

CANADIAN ADVENTIST

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MESSENGER



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Young Adults Leave Impact on Toronto



Profile: *The McClure Years*

by Monte Sahlin, vice-president
for Creative Ministries, Columbia Union Conference

Elder Alfred C. McClure served as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America during the decade of the 1990s. He was first elected at the 1990 General Conference session in Indianapolis, re-elected at the 1995 GC session in Utrecht, Holland, and announced some months in advance, that he would retire at the time of the 2000 GC session in Toronto.

McClure has presided over a period during which the North American Division (NAD) became fully organized as a division of the world church. Prior to 1980, the NAD really did not exist, although references were made to it in denominational publications. The affairs of the church in North America were directly administered by the GC.

Throughout the 1980s, Elder Charles Bradford, first elected as the GC vice-president for North America in 1978, and then assuming the title division president in 1985, set the stage for the organization of a real NAD structure. In 1979, he initiated a strategic planning group for the NAD. At the 1980 GC session, an associate director in each GC department was named as the representative for North America. At the 1985 GC session, separate departments were established for the NAD.

At the 1990 GC session, McClure became the first person to start his tenure with the title NAD president. Amendments to the GC bylaws also established the NAD on the same policy as other world divisions.

The emergence of the NAD as a self-governing section of the GC has created "ripple effect" changes within the denomination's bureaucracy. These have, at times, caused confusion and resistance, and McClure spent long hours patiently working through these issues.

But the real question that faced the McClure administration in 1990 was

what to do with the NAD's new ability to come into its own. Wanting to make the church more mission-driven, McClure focused his team on evangelism and church growth.

He convened a "think tank" group that developed the concept of using satellite links to bring major evangelistic campaigns live to thousands of sites simultaneously. McClure led in the NET initiatives that have made public evangelism more accessible and less costly for local churches. The Adventist Communication Network (ACN) was created and has brought satellite dishes to more than half of the local churches in North America, connecting them to a wealth of training seminars, Sabbath sermons, and special events, as well as evangelistic meetings.

McClure presided over the transfer of the media ministries, such as *It Is Written* and *Voice of Prophecy*, from GC to NAD sponsorship. He brought renewed emphasis to church planting, and established a "reclaiming" ministry to reach former and inactive members, both without creating new departments by contracting with resource centres instead. (The NAD Evangelism Institute supports church planting, and the Center for Creative Ministry supports reclaiming ministry.)

The impact of his evangelism strategy can be seen in the fact that baptisms have increased, and the growth rate of the Adventist church in North America is up. In 1999, the number of baptisms

in the NAD exceeded 40,000 for the first time in history!

In the last few years of his tenure, McClure launched new initiatives to: (1) reach the 80% of the North American population which lives in the major metropolitan, (2) increase the visibility of the Adventist church through the secular media among the general public, and (3) empower lay ministries. These goals mark out the future of Adventist mission in North America.

A new and more efficient delivery system, bringing information, resource materials, training and consultants to the local church was constructed under McClure's leadership. The NAD Church Resources Consortium has been established to bring together "all the players" in a co-ordinated fashion; the departmental ministries, resource centres, and publishing houses working together, instead of costly competition and top-down planning.

The McClure administration also achieved a significant expansion of the humanitarian work of the church.

McClure is widely respected as an even-handed chairman, a careful administrator and sensitive listener. During his time at the helm, most Adventist institutions have prospered, enrolment in Christian education has grown, giving has increased significantly, and a number of major crises have been dealt with; Waco, of course, and a number you will never hear about because of the care with which they were handled. ■

North American Division Says Goodbye to a 'Quality Leader'

by Reggie Johnson, senior communication and religion major at Andrews University

The North American Division (NAD) of Seventh-day Adventists took time from its General Conference Session to bid farewell to NAD president, Alfred McClure. A dinner in his honor was held on Sunday, July 2. McClure served as president of the NAD for 10 years before his decision to retire.

"When we began in our ministry forty-six and one-half years ago, we never dreamed that anything like this could ever happen to us," said McClure. "We were just honored to be a part of the Lord's work. And now that I have had the privilege of working with so many of you and being a part of God's church, and the way that we've been able to fellowship and have a part in much of the world, particularly here in North America — it's been a great blessing to us." McClure's career with the Seventh-day Adventist Church included positions such as president of the Southern Union, and president of multiple conferences. He also spent time in pastoral and evangelistic work.

Many influential members of the church were in attendance, and gave congratulations and expressions of appreciation to both McClure and his wife Frances. Alfred McClure "always represented the North American Division with strength and fairness," said Bryan W. Ball, former president of the South Pacific Division. He further stated that "Al was always an articulate advocate of the North American Division," and that "He was also a good representative of the World Church." Former NAD president C. E. Bradford affectionately declared to McClure and his family, "You are quality people!"

Orville Parchment, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, said "It's a sad day because Al McClure's greatest contribution was to turn the tide of evangelism in

North America. And I believe that with the momentum that is there now, the new president will have to continue it."

Former General Conference secretary, G. Ralph Thompson, described McClure as an "excellent leader," and said, "He and I have had a wonderful fellowship, and he has been a dynamic leader and this (ceremony) is an expression of appreciation."

Harold Baptiste, secretary of the North American Division, speaking to McClure, said "We are thrilled at the progress that was made in the North American Division during your administration." In his closing comments, he summed it up saying, "I think history should record that Al McClure was the right man in the right place at the right time."

McClure's wife, Francis, who served as head of Shepherdess International for North America, said, "It's been a great adventure, and I'm looking forward to a new adventure now." McClure encouraged the North American Division and their next president saying, "I want to assure you that we will be praying for you and the leadership you continue to give to the church. We will be watching with interest." In closing, he told the NAD workers, "We will not be joining the critics; we will be joining your supporters." ■



Alfred and Francis McClure

Photo: Adam Bujak

Electing A North American Division President

by Jolynn R. Fisher, assistant editor for the Pacific Union Recorder

Don C. Schneider, 57, was elected to lead the church in North America following Al McClure's retirement in July. He has served the church as a pastor and church administrator, culminating in his serving as president of the Lake Union for the past six years.

As Schneider, watching the returns from the Nominating Committee, realized his name would be put forward as the next North American Division president, he bowed his head and rededicated his life to the Lord.

"I knew that in my strength, I do not have the wisdom to do this great work," he said. "Coming from a simple family background, I don't know why I should be given the



Don and Marti Schneider

Photo: Richard Dower

opportunity to serve in this capacity; however, I want God to lead since He is the one who has called me."

Schneider, as president, will serve on more than 100 hospital, school and organization boards in the Adventist church.

Taking over the NAD presidency is no small task. The territory is vast, covering the United States and Canada. There are more than 5,000 churches in the division with more than 900,000 members. Not only is the NAD the birthplace of Adventism, but it also continues to move at the forefront of community service, education, healthcare and international mission work. ■

Finding Hope in Toronto

by Jolynn R. Fisher, asst. editor for the Pacific Union Recorder

Global Mission of Hope

For many of the attendees, the session was more than a review of the *Church Manual* and the vote actions taken on the main floor. It was also a time of fellowship ... something akin to a camp meeting, bringing in more than 55,000 people to the Sabbath meetings.

Throughout the week, meetings were held in the convention centre for groups which included the Prayer Ministry and Women's Ministry. On the SkyDome's main floor, delegates and attendees received reports from around the world during "Window's on Missions."

The Global Mission stage, located in the convention centre, provided a forum for ministries from around the world to share their progress, mission and vision. Global Mission saw constant action throughout the week on the large stage area with musical guests such as: The New England Youth Ensemble, Faith First, Wedgwood Trio, and Victor and George Acquah.

The stage also presented Pastor Anthony Alexander who shared his experience of wrongful imprisonment in a Sri Lankan prison. While spending more than two years in prison, Alexander conducted up to 50 Bible studies each week, as well as working on a Tamil translation of *The Desire of Ages*, according to an Adventist News Network May 15th press release.

Some of the church's foremost pastors and speakers shared what was on their hearts in an "If I Had Only 15 Minutes to Preach," segment.

I joined the ranks of the more than 60,000 other Adventists in their pilgrimage to the 57th General Conference Session in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Like many of these pilgrims, I passed through customs before entering Canada.

The line was long and my customs agent particularly thorough. As she reviewed my documents she asked what I was in town for. "Meetings," I replied, trying to rush the process.

"What meetings," she pressed.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference Session."

Without missing a beat she fired back, "When was the Great Disappointment?"

I blinked. The flight had been long and I was totally unprepared for this pop quiz. Then I noticed the twinkle in her eye.

"1844," I finally blurted out, relieved I knew the answer.

"Welcome to Canada," she said smiling.

With that brief exchange, the enormity of the Adventist impact on Toronto began to dawn on me. The session was heralded as the largest convention ever held in Toronto and our distinctive fingerprints were everywhere — like the local hotdog stand serving vegetarian dogs, and vending machines stocked with decaffeinated drinks. But more than affecting the consumption of soy products in Toronto, delegates and guests met to share our unique hope through the theme "Almost Home."

"Hope" Heard Round the World

For the first time in our church's history, viewers from every continent could watch the GC Session. In 1995, only viewers in North and South America were able to watch the session in Utrecht.

Each weekday, three hours of events, music, sermons and reports were

uplinked. On Sabbaths, six hours of programming were uplinked. Programming was provided by General Conference Television (GCTV) produced jointly by Warren Judd, Adventist Media Productions CEO, and Ray Tetz, Mind Over Media president/owner.

Not only was GCTV seen globally, but it was also staffed by technicians, editors, and engineers from around the world. They came to share in the ministry of hope through sharing their technical skills. The United States, Australia, Germany and France were a few of the countries represented.

The Adventist Communication Network (ACN) carried the programs throughout North America while the Adventist Global Communication Network (AGCN) carried programming to the rest of the world. The signal was also available to Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), and other private distributors.

Convention Centre

Adventist institutions, churches, ministries and members from around the world set up booths in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre attracting an estimated 20,000 visitors a day. The booths, dominating floor space equivalent to three football fields, were laid out in an eclectic pattern with ministries, institutions, and publishing houses forming walls and isles in the massive Centre, just a five-minute walk from the SkyDome.

AWR occupied the largest amount of space on the floor with their broadcasting area where they translated the GC proceedings into Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian and Romanian. The feed was sent directly to Europe, Africa and the Americas. It was also broadcast on the Internet. The AWR station in Guam picked up the Internet feed, then broadcast it to all of Asia.



Len Maracle and Linda Calderbank help in the Native Ministries booth.



Photo: Ron Quick



Feeding the multitude

Six evangelists who have presented their programs by satellite to the world appeared together at the SkyDome. They are (L to R) Mark Finley, Dwight Nelson, Doug Batchelor, Alexandro Bullon, Kenneth Cox and Frank Gonzalez

Business Session Overview

The first business meeting of the GC Session kicked off June 29th at 3 p.m. Over the next seven business days, between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., delegates discussed many agenda items, including the *Church Manual*. They also voted in GC officers and division presidents. The business meetings ended Friday, July 7, at 4:30 p.m.

During the session, the church released position statements on gambling, child welfare, and proselytism during a series of press conferences.

Tithe-sharing Plan

The GC Executive Committee adopted a new tithe-sharing plan, allowing world divisions to share more equally in funding GC operations. The decision dramatically revised the funding formula for sharing expenses of the worldwide church.

The new plan, to be phased in over a five-year period, provides that each division share equitably to fund GC

headquarters operations. Committee members voted that each world division of the church will send two percent of tithe for this purpose, thus creating the first equal financing plan in the denomination's 137-year history, according to the *Adventist Review*, July 2, 2000.

Traditionally, North America contributed 11 percent of its tithe while other divisions contributed only one percent. In addition to the two percent, the NAD has agreed to send six percent of their tithe to support world missions, and in recognition of the benefits of having the GC headquarters office and several GC institutions located in its territory.

Hope in Our Family

The 57th General Conference Session closed Sabbath evening by celebrating our world family. Delegates from every nation represented dressed in native garb, and carrying their country's flag, marched in a dazzling procession through the SkyDome.

Yes, we came to the General Conference Session — more than 60,000 of us. We carried out the necessary business, and listened to speakers and musical groups from around the world. We even reestablished old friendships, but more than anything, we came away with a sense of hope. Hope in the strength of God's incredible diversity. Hope that we truly are "Almost Home." ■

Church Growth

Fast Facts:

According to Global mission, in 1990 there were 5,000 groups of a million people in the world, and only 2,700 of them had an Adventist presence. Since then, world population has grown to 5,800 groups of a million people, and 5,100 of those have an Adventist presence.

General Conference President and Officers Elected

by Bettina Krause/Jonathan Gallagher/ANN



Photo: Dick Duerksen
President and Mrs. Jan Paulsen accept the vote of delegates at the 57th General Conference Session in Toronto, to serve for the next five years as the world church president

Fast Facts:

- Before his current leadership role, Paulsen served as vice-president of the World Church from 1994–1999.
- Paulsen has also served as president of the Trans-European Division based in St. Albans, England; college lecturer and principal in the U.K.; missionary in Ghana and Nigeria.
- He is married to Kari Trykkerud Paulsen and has one daughter and two sons.
- He is the second non-North American to serve as GC president since the office was formed in 1863.

The finale of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's World Session in Toronto on July 8 brought together the largest and most diverse attendance ever, with the SkyDome filled to capacity and overflow halls needed to seat those wishing to view the concluding events.

One estimate suggests that 80,000 Adventists and their families were in Toronto for the high point of the ten-day session that began on June 29.

For many, this was the first chance to see the newly elected leadership for the Adventist Church around the world. On Friday, June 30, delegates to the church's 57th world session unanimously elected Pastor Jan Paulsen to a full five-year term as president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Paulsen, 65, was first elected president of the 11.3 million-member denomination at a special session of the church's Executive Committee in March 1999, when Robert S. Folkenberg resigned from office.

Paulsen, while preaching on the session theme "Almost Home," challenged the church not to be sidetracked, but to concentrate on its primary values of mission, spiritual growth and unity.

"It's late in the day; we're almost home; we cannot become reckless and careless," Paulsen said. "God chose us for a mission. We're not just one more sociological phenomenon — rather, God leads this church. Just like our Lord, our business is saving people. So, is your congregation able to communicate the atmosphere of warmth and loving acceptance? Size poses a challenge in terms of unity. We are not a fraternity [of different church organizations], we are one."

In his concluding comments, Paulsen affirmed to his own intentions.

"I pledge to do all I can to make this church a place to be at home, a place to support each other — to carry each other if necessary — and to arrange our values and lives accordingly. Let us press together as we move forward to finish the journey."

On Friday afternoon, delegates also elected Matthew Bediako as General Conference secretary. Bediako, a general vice president since 1995, is the first West African to hold the second-ranking administrative position in the church. General Conference treasurer, Robert Rawson, was re-elected to another five-year term. ■

Adventists Receive Canadian "Stamp of Approval"

During the opening session of the world conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the general manager of Canada Post, André Ouellette, and the church president, Jan Paulsen, unveiled the first SDA stamp in North America to be issued featuring the church. Barry Bussey, secretary of the Ontario Conference, conceived the idea of a commemorative stamp in 1997. A long-time stamp collector, Bussey canvassed his idea to Canada Post, pointing out that the Toronto session would be the first time Canada has hosted this international religious event. "I saw this as an exciting opportunity to get more involved in the community and to let Canadian society know we're here," said Bussey. ■



Photo: Ron Quick

Highlighted Happenings

by Adventist News Network

AWR Receives Permission To Build Its Largest Radio Station

In a report to the session by Don Jacobsen, president of Adventist World Radio, he announced that the Italian government had given permission for the church to build its largest radio station in Europe in Argenta, Italy.

"After a myriad of committees, sub-committees, panels, hearings — so many that we thought we would never see the end — this past Wednesday (July 5), we received government approval for the station to be built," says Jacobsen. "This is truly an historic day for Adventist mission, for this station will focus on the 10/40 window, and those who live there will hear the gospel in their own languages — an additional 15 languages to the 55 in which AWR already broadcasts."

The Church's Global Mission (GM) wants to establish 1,040 churches in the 10/40 window over the next five years. GM director, Mike Ryan, called for a special collection to achieve this, and to support the 27,000 GM Pioneers (lay volunteers) currently serving worldwide.

"We are partners with Jesus in bringing hope to the hopeless," said Ryan. "I think of Valerie who is crippled and only able to walk with crutches. It took her two and a half hours to walk to the meeting, and the same time to go home. As we left the meeting it was raining, and we gave her a ride home. Her comment to us as we left: 'When we get to heaven you won't recognize me because I won't have these two worn-out old crutches.' That's our mission-giving hope to people with no hope."

"Walk Around the World 2000"

In an event that crossed age, language and cultural barriers, hundreds of

Seventh-day Adventist young people and their families marched through the streets of Toronto on Thursday, July 6, to promote a drug-free future.

Chanting "Guns and drugs have got to go! Say hi, say no!" Pathfinders and Adventurers, dressed in their club uniforms, joined with many others in the grand finale of "Walk Around the World 2000." Caren Kouwenoord, a Toronto local, was out walking her dogs when she stopped to observe the sight. "It's good," she said, "I'm impressed because there are little ones out there learning how to be drug free."

The "Walk Around the World 2000" project was initiated during a meeting of the International Commission for Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA) in 1995. ICPA members wanted to find innovative ways to keep young people drug-free, and to encourage them to share their lifestyle with their peers. The project was launched in 1995 at the Adventist World Session in Utrecht, Holland. Since then, anti-drug marches have been organized in more than 100 countries. Participants obtain sponsors and collect funds for drug education programs in the area where the march takes place.

Participants in the Toronto walk were optimistic and enthusiastic about the "Walk Around the World" march. Jermain, 17, a pathfinder from Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church, said "It makes the community aware of our stance on drugs and guns." Others, like first-time marcher Jennifer Boucaud from Trinidad, said "It provides information to local-area people. This is also another way to make those in the community realize the truth about drugs."

Neals Chitan, coordinator of this last

march, has been involved in anti-drug events in the Metro Toronto area for more than 10 years. According to Chitan, area residents, businesses and police have reported that there has been a positive change in the attitudes of the public in the areas where marches have taken place.



Photo: Michele Krpalek

Divorce and Remarriage Amendment Returned to Floor, Adopted

In the afternoon business session of July 7, Seventh-day Adventist World Session delegates voted by an overwhelming margin to adopt The Divorce and Remarriage Amendment to the Adventist *Church Manual*. This action rescinded a vote taken on Wednesday, July 6, referring the document back to the Church Manual Committee. No new alterations were made, though the minor alterations stood that were already voted on Tuesday.

After South Pacific Division delegate Gary Hodgkin's motion to rescind was carried, Henrik Ingo of the Trans-European Division moved to adopt the amendment "as it now appears." After a few minutes of discussion, delegates closed debate and then, by a show of yellow voting cards, passed the motion. Some delegates appeared stunned by the quick reversal. "We just witnessed a series of parliamentary manoeuvres,"

Divorce and Remarriage Amendment — Summary

- If your spouse commits adultery or fornication (which includes incest, child sexual abuse and homosexual practices), you may divorce and remarry.
- If your unbelieving spouse abandons you, you may divorce but not remarry until your spouse commits adultery or fornication.
- If your believing spouse abandons you, you may not divorce.
- If your spouse beats you, you can separate from or divorce your spouse, but you cannot remarry until your spouse commits adultery or fornication.

said Samuel Koranteng-Pipim, a member of the Africa-Indian Ocean Division employed in Michigan. "This is an item that affects the well-being of the Church."

While no delegate had argued that the document was flawless — even Church Manual Committee Chairman Lowell C. Cooper called it "imperfect" — many described it as an "improvement" over the existing policy on divorce and remarriage. Had the amendment not been passed today, the final business session, it would have returned in some form at the 2005 session in St. Louis, Missouri. The Divorce and Remarriage Amendment is the product of the Church Manual Committee's revision of a report from the Divorce and Remarriage Commission, a multinational group appointed following the Church's 1995 gathering. While the document more clearly defines causes for divorce, such as "abandonment by an unbelieving spouse" and "physical violence," it doesn't substantially alter the Church's previous position on divorce and remarriage. As before, the only allowance for remarriage is adultery/fornication (whose definition now includes "incest and child sexual abuse," as well as homosexual practices). "[The revision] is simply a change of language and a change of attitude — a more Christian attitude," said Mario Veloso, General Conference associate secretary. "As far as reasons for remarriage,

the document does not have any new element. The Bible is much more open to divorce than to remarriage."

Following the vote, World Church President Jan Paulsen walked to the floor microphone and urged that no further debate be given to the divorce and remarriage document. "We have spent quite enough time on this one," he said.

In another action, the delegation voted to change the format of the *Church Manual*. The content of some chapters will now be divided into two types of material: (a) the main content; and (b) notes containing explanatory material which will appear at the end of the chapter. Changes in the main content will continue to be made only at a General Conference Session. Changes to notes, however, may be assembled for approval by the General Conference Executive Committee at the final Annual Council meeting of the quinquennium (five-year block).

Mayor Lastman Says Goodbye to Adventists



On July 8, larger-than-life Mayor Mel Lastman of Toronto said goodbye in his inimitable style to Seventh-day Adventists attending the World Session.

"You came as delegates, you leave as friends," he told the appreciative audience. "I wish the Blue Jays who play in this stadium had been here to see what a big crowd really looks like. Ten days ago, I presented keys to the city to presidents Paulsen and Parchment. This is our highest honour—you have also

bestowed your highest honour on our great city through your presence."

He congratulated all involved in the session. "This great event, the largest in Toronto's history; we wanted to provide a warm welcome and a home away from home. This has been a perfect convention. Despite its size, there have been no problems of any kind. This is impossible, it cannot happen, even in Toronto, with a convention this large. Such an event is a logistical nightmare."

"You amazed our city, you were perfect guests," Lastman commented.

Fast Facts:

Lastman has a history with Adventists — the church operated North York Branson Hospital for 42 years until the government took it over in 1998; his children's nanny was Adventist, and he has two Adventists on his mayoral staff.

"You have a great sense of humour. We want to host all your conventions and all your meetings. Yours is a church with a drug-free, tobacco-free, alcohol-free lifestyle. Your family values are above and beyond any I have ever seen. Children never get into trouble with police, your youth respect their parents and uphold your values. The Adventists in Toronto set a great example to our city and our country. Please come back soon."

The Mayor received a standing ovation and accepted a check for \$3,564 from Elder Jan Paulsen from the CN Tower (\$1 for every Adventist tour visitor) to be given to Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank.

Seventh-day Adventists and City of Toronto Partner to Build Affordable Housing

The Seventh-day Adventist Church and the City of Toronto announced today plans to develop a proposal to create approximately 30 to 60 rental town-houses that will be affordable to lower income families through the city's Let's Build! program.

"We'd like to find a way to say thank you to Toronto," said Kermit Netteburg, church spokesperson. The Adventist Church just completed its 57th World Session on Sunday. It was the largest convention in Toronto history. "People here were incredibly kind and helpful," he added.

The City of Toronto launched the Let's Build! program last October to address the severe housing shortage and to spur new residential construction in the city. The program focuses on long-term affordable housing solutions.

"This partnership is exactly what the city hoped for when they established the Lets Build! program," said Councillor Brad Duguid, chair of Toronto City Council's Community Services Committee. "I'm encouraged by today's announcement and hope other organizations will follow in the footsteps of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Everyone deserves a home."

"Affordable housing is essential for all communities," said Derrick Nichols,

president of the Ontario Seventh-day Adventist Conference. "I'm pleased that we can participate in such an important initiative for Toronto."

Let's Build! provides non-profit community groups and private developers incentives, such as financial assistance and potential development sites, to build affordable housing. The initiative announced today is one of several proposals now being reviewed by city staff.

Several Seventh-day Adventist agencies and entities have expressed interest in being involved in the project. Maranatha Volunteers International is an Adventist-related entity that has built thousands of churches, schools, hospitals, clinics, and housing projects around the world.

Maranatha's volunteer construction people are primarily skilled craftsmen who take vacation time, from a few days each year to several months, to build projects. Many are retired builders, electricians and carpenters. These

volunteers and others from the Greater Toronto Area will work on the project with Toronto area construction contractors.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency/Ontario will provide project leadership. The humanitarian agency is part of a worldwide network that oversees more than \$100 million in development projects.

The potential housing complex would include a community centre that would help residents with seminars that teach lifestyle skills. "Adventists want to improve the quality of life for people," said Netteburg.

"There are still a lot of details to nail down, such as site location," said Mark Guslits, special advisor, housing development services for the City of Toronto. "But we wanted to make this announcement while the good feeling that the delegates who attended the Adventists' business session left behind is still with us." ■

Union President Announces Vision of NET Canada

by Reggie Johnson, senior communication and religion major at Andrews University

On June 29, at a ministerial banquet for Canadian workers, Orville Parchment, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, announced his vision to organize a nation-wide NET evangelism campaign in Canada.

"I am here to share with you a joint dream with *It Is Written*, said Parchment. "A dream that could very well become a reality." He went on to suggest that within a year and a half to two years, this Union could have its own "Canadian NET" evangelistic series at a cost of approximately \$300,000. The speaker for the Canadian NET meetings, as suggested by Parchment, would be Henry Feyerabend from the Adventist television-evangelism organization *It Is Written*. Parchment said that "One out of every three people in Canada is

familiar with *It Is Written*, and knows the face of Henry Feyerabend."

"Evangelism is a major part of our vision for Canada," said Parchment. The NET evangelism meetings have proved very effective for the Adventist church in previous years. Parchment referred to the recent NET campaign in South America that has the potential of approximately 80,000 baptisms.

"It's a vision; it's a dream that we want to become a reality." Parchment made it clear that this was a preliminary idea that is currently looking for the support of the Canadian churches and the North American Division. Parchment expressed his enthusiasm and commitment to this vision saying, "We're just excited about it, and so we're going to go all out to make this a reality." ■



Orville Parchment, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Photo: Adam Bujak



Young Adults Leave Impact on



Shad Lehmann (left), a History and Education major at Canadian University College, co-led one of IT2000's most innovative and popular ministries with his father, Paul, who heads CUC's Outward Pursuits department. Their Recreation ministry caught the attention of CBS radio network, who interviewed Shad for its nationally-syndicated program "The World of Religion" because of the CUC duo's unique and successful approach to street ministry.



Rochelle Hanson, a recent graduate of Kingsway College, composed the theme song, *I Will Serve You*, for the Impact Toronto 2000 event. Rochelle's entry was chosen for its musicality and simplicity. A gifted musician, Rochelle performed this song of commitment on opening day and again at the youth rally.

Representing more than 35 countries, 250 young adults from the four corners of the world participated in Impact Toronto 2000, a young adult evangelism training event, during the General Conference Session held June 29 - July 8 in Toronto.

For 10 days these young adults learned street evangelism skills in 17 different ministries including: compassion, clowning, mime, drama, music, recreation, door-to-door, street artistry, FLAG Camp, prayer, puppets, VBS, video, street preaching, and Storm Co. Impact Toronto had two major goals: to train young adults in ministry, and to inspire them to take their work home with them. Each morning IT delegates trained, and each afternoon they went out to serve.

"My ministry leader taught me a valuable lesson that I will always carry with me," says Elizabeth Calguian, from British Columbia. "She taught me that 'Every day that you go out as a clown, there is one person God has for you to meet.' For me that day, it was Maime. He only spoke French, and he was lost amidst all the English. I spoke a little French to him and it put a smile on his face. We need to put smiles on people's faces."

Each evening, young adults participated in two evangelistic meetings held from Sunday, July 2 through Friday, July 7, with speakers José Rojas and Andrea Trusty King. Titled "Real Love: The Search is Over," the evangelistic meetings sought to attract people searching for love in all the wrong places, and guide them to Jesus Christ where they can find real love. José Rojas, the North American Division youth director, spoke at the Toronto East SDA Church, a primarily West Caribbean church situated in a Greek neighborhood. Following the meeting at this church, a Christian Café was set up in the basement. Andrea Trusty King, a seminary student from Ohio, spoke in a tent in Regent Park, a housing project area in downtown Toronto. From the two evening

evangelistic meetings, as well as the door-to-door and prayer ministry, there were more than 90 requests for Bible study and baptism.

"God brought 300 people down here just for me. I know that's why you came here," a heroin addict named David told a group of delegates he met on the street. They first encountered him Monday afternoon returning from FLAG camp. When he found out they were a church group, he asked if they'd pray with him. Confessing his love for God and sorrow for his sins, David prayed with the group, and the group asked for God's power in his life.

When the group encountered David the next day, he shared the difference prayer had made. That morning he'd overslept, past the time when he usually wakes up for his heroin fix. Yet he had no craving. Every other time he's missed heroin for a day, he said, his body had become numb and shaky and he'd become homicidal, yet this morning he had no symptoms at all. Two days later, he was still elated at being heroin-free. "None of my family would know me now," he said.

What's it like witnessing door to door in Toronto? Terri-Anne Hleady, from Saskatchewan, found out. "I gave my testimony to a 17-year-old boy, and he's come to the meetings three times," she shares. "Last night at the evangelistic meeting in Regent Park, he signed a card to give his life to God."

Terri-Anne discovered the power of life's simplest courtesies at the Regent Park nightly meetings. "I stand outside the tent and see people who would like to come in, who are just watching, but they want someone to invite them. I just ask them, 'What's your name?' and invite them to join us. I'm just blessed to meet these beautiful souls who are just longing for human contact."

Running with José Rojas' nightly evangelistic meeting, Collette Muth of Dayton, Ohio, and Wesley Szamko of Toronto, set up a Christian café in the

Toronto

basement of the Toronto East Adventist church, providing food, live music, and Christian fellowship. Tuesday, July 4, the ministry team said a prayer asking for a receptive audience to attend a movie on the life of Jesus that they were planning to show that evening at 6:30.

In the nearby streets they gave flyers to people they met, including a group of teens hanging out, some of whom were from the shelter close by. At 6:30, they were pleasantly surprised to see eight of the teens. The youth watched the movie with interest, and then went upstairs to hear Rojas preach. Rojas ended his message with an altar call, asking his listeners to give Jesus a chance in their lives. Four of the teens came forward, and all eight stayed for the café's Christian fellowship and music after the meeting. The teens continued attending throughout the week, and the IT2000 team has worked to connect them with local youth pastors.

More than just ministry training, the young adults gave back to the community as well. On July 1, Canada Day, they volunteered at the Daily Bread Food Bank sorting approximately 25,000 pounds of reclaimed food that will serve about 6,000 meals—some of which they helped distribute at Regent Park during the week, where many of the street ministries and evening meetings took place.

Another way the delegates gave back to the community was through a mural left in Regent Park. The Street Artists Ministry group twisted the usual ideas of what spray paint is usually used for in a low income area of the city. Under the leadership of Manny Cruz, a pastor from Texas, they conceptualized and then spray painted a message of hope on a mural built just for this occasion.

The 10-day event culminated with the "Impact Your World" Youth Rally on July 8. Not wanting to leave requests for baptism unattended, an offering which amounted to more than \$4,500 was taken up at the youth rally to fund someone to follow-up with these people. ■



These delegates spent Sabbath afternoon sorting onions for the Daily Bread Food Bank while others sorted carrots, potatoes, and boxed and canned foods



Dawn DeWolfe from Nova Scotia, a delegate to the FLAG Camp Ministry, demonstrates to her troop of girls that it is indeed Fun Learning About God

by Marklynn Bazy, young adult director for IT2000; with Preston Smith, from Texas, and a student at Canadian University College; Tompaul Wheeler, from Maryland, and a student at Andrews University Theological Seminary; and Lynn McDowell, public relations director for Canadian University College/communication director for IT2000



Heidi Kartik of Cochrane, Alberta, one of more than a dozen Canadian University College students who earned scholarships or academic credit from CUC for their participation in IT2000, begins IT2000 by rededicating her life to Christ at a special dedication service

Canadian Delegates' View of the Session

As an elected guest, I was impressed by the sense of unity permeating throughout such a large and diverse gathering of people. On the floor of the business sessions, there was more order and respect on the part of the delegates than you would normally find in a much smaller conference triennial session. The depth and scope of the many ministries and institutions represented in the exhibit building was awesome, and left a profound impact of the enormity of the world-wide movement of God's people. The tremendous musical programs given everyday, almost all day, in the Exhibit theatre, the Bassett theatre, and on the convention floor of the SkyDome, testified to an immensely talented and richly blessed body of Christians, and made me wish I could be in several places at once. Even the Mayor of Toronto seemed like a Seventh-day Adventist, as he laughed comfortably at his own humour while addressing a warm audience of 60,000 souls. This was a convocation I am very blessed to have attended.

Terry Heisler

Stirring sermons. Heavenly music. Colorful outfits. Colorful languages. Business sessions. Lost children. Reunions with friends. Long meal queues. Heart-warming reports. Cherished memories. This was G.C. Session 2000 for me. The days were full. The blessings were abundant. The experience was unforgettable.

Business sessions exposed me to the many brilliant, dedicated minds led by the Holy Spirit. I witnessed the world church at work. I observed as the multitude of cultures caucused without colliding. I was impressed by the efficient, orderly manner in which business was conducted. I knew God was controlling every decision, influencing every vote. With various cultural challenges and the rapid growth of our membership, we were still united in spirit to accomplish the business at hand. I have every confidence that the all-powerful God who began this good work, will complete it soon.

Wayne McClean



Photos this page: Richard Dower

I am proud to be a part of this great Advent movement. The astronomical success of the conference is indicative of the hard work and thought given to the planning of this event. Our leaders must be commended for presenting Adventism in such a spiritual and powerful way to Canadians, and the world at large.

In the business session, we dealt with many sensitive issues that could have serious effects on some of our world divisions. It was quite challenging and, at times, overwhelming for me, as a delegate, to make decisions that would have significant implications for other regions. I wonder if some of these issues should not be stated as guidelines — guidelines to be adopted according to the unique needs of a particular region.

Our ethnic, cultural, gender and intergenerational diversity clearly suggest that we need a wider representation at all levels of our church. The new administration seems to be sensitive to this reality, as evident in some of the new appointees. It is a step in the right direction, but we have a ways to go.

I was jealous of the reports from many of the other divisions. We are doing a commendable work in "Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the world." Now let us turn our focus to Jerusalem, since evangelism is our only reason for being! I was personally challenged at the GC to be more involved in offering hope to the many in my community that are seekers of His hope and grace. With God's help, I will be faithful.

Cynthia Campbell

My thoughts, feelings, impressions, memories of the GC Session held in Toronto are very positive. As an administrator, I immediately noticed the organization that went into such a gathering, and stood in awe. The GC and local conventions staff deserve highest marks for their work. The privilege of being there as a delegate — visiting, singing, listening, participating in the business of the Church — was a high and sacred trust. I sit now at my desk and sense a renewal within my heart to the Lord; a commitment to participate in a finished work; a sense of being a member of the worldwide Adventist Church. The investment of time and funds was for me in value as a family reunion. We were welcomed to come back anytime by the Mayor of Toronto, and I do in my afterglow filled with memories. ■

Ken Corkum

SDACC Secretary Accepts General Conference Call

On July 20, 2000, Claude Sabot accepted to serve as an Associate Secretary of the General Conference, effective September 1, 2000. He will be responsible for overseeing operations in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Euro-Asia Division and the Trans-European Division. Elder Sabot will also coordinate the French material in all French-speaking territories, along with his other duties.

Elder Sabot came to the Quebec Conference from mission service in Zaire in 1976. In 1990, he accepted a call to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada coordinated ministries department, and since 1995 has served as the secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Claude is known for his approachable and caring manner — a friend with a Godly perspective. We will miss his energy and devotion to the work of the church in Canada.

We wish Claude and his lovely wife, Farida, God's richest blessings as they move on to their new assignment. ■



October is... *Pastors' Appreciation Month*

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." Timothy 5:17



Your pastors work longer hours than most members of their congregation, and they rarely get a weekend off. They need your support to keep going. Showing your appreciation will certainly make a difference. That's why the SDA Church in Canada has declared October as Pastors' Appreciation Month!

Some ways to show appreciation to your pastors:

1. create a pastor's wall of fame in the foyer of the church with photos of various ministry activities
2. send your pastors and their families thank you notes and cards
3. plan a special dinner in honour of your pastors
4. adopt your pastors for a year and support them in intercessory prayer
5. have your Children's Ministry Department write letters of appreciation and present them to your pastors during the church service.

Prayermedics Ministry has put together a planning guide to help you plan an exciting Pastors' Appreciation Month! You will find step-by-step suggestions to help you organize your events, a sample order of Divine worship, a tribute to pastors and more!

For more info: E-mail prayermedics@hotmail.com or call Cynthia at Prayermedic Ministry 403/590-3638



Under Diplomatic Cover

ADRA Canada

by Nola Pal, Associate Director/Finance, ADRA Canada

It was a trip worth remembering! I left Canada for West Africa at a time when war and civil unrest was raging in Sierra Leone. Family and friends feared for my safety and had advised I should adjust my itinerary if the need arose. It was with this frame of mind that I embarked on this journey. I must admit that I didn't know what to expect. I assured myself of the Lord's guidance as He has come through for me already several times in the past. I would dare say that it was not presumption, but an act of faith.

GUINEA

Guinea Conakry is a French-speaking Muslim country surrounded by several countries in West Africa, with a population of approximately 9 million. Only a small percentage is made up of other religions.

I was picked up at the airport by the ADRA personnel and taken directly to the office. There were two signs on the gate. One said ADRA, and the other sign said Swiss Consul, with a Swiss flag flying high. I didn't think anything of it at the time. Later on, I was introduced to the staff and to the ADRA director. Subsequently, the ADRA director introduced me to a staff member who was the secretary to the Swiss consul. I enquired where the consular was to

which the ADRA director replied, "I am the consul." Wow! I thought. I am under diplomatic cover, and what an honour it was! Although I did not feel the tension, I was very aware that security at the borders was quite tight. Many refugees had come across from Sierra Leone into Conakry for safety, especially the expatriates. I met many Adventists that had come across, including an Argentinean doctor and his wife. He told me that this was the first time they had to flee the country because of the problems in Freetown. He also said that the rebel leader who was captured lived only a few houses down the road from their apartment, and many times they could see the activities going on. They had been

evacuated in a UN plane, free of charge, just by saying they were associated with ADRA. This is when I realized that refugees are people just like you and me. They had to flee their homes, and are unable or unwilling to return for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, opinion, or being a member of a social group. Driving around in a vehicle with the ADRA sign on it was another blessing.

Our first visit took us to the office of the Minister of Health who had only praises for the work that ADRA was doing. He thanked ADRA Canada for piloting a women's project throughout the country, and mentioned that they were just beginning to see the results of this education awareness program. He



Villagers in Toga asked that the women's development program be continued



The mother-child nutrition program teaches mothers how to provide a nutritious diet for their children



Medical center in Guinea, which was built by ADRA, is the best equipped facility in the country



Medical clinic in Ghana currently under construction

also emphasized that without the help of ADRA, they would not be able to adequately address some of the pressing societal challenges they have faced for decades.

From there we visited the mother-child nutrition project located in various centres in the villages. Mothers brought their babies to be weighed and fed once or twice a week. The objective of this project was to teach the mothers how to feed their babies, and provide children with a proper nutritious diet. Each child had a chart with a bar graph showing their progress. We saw a distinct progression of growth since being put on this program. The mothers have learned how to use local ingredients that are readily available and inexpensive.

We then drove to the medical centre that ADRA had built. This was a project to be proud of! Residents tell us that this is the best equipped medical facility in the whole country, with lots of space and potential. The need for an administrator to run the operation is urgent, says Thierry Van Bignoot, country ADRA director.

T O G O

Togo is a small French country sandwiched between Ghana, Benin, and Burkina Faso with the Atlantic ocean to the south. Crossing the border from Ghana into Togo, the immigration officers were already aware of the work of ADRA and, in particular, of the

famous Glei Eye Hospital built by ADRA, and run by the church. This hospital currently serves the needs of the local population, as well as the high-ranking government officials and military personnel.

Our field visit took us to several villages in the country. At each of these places, we were welcomed mostly by women dressed in their traditional clothing. The plight of a rural Togolese woman is a difficult one. She gives birth to six or seven children of which she will probably bury three. Her life expectancy is 56 years, compared to 81 years for a Canadian woman. She will walk several kilometers daily to fetch water for her family, search two hours to find firewood, and spend another two to three hours preparing her family's meal. In terms of education, the picture does not look much brighter. In Togo, 85% of rural women are illiterate. Most of these women are engaged in subsistence farming of maize, yams, and cassava. Many women also conduct other income generating activities to supplement what they earn from farming.

The objective of our project was to strengthen the rural Togolese family. Although we were targeting the women, our goal was to reach the entire family, and provide techniques for the members which would enable them to improve their living situation. A trainer is sent to live in a particular village for six months at a time and work with the villagers in

order to address issues such as family spacing, nutrition, AIDS education, hygiene, and discipline. It was interesting to note the level of participation by the men. As we visited the villages, the people expressed a desire to continue the program even after the six months was over. They had built a trust relationship with the trainer, and constantly went to her for advice and counsel. The following are just a few of the comments we received: "Our lives have changed; we used to fight and argue, but now we are better able to communicate with our spouse and children. We have learned to work together and help each other. Please come back — you are welcome in our village at any time. Thank you so much." One member of our team observed a marked difference between the villages we had worked in from those we had not, especially in the area of hygiene and cleanliness.

G H A N A

ADRA Canada has provided funds to complete a medical clinic in Ghana. Community residents are anxious to have access to medical services nearby.

Overall, we are impressed with the positive impact that ADRA is making in these countries. When we reach out in love to meet the physical and social needs of suffering, needy people, we do so to demonstrate God's love towards them. Together, we are making a difference . . . one life at a time. ■

Friendship Opens Hearts

Truth Overrides Caution



Elaine Tetley

The Bible studies on video, as promoted by *The Quiet Hour* ministry, seems to work well in the Thunder Bay district. In the fall of 1999, I began a series of Bible studies using the *Search for Truth* Bible study videos with Elaine Tetley. Our first contact was a very timid one as she cautiously opened the door just a crack. I said, "Hi, I am Nephtaly. I am here to deliver the first Bible study video that you requested." She accepted the video and the quiz sheet, and I left. On the second week, we had a one sentence conversation at the door in which she indicated that she was willing to continue with the studies. I gave her the second video. On the third week, our conversation at the door was a little longer. She was asking questions about baptism by immersion. I told her, "There will be a study on baptism on a video which will probably answer all your questions."

On the fourth week, while we were talking at the door, I asked her if I could see how she did on the quiz sheets. She said, "Sure, come in." After one month, I finally got access to her living room, and we reviewed the eight quizzes together. She did very well!

Then she asked a direct question. "Can your church baptize me even though I choose not to join your congregation?" I simply replied, "Just continue the video studies and we will consider that in due time." She continued, "I belong to a church, but they don't believe in baptism by immersion. Also, I find the minister very shallow in his sermons. I stopped attending church and I am praying so that God can give me a better way to study the Bible. The *Search for Truth* videos seem to be the answer to my prayers." I silently praised God! We prayed together, and I left.

We kept in regular and cordial contact until she finished the series of studies. Then she said, "I now understand that to be baptized in your church I must become a member of the congregation." I replied, "You are right," and I

invited her to come and worship with us on Saturday morning. She responded, "Yes, I could do that." Then she asked, "Who is the pastor in your church?" I said, "Well, I happen to be the pastor." She said, "Oh, I did not know you are a pastor."

A couple of Sabbaths later, Elaine showed up at the 11:00 worship service. I was surprised to see her and very delighted to welcome her to our service. The next day I called her, anxious to find out how she liked it. She replied with excitement, "Oh, I liked it, in fact, I am coming next Saturday at 9:30 so I can take part in the lesson study." Elaine continued to come to services regularly. She expressed a great interest in knowing more about the Bible. We did another series of Bible studies, and she attended the *Acts 2000 — Revelation of Hope* program with Mark Finley. I had the great joy of baptizing Elaine on Sabbath, April 8, 2000. She shared her personal testimony on the day of her baptism.

by Nephtaly Dorzilme,
pastor of the Thunder Bay
SDA Church

A Successful Search for Authentic Happiness



Randy Gibson

On November 27, 1999, three CUC students bore witness in baptism of their desire to follow Jesus and join the Adventist fellowship. Though none of the three had Adventist backgrounds, they were all strongly influenced by the spirituality and atmosphere they found at CUC. One of them, Randy Gibson, a General Studies student from Edmonton, gave his testimony from the baptism.

Gibson's is a story of a life changed through a caring friend, Kris Falk, who was also recently converted and is

studying at CUC, and the spiritual environment he found on campus. Falk, who helped Gibson attend CUC by giving him a \$1,000 scholarship that Falk had earned, stood by as his friend gave the following testimony:

"I am here only because of the grace of Jesus Christ. I have erred greatly in my life. Growing up, I never knew about this man named Jesus. I tried to find things in this world that would make me happy. I turned to drugs and alcohol to fill an empty void that plagued me. I used to steal and lie to support my bad habits. In my old life, these were normal things that kids did to be cool. But no matter how stoned or drunk, or how much money I had, I still knew something was missing. Living

without hope took its toll on me. I became hardened, and I despised the world and hated life.

By the time I was 20, I had done all that I could think of to make me happy, but I was still a depressed mess. Everything in my life crumbled away, leaving me with nothing but a broken heart. At this lowest point, the Lord sent a friend that told me this wonderful news about salvation — about how Jesus died to save me and He would forgive my sins and give me a new heart! That void that no drug or drink could fill was finally filled by something far greater! I owe my life to the Lord, and I wish to follow Him with all my heart. I ask you to pray for me so that I may be a good witness for our Lord, Jesus Christ." ■

■ O N T A R I O

Natural Lifestyle Cooking Seminar

For four years in a row, the health message and the name Seventh-day Adventist has been heard in the City of Waterloo. Thanks goes to Pastor Jim Campbell who originated this program, and the combined team of the members of the Cambridge Church and Waterloo Company. While it was a busy and tiring time for church members who volunteered, it was also very rewarding and enjoyable.

The many hours of preparation and coordination resulted in 108 non-Adventists registering for the seminar, of which 26 people signed up for Vege-buddies, with another 16 people wanting to improve their spiritual health. All registered individuals participated in the Health Age Questionnaire and have expressed interest in further programs our church provides. Booths were set up displaying cookbooks, Ellen White's health books, food samples and other health materials and information. Many questions were asked during the recipe demonstrations, and this was a wonderful opportunity to speak with people about health issues and the origin of the Adventist health message. Also, to introduce them to the Adventist lifestyle and invite them to enroll in the Discover Bible studies. We have been asked when the next seminar will be and we have already booked the auditorium for the year 2001. This community outreach is very popular here in the City of Waterloo, and the word is spreading around so fast by word of mouth, that we are already getting calls to sign up for next year's program. ■

Back Row (L to R) Lori Tackler, Mary Tassoni, Catherine Walker, Claudia Campbell, Pastor Jim Campbell, Rose Solomon, Telga Bairos, Violet Brown, Violet Zama
Front Row (L to R) Glen Tackler, Nick Tassoni, Nathane Campbell, P D Solomon (not pictured: Sandra Chin)



Church Rededication

The Peterborough SDA Church invites you to join with them on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2000 as they rejoice over the completion of their church building renovations, and give thanks to the Lord for His abundant blessings.

Sabbath school will begin at 9:45 a.m., and the divine worship at 11:15 a.m. with guest speaker, Elder Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference. The church

family invites you to join them for a special meal of thanksgiving immediately following the worship hour.

The rededication service will begin at 3 p.m. with guest speaker, Dr. Douglas Devnich, former president of the SDA Church in Canada. ■

■ A L B E R T A



In May, Red Willow Community Church in St. Alberta celebrated the baptisms of four of our magnificent youth. (L to R) Josh Elgert, Landon Mutch, Stephen Elgert, and Mariah Hauptman. Second from the right is youth leader, Carl Waldron. Carl, his wife, Michelle, and their dynamic team of youth leaders have done an outstanding job in leading teens into a relationship with Christ and encouraging them in Christian service.

Homecoming and Reunion at Bentley

The Bentley SDA Church in Alberta is having a "Homecoming Sabbath" on June 23, 2001. The local community Carritt Creek School Reunion and Community Homecoming will be the following day on June 24, 2001. The church and the community are planning the homecomings back to back because many Adventists went to the local farming community school in the pioneer days of the Bentley community.

The Bentley church began 80 years ago in 1920 when a group of largely German-speaking farmers gathered in the community and built their own church on donated property. Though in the 1940's the church was moved into the Town of Bentley, and in the 1970's a new one built, the old church building continues west of Bentley as a home, and the Bentley church property is still maintained as a cemetery.

The Bentley church urges all who have at one time pastored, been members of, or attended the Bentley church (or their children) to come to the homecoming. We wish to let people know early so vacations and trips can be planned. For further details write: Dorothy Pearson, Box 315, Bentley, AB T0C 0J0, or E-mail the pastor's wife, Alberta Blake, at: ablake@attcanada.net. ■

■ Announcements

The Surrey Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members listed below with their last known address: Kathy and Archie Girvan, Merritt, B.C.; Jelena Gutsfah, Vancouver, B.C.; Winstin Jackson, Surrey, B.C.; Luba Dawne Molowey, Penticton, B.C.; Doris Southerby, Surrey; Susan Van Damme, Edmonton, Alta.; and Steven West, Surrey. Anyone with information should contact the church clerk at Surrey S.D.A. Church, 8520 132 St., Surrey, BC V3W 4N7.

■ Weddings

Robyn Van Essen and Les Wettstein were married on July 9, 1998, in Penticton, B.C., and are making their home in Abbotsford, B.C.

■ Anniversaries

Lorne and Audrey Ganson, of Chetwynd, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Apr. 23, 2000. The Gansons have three remaining children: Barry, Jack (Terry), and Shari (Ashley) Henry. They have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Neil Campbell was born Oct. 15, 1903, and died Jan. 16, 2000. He served his church by offering employment to church members and academy and college students at his logging and sawmill business. Surviving: wife Naoma; sons James (Francis), Murray (Marlena), and Maynard (Shannon); daughters Caroline (Roland) Stickle and Christina (Dave) Norris; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Wilbert Ross Foulston was born Aug. 9, 1908, in Riding Mountain, Man., and died Apr. 8, 2000, in St. Helena, Calif. He served his church as a pastor and evangelist for over 70 years. He was predeceased by his wife, Ada Louise Manual. Surviving: son Wayne (Cynthia) of Honolulu, Hawaii; daughter Ruth (Dave) Wiebe of Albion, Calif.; brothers Ivan and Roy of Tugaskie, Sask.; sister Pearl Fetro of Walla Walla, Wash.; three grandchildren and one grandchild.

Bruce A. Johnston was born Mar. 19, 1918, in Costigan, N.B., and died May 29, 2000, in Plaster Rock, N.B. Surviving: wife Shirley (Baker); sons Cameron (Shirley) of Kelowna, B.C., and Reid of Carlingford, N.B.; brothers Lewis (Eunice) of Wembley, Alta., and Douglas (Joan) of Calgary, Alta.; sisters Mary (James) Bartlett of

Perth-Andover, N.B., and Rita (Basil) Hanscom of Perth-Andover; two grandchildren.

John F. MacDonald died June 22, 2000, in Sydney, N.S., at the age of 70. Surviving: wife Mona; stepchildren Gwendolyn (Bryan) Sweeney of Sydney, N.S., Daniel (Bonnie) Kenney and John (Tammy) Kenney, both of Calgary, Alta.; and five grandchildren.

Madeline Sparenberg died June 13, 2000, in Chatham, Ont., at the age of 95. She was predeceased by her husband, Hendrik, and two children, Otto and Lauwrie. Surviving: sons Henk (Yvonne) of Antwerp, Belgium, Alexander (Eileen) of Grand Bend, Ont., Bill (Shirley) of Talbotville, Ont., and Robert (Charlene) of Key West, Fla.; daughters Betsy (Nef) Caryn of Lacombe, Alta., Donna (Ken) MacDonald of Erie Beach, Ont., Lexie (John) Martin of Blenheim, Ont.; 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

■ Advertisements

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Employment wanted: Young Filipino lady, M.V.C. graduate with experience in computer and office skills desires employment in Canada. Will accept any type of work in Adventist institution, office, nursing home or hospital. For more information, contact Mrs. Heppel, RR 2, C-8, Lockhart Dr., Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1B0. E-mail heppel@junction.net, phone 250/546-8881. (10/00)

Elizabeth View Bed & Breakfast: one-half km to Canadian University College, in Rosedale Valley, Alberta. Private entrance and bath; breakfast served in room; very clean and comfortable; \$45/\$48 single/double occupancy. For reservations, contact Dianne Straub 403/782-3407 or E-mail strama@ccinet.ab.ca. (9/00)

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Managing Editor — Carolyn Willis
cwillis@sdacc.org
Production Assistant — Joan Tanasiychuk
joant@sdacc.org
Address changes — addresses@sdacc.org

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

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SDA CHURCH IN CANADA

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

President — Orville Parchment
oparchment@sdacc.org
Secretary — Claude Sabot
csabot@sdacc.org
Treasurer — Gerald Northam
gnortham@sdacc.org
Undertreasurer — Brent Burdick
brentburdick@compuserve.com
Associate Treasurer — Joyce Jones
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Education — Mike Lekic
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CONFERENCES

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British Columbia: Reo Ganson, president; Ken Wiebe, Messenger correspondent; Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4P5, phone 604/853-5451
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The Messenger Asks

What were your impressions as a volunteer?

How do I get to the SkyDome? Where are the exhibits? May I have a program? Where is the Prayer Room? How do I contact someone? These were a few of the many questions I was asked as a volunteer at GC 2000 in Toronto. The first day I was very apprehensive. Will I have the answers? How quickly will I be able to learn the convention centre layout, the different event venues and locations, and how to get there, etc.? It was daunting. My abhorrence at the thought of being responsible for disseminating misinformation was a powerful motivation to learn every detail, and quickly everything began to fall into place. Even though the crowds were large with periods of high demand, there were many opportunities to meet and converse with fellow believers from mission lands, former Communist countries, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. What an inspiration! What a sense of the power of God's work. As volunteers, we often worked closely with SkyDome and convention centre staff. This provided opportunities to witness and show that serving God makes a difference. What a joy to be able to assist and converse with fellow Adventists from all over the world.

Lorene Heisler
St. Thomas, Ont.

I spent some days of the General Conference session assisting with volunteer coordination and general office duties. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement shown by the volunteers—a small, dedicated group of men, women and children—many pulling double shifts who would come back to the hospitality office to relate an interesting encounter which they had experienced during their shift.

Some comments expressed by the

volunteers included, “it has been an unforgettable experience,” “a real privilege to serve,” and “I have never had an opportunity to be a part of such a mammoth event.” It was a privilege indeed to participate in a small way with such a great group – our Canadian volunteers.

Janice Cagogan
Lacombe, Alta.

This was my first GC experience. I wasn't really sure what to expect. It did seem like everywhere I went people were smiling and friendly—in many different languages! If you were “bumped” while walking the streets of downtown Toronto, apologies would abound. “Niceness” seemed to be everywhere! I rode the SkyDome elevator. As we were ascending, I commented to the elevator operator that this must be just like working during a Blue Jays game. “Oh,” she exclaimed, “this is much nicer. I just love this!” At least we made one good impression! General Conference 2000 was a wonderful experience for me, and I do hope that the people of Toronto really did see Jesus in each one of us.

Jeannie Dinning
*Receptionist,
SDA Church in Canada*

One of the best things I have done in my personal Christian walk was to be a volunteer at the 57th General Conference in Toronto. As an information officer, I was stationed between the MTCC North and South buildings, and the SkyDome in an information booth. Daily, while watching the thousands of people of different nations and languages going up and down the escalators in a never-ending stream, calling greetings to old friends and making new ones in the name of Jesus Christ, I got a tiny glimpse of what heaven will really be like.

The conference was well-planned and in a good location. It was very entertaining, Spirit-filled, informative and, most of all, free to anyone wishing to participate. Attendance was very good and the weather excellent. It is an experience I will always cherish in my Christian walk. Thank the Lord I was a part of GC 2000. Way to go coordinators!

Paulette Massey
*Member of Shiloh SDA
Church, Scarborough, Ont.*

I didn't know what I was thinking when I agreed to work for the secretariat department at the General Conference Session. It is not really my interest, and I didn't think I was qualified. But I had agreed to do it so I would keep my promise.

Arriving in Toronto, I had to find the hotel and leave my luggage. Then it was off to start the adventure in secretariat. Elaine Robinson directed me to get registered first so that I would have the proper identification to get where I needed to inside the SkyDome. With that completed, she then orientated me to my duties. At first, it all seemed so overwhelming, but the others charged with the same duties also experienced some anxiety, so there was comfort in numbers. The first day was quite stressful, not only from the newness, but because we had to work into the evening hours. One of the high points for me was typing the speech of Mel Lastman, Mayor of Toronto. He was interesting, humorous, and positive. According to his speech on the closing night of the session, his high estimation of the church body was not disappointed.

As the days progressed and the work settled into a routine, there were moments that were quite interesting. In spite of the size of the operation, it was

the 57th General Conference session?



TORONTO 2000
almost home

obvious that the church functioned in a similar manner at all levels. It was always nice to get tapes to type that had interesting presentations or discussions. The individuals from General Conference were a pleasure to work for and with. I am glad for the opportunity of meeting them. It was these people who made the experience a positive one. It is now a pleasant memory.

Clareleen Ivany

*Asst. Treasurer, Canadian
Adventist Media Centre*

My husband, Ted, my daughter, Charlee (13), and I decided to volunteer for the GC Session held in Toronto. We embarked upon a journey that we knew nothing about. It proved to be an experience that we all will never forget.

We were placed at numerous information booths about the Convention Centre, and also the SkyDome. We listened to many complaints; we heard many compliments. We listened to anger, and we listened to happiness. We listened to criticism, and we heard praise. We enjoyed seeing so many different people from all over the world. We prayed with one poor mother who had lost her child in the enormous

crowds, and watched as the Lord performed a miracle to return the little lost girl to her mom. We heard reports of the wonderful things taking place all over the world; of people flocking to hear the Word of God and then to receive it with open hearts, even if in some countries it means imprisonment or death. We are so blessed to have the freedoms that we have. It was wonderful to see people from the past and catch up on their lives. We were sad to say good-bye to the great bunch of volunteers we worked with, and the great staff who was in charge.

We went home for a few days during the week, but there was a longing to return and see the Lord's people. There is a longing in our souls for the Lord's return when we will no longer have to get on planes, trains or cars, and head away; where there will be no more good-byes. We are "Almost Home!" Come Lord Jesus, come!

Dawn (Reim) Kirkby

Seeley's Bay, Ont.

The application process, the door-to-door ministry, the evangelism, the music, the prayer ministry, and all the different sessions prepared us for the up-coming

conference. The final moment came on Thursday, June 29 when all the visitors started pouring into Toronto for the GC Session. As a volunteer, it was my greatest pleasure to work with over 100 other volunteers in the service of our Lord. It was very interesting to meet many different people from all walks of life, nations, kindred and tongues. I enjoyed working as a volunteer, and I was happy and excited about it all. This is an experience that I will never forget. This could be the last GC Session. Jesus is almost here. Are we ready? Let's determine to be ready to meet Him when He comes.

Monica McIntosh

*Member of
Mt. Olive SDA Church*

It was first experience working at a General Conference session as a Seventh-day Adventist. I met a lot of brothers and sisters. It was great working with them and to meet people like these. I will do my best to do God's work until He comes. ■

Pamela Ambrose

North York, Ont.

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