew who's 14 years old. He goes to church and strongly believes in God. He likes a certain girl from his public school who doesn't like him back. She actually talks to him often and says he's her best friend because he isn't like the other guys at the school. However, she flirts with guys and is always around them, which hurts him because he really likes her. From a spiritual point of view, how would you go about telling him to not like this girl as she's from the world?

A: You could ask him to write down negative things about her, how she acts with him, with others, and so forth, but that has the potential of backfiring. The same goes with using certain negative Bible verses to tell a 14-year-old boy to stop liking the girl of his dreams. It might cause more damage than anything else—you know, the whole rebellious attitude. So, for example, avoid referring to the often misused and taken-out-of-context verse on being "unequally yoked" with unbelievers.

Try a positive approach, instead:

1. Help him boost his personal self-esteem. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14, NIV).
2. Remind him that Jesus always loves back! "I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me" (Prov. 8:17, ESV).
3. Suggest seeking positive relationships that build him up. "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thess. 5:11, ESV).

Above all, be patient and loving—a spiritually mature ally with big ears and an empathetic heart. ■



Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.

Uluru

Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is probably the best-known monolith on earth. Scientists call this type of rock formation an inselberg, an island mountain. Bible-believing scientists hypothesize that Uluru was formed when the flood swept sand and other minerals into a deep depression, and while it was being packed together and hardening, the earth beneath it tilted, pushing the whole enormous glob up on one end.

The wonder of seeing a giant rock sitting on top of a flat desert is one reason 200,000 people visit Uluru each year. But Uluru is also famous for its changing colours. Depending upon lighting and weather conditions, the rock can look red, grey, purple, or orange. The problem is, the sun, wind, and rain are slowly tearing Uluru down.

Think about it.

The enormous red rock is the essence of Australia's hot, dry Red Centre. In the same way, God's law, the Ten Commandments, is the essence of who God is. Love is at the centre of God's law, because God is love. The commandments define love in practical terms, showing us what love looks like in action. And no matter what people say or do to tear down God's law, it will never change, because God never changes and "love never fails" (see 1 Cor. 13:8).

Do it!

Think about your words and actions in the last 24 hours. Which of those things were out of love? Which were out of selfishness? Ask God to write His law of love in your heart, and thank Him for loving you.

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

CUC changes status
and official name to

Burman University



ON DEC. 15, 2014, THE CUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES approved changing the institution's name from Canadian University College to Burman University.

The university is named after Charles A. and Leona Burman, the husband-and-wife team who founded the institution in 1907. Charles A. Burman served as the first and third president (principal) of the school that would be known as CUC. Leona Burman taught English, science, language, geography, physiology, and acted as school nurse. Both Charles and Leona devoted their entire lives to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"It was because of their selfless dedication and sacrifice that the first school on this hilltop was established," said CUC President Mark Haynal. "In every season of their ministry, both of these individuals exemplified the mission of our school. They thought with discernment, believed with insight and commitment, and acted with confidence, compassion, and competence."

On July 2, 2014, the Alberta government granted CUC permission to change the institution's status and name from "university college" to "university."

"Referring to ourselves simply as a university will more clearly reflect our degree-granting status and enable our students to pursue graduate school and employment without having to repeatedly explain what a 'university college' is," says Haynal. "Because 'university college' means markedly different things in different regions, potential students and administrators of post-secondary institutions across Canada and around the world have always been uncertain and often confused by our name."

The name change will lessen the confusion for students as they apply to graduate schools or look for employment. "I have no doubt that the name change from 'university college' to 'university' will help in career searching or pursuing post-graduate education. In Canada, especially because we have a difference between universities and colleges in regards to the education provided, applying to jobs, or in my case, medical schools, is difficult and confusing because potential schools see the 'college' on my degree. I am thankful for the change



Charles Burman



Leona Burman

in our school's name, and I know that it will continue to benefit graduates in the future by making their lives after university less difficult," stated Joshua Perkins, a third-year biology major.

Theresa Donkor, a third-year business major sees the name change as a positive as she plans for future employment. "Changing the name is especially important for graduating students. Becoming a "university" instead of a "university college" will clear up any confusion that other businesses or universities may have. I've often been asked, "How can your school be both a university and a college?" This confusion may hinder us students when faced with future job opportunities or the chance to pursue further education," states Theresa.

The name Burman University was chosen after an intensive process of focus groups held in three regions of Canada. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, and citizens of Lacombe joined the process, suggesting more than a hundred possible names.

CUC will continue as Canadian University College for the remainder of the 2014/2015 academic calendar year. Full implementation of the new name will take place May 1, 2015. The name change process will be fully complete after petition for amendments through a private bill moves through the Alberta legislature. ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director at Canadian University College.

Founded in 1907, the university has operated under six names in the past 100 years. The most recent change from Canadian Union College to Canadian University College took place on Feb. 23, 1997. The name change was deemed necessary to reflect the degree-granting status given to the school.

1907	The Canvassers' School
1907-1914	Alberta Industrial Academy
1914-1919	Alberta Junior College
1919-1945	Canadian Junior College
1945-1997	Canadian Union College
1997-2015	Canadian University College
2015-	Burman University College

Where Are They Now



Interview by
J.D. Victor Fitch,
Messenger
Staff Writer.

Messenger catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. In this issue we talk with Dave Crook.

Messenger: *Where were you born, and what was your childhood like?*

Dave Crook: I was born in December 1936 in Manville, Alta. On the eve of my fourth birthday, my father passed away, leaving my dear mother with me and two younger sisters. Shortly afterward, we moved to Heinburg, where my mother's brothers and one sister lived. There was no Adventist church, so we generally met in homes. We saw a minister about once a year. My mother was very industrious, and although poor, we were never hungry. Since there was no church school in the area, my early schooling was in a public school. In the middle of my Grade 9 year, our family moved to British Columbia, and with my aunt's encouragement and financial support, I went to Canadian Union College. It cost her \$140, and I worked to cover the rest of my expenses.

M: *What was your first job?*

Dave: I graduated from the CUC teacher training course at age 19 and was called to be the principal at Rest Haven Junior Academy. After three wonderful years, I was invited to be the principal of Lyndale Academy in Bay Roberts, Nfld.

M: *How did the change from education to ministry occur?*

Dave: After two years at Lyndale, I was asked to be an itinerant pastor. During that year I held a series of meetings in Lethbridge, Nfld., which resulted in several baptisms. Two years later two wonderful events occurred—a church was built and dedicated, and I married Yvonne Russell from Bay Roberts.

M: *Where, and in what capacity, did you serve the church?*

Dave: After three years of pastoring in Lethbridge, I decided to return to CUC to complete my theology degree. The college was unable to find a Dean of Men, so I was asked to serve for the 1965/66 school year. Following this year, because of the urgency to follow-up interests from evangelistic meetings we held in Newfoundland that summer, I was asked to stay. The next four years I served as pastor, evangelist, and ministerial secretary for the conference.

Our next assignment was evangelist for the Maritime Conference. I then pastored the Halifax, Tantallon, and Fox Point churches. During this time churches were built in Tantallon and Fox Point, debt-free, mainly with volunteer labour. Once again I returned to CUC to complete my bachelor's degree. Following

graduation in 1982, I pastored in Barnsville, N.B., for a short period before I was invited to be the president of the Newfoundland Conference. I was president for 15 years until my retirement.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

Dave: Yvonne and I have two children—Lori Hubley, who is an OR nurse at the QEII hospital in Halifax, and Stephen, who is a general and vascular surgeon at the Portland Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore. They each have two children.

M: *Where did you retire, and what are you doing in retirement?*

Dave: We retired in Tantallon, N.S. After two years of retirement, I again pastored the church and assisted with the It Is Written satellite program Revelation Speaks Peace. In 2004 I joined Gospel Outreach and serve as the district director in charge of South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt. My responsibilities include raising funds to pay stipends for the indigenous workers who preach the gospel and to visit the fields each year to monitor the work. Approximately 1 million have been baptized in the 10/40 window through Gospel Outreach. ■

Cupcakes for Communities



One day in late 2013, in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, Charissa Hawes walked into her classroom at Alberta's mission school with a mission of her own in mind. She wanted to inspire her Grade 2 students at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) to fundraise for the victims of the disaster. She did not anticipate the swell of support and tide of inspiration that followed.

Hawes herself was inspired to help because the devastation in the Philippines hit home for her, as her father-in-law had worked there for years helping communities to become self-sufficient—communities that were now reduced to rubble. As Hawes explains, she grasped this chance to teach her students that “being a good citizen is being aware of your local as well as global community” and that being part of these communities means giving as well as receiving.

To bring the reality of what had happened in the Philippines home for her students, Hawes showed videos of the news broadcasts, and afterwards they talked about how life had changed for the victims and how they might be feeling. Hawes explains that although “such a disaster is hard to understand” for seven-year-olds, and the idea of “losing everyone and everything was incomprehensible,” her students knew that these people would be “sad and scared” and that they (the students) wanted to help. They went on to discuss how it is sometimes better to send money than supplies. Hawes’s class had helped raise money for ADRA relief efforts before, and because the Canadian government was matching funds raised for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, Hawes knew that “every dollar would count twice as much.”¹ With this, the idea of having a

bake sale to raise money—to sell cupcakes and cookies to help communities a world away—was born.

A tidal wave of effort was set in motion as the kids made and hung posters, helped bake hundreds of cookies and cupcakes, and then sold these goodies over three days. The sale raised over \$400 that, when matched by government, generated nearly \$1,000 for ADRA. The kids were thrilled when they realized just how many items this money could purchase for the typhoon victims.

And then something unexpected happened: the children’s inspiration had a ripple effect. Upon learning of their accomplishment, an anonymous friend of the school and MANS community matched their donation and then challenged his employer to do the same. Under a federal charity matching program²—a tax-smart method for individuals and employers to ramp up monetary donations for worthy causes—the total gift generated by the school reached \$4,000.

The children, Hawes herself, and the MANS community were elated. As MANS principal, Gail Wilton, explains, the experience also echoes a biblical principle that she, Hawes, and the school seek to emphasize continually: “Cast your bread upon the water and it will return to you after many days” (Eccl. 11:1). Through something as simple as a bake sale, Hawes’s students learned a valuable lesson: giving a little can inspire a lot. ■

Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving and Trust Services/Philanthropy at the Alberta Conference; Leah Keys is a staff writer for the Planned Giving and Trust Services department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

>> To view the actual Return of the Cupcakes celebration at Mamawi Atosketan Native School, go to www.albertaadventist.ca/means&meaning and scroll to “Typhoon Haiyan and the Return of the Cupcakes.” <<

1 Canada's Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund.

2 Referred to as Matching Gift and Workplace Giving.

Business leaders give back to Kenya in many ways



Red Deer businessman Rick Wiebe travels to Kenya twice a year to check on three projects he sponsors: a school project in Dabaa, the Segera Mission Foundation, and a school and water well project in Lodwar.

Rick Wiebe is a strong believer in what A Better World Canada is doing in Kenya. Since 2007, the Red Deer man has been sponsoring ABW projects because he supports its mission to develop self-sustainability within the East African country. Wiebe, who owns Carpet Colour Centre with his son Andrew, is sponsoring three projects and is overseeing a fourth. “You’re not really a well-rounded business person unless you give back,” says Wiebe.

He visits Kenya annually to see the progress on each of these projects, including the school project in Dabaa on the Shaba National Reserve in northeastern Kenya. Wiebe has noticed vast improvements since he started working there. Children used to learn under a tree in the harsh, dry weather, and now the school has classrooms and teachers’ housing. Over a three-year period, the school has expanded with the help of A Better World and several other organizations. Wiebe says that Charles, the headmaster, told him that the progress was “just a miracle. It happened in such a short time.”

Wiebe sponsors another project in Lodwar, northwest Kenya, which has brought two water wells and part of a school to this desolate area that suffers from extremely high temperatures and sparse rainfall. With the help of Wiebe’s sponsorship, children are getting the education they need so when they grow up, they’ll be able to support themselves and their families.

Wiebe says one challenge he faces is the tendency for some Kenyans to expect Westerners to come to their communities

and do all the work for the projects. However, A Better World’s mandate is to seek local community partners who will maintain the projects long term. “We partner with them, but the underlying message is that you have to learn how to do this on your own,” says Wiebe.

As a case in point, in May 2014 several community leaders showed Wiebe some dilapidated toilets in their village. Even though they had just been to a leadership conference that Wiebe had put on, their first instinct was to wait for outside help. When Wiebe reminded them that they had the ability and the means to fix the toilets themselves, they quickly agreed and got to work on a plan.

Wiebe also sponsors three classrooms and a computer room at the Segera Mission Foundation. Once again, self-sustainability is a major priority at this orphanage and medical clinic. They have started a vegetable garden, thanks in part to a fellow Kenyan donating a tractor. Wiebe rounds out his involvement by supervising a school project in Male, a small community in Central Kenya. After eight years of donating dollars and skills to A Better World, Wiebe says it has been worth it—even if working with people of a different culture can be challenging. “You go on a trip with A Better World and your life will be changed.” ■

Laura Tester travels with A Better World and is a freelance writer for newspapers.



Communicating the Marriage Value

*What is your church doing to strengthen
and support marital relationships?*

“DO YOU WANT TO GO TO A ROMANTIC COUPLES’ WEEKEND RETREAT?” I asked with a timid smile, since I knew both my wife and I have always found them corny.

“Do *you* want to go?” she asked with a surprised look on her face.

“I’m not sure. I got something in the mail inviting pastors and their spouses to go for free.”

A couple months later, we were driving to the weekend retreat, more for a no-kids getaway rather than for working on our relationship. We were planning to attend all of the workshops but admittedly were more focused on sleeping in and getting to eat in a nice restaurant. What we didn’t know at the time was that there was a group of prayer warriors from my church lifting us up in prayer throughout the whole weekend. God did what He does best. He surprised us with an amazing holy adventure that enabled us to bond and grow spiritually together.

I believe one of Satan’s greatest strategies is to break marriages. The institution of marriage, like the Sabbath, is one of God’s great gifts to humanity. Satan has done everything he can to misconstrue the holy bond that exists between loving relationships. Ron Sider reminds us in his book *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience: Why Are Christians Living Just Like the Rest of The World?* that divorces are more common among Christians than among the rest of the population.¹ Kevin Thompson writes on his blog that he believes the biggest problem facing marriages is the lack of intentional investment.²

What is your church doing to strengthen and support marital relationships? Here are a few ideas that can serve as outreach opportunities in your community.

HOLD A WEEKEND ENCOUNTER FOR COUPLES

You can either plan a couples’ retreat or hold it during Sabbath hours locally. Our family ministries sponsored one last year, and we held it Friday night through Saturday.³ We rented a small space in an outdoor garden a few kilometres from the church and invited couples to attend a DVD session. Check out MadAboutMarriage.com.

TRAIN MARRIAGE COUNSELORS

Most members expect pastors to do the premarital counselling and marriage counselling in the church. What if the church paid for the certification of one or two couples to receive the training so that these members can serve as counsellors in this field?

OFFER A DATE NIGHT WITH FREE BABYSITTING

This month we will be offering free babysitting services to parents on Valentine’s Day so they can have a date night. In addition, we are giving the book *Old Fashioned*, a novelization of the film to every couple.

Marriage takes intentional planning and investment. People often spend more time and energy on their child’s birthday party than their own marriage. Wouldn’t it be amazing if your local Adventist congregation became known as the church who fought to preserve marriages and offered resources for healthy relationships? ■

*Kumar Dixit is the pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of *Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World*, and contributing author of *Steps to Discipleship (General Conference Youth Department, 2012)*. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.*

¹ An interesting study called *Christians Are Hate-Filled Hypocrites ... and Other Lies You’ve Been Told* found that the key factor in these statistics is whether the couple is actively practicing their faith. Catholic couples were 31 percent less likely to divorce; Protestant couples, 35 percent less likely; and Jewish couples, 97 percent less likely.

² “The Number One Cause of Divorce,” February 11, 2014, www.kevinathompson.com/number-one-cause-divorce/.

³ Feel free to contact me about the details.



Remember



Words by God —Deut. 31:6, NIV

We've all heard it said that the sun still shines even when it's raining. What does that look like to you when it comes to trusting God through difficult times? We know in our heads He is there and remember all the wonderful things He has done for us in the past, but sometimes it can be hard to remember that He still is the same today as He was back then.

God doesn't change even when life sends problems our way. He is constant and faithful. It is easy to say these things and throw around phrases we know so well about His goodness and how everything will work out fine. But do we live as if we believe it? Do our lives, thoughts, and blood pressure reflect the truth that God is always right by our side? When the bills are coming up and you can't see how you're going to make it—God is there. When the doctors don't know what to do and you feel all alone—God cares. When you've had a rough day and you're trying to make it through—He is right with you, holding your hand. Our God is capable and powerful enough to take care of whatever situation we are in now. No matter the trials we are facing, God is able.

Instead of allowing fear to get the best of us, I encourage you to spend time remembering who our God is. Read about God's character and heart in the Bible, and remember what you know to be true. Think of the different names of Jesus and reflect how each has been real in your life. Keep talking to Him about what's on your heart and giving it to Him (even if it's again and again, He never tires of hearing from you). Ask God to give you courage to trust in Him when doubts arise and tell that fear to go away. "God has not given us a

spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). Think about the ways God has led in the past and all the wonderful things He has done. You are in good, safe hands. He knows what a priceless treasure you are. Even when life sends your heart into panic, remember that the one who made you and everything else you see is looking after all the details of your life. He doesn't leave anything overlooked and He has a million ways to fix something when we only see one. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we can't see" (Heb. 11:1).

I've heard it said before, "Don't doubt in the dark what God has revealed to you in the light." God didn't bring you this far to leave you here in your troubles. No! He promises in Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you" (NIV). Your heavenly Father is faithful, and you can trust Him to do what He says He will do. Nothing is too big for Him to handle. There is no mountain that He could not climb let alone move! The wind and the waves calm at the sound of His voice. He made the whole earth and all that is within it is His! Is there anything our God cannot do? We can trust His heart even when we don't understand what is happening, He is still in control. Sometimes courage means trusting and that takes faith. ■

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 20 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



Watch "Carry Me" by Moriah Peters on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/yhSZx1>





review

Keith Chant, Manager, IT Services, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App:

Bible Reading Chart

In Brief:

The Bible Reading Chart app offers a simple way for you to keep track of what you have read as you progress through the Bible. As you read a chapter, you simply mark it off in the chart, which is especially helpful if you like to jump around as you read your Bible. It tracks the Old and New Testaments separately with a percentage progress bar at the bottom so you can see how much you have read. The app also has a customizable colour scheme. While the app does have ads displayed, they are mostly unobtrusive, and for 99 cents, you can remove the ads via an in-app purchase. The only downside I find with this app is there is no way to back up your reading progress and synchronize it across devices.

Wow Factor:

Easy-to-use way to keep track of what you have read in the Bible.

Meh Factor:

Would be nice to be able to back up and sync my reading chart across devices.

Developed for:

Alacran Software

Price:

Free, \$0.99 to remove ads

Works on:

Android

Link: <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



To suggest an app for review, email messenger@adventist.ca.

prayer life

A Part in His Plan

What a joy it is to know God has invited you to be a participant in His plan!

You've heard of divine appointments—those times God seems to be working behind the scenes, arranging for people to meet and influencing what occurs during the event. More than likely, you have experienced divine appointments of your own. What a joy it is to know God has invited you to be a participant in His plan!

I was a bit behind schedule one day on my way into work for my evening shift in the emergency department at the hospital. As you can imagine, I experience many different situations with patients in the emergency department. There have been times when I have exclaimed, "That was a God thing!" because I knew it was His doing. This experience is another one of those times. My first duty was to discharge a woman in her early 80s. She had been brought in during the night because of seizures. Two weeks before, she'd had surgery to remove a brain tumor.

I saw her two or three days later when she returned to the hospital and was admitted. Her husband and daughter were with her again this time. I was one of her nurses, and we talked of God's love and our love for Him as I was caring for her. Later in the day, God reminded me of the little teddy bear in my

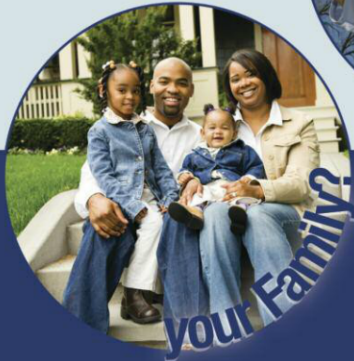
locker and prompted me to give it to her. Her daughter was in the room with her when I brought the teddy bear. I asked if she liked teddy bears, and she enthusiastically replied in the affirmative.

As I gave it to her, I explained there was something very special about this teddy bear. When she held it close and snuggled with it, the teddy bear was to remind her Jesus was that close to her all the time. She immediately reached up, put her arms around my neck, pulled me close, and gave me a hug and kiss. I looked at her daughter sitting on the other side of the stretcher and noticed that she was crying.

We talked a bit, then it was time for me to get back to my other patients. As I walked toward the door, the patient's daughter came around the end of the stretcher and gave me a long hug, thanking me through her tears. Her husband returned to the room later and gave me a big smile whenever I looked in as I passed the room, the teddy bear still tucked in close beside her. ■

Wilma O'Dell is a member of the Barnesville church.





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Charles Spurgeon

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barry's blog

"What freedom of religion is meant to protect are deeply personal beliefs and convictions connected with your spiritual faith."

The Allowable Religious Freedom

Just how much religious freedom is allowable in Canada today? When it comes to marriage, not very much, if you accept the argument of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS), which holds that a Christian university has the right to believe what it wants on marriage but does not have the right to act on that belief. At least, that is the sense I got at the court hearing in Halifax in December 2014.

The Nova Scotia Supreme Court is the first court in Canada to hold hearings on Trinity Western University's (TWU) law school proposal. To date, the governing bodies of the legal profession in British Columbia, Ontario, and Nova Scotia have rejected the proposed TWU law degree because the school defines marriage as strictly between a man and a woman.

The contentious nature of the debate amongst the legal profession was evident on Jan. 9 when the Law Society of New Brunswick approved TWU law graduates to practise law by the narrowest of margins. In fact, it would be more accurate to say it was with no margin. The council of the New Brunswick Law Society had approved TWU on June 27, 2014, but the membership revolted and demanded the council revisit its decision. On Jan. 9,

the motion to revoke the acceptance of the TWU law school ended in a 12–12 tie and thus failed. As it stands now, at least, TWU law graduates will be permitted to practise law in New Brunswick. However, given the activist strain in the legal community, there is no guarantee that the decision will not be challenged again.

For those of us engaged in this case, sitting in the Halifax courtroom was a great privilege. It is one thing to read and write on the issues, but it is quite another to be "rink side" in a public forum where there are no catcalls or heckling but open and honest debate on the law. It was here, at the Halifax courtroom before an obviously very capable Justice Jamie S. Campbell, that the respective parties were able to lay out their best arguments as to why TWU law graduates should or should not be permitted to practise law in Nova Scotia. While rhetoric remained part of the discourse during the hearing—some of it quite robust—we were still able to shake one another's hands afterwards and congratulate the professional advocacy made on behalf of our respective clients.

I do not have space here to give a thorough examination of what was conveyed in that courtroom, but I do want

to make some preliminary observations about what religious freedom looks like from the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's view. In short, NSBS does not believe that Trinity Western University has the right to require its students to sign the "Community Covenant" in order to attend TWU and will refuse to accept a TWU graduate from going directly from school to practice. However, the fact remains that a TWU graduate could go to another province that will accept TWU graduates, such as Alberta, to qualify and then transfer to Nova Scotia.

To express its disapproval of TWU, the Society has to inconvenience the TWU graduate. This is an unfortunate but necessary effect, they argue, in order to fulfill their Charter obligation and acting in the public interest to ensure no law school discriminates. They insist they are not targeting individuals. "We are not concerned about the individual," stated lawyer Jane O'Neil. "We are concerned about fulfilling our obligations in not accepting a degree, i.e., condoning discriminatory admission and enrollment policies." The TWU graduate is forewarned they will not get a "shortcut into Nova Scotia." To say otherwise, according to O'Neil, would be sending a message that it is acceptable to discriminate against LGB individuals.

TWU can do whatever it likes as a private institution, but when it comes to "public recognition from the Bar Society in Nova Scotia of that law degree, we cannot recognize that." Further, she argues that TWU cannot be exempt from the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act because it is "not exclusively religious." Since all faiths are welcome, "it is not an Evangelical Christian university." Ms. O'Neil insists, "It is not a group acting in concert. It is a law school open to anyone who can qualify, regardless." The Society accepts that it is a school that operates from a Christian viewpoint, but "it is not an evangelical group of Christians studying law." Instead, "we have Jews, we have Muslims, we have atheists, we have all of those people together. It is not segregating themselves from non-evangelicals. That's not what they are doing. They are deciding that there are particular behaviours that they won't allow on or off campus." Later she noted that TWU allows everyone to believe whatever they choose.

Ms. O'Neil is baffled by how a belief that same-sex marriage is wrong can be infringed in this case. She rhetorically asks, "How does that infringe? By standing next to the person, who may or may not have sex with his husband?"

"What freedom of religion is meant to protect are deeply personally beliefs and convictions connected with your spiritual faith." She continues, "I accept that individual evangelicals have a personal conviction

regarding same-sex marriage. I also accept that it is sincerely held. Let's protect that belief and expression of that belief. What conduct are they attempting to engage in that is prohibited by the Society or that infringes on exercising or expressing that belief? There is no evidence of that.

"The most that can be said is that their freedom of religion includes getting a recognized law degree from a law school where LGB people are not welcome. I don't know any other way to articulate it."

Observations

It would appear that the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and TWU are on two radically different wave lengths regarding religious freedom. The Society's conception appears to be limiting religious freedom to individuals and does not see religious institutions having a right to religious freedom. To be fair, that was not specifically stated, but the emphasis on the individual right suggests that implication. This is an important distinction that was raised in a case that the Supreme Court of Canada will be deciding shortly.

The Society has a very narrow view of religious institutions. Religious institutions have a long history in Canada, particularly schools and universities. Many religious communities have established universities. To suggest that a university must maintain an exclusive student body limited to its particular faith tradition before it can be classified as religious and deserving of accommodation for its religious beliefs and practices is a very narrow interpretation of the legal protections.

The Society is concerned that it would be condoning the religious belief of TWU if it accepted its law degree. If that position were taken to its logical conclusion, then we would have to also say the same for all other religious bodies that require state authorization to operate. Consider, for example, religious elementary and high schools. Are we to say that the government is condoning the religious views of such schools because they are recognized by the government? What about ministers of religion who are exempt from marrying those who are not in accordance with their religious beliefs? Is government condoning the ministers' beliefs? And what about those religious charities—the fact that the government allows charitable status with the right to issue income tax receipts—is that also a tacit approval from the government? ■

Barry W. Bussey is vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. You can read his blog at www.lawandreligion.ca.



Bringing Hope to Ukraine

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES AND HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE.



A NUMBER OF MESSENGER

readers have their roots in Ukraine. Others may only think of that country of over 45 million people when purchasing perogies at the supermarket, but Ukraine has been a high-profile news story for many months now.

A revolution took place in February 2014 after a series of violent events in the capital of Kiev. Unrest continues in the Crimea; there have been protests in some southeastern regions; and armed conflict continues in the east of the country.

As fighting between armed groups and government forces continues, people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable. It is reported that over 275,000 have been displaced from their homes and an estimated 341,000 have fled to neighbouring countries. As the fighting

is triggering renewed displacement, there is a need to scale up the response to meet the humanitarian needs of the affected people.

At the beginning of October, an announcement on behalf of Minister of International Development Christian Paradis, stated, “Canada will continue to support Ukraine through the current crisis and beyond.”

I made an urgent trip to Kiev at the beginning of October to gather information to bolster our request for emergency funding to respond to the crisis.

A translator tried to help me understand what our Ukrainian family are facing. “Imagine,” he challenged me, “that your country went to war with the United States. Wouldn’t you be confused and hurt? The same is true for us. We Ukrainians have family and friends in Russia. Russians

have family and friends here in the Ukraine. So the conflict between our countries is bewildering!”

Our colleagues in Canada and Ukraine worked hard on the project proposal and on October 21, I received and signed a Project Agreement with DFATD-IHA! The grant is for \$750,000 and no specific matching is required. Of course we are looking for donations from our supporters so that we can maximize the impact of this project and continue our support. Our sister office in the US, ADRA International, has also secured a grant for similar activities from their government, and we are cooperating to ensure the best synergy. (Go now to <https://secure.adra.ca/donate> or call us at 1/888-274-ADRA!)

We are providing psychosocial support and child care; distributing safe drinking water; and distributing core relief items such as water buckets, bars of soap, toothbrushes, and sanitary pads. The expected outcomes for this project include increased access to water and essential relief items, as well as increased protection for children.

On Nov. 21, 2014, ADRA Ukraine was buzzing with excitement as Jill Biden, the second lady of the United States, visited the office. After meeting with some of the people we are helping, she said, “Thank you for being here ... for not just caring but acting to care for people in need.”

We thank God for the answers to prayer that have brought us to this point. With your support, the Adventist Church through ADRA will save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. ■

James Astleford is executive director of ADRA Canada.



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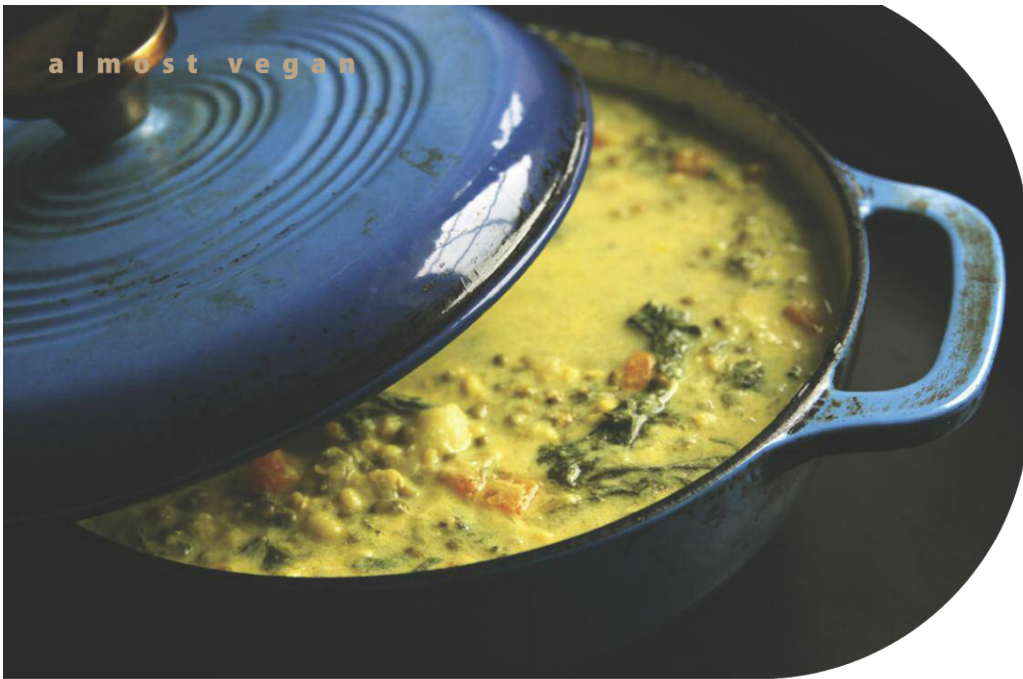


Photo: Afa Donkor

Mung Bean Coconut Stew

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup split and hulled mung beans (soaked overnight and well-rinsed)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
- 6 cups homemade vegetable stock or water
- 2 cups peeled, seeded, and cubed butternut squash
- 1 large carrot, chopped
- 2 cups Swiss chard or collard greens, tough stems removed, and then chopped
- 2-3 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 can full-fat coconut milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste (the amount of salt needed will depend on how salty your stock is)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Sauté onion, garlic, ginger, turmeric, and brown sugar in oil for 5 minutes, then add stock or water.
- Add beans and rest of vegetables to stock, bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and cook for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until beans and vegetables are soft.
- Add coconut milk and stir well to combine and heat through.
- Add salt, taste, and adjust seasonings before serving.

Almost vegan

I stood in the bean section of a bulk food store, absolutely enchanted by the array of colours—reds, yellows, blacks, and maroons. Then, my eye caught a bright-green bean. I stared at it. It was gorgeous. I looked at the label. “Mung bean,” it read. Having never tried it before, I bought it for its beauty, then went hunting online for recipes. This recipe, containing another ingredient I had never tried—butternut squash—was discovered, adjusted,* cooked, eaten, and absolutely loved. I hope you will love it too. ■

Afa Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

*original recipe can be found at
www.healthygreenkitchen.com/mung-bean-stew-with-butternut-squash.html

VOAR Reaches Around the World!

The call came from Russia. A loyal donor called to make a pledge to support Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) during our November 2014 Sharathon. Long distance, time zones ... it didn't matter. She wanted to support God's work through Christian radio. The lady had lived in Newfoundland and fallen in love with the station, but her family had moved to Russia. We let her know that VOAR was available on the Internet at www.voar.org. She now has the potential to join our many listeners around the world.

As of October 2014, listeners on the Internet logged over one year's worth of listening in October alone! Although 72 percent of those listeners are in Canada, we were surprised to learn that Germany beat the United States for the number two spot, with China coming in next. Over 100 hours were logged in Singapore, with listeners in other areas such as Zimbabwe,

Nigeria, Portugal, and Australia helping to make up the balance. People all over the world are tuning into God's message of hope and wholeness via the Internet on VOAR.

The Internet allows listeners all over the world to listen in FM stereo sound in their homes, at the office, through their cell phones that can be plugged into cars. Just go to www.voar.org and click on the Listen Live button. We even have a second button for B.C. listeners, which gives them all the same programming but in a B.C. time zone. What an easy way to help others fall in love with Christ so that even if they move to Russia, they can still stay in touch!

Christine Bergen is secretary/treasurer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

If you had to tell someone what it's like to read the Bible, what would you say?

AT THE HILL AVENUE, PRINCE ALBERT, PINEHOUSE DRIVE, AND BATTLEFORDS CHURCHES IN SASKATCHEWAN.

Alina Boutilier: Honestly, it takes discipline, and it can be hard, but when you let God's message into your heart, it makes all the difference.

Jan Semchuk: It's like hearing God telling me a story about His people, His love, and His hopes and dreams for us.

Heidi Williams: I read the Bible for inspiration, comfort, and hope. It's a time I can spend with God reading what He wants me to know. I get a glimpse into His character and His love. I find forgiveness there.

Cyndi Miller: It is an encouraging encounter with the people in the Bible knowing that they screw up and are still loved by God. It gives me inspiration to keep trying.

cover story

It was a sunny but cold day when 73 delegates from across Canada, including educators, pastors, parents, youth, lay persons, special guests, and officials from the North American Division Office of Education, gathered at the Toronto Airport Hilton Garden Hotel for three days of important talks on the future of our school system. Entitled Adventist Education: The Renewed Vision for Adventist Education in Canada, the Summit was convened to discuss ways to advance the mission of Adventist education in Canada.



Breakout groups convened after each plenary session to review the challenges and formulate recommendations.

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Adventist Education Summit

EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS to our September 2014 survey rated our educational system as good to very good. While many positive things were said about our schools, there were some obvious weaknesses that needed to be addressed. Six core issues were identified as the focus for the Summit: Spirituality and Character Development, Program Quality and Delivery, Professional Development, Accessibility, Promotion and Growth, and Finance. In addition, there was a special presentation entitled “Growing Spiritually in the 21st Century.”

Dr. Larry Blackmer, North American Division (NAD) vice-president for education, opened the summit with a stirring keynote address called “Adventist Education: A Church Imperative?” Drawing generously from educational research, Blackmer emphasized the importance of Adventist education as a church imperative and challenged us to be the best and most efficient private school system in the world.

We began each day of the summit with a thought-provoking worship presented by Pastor Stephen Reasor from Alberta. Reasor reminded us that our schools have a critical role to play in the end-time work of God and that amid the popular philosophy that bigger is better, God loves to work with the small things. He challenged us to live in such a way that we can draw our students to Jesus, to “be about His business, in the Spirit of Elijah.” We were also inspired by musicians — Charmaine Dunchie (teacher, Crawford Adventist Academy, Toronto), Daniel Stojanovic (SDACC vice-president for Administration), and Keisha Cummings-Williams (teacher, Greaves Adventist Academy, Quebec)—who prepared our hearts and minds by sharing worship in song.

In his presentation on “school finance,” Dr. Gerald Grant, associate professor at Carleton University, Ottawa, addressed four aspects of school finance: (1) Why Adventist Christian education? (2) Value chains and value cycles, (3) Adventist education value cycle, and (4) Paying for Adventist Christian education. Using a business model, Dr. Grant demonstrated how an institution finances its operation in inefficient and efficient ways. He

identified two significant layers of the value cycle (the core and the services that feed the core) and showed that unnecessary spending often takes place at the service level, leaving the core underfunded. But the core is where the value lies and people are willing to pay for what they value, he said. Thus, the key to maintaining enrolment and ensuring a sound financial base for Adventist education is to provide a quality product that parents are willing to pay for.

Grace Mackintosh, legal counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, addressed the topic “Growing Spiritually in the 21st Century.” Citing the current example of Trinity Western University in British Columbia, a faith-based university who has been denied the right to establish a law school because of their religious beliefs, she observed that the current threat on religious liberty centres on education. She also reflected on the negative impact of social media on our students at the high school level, where incidents of violence, drugs, pornography, and the like have been reported as normalized student behavior. Recognizing that the root cause of many of these problems is spiritual, Grace proposed that schools should engage Adventist psychologists to counsel students and that educational

experts be recruited to develop programs to assist schools and churches.

David Denton, principal of Forest Lake Academy, Fla., shared a heart-stirring address on “spirituality and character development.” He noted that participating in worship, missionary endeavours, and other spiritual activities don’t necessarily make one spiritual. Recounting his own experience, he showed how it was possible to go through school without being touched spiritually despite involvement in spiritual activities. It was only when a certain teacher developed a relationship with him and modelled spirituality to him that he began to understand what it means to be spiritual. Personal relationships are the key to spiritual growth. “Every meaningful spiritual engagement or advancement that has been experienced by students in our schools,” he suggested, “has been the direct result of a teacher or staff member engaging with a student in a positive and game-changing manner.” Knowing this, he offered four recommendations for spiritual growth in our schools: (1) When hiring, focus first and most on a prospective teacher’s spiritual life, (2) provide intentional opportunities for these teachers to connect relationally with our children to support them in their spiritual journeys, (3) put people



Mark Johnson, president of the SDA Church in Canada, participates in one of the Summit’s breakout groups.



Don Tucker presented practical ideas for building customer loyalty, providing customer service, recruiting and retaining students, and promoting Adventist education.

before policy, and (4) ask students directly about where they stand spiritually, both when school starts and at the end of each year. What we learn in the process can be used to make the changes needed to better meet their spiritual needs.

Dr. Blackmer was the plenary session speaker for the core issue, program quality and delivery. He emphasized that our schools exist primarily to help students develop a relationship with Jesus within the context of Adventism and that the best tool for the retention and recruitment of students is the development of positive relationships between home and school, between each family and the school staff. The school must provide an inclusive, supportive learning environment where students and parents feel loved, valued, and welcomed, and learning must be engaging, individualized, authentic, and interactive. Great students own their learning, he said. Great teachers demonstrate a curiosity about learning. Great pedagogy shifts from broadcast to interactive learning, great schools understand their role in evangelism for the kingdom, and great boards support ongoing professional learning.

Dr. Carol Campbell, director of elementary education (NAD), spoke on the topic of professional development. She began her presentation by identifying the significant cultural shifts that have taken place in the past several decades

and how these shifts have unfortunately resulted in little educational change. She emphasized that schools must be involved in a cycle of continuous improvement if we hope to meet the needs of 21st century learners. In this context, she described five shifts that are important when we talk about becoming relevant for our learners while remaining distinctly Adventist: (1) teaching and learning must become the central focus of the school, (2) structures must be put in place to allow faculty to collaborate for the improvement of instruction, (3) data must be collected and used to inform learning, (4) professional learning must be ongoing and focused on school goals, and (5) curriculum, instruction, and assessment must be aligned, with a focus on essential questions and critical thinking.

Don Tucker, owner of DRS Marketing, addressed the core issue of promotion and growth.” Quoting from the writings of Ellen G. White, he suggested that marketing happens from the inside out. In other words, one must first have a product worth marketing before one can market that product. Our objective, he proposed, is to be recognized as leaders: spiritually, academically, socially, physically, financially, and technologically. The essentials for marketing, recruitment, and retention success, he said, could be summarized in “The 4 Ps Plus One”: Product, Promotion, Place, Price, Plus Mission and Vision. We are in the people business, not simply the education business, he stated. He concluded by offering many practical ideas for building customer loyalty, providing customer service, recruiting and retaining students, and promoting Adventist education internally and externally.

Lisa Clarke, former principal of Grandview Adventist Academy in Hamilton, Ont., and currently curriculum coordinator for the British Columbia Conference, addressed the topic of accessibility. She spoke about the need to have a quality online educational program so that students can have access to Adventist education regardless of where they live. She went on to stress the importance of providing access for special needs children to Adventist education. To improve accessibility, she suggested that professional

learning opportunities be provided for teachers in the areas of differentiated instruction, inclusion techniques, behaviour management, and multiple intelligences. Rather than basing our policy on what we can offer, Lisa proposed that we consider basing policy on what children need. Ultimately, best practice for special needs students is really best practice for all students.

After each plenary presentation, the delegates separated into six breakout groups to review the challenges and suggestions offered by the presenters on each of the core issues, contextualize them by considering unique needs and experiences as shared by the delegates, and make recommendations for consideration by the system. These groups were facilitated by conference educational superintendents and steering committee members, who encouraged open discussion and consensus building. On the final day of the summit, these facilitators presented a summary of recommendations for each core issue that will be studied and formalized for implementation by the SDACC Administration, Office of Education, and Board of Directors.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada president, Mark Johnson, concluded the summit by emphasizing the timeliness of this dialogue on the important issues that will help to move Adventist education forward in Canada. He intimated that education and its delivery are on the edge of a major shift and that as a system, we must be prepared to make the necessary changes. He concluded by thanking the delegates, special guests, the summit steering committee, and all those who contributed to the success of the Summit.

The delegates expressed appreciation for the presentations, the venue, and the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion on Adventist education. But the true value of the summit will only be realized as we move forward to implement recommendations that will strengthen the work of the church through the education of its youth. ■

*Dennis Marshall is general vice-president/
director of Education for the Seventh-day
Adventist Church in Canada.*

The Value of Christianity in My Life



Sonali Sharma

*Imagine this.
New school.
New people.
New faith.*

MY NAME IS SONALI SHARMA, and in Grade 7 I moved to Deer Lake Seventh-day Adventist School (DLS) in Burnaby, B.C. I was a boisterous child and made friends quickly, so I didn't think much of going to a new school, but something that hit me hard went deeper than making friends. I was going to be exposed to a new faith. This brought a subtly scary sensation when I first heard of it. I was anxious to see what God had in store for my future. I didn't know anything about the Adventist faith, to be completely honest. Their books, their prophets, their principles, everything seemed distant and almost as confusing as Latin to me. Little did I know that this faith would open a completely new door for me and teach me valuable lessons I would carry with me for the rest of my life.

In the earlier years of attending DLS, I was still getting used to all the different and somewhat strange customs. I didn't understand most of them, and as usual in my past, I didn't try to. As time went on, though, I started to form lifelong relationships and gather important memories with those people. The most incomparable time for me was when I finally realized what they stood for. It was all about service! I felt as if I had entered a completely different world when I grasped that concept. I understood what everyone was doing and the motives behind their actions. It was the most inspiring thing I had ever experienced. Every single person in this school had service in their heart and God in their mind. That was the biggest difference I saw from my previous school. The amount of appreciation and warmth I received here was immeasurable.

As a non-Christian, I didn't expect this much care and concern, but one thing I will never be able to forget is that I was a part of that family. No matter who I was or how many scars I had from my past, I was accepted and loved just like every other person there. We were a family. I not only went to school with these people—I had brothers and sisters and parents who looked after me and guarded my every step. I had mentors and guides who coached me in life and taught me right from wrong. This brought me back to only one thing: service.

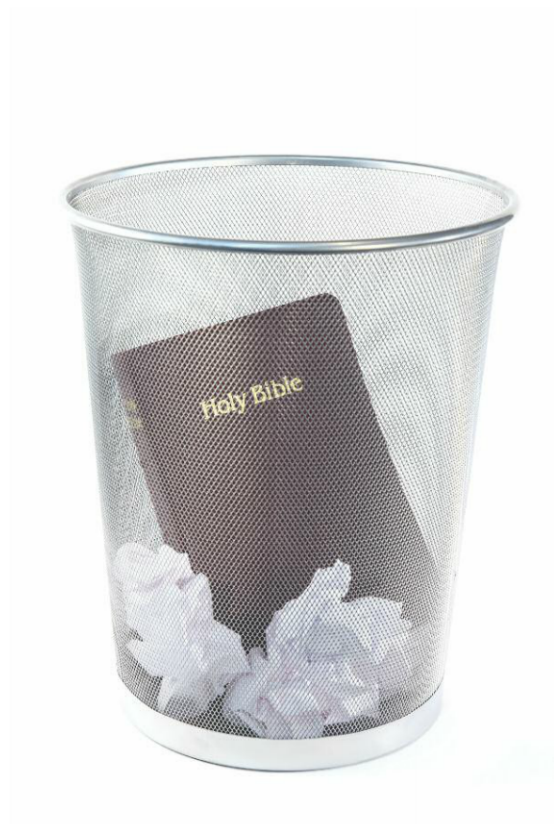
When we have something to look up to that gives us a renewed strength and power, we don't waste a minute to share it with others. Just like that, taking the great example of Jesus Christ, these people took the initiative to share it with me. Because of DLS and their serving family, I was exposed to the truth of Christianity. They showed me the bare and honest principles of their faith and involved me in it even though I was an outsider.

This school has left a huge imprint of love on my heart and taught me to not be afraid of anything, whether that be sharing my love for God with others or simply serving anyone I can. Today I can proudly say that I am a knowledgeable, strong, God-fearing woman. I will forever be indebted to this academy of the prophets and will never forget the gift they have given me: the gift of service. ■

Sonali Sharma is finishing up her last year of high school at Deer Lake Seventh-day Adventist School and plans to attend post-secondary school to pursue a business degree.

The Atheist

The woman, while calling herself an atheist, seemed nevertheless to believe in a supreme though unknown power.



Adrian, a Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) literature evangelist, had just finished

an evening of knocking on doors in Lethbridge, Alta., when he decided to do one more street. Looking at the busy main street lined with houses, he decided instead to choose a quieter street next to it. Beginning with the first house, he knocked on one door after another until he came to the very last house. There, a woman answered and invited him in.

Once inside, Adrian gave his presentation, explaining who he was and why he had come. After the presentation, the woman asked him a number of questions that led to a conversation first about CYC, then about family, and, finally, about faith. The woman, while calling herself an atheist, seemed nevertheless to believe in a supreme though unknown power. Curious about Adrian's faith, she began to ask him one question after another.

Adrian answered her questions, speaking with her about Jesus, the power of God, nature, Seventh-day Adventist teachings, and the Sabbath. As he spoke, the late afternoon sun sank lower and lower in the sky, and darkness settled on the neighbourhood. But neither Adrian nor the woman noticed. Suddenly, Adrian was interrupted by a text message. Looking down at the phone, he realized, for the first time, that it was late. For two hours he had stood in the woman's home, sharing with her his love for God and his faith. Concerned that his fellow CYC students would be very worried about him, he excused himself and prepared to leave. But before packing up his things, he said, "If you want, you can talk with some of my friends who can explain these things better to you."

The woman took Adrian up on his offer. The very next Sabbath, she came to his church. The following Wednesday, she went to see the CYC group leader and asked to learn more about the Sabbath and about Jesus. Soon after that she began to study the Bible.

God was the one who put in Adrian's heart a desire to work a little while longer that evening. He directed Adrian's steps to the quieter street because He knew that at the very end of the street, there was a woman who had in her heart a desire to learn more about Him. Because Adrian was willing to go and be used by God, God put him in the path of a woman who was searching to know the truth. God sees all and knows all, and before Him are many, many others who are seeking to know more about Him. If we are willing, if we will go, He will direct our steps to those who are hungering to hear more about Him. ■

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES) is a charity, organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry across Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. (LifestyleCanada.org)

Finding the Missing Piece

My parents strongly believed in Christian Adventist education. I can remember people constantly asking my mother, “Mrs. Leila Henry, how can you afford to put your children through the Adventist school system?”

Her response would always be “Prayer and sacrifice!”

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Toronto Junior Academy (now Crawford Adventist Academy) from Grades 1 to 10. I also have fond memories of Kingsway College, where I completed high school, and of Andrews University and Loma Linda University, where I completed my bachelor’s degree. My experience in Adventist schools was very positive, even though I did not have current luxuries such as cell phones, laptops, or my own car. Still, I have memories of laughter, disagreements, reconciliations, pillow fights, tears, friendships, and banquets. I remember teachers praying for me, giving me spiritual guidance and academic advice. I was happy that I didn’t have to repeatedly explain to students why I didn’t eat certain foods or go out to secular events during Sabbath hours. Everyone seemed to be on the same page, and it was refreshing.

Now, years after graduating from Kingsway College in 1983, I get to observe my daughter, Antannia Aguilar, experience Kingsway. For the first time in her Christian education, she is being educated in an Adventist environment. Her previous experience in a non-denominational school was good. She had many friends, took Bible classes, was loved by teachers and students, had many leadership roles, and did very well in school with a grade point average of 4.6. Although her previous school in America prepared her academically and gave her an opportunity to grow spiritually and even witness to other Christians, something was still missing.

When we arrived on the Kingsway College campus, I remember Antannia smiling and saying to me, “I feel like I’ve been here for years!” Now I know what was missing: it was



Antannia Aguilar and her mother Cheryl (Henry) Aguilar

the Kingsway Adventist family connection!

Antannia even has the opportunity to go on a mission trip this year to Panama, which in itself is a miracle. I questioned God, “Lord, can she raise enough money on time for this mission trip?” Antannia started by setting up a Facebook event page, asking for donations. The Praise Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Whiteville, N.C.—her previous church—also donated, as well as other local churches nearby. Family and friends contributed too. Then one day, a former classmate’s mother from North Carolina said to me over the phone, “If I can help a young person who is sincerely trying to do what is right, I want to be part of it. Antannia is a godly young woman, and my husband and I are in a position to contribute \$1,000 toward her mission trip!”

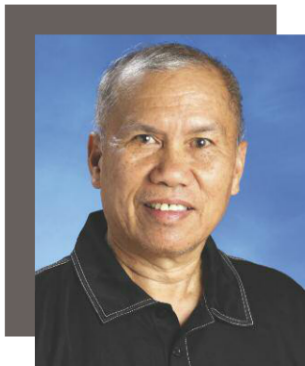
All I could say was, “Thank you, Jesus, praise God from whom all blessings flow!” For all of the donations, from \$5 to \$1,000, we are eternally grateful.

God is so awesome! He allowed Antannia to be placed in a school where she no longer needs to explain Sabbath issues, and at her former school she had the opportunity to witness about the Sabbath. God continues to open doors so that my daughter can continue to serve Him and others. Yes, it takes “prayer and sacrifice!” I am so grateful to be able to send Antannia to Kingsway College, an Adventist Christian school, knowing that she will continue to serve God and others “for such a time as this.” ■

Cheryl (Henry) Aguilar is a Kingsway College graduate of '83 and the proud mother of Antannia Aguilar, who is currently a Grade 12 Kingsway College student.

fruits of the spirit

*"To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under
the heaven."— Ecclesiastes 3:1*



Fred Tenerife

Lydia Sola: *Tell me a little bit about yourself and how you came to Kingsway College.*

Fred Tenerife: I started Kindergarten at the Adventist boarding school in the Philippines when I was six years old. It was 40 miles away from my home. I was one of five students from my community to start Grade 1 there, and I was the only one who stayed. I was homesick, too, but I knew my parents wanted me to be there. It was hard, but after a few months, I got used to it.

I spent all my education in Adventist boarding schools like Kingsway, and then

when I graduated, I went to Mountain View Adventist College, where I met my wife. She was studying nursing there, and I was taking a degree in accounting.

When I came to Canada, there were no openings for accounting jobs, and they wanted me to have some Canadian experience, so I started working as a dishwasher. One day someone called in sick from the kitchen staff, and I was asked to work in the kitchen, even though I had no idea how to cook. But I had a good tutor there, so he patiently trained me, and I thought, If this is the work I will be doing, I might as well go to school. So I went to George Brown College and finished my chef technical training, and they hired me as head chef. I worked in Branson Hospital as the head chef for 23 years until they closed the hospital in 1997; that was when the opportunity arose for me to work at Kingsway College. It was perfect timing.

L: *How do you believe our youth can make a difference in the world?*

F: Christian education is the main training ground for our young people. Having gone

through the system myself, I learned a lot. Now, being here at Kingsway College, I feel that I want to give back to the students. I believe that God has given us a certain work to do. I think the purpose in my being here is to reflect God's character to the students. It is not easy, but the students are looking for role models. So if you show them a good example, they may see that there is more to life than what they are living for at the moment. It's tough, however, because kids are exposed to so many temptations and worldly attractions.

I consider this to be my ministry. I cannot sing and I cannot preach. My ministry is just guiding them to something that will lead to a brighter future.

L: *What motivates you to come to work every day?*

F: I don't consider this work; I count it as a privilege to serve the Lord. If you consider that I commute from Toronto every day (and have done so for the last 17 years), just imagine getting up before 3:30 in the morning in order to be here at 5:00, then sometimes going home late at night. When I see the kids happy, smiling, and with a full stomach, then I, myself, am happy and love my work.

L: *Share with us a memorable experience while at Kingsway College.*

F: I have had a few apprentices here at Kingsway through the co-op program. One of these was Michael. He didn't have any interest in cooking, but after a few years, he became interested. Right now he is working in an international cooking department doing cooking demos for companies around the world. When they grow up and are long gone from Kingsway, they will appreciate how we looked after them. That's what makes it all worthwhile. ■

Lydia Sola is the communication assistant at Kingsway College.

During the weekend of Nov. 14-16, 19 students from Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) attended the annual Federation of Christian Athletes (FCA) volleyball tournament and youth rally in Lacombe, Alta. MANS students from Grades 6 to 9 participated with students from Adventist schools across Alberta—a first for the North American Division’s newest and most recently accredited academy.

“I learned that God was with us and that He brought all of the schools together for a reason,” said Brayden, a Grade 8 student at MANS, who enjoyed making new friends and improving his volleyball skills during the weekend filled with Christian fellowship and friendly competition.

The message of the rally focused on the importance of teamwork and the value of each player. Students were reminded that many diverse skills and talents make a strong and unified team, as emphasized in 1 Corinthians 12:12: “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ” (NKJV).

“Everyone is special and unique in their own way,” said Shaneek, a Grade 7 student at MANS, reflecting on the weekend’s message. “By working hard with your team, you can do great things.” One of the highlights for her was learning to work with her team and making friends with students from other schools.

“The weekend was a really great, amazing experience for me,” said Nathaniel, a Grade 9 MANS student, and team captain. “I had a lot of fun.”

MANS students certainly accomplished something to be proud of. The B division team played all exhibition games and remained undefeated until the first game of the playoffs, where they played strong to a third set, only to lose by three points. Students on the C Division team were awarded a silver medal after playing undefeated all the way to the finals, during which they lost by just a few points.

Janice Clark, MANS’s physical education teacher, said that since the tournament weekend, her students are eager to continue playing and practising their volleyball skills. At the students’ request, MANS has organized exhibition games for the students to participate in during lunch breaks.

Students are already looking forward to next year’s FCA volleyball weekend!

As a student, Melissa Myers volunteered at the Maskwacis reserve church as part of CUC’s First Nations ministry group.

Volleyball Tournament and Youth Rally Teaches Lessons, Launches New Athletic Initiative at MANS



MANS PE teacher Janice Clark, pictured with MANS’s B Division team, has started a new lunchtime volleyball exhibition game series at MANS in response to student requests after the FCA tournament. In all, 19 Alberta Adventist school teams competed—the largest ever FCA tournament.



MANS Grade 4 teacher Russ Nielsen coached the C Division team in their silver medal win at the tournament.

Parkview Profiles

“Even though PAA is not a perfect place, the environment lets people learn more about God.”



James Remocal

James Remocal is a student at Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) who has the gift of making any task or assignment fun for everyone involved. He has a way of turning an hour of work into 60 minutes of constant laughter. With the goal of one day studying religious studies at CUC, James followed God’s call from Manitoba to the Central Alberta campus in order to get a head start in ministry.

James attended Red River Valley Junior Academy in Winnipeg from Kindergarten through Grade 10, the highest level offered by the local Adventist school. In the spring of 2013, his class was invited by youth pastor David Guzman to attend PAA Days in Lacombe. “You should really think about going to school here,” Guzman said, but James was not easily convinced.

Just a year before James visited PAA for the first time, his mom began exhibiting unexplainable but debilitating symptoms. By the time James felt God wanted him to leave home, she had gotten much worse. He says, however, “When she was more able to talk, my mom said that as long as this is my choice and what I needed to do, then I must go.” Still, it was difficult for him to leave his dad and younger sister caring for his mom.

The tipping point for James came after a long conversation with his pastor and a reevaluation of the sacrifices his parents had already made for him to experience growth in an Adventist academic environment.

“My parents really believe in Adventist education,” James says. “Even though PAA is not a perfect place, the environment lets people learn more about God.”

When James came for his Grade 11 year, he was immediately adopted into every student-led worship team on campus. His skills as a percussionist drew the attention of the Dauntless team coordinators, who recruited James to join. As part of the team, James became immersed in campus ministry and was able to prepare and share sermons for PAA’s Student Week of Prayer and Dauntless’s Western Canada tour.

Being part of these ministry events encouraged

James to be strong in his walk with God. “There were weeks when I wasn’t feeling it,” he says, “but then I had a group of friends to encourage me. We could just chill and play music, travel, and put on a program showing everyone that we enjoyed it but knowing the messages were for us too. It was a lot of self-healing.”

Returning to PAA for Grade 12, James is excited about all the ways he can be involved. He continues to lead in praise and worship, serves as the social representative for the Student Association, and is looking forward to basketball season.

“I know academics aren’t my strongest point, but there are so many opportunities to be a part of things at PAA. I really like the emphasis on the spiritual side of life.” Chapel programs and spiritual discussions have helped James stay strong through the long and difficult process of finding a diagnosis for his mom.

In the fall of 2014, while James was enrolled at PAA, doctors finally named the collection of ailments and have said that Mrs. Remocal suffers from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP). James remains positive about the situation, even though the challenges continue to accumulate, as his dad recently became unemployed.

When he talks with his family in Winnipeg, James always asks his dad about their finances, and Mr. Remocal answers in faith, “It’s not for you to worry about, my son. God provides.” The PAA administration is privileged to provide students with Adventist education, and nothing—not even a lack of funds—can stand in the way.

James says that quite honestly, the reason he’s still here is that Ms. Bishop, PAA’s principal, has told his family, “We don’t want money to be an issue.” For students in impossible situations, there is always a way to follow God’s call. Here at PAA, the staff and students are equally committed to pursuing personal ministry, whatever the cost. ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.

WALK THE MISSIONARY WAY

CHURCHES OF REVELATION TOUR

TOUR OF **GREECE AND TURKEY**
WITH STOPS AT EACH OF
THE SEVEN CHURCHES:
**EPHESUS, SMYRNA,
PERGAMON, THYATIRA,
SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA,
AND LAODICEA**

JUNE 10–22, 2015

HOSTED BY



Stan Jensen
Editor, Canadian
Adventist
Messenger



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It is Written
Canada



Tour includes: Round trip airfare; guided sightseeing tour in deluxe air-conditioned bus; hotel accommodation including service charges; breakfast and dinner daily; admission fees to sites on the itinerary; all internal flights and transfers; information kit and final documents; 50 Seat Limit — Rate per person: 3390 CAD+taxes, Toronto departure. For other departures and questions contact Stan Jensen: jensen.stan@adventist.ca; 905-433-0011.

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Ontario

Bronte's 25th Anniversary: Celebrating the Journey Reflecting on the Past, Hope for Today, Faith in Our Future



The weekend of Oct. 3-4, 2014, marked a major milestone in the ministry, service and fellowship of the Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church. Amid hearts overflowing with gratitude, praise, and humility, members of the Bronte church welcomed visitors, dignitaries, and members of the local community to join in the celebration of God's faithfulness throughout the past 25 years.

Our highly anticipated celebration began on Friday evening with a consecration service. As we welcomed the Sabbath, the evening was filled with songs of praise, thanksgiving, and heartfelt reflections from former serving pastors. The congregation marvelled at the stories that shaped the birth of the church building that sits at 2031 Bronte Rd, Oakville, Ont. Many congregants took a trip down memory lane, while others heard for the first time the events surrounding the construction of their church. The prayer of consecration was followed by the fitting hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Our celebration continued with Sabbath school and opening remarks by our current pastor, Daniel Saugh. Though the weather was breezy with partial sunshine, our bundled-up members and guests were warmly greeted at the entrance of our church as they arrived to worship and praise God. Gerardo Oudri, a former pastor of Bronte who is currently the youth director at the Ontario Conference, led the lesson study.

The observances carried on into the divine service. The Lord blessed our celebration, and the sanctuary was filled to capacity, necessitating an overflow room in the basement, projecting a live-stream of the service. Pastor Saugh extended a heartfelt welcome to members and guests and expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries in the congregation for showing their support. Special guests included the mayor of Oakville, Robert Burton, who conveyed a special greeting and thanked the Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church for its positive impact in the community.

Also in attendance was Lee Grant, fire chief for the Town of Oakville.

Jakov Bibulovic, director of evangelism and church growth for the Ontario Conference, offered a special greeting. A performance by the Bronte Chorale preceded the Scripture reading by Nick Santini, a charter member of Bronte church. The keynote speaker was Bill Santos, a former member of Bronte church. His message was entitled "Tomorrow the Lord Will Do Wonders Among You." Basing his sermon on Joshua 3:1-5, Santos challenged the congregation to continue to move forward courageously and know that the God who brought them this far would continue to lead them in the future.

The afternoon celebration service began with a procession of Pathfinders, dignitaries, and the platform party. The history of Bronte church was presented in a video displaying and highlighting the journey that began 25 years ago. Pastor Glenn DeSilva from the Ontario Conference addressed the congregation with a sermon entitled "We've Come This Far." As the 25th anniversary celebration came to an end, our hearts were full and running over.

After this blessed weekend and the opportunity of reflecting on our past 25 years, with the hope we have today and the reassurance of keeping faith in our future, the Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church looks forward to the next 25 years serving the community of Oakville and surrounding areas. ■

—Vimbai Chikomo

International Day

On the Sabbath of Nov. 8, 2014, the Brantford and Paris churches celebrated their multicultural flavour at the annual International Day celebration. The flags of 25 countries were carried in by bearers wearing national costumes—seven from Paris church and 18 from Brantford church. The Lord’s Prayer was read in French and English (the French version was recited by the oldest member from Brantford, 91-year-old Noella LaPoint). The guest speaker was Daniel Stojanovic, vice-president for administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

The MP for Brant, Phil McColeman, spoke about the core values of Canada, for the men and women who sacrifice to uphold these values. He called for standing united as a nation. The MPP for Brant, Dave Levac, spoke about his personal spiritual experience and constant need of God’s presence in his life. Both congratulated the congregation on the positive influence and contributions to the community. Following their addresses, Daniel Stojanovic and Todor Levterov prayed for God’s blessing on their public service.

The worship service consisted of music and vocal performances from Europe, North America, and Africa. The Lord’s Prayer, which was the focus of Stojanovic’s sermon, was read in English, Tagalog (Philippines), and Shona (Zimbabwe), and recited by heart in Romanian. Stojanovic reminded us that the Lord’s Prayer is the one with “most international flavour,” which reminds us of God’s call to let its theology influence



From prayer to song service, every aspect of the program featured international flair.



MPP Dave Levac (left) and MP Phil McColeman (right) present certificates of congratulations to Todor Levterov (centre).

our lives and make positive contributions to society as Christians. The international flavour of the “give us our daily bread” translated to the fellowship hall into an “all you can eat” international food buffet.

The afternoon program featured a presentation on the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as demonstrated

by the diverse countries represented in the Brantford and Paris churches. The proceedings of the day were thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. The Brantford church looks forward to hosting similar programs in the future. ■

—Janice Jamison and
Todor Levterov, pastor,
Brantford church

Reaching Ottawa for Christ

About two years ago the pastors of the eastern Ontario region started praying and strategizing about what could be done for Christ. They were impressed with the need to plant more churches in the region. A few months later, Jakov Bibulovic was voted by the Ontario Conference constituency

meeting as the new church growth/ church planting coordinator. It didn’t take long for him to notice that God was moving among the pastors in eastern Ontario. With the help of Joseph Duchesne, Orlando Pule, and Marcos Paseggi, Bibulovic and the leadership team of the eastern Ontario pastoral

team put together a proper proposal to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and were chosen for a special citywide evangelistic project in both official languages. After much prayer and consideration, Daniel Stojanovic, vice-president of administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada,

was chosen as the French evangelist, and Chris Holland, speaker/director of It Is Written Canada was chosen for the English series.

Preparations are already underway for the preliminary work to be done during first three months of 2015 leading up to the series. The French series will be held April 10-18, 2015, and the English series

will run nightly from May 22-30, 2015. In our preparations as a region, we've identified four areas of emphasis that will guide our preparatory events and our follow-up programs: health, family life, youth empowerment, and faith and science.

With the great challenges facing us, we know that we must dedicate ourselves to God in prayer.

The task is too big for us alone. However, we are confident of the Lord's leading and look forward to making inroads among the French and English people in Ottawa in 2015. ■

— Marcos Paseggi, pastor,
Ottawa Spanish/Nepean
churches

Alberta

“You’ve Got to Be Hungry!”

Today there are many pressures and challenges that can disempower youth. These can be difficulties with friends, differences with family members, challenges at school, problems at work, or personal issues like lack of self-esteem or self-worth.

On Nov. 28-30, 2014, the Fort McMurray church hosted its first Youth Empowerment Weekend. The theme was “Reconnect.” The idea is that when you are connected to Christ you have unlimited power, but when you disconnect you are left powerless. Youth were empowered and inspired to rise above their limits and envision themselves as successful Christians.

Messages based on the Gospels, entitled “Out on a Limb” (Luke 19:1-20), “You’ve Got to Be Hungry” (Luke 7:36-50), and “Can You Hear Me Now” (Mark 7:31-37) empowered and inspired listeners to rise above their limits and envision themselves as successful Christians.

After the spiritual and physical nourishment, a new hunger arose: the hunger to serve. Once a month a devoted and dedicated group joins patients at the continuing care unit of the Fort McMurray hospital to sing praises to God and share the love of Christ through the ministry and power of presence. One of those who led out in singing and playing guitar was first elder Rex Kennedy, who shared, “I am so glad when I see young people [who] are involved in activities like these. ... They are not only here singing to others



The Praise Team leading out at the Youth Empowerment Weekend held in Fort McMurray, Alta.

... but they get to encounter these life experiences. You are young today, but there may be day when you will experience the blessing of old age.”

After long and energetic games of king’s court (a variation of dodgeball) and indoor soccer, it was time to end the eventful night. Pastor Dave Hamstra, the lead pastor of the Fort McMurray church brought everyone in for a short pep talk and prayer.

I left feeling inspired and empowered. I felt reconnected to God and motivated to keep on sharing messages of Christ and empowering youth to give their lives to Jesus. Ultimately, I left feeling hungry

—hungry to see youth successful, hungry to see youth achieving their goals and dreams, hungry to see youth living up to their fullest potential, hungry to see more young people on fire for Christ.

It was the great orator and author Les Brown who said, “Wanting something is not enough. You must hunger for it. Your motivation must be absolutely compelling in order to overcome the obstacles that will invariably come your way.” I guess it’s a good thing I am still hungry. ■

— Lyle Notice, associate
youth director,
Alberta Conference

British Columbia

Camp Hope Hit Hard by Ice Storm

On Jan. 4, after a snowfall of about 15 centimetres, the falling snow turned to freezing rain, coating the town of Hope and nearby areas with a thick layer of ice. It hit Camp Hope, as well, very hard.



It was the first Monday morning of 2015, when my phone rang. It was our lodge manager, Stephanie Schafer, at Camp Hope, in Hope, B.C. “It’s crazy up here,” she said. “It sounds like there is a war going on outside.” Well, that sounded rather unusual. I encouraged her to have someone take some pictures, but she admonished, “You better come up and see it for yourself.”

The day before, on Jan. 4, after a snowfall of about 15

centimetres, the falling snow turned to freezing rain, coating the town of Hope and nearby areas with a thick layer of ice. It hit Camp Hope, as well, very hard. According to a TV newscast, the mayor of Hope said our area was hit the hardest.

In the wee hours of Jan. 5, as the ice continued to accumulate, trees started falling apart and continued to do so through the next day. Treetops, branches, half trees, and whole trees—all burdened by the weight of the incessant freezing rain—came

crashing to the ground. It was loud, continuous, and everywhere. Indeed, it did sound as if we were in a war zone with bombs dropping everywhere. The crashing and banging was in surround sound, from all neighbouring woods. It seemed so surreal. There was no wind, no howling hurricane-typhoon weather. It was quiet, but it was loud.

The aftermath from the ice storm was hard to imagine—and, truly, seeing was believing. Pictures didn't capture the scope of damage. To quote Cam Cooke, one of the first clean-up volunteers onsite, "Wow, just wow, wow, wow."

There was a blanket of broken wood, big and small, all over roofs and the grounds. A significant portion of the power lines came down, with some poles snapped in two from the falling trees. The camp was without power for 10 days, except for emergency generators in our lodge and in staff homes. We scrambled to save our frozen food in the commercial freezers. The staff struggled to keep access roads open, using chainsaws and all manner of equipment.¹ Besides restoring power to the camp, many trees on the campus were hit hard, some incurring irreparable damage. The horse corral and zip line were also hit hard.

Ultimately, we thank God that no one was hurt and damage to our buildings was minimal. Numerous buildings, fortunately, ended up being near misses for the falling trees. Eight roofs on smaller cabins and buildings were impaled by branches. One stained-glass window shattered in our little chapel.

It was a very discouraging two days, but as pictures were posted online and word got out, first we received one telephone call offering help, then another and another. When the sun came out on Wednesday, Jan. 7, with the sky a brightest blue, amidst the destruction there was still beauty. Our spirits were lifted and the task of cleaning up suddenly started to feel doable. Volunteers continue to show up daily, and slowly but surely, section by section, the camp is emerging from beneath this wooden blanket of destruction. ■

—Bill Gerber, Director, Camp Hope

¹A Bobcat tractor was loaned to us and has become invaluable in the clean-up process, as are our one- and three-ton dump trucks.

Anchored in Hope

One hundred and twenty-five ladies from various parts of British Columbia gathered together at Camp Hope from Sept. 26-28 for the BC Conference 2014 Women's Fall Retreat. The theme, "Anchored in Hope" was very appropriate, as it brought hope and confidence to all who attended the retreat. Cheri Gregory, the guest speaker from Monterey Bay Academy, Calif., was dynamic, humorous, and gave us a better understanding of our heavenly Father.

The weekend topics included: Getting Out From Over Underwhelmed, Finding Freedom From Fear, Giving Up Control, and Living Loved. Morning devotionals on Saturday and Sunday were presented by Janet Talburt and Anna Heinrichs, respectively. On Saturday afternoon Cheri also had a seminar on the different "Purse-onality," which helped us to better understand why people act and behave the way they do. It was interesting to see how different people's purses of various sizes and colours reflect their personality. Talent show on Saturday night was hilarious and very much enjoyable. It was amazing to see how many unknown talents were revealed.

Everyone, including the many non-Adventists who attended this retreat, was fed well, both spiritually and physically. It was close to noon on Sunday when the group left Camp Hope. They will long remember this retreat with the thought-provoking presentations, the beautiful Camp Hope fall scenery, the music that lifted them heavenward, the excellent food they enjoyed, and the fellowship they had with one another. ■

—Mary Pillai, administrative secretary,
British Columbia Conference



Cheri Gregory (right) was the guest speaker at the BC Conference's 2014 Women's Fall Retreat held at Camp Hope.

See more at: <http://goo.gl/CJC26k>

The Quiet Hour Canada Announces New Executive Director



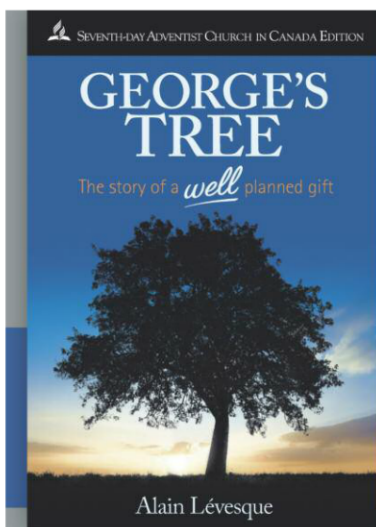
Pam Lister

For over 75 years, The Quiet Hour Canada (TQH Canada) has been helping people around the world. In the spring of 2002, I met Roy West, speaker/director, and as a result I was asked to accompany TQH Canada on a mission trip to Zambia, Africa, as the singing evangelist. For 15 days we met with and ministered to more than 6,000 people each evening. With a team of four, we did everything to share the love of Jesus through the spoken word, medical/health seminars, children’s programs, and music. We had 1,000 baptisms and praised God for all that He had done for the people of Zambia.

As of Jan. 1, 2015, I will join TQH Canada as the executive director. I am so excited to be a part of a ministry that I know is reaching people for Jesus. I was able to go on my first mission trip because of donors like you. I’m looking forward to meeting all of TQH Canada’s supporters and donors to say thank you. I have a testimony to share, and I hope that I can encourage someone through the music as I travel. I once thought I couldn’t go on a mission trip, but I have learned that there are so many ways that you can help. I even put TQH Canada in my will so that one day someone else will have the opportunity to take his or her first mission trip.

For the past 18 years, Roy and Linda West have poured their hearts and souls into the TQH Canada, and I am thankful that I will be able to continue working with them. In Jeremiah 29:11, God promises that “He has good plans for us, to give us hope and a future.” Let’s claim that promise together as we reach out and help those who need us. ■

— Pam Lister, executive director,
The Quiet Hour Canada



GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

To receive your FREE copy of GEORGE'S TREE, please email legal@adventist.ca with your name and address, or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078.

Also available in French.

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Dec. 31, 2014, there were 432 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,736,695. There were 83 loans with a value of \$23,452,926.

For more information or to make a deposit, contact Girly Quiambao—quiambao.girly@adventist.ca; 905/433-0011.



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Topic: Firm Foundation



Dr. Sung Kwon,
Adventist Community Services
Topic: Sharing & Service

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Dr. Rose Gamblin
Dr. Katia Reinert
Dr. Cesar & Carolann DeLeon
Dr. John & Janice Mathews
Edwina Neely & Carolann DeLeon



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■ **Announcements**

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements'.

■ **Announcements**

62nd TJA/CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend—Crawford Adventist Academy will be holding its 62nd Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 22-24, 2015, honouring our TJA Classes of 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, and 1985. We welcome all our alumni and families, former and current administrators, board members, faculty and staff, parents, friends, and supporters.

Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB—Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, 416/633-0090 or toll free 866/960-2125, ext. 234, or dhall@tadsb.com / Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248, or jgamez@tadsb.com.

Visit our official website, www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/15)

The Garden Road church is looking for the following missing members: Carmen Kelly, Claudette Kunze, Ivan Kuznezoff, Seete Kuznezoff, Maria Lazo, Melanie Lenzion, Tyrel Lenzion, Michael

Limoges, Trudy Limoges, Shirley May, Michael Mayerchak, Brenda Mayerchak, Danny Mazac, Claudette McKenzie, Colleen McWhan, Lilly Millard-Grams, John Mroch, Doreen Mroch, Chalae Noordhof, Joyce Norris, Jamieson Pierre, Lamya Pierre, Alice Qually, Karen Robanske, Ron Schlender, Carol Stern, Margaret Stern, Daryl Streick, Joel Thorarinson, Joan Thorogood, Jackie Walters, Larry Walters, Lynn Withell. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Grace at 403/293-9554 or higginsge@shaw.ca.

■ **New Members**

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Lurline Brown was accepted into membership by profession of faith in Kelowna, B.C., on Oct. 11, 2014, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

Tianna Smith was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Oct. 11, 2014, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

■ **Births**

Hudson Ried Densmore was born Oct. 10, 2014 to Susan (née Rieder) and Stephen Densmore of Lacombe, Alta.

■ **Weddings**

Carleen Blabey and Joerg Androw were married on Sept. 19, 2014, at Smithers, B.C. by Jerry Logan. Carleen is the daughter of Luke and Sheryl Blabey of Hazelton, B.C. Joerg is the son of Slawa and Galina Andronow of Rendsburg, Germany. Carleen and Joerg met in Nicaragua during a Maranatha mission project. The couple is making their home in Rendsburg.

Chloe Rosengren and Brenden Rajah were married on Aug. 17, 2014, in Seattle, Wash., by Tyler Rosengren. Chloe is the daughter of Terri Rosengren of Terrace, B.C., and Dan and Heather Rosengren of Quesnel, B.C. Brenden is the son of Eric and Candi Rajah of Lacombe, Alta. The couple is making their home in Kirkland, Wash.

■ **Birthdays**

Walter Wecker, of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated his 90th birthday on Oct. 3, 2014, with his daughters, friends,



neighbours, and church family at his home in Kelowna, as well as at a come-and-go celebration with friends and family in Lacombe, Alta. Walter has three children, 14 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

■ **Obituaries**

Alma (née Parsons) Blabey was born on Nov. 8, 1932, in Pine River, Man., and died on Aug. 18, 2014, in Hazelton, B.C. Alma was a faithful member of her church, having served as treasurer for many years. She actively supported the annual ADRA appeal soliciting funds from the community businesses every year until her passing. She is predeceased by her husband, Neil Blabey; sons, Ray and Edward; parents, John and Ina Parsons; brothers, Donald and Norman Parsons; sister, Glenna Parsons. Surviving: sons, Neil (Lynn) Blabey of Prince George, B.C., Luke (Sheryl) Blabey of Hazelton, John Blabey of Hazelton, Tom (Marg) Blabey of Hazelton, Clifford (Sandra) Blabey of Hazelton, Leonard (Laura) Blabey of Hazelton, Gary (Patti) Blabey of Fairfax, Virginia; daughter, Rena (Ralph) Dahlke of Calgary, Alta.; daughter-in-law, Shannan Blabey of Lacombe, Alta.; half-brothers, Gerald, Lawrence, and Ralph Parsons; half-sister, Lorna Parsons; 23 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Ralph Lloyd Davis was born on Jan. 26, 1924, in Erickson, B.C., and died on Nov. 25, 2014, in Salmon Arm, B.C. Ralph was a faithful member of the Salmon Arm church for the past 19 years. He helped with the campmeeting arts and crafts programs for the children's divisions for over 30 years. Surviving: brother, Harvey Davis of Fairview, Alta.

Richard Leroy Dicks was born on Sept. 8, 1928, in Rochester, Mich., and died on Nov. 15, 2014, in Seaforth, Ont. Richard was the head cook in the cafeteria at Kingsway College. He is predeceased by his wife, Lillian Dicks; sons, Marvin and Paul Dicks; parents, Otto and Lucille Dicks. Surviving: son, Leonard Dicks; stepsons, John W. Moore and Jeffrey

Moore; daughter, Lorie Taggart; stepdaughters, Laura Hoggart, Kendra Gallagher, Cheryl Strohm, Wendy Moore, Penny Osborne; brother, David Dicks; sister, Francis Dorsey; 16 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

Lawrence Kultgen was born on June 19, 1926, in Goddard, Alta., and died on Nov. 15, 2014, in Calgary, Alta. Lawrence is predeceased by his wife, Barbra Kultgen; parents, Sabastion and Clara Kultgen; brother, Joe Kultgen; sisters, Pauline and Josaphine Kultgen. Surviving: sons, Myron, Rod, and Gerald Kultgen; daughters, Sharon, Corrine, and Rita; 20 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Morley Schafer was born on May 22, 1939, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Oct. 10, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Morley was an active member of the Rutland church, served as a deacon for many years, and was a willing, helping hand wherever and whenever needed. He is predeceased by his parents, Emanuel and Lydia (née Riehl) Schafer; brother, Gordon Schafer; sister, Shirley Kennedy. Surviving: wife, Patricia (née Riddle) Schafer; sons, Robert Schafer of Red Deer, Alta., Lorne (Cara) Schafer of Edmonton; daughters, Jackie (Bill) Millar of Qualicum Beach, B.C., Kelly (Trevor) Nadrozny of Champaign, Ill., Jacqueline (Steven) Unrau of Gibbons, Alta., Lisa (Randy) Gerber of Kelowna, B.C.; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marie (née Schoenroth) Schultz was born on July 6, 1929, in Davin, Sask., and died on Sept. 13, 2014, in Lacombe, Alta. Marie is predeceased by her husband, Edwin Adolphe Schultz; daughter, Crystal; parents, Herman and Hilda Schoenroth; sister, Hilda. Surviving: sons, Fred, Sheldon, Harvey, and Rob; brothers, Fredrich, Herman, Donald; sister, Ruth; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ **Tribute**

Hilda Viola Jasman was born on May 5, 1928, in Three Hills, Alta., the oldest daughter of Albert and Minnie Jasman, and passed to her rest on Oct. 24, 2014. After graduating from CUC, she attended Portland Adventist Hospital, where she earned her degree in nursing. From Portland she went to Rest Haven Hospital on Vancouver Island, where she served for five years as a staff nurse. After her time at Rest Haven, she returned to Alberta and spent the next three years working at the Tuberculosis



Sanitarium in Calgary. She returned to Rest Haven for two more years before heading east to work at North York Branson Hospital in Toronto.

Hilda loved to travel, and after several years at Branson, she spent two years at the Sydney Sanitarium (Sydney Adventist Hospital) in Australia, returning to Branson, retiring in 1989, returning to Alberta to care for her mother in Red Deer and later in Lacombe. A devoted Adventist, Hilda was a faithful member of the College Heights church in Lacombe. While she rests awaiting Christ's return, she is survived by her sisters, Florence Guinet of Lacombe, Alta., Sandra (Jack) Gallop of Thornhill, Ont.; nieces, Judy (Jared) Nabess of Ardmore, Alta., Georgie (Skip) McAulay of Lacombe, Tami (Bernd) Becker of St. Albert, Alta., Susan (Greg) Bowen of Calistoga, Calif., Kimberlee (Mike) Lewis of Edmonton, Alta.; nephew John (Kerri) Gallop of Port Elgin, Ont.

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Such a person must be a CPA with knowledge in the operations of non-profit/charitable organizations and the relationship with CRA regulations. Candidates must be members of the Seventh-day Adventist with some knowledge of how ministries operate in compliance with church-related guidelines.

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Union College Homecoming

April 2-5, 2015—Honor classes are 1945, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2005. Special tribute to business and computer faculty and graduates as well as a Gymnastics reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402/486-2503, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu. (2/15)

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Union Springs Academy (Central NY) needs mission-minded individuals to start and grow student industries. On-campus greenhouse, barns, industry building, screen-printing shop available. Contact Principal Todd Coulter for more information. 315/889-7314. (2/15)

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Hope Channel in Silver Spring, Md., seeks a Director of Fundraising to develop and execute direct-response and event fundraising strategies to gain from viewers and other supporters the voluntary financial support necessary to fund current operations and desired expansion of broadcast services. More information and required qualifications at hopev.org/about/employment. Email cover letter and resumé to stavenhagen@gc.adventist.org. (2/15)

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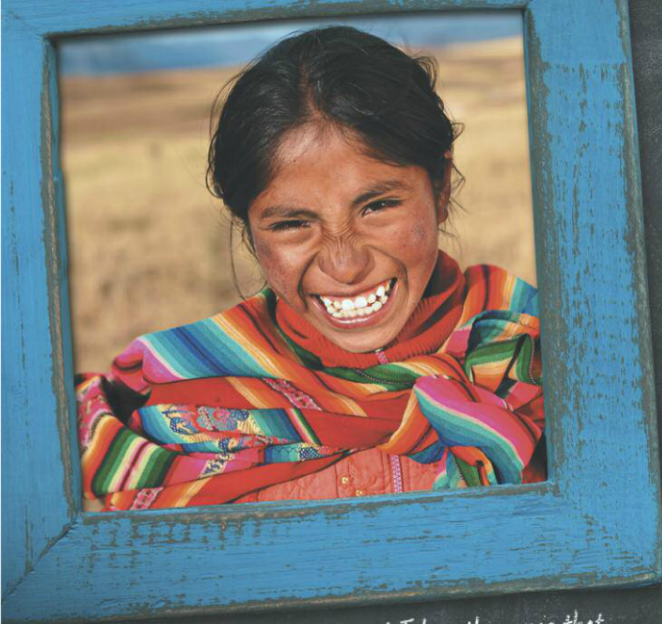
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2015 German Campmeeting: Do you speak German? All German-speaking members are invited to come and join us on May 1-3, 2015 for our annual German Campmeeting which will be held at beautiful Camp Hope (Mountain View Camp and Conference Center), 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, BC. Come to this beautiful little valley, surrounded by the coast mountains, reminiscent of Bavaria. Our guest speakers for the weekend are Gerald and Chantal Klingbeil from the General Conference. Bring your German Bible, musical instruments, and special music to praise our Heavenly Father. Join in singing the old and new German songs. Bring your special German potluck dishes for a delicious German lunch on Sabbath. All other meals will be provided by the kitchen staff at Mountain View Camp and Conference Center.

For very reasonable rates for rooms, camping reservations, and meals, email Stephanie Schafer at sschafer@bcadventist.ca. For more information go to www.germancampmeeting.com or contact Reiner Kuppers at 604/826-0300, or email rkuppers@telus.net.




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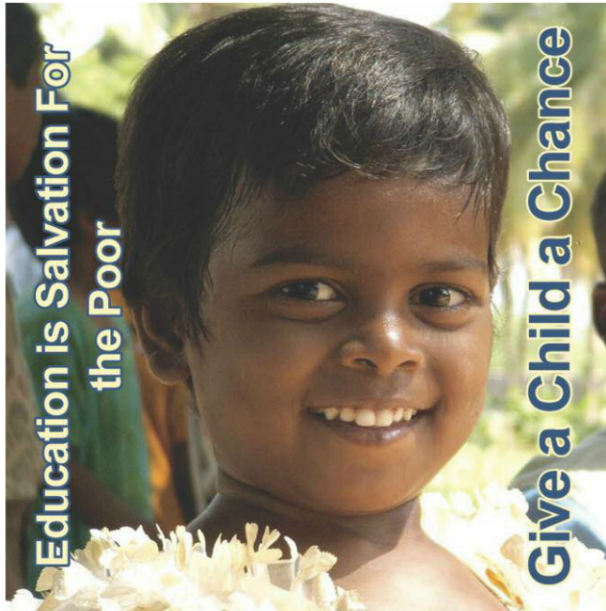
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from the editor

Fill the Gap

A friend recently told me this: “The church loved me when I was a child, and they loved me when I brought my children, but in between those years they did not know what to do with me.” That came as a pretty profound statement to me.

Living in “the gap” is such a turbulent time: many important, lifelong decisions are made, and commitments to Christ are made either stronger or weaker. I came into the Adventist Church when I was in university, and I had trouble understanding why so many other young people I was meeting were running away from the very thing I was running to. We wanted to feel complete, yet while we all had the same goals, our solutions were polarized. Before I found God, I, too, was living in “the gap.” I felt empty and tried to fill that emptiness with the things people in the gap tend to do, but it did not work. I recently read on the Internet that when Muslim youth go through university, they tend to leave with even stronger convictions of their faith. Why is this? According to a Muslim friend, they connect with local Islamic groups who foster fellowship.

Literature seems to suggest that the key to keeping young people in the church past adolescence is engagement. Another survey revealed that individuals in the gap want to be relevant in their community. Although they respect the church they grew up in and its beliefs, it just didn’t bring anything to the table for them. They want to be called to action, to fulfill the self-proclaimed mission of Christ, to free the oppressed.

So how do you relate to people in the gap? Accept them, encourage them, empower them, engage them, don’t offer unsolicited advice, and remember what it was like when you were in that same gap yourself. I believe we have the best generation of youth we have ever had in our church. ■

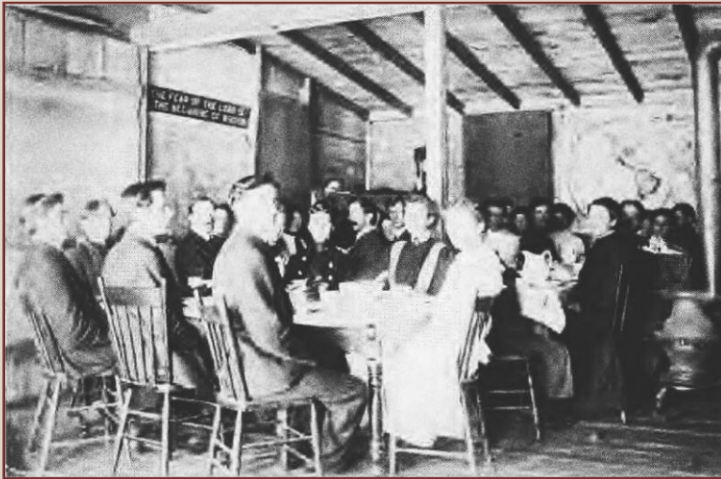
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan'.

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

PS. As I write this, I received an email from Kumar Dixit (pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C., and writer for our “Connected Church” column) about a North American Division study on why so many young people attend his church (<http://goo.gl/V2Tmul>). If your church is also doing something to fill “the gap,” please let me know at jensen.stan@adventist.ca.

IN 1907 THE SCHOOL soon-to-be known as Burman University¹ was founded by Charles A. Burman, then president of the Alberta Conference. Through letters and passed-down stories, we learn of the difficult circumstances that were overcome during those formative early years to establish an institution of higher learning in Canada.

This month we take a look back to the first two years of Alberta Canvassers' School in Leduc, Alta., and a glimpse of the sacrifices the Burmans and others have made.



The old dining room. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 41, No. 17, p. 5



The school building on the farm in Leduc, Alta. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 41, No. 17, p. 4

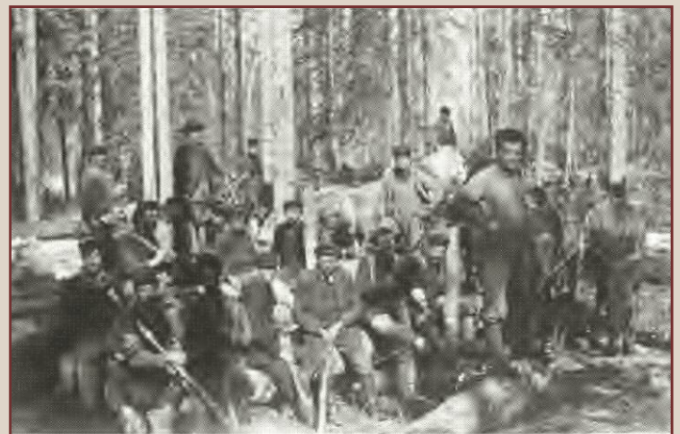
"There were eighteen men, two cooks, (sixteen-year-old Hazel Edwards and I) eight horses, three bobsleds, and a cutter. Since it was the first of April, the snow, still three feet deep on the level, was beginning to melt rapidly. Before we started, I made eighteen pairs of canvas leggings, hip length to help the men keep dry. The women of the church certainly did their part. They had baked 150 loaves of bread, besides cookies, pies, and cakes; and cooked beans and other foods for us. We also took additional flour, fresh and dried vegetables, canned foods, and fifteen gallons of milk, which we kept sweet in our snowbank refrigerator.

Leona Burman recalled in a letter that 18 men, two women, eight horses, three bobsleds, and a cutter felled 1,700 logs in three weeks to build an addition to the single-frame house that stood on the site of the Canvassers' School. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 41, No. 17, p. 3

Willie McCready can never forget the kind, thoughtful interest Elder Burman took in those first students. Seeing Willie wearing a pair of worn-out shoes, Elder Burman said, "Willie, are those the best shoes you have?" The answer was "yes". In response, he said, "Hitch up the horse and sleigh and take me to town." There, in spite of Willie's protests, he took him to a shoe sale and bought him a pair of shoes.

Elder Burman noticed that Camille Armenau, a French student who was going canvassing in cold weather was not wearing a topcoat. He took off his own coat and said, "Try this one. Does it fit?" When Camille remonstrated and said, "What will you do?" his reply was "I can get another".

Charles Burman was known as a kind and thoughtful soul who readily gave of what he had for those in need. The Burmans' personal library even served as the school library while they served as teachers. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 41, No. 17, p. 4



A photo taken in the woods of faculty, students, and church members cutting logs for the school building. *Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 41, No. 17, p. 4

¹ 1907 The Canvassers' School, 1907-1914 Alberta Industrial Academy, 1914-1919 Alberta Academy, 1919-1945 Canadian Junior College, 1945-1997 Canadian Union College, 1997-2015 Canadian University College, May 1, 2015, Burman University



HERE AM I! SEND ME.

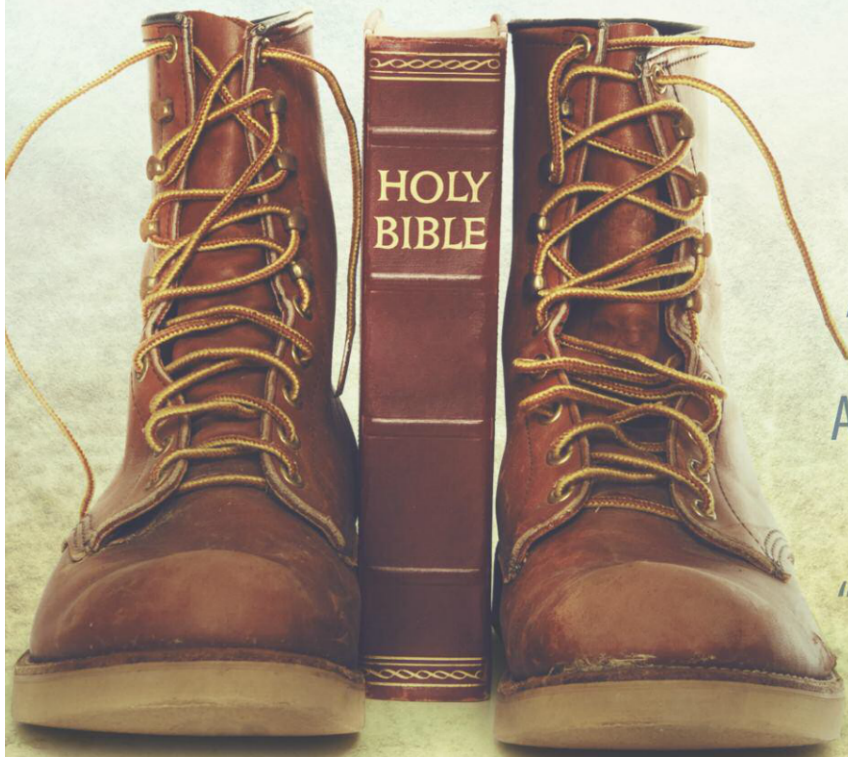
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I HEARD THE VOICE OF
THE LORD, SAYING:
"WHOM SHALL I SEND,
AND WHO WILL GO FOR
US?" THEN I SAID,
"HERE AM I! SEND ME."

ISAIAH 6:8 NKJV.

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