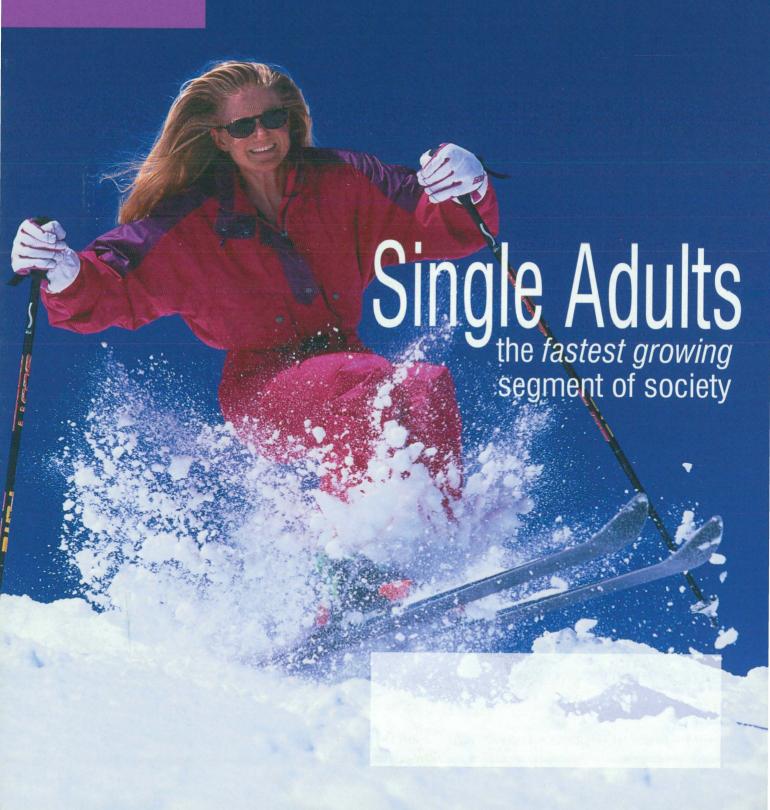
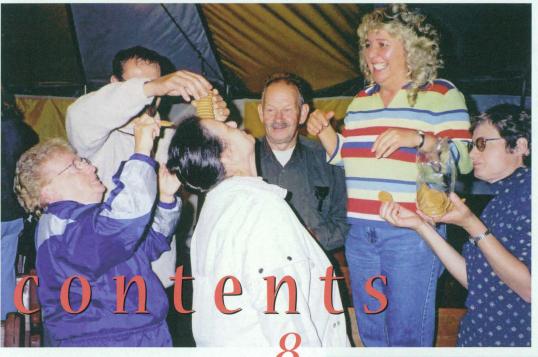
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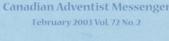
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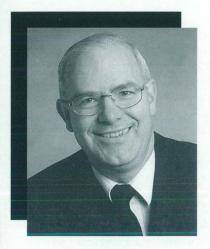
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Dinosaur Bones

by Ken Wiebe

Six years ago I visited Drumheller, Alberta,

Drumheller, Alberta, a city in the heart of the Canadian badlands. As one would expect in dinosaur country, everything focuses on

dinosaurs: monuments, billboards, street names, directional signs, and shop names. The Royal Tyrrell Museum, the center of tourist attractions, showcases dinosaurs that once roamed Alberta with more than 35 skeletons and life-like models. Through the display of fossils, computers, and DVD centres, it tries to portray life as it supposedly was millions of years ago, and naturally propounds Darwin's theory of evolution. It's a masterful creation, awing the senses, stimulating the imagination, and challenging the intellect.

There's no denying it! Dinosaurs existed. The evidence is overwhelming. The question is "When did they exist?" Evolution claims to have the answer—millions of years ago. It purports the world began with a "spark" millions of years ago, and dinosaurs are ancestors of the animal species of today. The theory leaves no room for the concept of a loving Creator-God, or the need for a Saviour from sin.

This past summer, my wife Vera and I again visited Drumheller, not to refresh our memory of Darwin's theory, but to reflect on God's great plan of salvation. Interestingly enough, the badlands, with its outdoor natural amphitheatre and in a setting closely resembling the Bible Lands, has become the venue for the Canadian Badlands Passion Play. Using Scripture and dressed in Bible-time costumes, the 150 volunteer cast and 100-voice choir reenact the last few years of Jesus' life—His ministry, healings, miracles, death and resurrection. The production makes the life of Christ come alive, and challenges us to faithfully continue with our spiritual journey.

In reflecting on the content of the play, three truths impressed me. Firstly, there is a much closer relationship between the human and spirit world than we realize. The battle between Christ and Satan was fierce, and the play writers depict Satan and his angels, not as hideous monsters, but as seductive beings any of us might be willing to embrace. These beings, mingling among the "crowd," dispensed their evil influence at every turn in Jesus' ministry. Conversely, holy angels, silently, almost imperceptibly, but ever present, watched, coached, guided, encouraged and, when necessary, pressed back the evil forces.

I thought, how quickly we dispense with the reality of the spirit world just because it is hidden from the human eye. Ellen White says, "The connection of the visible with the invisible world, the ministration of angels of God, and the agency of evil spirits, are plainly revealed in the Scriptures, and inseparably interwoven with human history.... God's people, exposed to the deceptive power and unsleeping malice of the prince of darkness, and in conflict with all the forces of evil, are assured of the unccasing guardianship of heavenly angels. Nor is such assurance given without need. If God has granted to His children promise of grace and protection, it is because there are mighty agencies to be met—agencies numerous, determined, and untiring, of whose malignity and power none can safely be ignorant or unheeding" (GC, pgs. 511,513).

Secondly, the deeper implication of Jesus' sacrificial death can be scarcely depicted adequately through reenactment. Spiritual things must be spiritually discerned. The play can only portray the horrifying trial, the cruel torture, and the agonizing death on the cross which, by itself, only evokes sympathy. After all, down through the ages martyrs and criminals alike have suffered similar torture, even crucifixion, at the hands of their executioners. But martyrs or criminals die for their own faith or crimes as the case may be, whereas Jesus died a vicarious death. He assumed the sins of all who accept Him. Peter interprets Jesus' death so accurately when he says, "who Himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you are healed" (1Peter 2:24). That truth is difficult to portray in a play.

Thirdly, like it or not, we're all participants in the drama of the great controversy. Unlike the 1,000 passive spectators watching the play, this time we're the actors on the stage of life. We're drawn into the act itself and we choose the "role" we play. I thought: Am I a Mary of Magdala or a loving Lazarus of Bethany, an impetuous Peter or a doubting Thomas? Maybe I'm a proclaiming John the Baptist or a conniving Judas, or just simply a part of the indifferent crowd. Somewhere in that huge cast is a depiction of me, only this is for real. I'm no longer a spectator; that's the roll of the unfallen worlds, and they are intently watching the drama unfold.

Ironically, the Canadian badlands purport a theory intended to overthrow the knowledge of a loving Creator-God and the power of the gospel. Yet it becomes the very place that so vividly portrays the plan of salvation. Jesus also invaded the badlands of the world, did battle with the powers of darkness and won. Though for a moment it appeared He was defeated; to our benefit He triumphed. Because He lives, we too shall live. The outcome of the future is certain, but our outcome depends on the choice we make to accept or reject God's gracious offer of salvation.

Ken Wiebe is the president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.

We were visiting my father-in-law on a recent weekend. He was in the hospital recovering from pneumonia and despite worries that he wouldn't respond to treatment, he has recovered remarkably. No small feat for a man whose age has spilled over the 100 mark. I looked at him as he sat in his hospital chair opening his mouth for each spoonful of supper fed to him by his devoted daughter. He is the dear patriarch of the Willis clan and though the productive part of his life may be over, he still enjoys the love and respect of his family. I admit that I do long for the days when he would joyfully entertain us at family gatherings with his stories of characters from the long past days of his youth. I would hear the stories so often that I came to think of these characters as my friends too. Inevitably, someone would comment that me hard. Even though I knew he would be back and forth throughout his college years, I also knew that our relationship would never be the same. It's not that I dreaded the future or wanted to hold him back when it was time to go—it was the mourning of the end of an era. A precious time of my life as a parent watching, directing and loving my toddler as he grew into manhood. I was going to miss the laughter, the noise, the questions, the problems, the hugs and smiles meant just for me.

And now, it has been 23 years since we first saw that cherished face. He has graduated from college and is working and living 10 hours away from home. Our treasured days of parenting are over and I feel that the time passed has been a quick stroke of life's brush on my life. Sometimes the quietness of the house is deafening to my ears.

I realize that another blink of the eyes will bring me and Byron to a time when life will be over for us. First one, then the other. The brevity of time that we have here on this earth is breath catching. We are indeed "just passing through." I have come to realize

in the blink of an eye

we should record these tales because they were so amusing and the uniqueness of the characters should be savoured for future generations. But we never did. I guess we never wanted to think that a time would come when he would no longer have the energy and spirit for such things. But that time has now come.

It seems but a moment ago that I was a young mother. Twenty-seven years have gone by since October 7, 1975, when our first child was born. What an incredible love I felt for this beautiful child of mine. She was the ruling princess in the Willis household and every day was exciting and joyful because she made it so. I wondered when our son was born four years later if I could ever love another child as much as this one. How could I have wondered? One look at Ryan and I was smitten.

There is no greater joy or privilege than raising a child. Oh yes, inevitably there are one or two problems that crop up along the way, but that pales in comparison to the richness Christian parenting can bring to a person's life. After having Ryan at home for 19 years, he went off to college. Ryan's departure hit

that time spent accumulating on this earth is time lost. The only thing worth pursuing during our time here are our relationships with God, our family and friends.

If I knew when my life would end, because no one is guaranteed their threescore and ten years, I wonder what changes I would make in my life. Perhaps some of us have too often assumed that we have a specific number of years to live on this earth without taking into account the doctor's report on that spot on your liver, or the driver who rounds the hill on your side of the road, or the smouldering electrical fire that bursts into flame in the middle of the night as you sleep. Now is the time to fix heavenly priorities; to influence those around us to prepare for Christ's coming. Some aren't aware of this all-inclusive invitation Christ has extended to we earthlings. We need to let them know. After all, this is one place that we are expected to bring a friend or two.

Carolyn Willis is the editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.



According to a new report, having a furry friend can help temper the rise in blood pressure that is sometimes associated with stress.

Subjects in this study were all stockbrokers with high blood pressure. Each of the 48 subjects was put on blood pressure-lowering drugs and half of them were told to adopt a pet. (The subjects were all screened beforehand, of course, to make sure they were willing to have a pet.)

The subjects were given tests at home to stimulate mental stress and then had their blood pressures taken. In the pet-owning group, the animals were nearby during the testing and the blood pressure measurements.

The researchers found that those with pets had much smaller rises in blood pressure.

—Hypertension, October 2001

Soymilk Lowers Blood Pressure

Are you drinking more milk to hep lower your blood pressure? Findings from the DASH study show that a diet high in fruits and vegetables and high in calcium from low-fat dairy products is very effective in reducing hypertension. But if you are following these guidelines, perhaps you should make soymilk your choice. Recent research from Spain shows that replacing cow's milk with calciumfortified soymilk can be even more effective in reducing blood pressure levels. Over a period of 12 weeks, subjects with hypertension consumed their regular diet, which was a Mediterranean-type diet supplemented with either a litre of soymilk or a litre of skim cow's milk every day. At the end of the study, systolic and diastolic blood pressure had decreased by 18 and 16 mmHg in the soymilk group compared to 1 and 4 mmHg in the cow's milk group. The researchers suggested that any number of compounds in soy—such as the type of protein or the isoflavones in soymight be responsible for the effect. -J Nutr 2002:132: 1900-1902

Dealing with Restless Leg Syndrome

If you have restless legs syndrome, or RLS, you may not even know how to describe the sensations to your doctor. While some people feel itching, tickling, or twitching along their legs, others describe the feeling as simply a compelling urge to move your legs. The symptoms usually occur at night and can interfere with sleep or during the day while you are seated. The cause of this syndrome isn't clear but some research suggests that it could be due to a shortage of the brain chemical dopamine or a problem with iron metabolism. Consuming caffeine or alcohol close to bedtime has also been implicated.

Some tips for reducing symptoms of RLS:

- Get up and walk around for a few minutes.
- Stretch and massage the leg muscles.
- Exercise regularly.

If symptoms persist and, especially if they interfere with sleep, see your doctor to have iron levels checked and to discuss any possible medication.



To Starve or Feed a Fever

Many of us grew up on the adage "feed a cold and starve a fever." New research from Amsterdam supports the wisdom of this approach."

The findings were serendipitous. In an unrelated study, researchers happened to notice differences in immune system responses after a meal. This led them to measure the production of immune cells following either fasting or a liquid meal that contained about the number of calories in a Big Mac and fries. They looked at both virus-fighting immune cells—the kind implicated in colds—and those cells that kill bacteria, which are often the cause of fevers. The virus fighters rose four-and-a-half-fold following the meal but

fell to 83 per cent of their usual level after a fast. However, food intake caused a small rise in the bacteria-fighting cells but fasting caused them to jump by nearly 400 per cent. The researchers concluded that calorie intake favours the type of immune response that is needed to fight cold viruses, but that the immune response needed to fight fever-causing bacterial infections is boosted by fasting.

—Digestive Disease Week, Atlanta, GA May 2001

February 2003 Messenger



Freedom of Religion vs. Sexual Orientation

by Barry W. Bussey

rowing up in the 1970's

"Showdown" was an NHL
program pitting the best players against each other in "one on one"
situations. It was standard *Hockey Night In Canada* fare. Canada is now facing a new "Showdown" according to Barbara Findlay, a gay-rights advocacy lawyer,
"The legal struggle for queer rights will one day be a showdown between freedom of religion versus sexual orientation."

The recent battlefield of choice in this showdown appears to be the local school. What is and is not taught at school has always been controversial. Schools represent the future of society. Society's morals, values and traditions are transferred to the next generation of citizens. It is the state laboratory for inculcation.

Just before Christmas 2002, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its long anticipated decision in the case of *Chamberlain*.² James Chamberlain is a homosexual Kindergarten-Grade 1 teacher in Surrey, B.C. Mr. Chamberlain sought to sensitize his five and six-year-old students to "same-sex parented families" by providing "supplementary learning resources."

The Surrey School Board of Trustees, being an elected body and having heard from a number of disgruntled parents, voted against including gay and lesbian resources. Mr. Chamberlain took the school board to court. The lower court ruled against the board, the B.C. Court of Appeal upheld the board's decision. That set the stage for the Supreme Court of Canada.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice Beverley MacLachlin held that the board's decision was unreasonable and told the board to make its decision again using the proper criteria. The obvious implication is that once the board reviews the matter they will make the "right" decision and include the gay literature.

MacLachlin rejected the board's

argument that Kindergarten-Grade 1 children were too young to be dealing with the issues of "same-sex parented families." "Tolerance," said the Chief Justice, "is always age-appropriate." As to the argument that children might face different teaching on morality at school from what is taught at home she said, "Learning about tolerance is therefore learning that other people's entitlement to respect from us does not depend on whether their views accord with our own. Children cannot learn this unless they are exposed to views that differ from those they are taught at home." (Emphasis added.)

"It is a feeble notion of pluralism," said Justice Gonthier, who wrote a poignant dissenting opinion, "that transforms 'tolerance' into 'mandated approval or acceptance'." Gonthier said that conflicting Charter rights ought to be a "two way street"-one right should not triumph over another; there must be a balance between them. "Tolerance," he said, "ought not to be employed as a cloak for the means of obliterating disagreement." Parents, not the state," he argued, "are in the best position to determine what is best for their children." Unfortunately, Gonthier was in the minority.

There can be no doubting that there is a Canadian showdown between religious freedom and sexual orientation. We are living amidst an unfolding drama. The battle is not one of seeking "tolerance" and "respect," but of allowing debate and preventing the elimination of dissent. Surely it is reasonable to assume that our democracy is large enough to permit a public discussion of values; of morality; of notions, beliefs of what is right and wrong without the fear of the state's stick of coercion against the unpopular view of the day. Our society is great because our religious freedom is great. Our society will cease to be great when religious freedom is no more. It is, as Justice Gonthier noted, "a two-way

street in the context of conflicting beliefs."

In light of the developments in the public school sector, Christians have to ask themselves some very serious questions. If, as some have argued, religious parents no longer have meaningful accommodation, ought we to consider leaving the public system altogether? Should we willingly allow our young children to suffer "cognitive dissonance," i.e. confusion over mom and dad saying one thing but teacher saying another? Are we taking the time with our children to determine exactly what they are being taught? Is what they're being taught in "their best interests" or in the best interests of another group?

The showdown may be between freedom of religion and sexual orientation as Barbara Findlay suggests, however, the prize is the hearts and minds of our children. They are the grail. Is it possible that we have become so absorbed in the reality of jobs, money, and things that we have forgotten the little ones at our feet? "Suffer the little children," said Iesus, "to come unto me and forbid them not. For such is the Kingdom of God." Christ understood that children are impressionable. They absorb the values of the adults around them. They are, as the old hymn says, "precious in His sight." As Christians, the ability to transfer the ancient belief of the Gospel message, and the moral teachings of the Ten Commandments to our children is a God-given responsibility for which we will have to answer; it is a matter of a moral obligation to Christ whom we serve—the showdown notwithstanding.

Barry W. Bussey is General Counsel and Public Affairs Director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



¹ Quoted by Terry O'Neill, "There Goes Freedom of Religion," *The Report*, June 10, 2002, www.report.ca.

² James Chamberlain v. The Board of Trustees of School District No. 36, 2002 SCC 86, (December 20, 2002)

Canadian Adventist Lawyers Association

by Barry W. Bussey

What do you get when nine Adventist lawyers from across Canada converged on Richmond, BC? The answer: CALA.

n December 8, 2002, a group of nine Seventh-day Adventist lawyers met to discuss the need of a professional organization. While legal practice is very rewarding, it can be a lonely profession for the sole Adventist lawyer in town or in a firm. The Adventist Christian brings to law a unique perspective—they not only have a living faith at church or on Sabbath, but every day at the office. Given the complexity of the legal profession it is important for lawyers to seek advice from their peers who have "gone that way before."

Canadian Adventist Lawyers Association (CALA) is a first for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC). During the past 15 years the SDACC helped organize several meetings of Adventist lawyers to discuss issues of concern for the Church

and provide fellowship. The December 8 meeting built on those previous experiences and established a process to bring about regular gatherings for the Canadian Adventist lawyer. Similar groups exist around the world, including the Nigerian Association of Adventist Lawyers (known as NAAL) and the Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys (SSAA) in the United States. These organizations not only provide a valuable resource for the Church, but also a vehicle for collegiality among the lawyers.

The General Conference of Seventhday Adventists publishes the journal *Adventist Lawyer* every two years. The journal includes a worldwide directory of Adventist lawyers. Over half of each issue is comprised of articles written by Adventist lawyers on their experiences and areas of expertise.

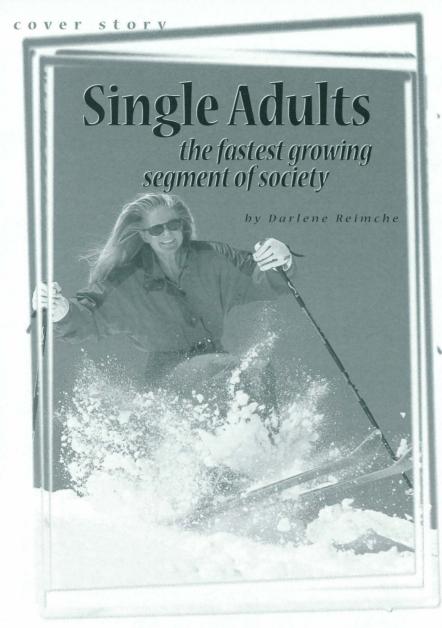
Most Adventist lawyers have a deep concern for areas of religious liberty. They help church members obtain Sabbath accommodation in the work place. They assist the church in drafting legal briefs for legislative committees and are involved in legal intervention in key cases whose outcomes affect church ministry. They are a valuable resource for the church helping to ensure that religious freedom is protected.

If you know of a Seventh-day Adventist lawyer or law student in Canada, please pass on the word that CALA, while in its "embryonic stage," is alive. Already plans are being made for the new year: a website devoted to the Adventist lawyers in Canada can be found at adventistlawyer.ca, and a convention of Adventist lawyers is being planned for September 2003. You can email bbussey@sdacc.org or phone 905/433-0011 for further information.

Barry W. Bussey is General Counsel and Public Affairs Director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



Those attending the founding of CALA were (*front row, from left*): Dan Jackson (President, SDACC), Nilton Amorim, (Secretary, SDACC), Peter Miller (Lawyer, Alta.), Clifford Holm (Lawyer, Sask.) *Second row*, Gerald Northam (Treasurer, SDACC), Kevin Boonstra (Lawyer, B.C.), David Thomas (Lawyer, Ont.), Barry Bussey (Lawyer, Ont.) *Third row*: Stuart Wood (Lawyer, B.C.), Sylvie Bordelais (Lawyer, Que.), Gerry Chipeur (Lawyer, Alta.), Keith Juriansz (Lawyer, Ont.) *Fourth row*: Ron Hosking (Treasurer, B.C. Conf.), Mark Johnson (Secretary, BC Conf.).



A whitened field ready for harvest, aptly describes the potential for ministry and outreach to the largest and fastest growing people group in society today—the single adult.

In North America, 44 to 48 percent of adults are single while only 26 percent of all households are made up of a father, mother and children—the 'ideal family.' Where once a person's primary social group was his family, now we find our society breaking down into groups and subgroups with special interests and special needs. One of these subgroups is the single adult.

The term "single adult" covers a wide range of categories and age groups:

- 1. Never married 46.5 million (18 years old and up)
- 2. Divorced —19.4 million
- 3. Widowed 13.5 million (most of these over

65 years of age)

4. Separated — 7.2 million (The separated person is legally married but living a single lifestyle.)¹

The total number of singles in the United States in 1995 was 86.6 million. This means that unmarried adult Americans are the population equivalent of the 14th largest country on earth.

Society in general is doing something for this group of single people. In fact, today singles comprise the largest concentrated pool of sales prospects in the country. Singles are the biggest purchasers of sports cars, condominiums, and fashions; the greatest frequenters of restaurants (often 8-10 times a week), and are the target of most major movies, television advertisements, and health clubs. Singles go where singles are, singles are spending more money, and singles are setting trends.

In a recent study that George Barna's Research Group carried out on single adults in the United States and published in 2002 in the book *Single Adults*, it was found that over 78% of all singles in the United States say they are Christians and yet only 1/3 of them have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Singles in all of these situations can most assuredly be considered a field ripe for the harvest (John 4:35-36). The singles population, possibly more than any other, is searching for answers to their questions and something to fulfill their lives.

So, what is the Adventist church doing about this? Our church is doing a good job of expanding its term "family," moving from a traditional family definition to one that attempts to include the singles, widows, single-parent families, extended families, expanded families, step families, and blended families. We are attempting to become the Family of God!

However, in many places the single church member is not feeling the inclusion. To reach out to community singles and bring them into the church we must have a church that is an accepting, loving, safe and nurturing place for the single adult.

What is Singles Ministries?

Jesus was single, and I like to think that Jesus was the real founder of Singles Ministries for throughout the four Gospels we find reference to Him spending time in the home of some of His devoted and beloved friends, the three single family members in Bethany; Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. We are told by Ellen White that: "At the home of Lazarus, Jesus had often found rest... Here He found a sincere welcome, and pure holy friendship. Here He could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 524).

This is Singles Ministries—a Christ-inspired ministry, where unmarried church members and friends come apart for a while to experience the unconditional love and acceptance by others who understand what it is like to be single in a couple's world. A safe place to be nurtured, to heal from wounds of the past, or to recover from the loss of a spouse. Singles Ministry

- is a Christ-centred ministry which encourages and provides opportunity for all singles to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
- gives a positive identity for singles in the church so they can be accepted and loved as a part of their church family.
- is a ministry that provides a safe place for Christian fellowship and friendship. One of the greatest needs of the single adult is to establish healthy friendships with other men and women. It is a ministry where all singles are loved and accepted just as they are.
- is a ministry that offers opportunities for personal growth and healing from the losses in ones life.
- is a place where singles have a warm nurturing family and a place to bring their community single friends.

In the past, Adventist Singles Ministries has included a wide age range; 18 years and up. However, it is unwise for a church to try to begin a ministry for singles of all ages in one group. Different age groupings represent different interests, needs and physical abilities, and each age group may have several types of single adults.

British Columbia Conference Singles Ministries

British Columbia has had a Singles Ministry for over 20 years. Some years it has been very active and strong, while other years it has been in decline. Always, it has struggled with misperception and misunderstanding by church members and singles alike. A few years ago, leadership of the ministry voted to shift the focus of the ministry towards a ministry of fellowship and friendship. Our adopted mission statement describes it well, "A Christ-centred, safe, nurturing place where friends meet."

Each year there are three conference-wide events: a Canadian Thanksgiving retreat in October, a Singles Ministries Convention in March, and nightly and weekend activity programs at camp meeting in July.

In 2001, conference administration established a Singles Ministry department with a director. Local churches are encouraged to appoint a Singles Ministries Co-ordinator. The establishment of a department and the shift in focus to a friendship ministry have been very positive and rewarding.

A Biblical Perspective on Singleness

We are told in Genesis 2:18 that while in the Garden of Eden, "The Lord God said, It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." We all know the story of how God created Eve. In verse 24 it goes on to say, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

It was a short time after this that sin entered the world and down through the Bible account of history we find Satan doing whatever he can to destroy the bond of marriage, the earthly symbol of the relationship between God and His earthly children, His church. Down through the ages, the struggle between those wanting to end their relationship of husband and wife continues. We find during the time that Moses led the Children of Israel, a man was allowed to put away his wife, but in Matthew 19:8-10 when some Pharisees came to him to test him, Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard, but I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery. The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

Jesus replied. "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and still others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept it should accept it." Paul continues along the same theme in 1 Corinthians 7:1 and 7, "It is good for a man not to marry... I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." So from these last two texts it looks like the Lord gives to some the gift of singleness. Does this mean that there is something wrong with someone who is single? No, it means that perhaps the Lord is using them for a special purpose.

From Ruth and Mary, from John the Baptist to Paul, and even Jesus, the Bible underscores the significant contributions of singles. And today singles can and do provide a significant contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is God's plan that each church be warm and loving to all church members, whether married or single, accepting them just as they are and helping them to grow into solid, beautiful children of our heavenly King. All members of this church must stretch forth their hands to the single people in our communities inviting them to come along with us to our promised heavenly home. All must use the talents and gifts entrusted to them to faithfully work to hasten His soon return.

Church Outreach to the Singles in our Communities

There is a statement found in *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28 that says, "The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ's kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message."

We are not to wait until the singles in our communities come to us asking about our message. We are to take the message to them. The most effective form of evangelism for singles is friendship evangelism. If a single from the community came to your church today, what kind of welcome would they receive? Would they be loved and accepted into God's family by both married and single members alike? Would they see that there is a better way and a Jesus who loves them? We, His church must do all we can to ensure that we receive them with open arms and hearts. Is our church ready? "The field is white and ready for

Darlene Reimche is Sabbath School, Children's and Singles Ministries Director for the British Columbia Conference.



harvest." ■

Single Adult Ministry Journal - Issue 1309, pg. 7

 $^{\rm 2}$ Rich Hurst in Keys to an Effective Single Adult Ministry

Upcoming Singles Ministries events in North America are often listed on the following websites:

North American Division website: http://family.nadadventist.org/singles.httml and Advent Plusline (events): www.plusline.org/resources/article.php?id=252.

A local church Singles Ministries co-ordinator job description can be downloaded from: http://family.nadadventist.org/singles.html.



Fellowship and games during Singles Ministries camp meeting games night.

Being Single *in the* Seventh-day Adventist Church

Learning how to be single again in my church was difficult. At the time I was angry that I only found support through other local churches. I realize now that going through a very difficult divorce left me confused about our church's value system. I needed time to peal back the layers of expectations and discover what was still valid for me. The process takes time. When one elder asked confidently how our church had assisted me during my marital break-up, he was stunned by my answer. I tried not to sound bitter that support was not available. I explained what would have been helpful. To his credit, he and his wife began a divorce recovery program. Today many individuals have benefited from their program.

As my chaos and troubles subsided over time, I opened my heart up to God. "Just use me as clay in your hands," I pleaded. I found God had a people ministry waiting for me. It started with a knock on my door. I opened the door to find a former neighbour child standing there. She stood there alone, 17-years-old, and seven months pregnant. Her family now all lived in Ontario. She expressed that she was living on the street and another neighbour suggested maybe I would take her in. Over the next eight years, eleven young people turned to my door asking for a home. My church family was mystified by all these different young people who would come to church with me. But I watched, ever sensitive to how these youth would be treated. My church family loved them just as they were. It didn't matter that my "now" daughter, dressed in gothic garb, would slip out for a smoke between Sabbath school and church. They smiled when another of "my" sons informed them that it was time to invite our family home for lunch. They good naturedly laughed. It was my face that turned red later when I heard about it and had to admit that I hadn't gotten to that part of the etiquette rules yet with this new child. As positions became available, my church family offered my young people leadership roles. On a given Sabbath you might find them running the sound system, part of a drama skit, in charge of the nursery, or helping organize the youth activity. A number of these young people gave their hearts to God and were baptized into our church membership.

But our church family was not satisfied to leave me sitting in the pew. Our pastor moved on as a result of an unfortunate situation. Behind, he left a lot of hurt and chaos. My church family turned to me and asked that I step into the leadership role as an acting pastor. For ten months we focused on God through prayer, praise and worship. They supported my humble attempts at sermons, they supported and nurtured me as a single while, with God's help, we sorted through those hurts and organized the chaos. When we were ready, and in God's good time, we received a minister. God sent a man who was a friend from my youth. My church family continues to support me in my role of head elder. I praise God for the wonderful opportunities He has brought me through both the support of my church and the opportunities to minister to my church.

by Rosemary Warman, Alberta Conference member

Responding to those who have lost spouses through death or divorce

Most people who have experienced the loss of a spouse either through death or divorce would probably agree that words are inadequate to describe the feelings and emotions that follow such a loss. The time immediately following the loss is when one's need for understanding, compassion and support are the greatest. This is an area where the church faces a challenge, and with the growing frequency of divorce in society, we need to become better at caring for hurting people.

To add to the spiritual gifts God has given to each of us, we need to ask Him to give us the gift of compassion. Unless you've experienced the loss of your loved one, you will never know what that person is going through. But if we would be compassionate people we could learn that a prayer, some small token of caring such as a card, a meal together, and a hug would go a long way toward helping a person through their time of need. During that early time, what we don't need is to be matched up with someone new. This is a time for healing emotionally and spiritually. I am pleased to find that my Seventh-day Adventist Church, through Singles Ministry and personal growth programs, can help restore the hurting, wounded soldiers in the Lord's army to their rightful position of duty.

by John Peters, B.C. Conference member

from the Heart of Africa

Central Africa is really the heart of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; one out of every five Seventh-day Adventists lives within 1,000 kms of the shores of Lake Victoria. And it was here that Barry Wecker and Daniel Hanscom spent two life changing weeks from October 23 to November 6. Barry and Daniel are both members of the Perth-Andover church in New Brunswick. Barry is a physician; Daniel is a registered nurse. For Barry it was returning home, for he and his family lived in Rwanda from 1981-1985. This was Daniel's first trip to Africa.

They were invited to Rwanda and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by PROLASA (Programme des Laics Adventistes Pour la Santé), a parallel ministry of Seventh-day Adventist laymen which is based in the city of Goma, in the DRC. The purpose of their trip was to assist and encourage the PROLASA team in their triple ministry—health care, orphan care and medical evangelism.

PROLASA

PROLASA was developed by Désiré Habimana Murhima, one of Barry's former nursing students at Mugonero Hospital in Rwanda. Its aim is to minister to the needs of the people around Lake Kivu, which is situated between the countries of Rwanda and the DRC. Based in Goma, PROLASA operates three health centres, two dispensaries in Rwanda, a simple hospital in Goma, and three orphan centres—one in Goma, one in Kanyatsi in the Masisi district and a third on the island of Idjwi in Lake Kivu. They also sponsor a group of orphans who have been placed with church member families. PROLASA is also very active in evangelism.

The entire Goma-based operation of PROLASA was destroyed by the volcanic eruption of January 17, 2002 which sent a one kilometer-wide lava flow through the centre of Goma. Not only did the lava flow destroy the entire heart of the city of Goma with its best homes and its commercial centre, but it also destroyed the headquarters of the Central Kivu Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and all four Adventist churches in the city. Désiré, who was in Montreal at the time of the eruption, lost his home, and his family had to flee into Rwanda where they had to live in a tent provided by the UN. All of the PROLASA infrastructure was destroyed as well. As soon as they received the news of the losses in Goma, he and Barry began to lay plans for the continuation of the work that PROLASA had started. Désiré returned to Congo in March, and PROLASA rented a building where the Goma hospital



Daniel (back row, far left) and Barry (back row, third from right) surrounded by orphans at Goma.

could be relocated. They also rented buildings for the orphan centres of Kanyatsi and Goma. Since there are no buildings for rent on the island of Idjwi, they built an orphan centre.

Idjwi Orphan Centre

Barry and Daniel arrived in Goma on October 24. The city was in ruins. Ten years of war with countless waves of refugees crossing the Congo-Rwanda border in one direction or the other, and the volcanic eruption which destroyed the city centre a few months ago, have wreaked havoc on this city of 500,000 people. However, with a resilience that is so typical in Africa, the residents of Goma have picked up the pieces and keep on going. Huts, shacks and shanties have quickly appeared on the still-steaming lava flow as businesses have reappeared and life goes on. Daniel and Barry were overwhelmed by what they saw. Lacking to a large extent the resilience of Africa, they were paralyzed at first. Where does one begin to make a difference in this chaotic cacophony of people, animals and vehicles—all moving over the steaming lava flow?

The day after arriving in Goma, they headed by boat to the island of Idjwi. This 310 square kilometre island is situated in the centre of Lake Kivu. It has virtually no roads and there are only two vehicles on the island. Over 50 percent of the 50,000 people who live there cannot read or write, and most of them are sustenance farmers. Church membership on Idjwi is around 5,000 and the church operates five elementary schools and three secondary schools on the island.

Daniel and Barry assisted the governor of Idjwi and the traditional king of the island in opening the new orphan centre which had just been built with the help of International Children's Care from Vancouver, Washington, USA.

There are still many needs. Most of these orphans have never been to school and there are urgent needs for the construction of a school, a chapel and a dispensary at the orphan centre.

On Sabbath, early in the morning, people began arriving by foot and by pirogue (a type of dugout canoe made by hollowing out a tree trunk) so that they could attend Sabbath services with Barry and Daniel. Some of these people had traveled for six or seven hours. Barry had the service and 50 people responded to the call to give their lives to the Lord.

After the service, as Daniel and Barry climbed into the boat which would take them back to Goma, the shore was covered with hundreds of church members waving and saying good bye. It was hard to leave them, but they both hope to return to Idjwi again someday soon.

Baptisms in Kanyatsi, Rushoga and Goma

The PROLASA medical evangelism team, under the direction of Kapalata Charles, took the challenge of evangelism very seriously. Fifty people were trained in giving simple health education, simple treatments and preaching the gospel. The goal was set for 400 baptisms by the time Barry and Daniel arrived, but the goal was far exceeded. During the first week of their visit, 1,609 people were baptized in five different locations. Barry and Daniel were privileged to participate in three of the baptisms. Included in that number were 29 members of the PROLASA team who were baptized on the last Sabbath of Daniel and Barry's visit.

Of the total 1,999 people who were baptized, 40 percent are illiterate. PROLASA now has the goal of teaching these people to read so that they can study their Bibles for themselves.

Daniel's Impressions of the Work in Central Africa

Prior to this trip, the only evangelistic efforts which Daniel had been a part of were small, local campaigns in Canada where there is often little interest in spiritual matters. In Africa, however, there is a hunger and a thirst for spiritual food such as Daniel had never seen before. Many individuals would walk for days in order to attend a religious service. Baptisms of hundreds of people take place and Daniel found it to be an extremely moving experience to witness such an event.

As well as the evangelistic program, church members have set to work at assisting others with their everyday needs. The work that is being done by the lay people in areas of public health, and the care that is being provided for the orphans is serving two important ends. Not only is it improving their quality of life, but it is also showing those being cared for that they are valued and loved.

The Goma Hospital Centre

The PROLASA Hospital in Goma is the heart of their outreach programme. Income earned from this hospital is used to support the entire outreach program of the organization. However, the hospital is very rudimentary. It is located in a rented building which is too small for their needs. Electricity is sporadic at best and there is no running water. In the sparsely equipped operating room, Daniel assisted Dr. Ntabe with a uterine suspension. His job was to hold the flashlight, keep the flies away from the operative field, and hold the lady's legs down when she moved due to the inadequate anaesthetic! He said that it was the first time in his nursing experience that he had heard a patient say "ouch" when the incision was made!

Equipment is needed and efforts are being made to obtain some land where PROLASA can build a hospital that they can own. Once a new building is built, efforts will be made to assure reliable electricity and water, and to better equip the facility.

The Goma Orphan Centre

Tucked away on a rough lava-rock side street, lies the Goma orphanage. This centre is the home of 55 children aged one through 12. Due to limited resources, the orphanage is able to serve only those orphans who are in most need of assistance. Prior to arriving at the centre, many of the children lived in the forests scavenging or begging for food, sleeping on the ground and, in many cases, were naked. At the centre they are grouped in one of three categories: 1) slightly malnourished and healthy; 2) moderately malnourished and moderately ill; and 3) severely malnourished and severely ill. Tragically, very few children are classed in the first category.

It is hard to fathom how these young and innocent children manage to carry on after the tragic loss of their parents. One of the children explained, "We have to go on . . . there is no choice. Here at the centre, though, I have clothes. Before, I was naked. Here I eat two meals each day. Before, I rarely ate but once or twice a week. Before, my sisters and I were alone. Now, the people of the orphanage care for us."



Barry assisted the King and Governor of Idjwi with the opening of the orphan centre.

The children eat a modest diet of mostly potatoes, rice, and beans. They sleep three to four children to each mattress. They have one set of clothing each. For all of this, they are enormously grateful.

Daniel and Barry came back from Africa with a better appreciation of how much we have in Canada. Amazed by the resilience of Africans to keep on going in spite of adversity, they were overwhelmed by the hospitality, warmth and appreciation of the African people. Just two weeks in the heart of Africa. Two weeks that have changed their lives forever.



Love To Tell The Story

by Girly Quiambao

career plans then changed to becoming a chemical engineer. Yet, when I graduated from high school, I could not afford to go to the university that offered this degree. Besides, it was far from where I lived, and I would have to spend a lot of money for tuition, books, and transportation. I decided to take accounting instead. Looking back, I think it was God's plan for me to take

accounting because it was a key component in working for ADRA Canada today.

After I finished elementary school, I thought I could not go to high school because my family could not afford it. But right after my graduation, some teachers came to our "barrio," and they were looking for graduates interested in taking qualifying exams for high school scholarships. I grabbed that opportunity, took the exams, and I passed. My scholarship provided free tuition and books. Not only that, but the treasurer of that organization was so friendly and kind to all of the scholarship winners. At the end of each school year, he took us to lunch at an expensive restaurant. We could eat anything we wanted; he treated us so special. Perhaps he knew that we all came from poor families.

During those high school days, I still remember that most days I didn't have anything in my stomach and I had to walk a far distance to get to school. If I was lucky, I would have one peso in my pocket. If not, then I had no money and no food to go to school. Often my lunch was either a fried egg, a boiled egg, or a sautéed egg. Once again, God used people to help me. I had friends who were so good and helpful to me. They may not have realized it, but when they gave and shared food with me, I was able to save that one peso for another day (which I always did just in case the time would come that I might need it). In the end, I finished high school, through the help of that organization, without paying anything. Every time I reflect on the hardship of those years, I can't imagine how I graduated. But I know I didn't do it alone, and that God was good to me.

God's blessings continued after I finished high school. Again, I thought I could not make it to university because my family simply did not have the

The due date was fast approaching for me to submit an ADRA story to the Messenger. While considering the topic for the article, I realized that God had given me this opportunity to write about the importance of helping people through ADRA. I decided that perhaps it was time for me to tell the story of Jesus' leading in my own life. Evidence of His blessings and loving kindness to me has been apparent through many seemingly hopeless situations that I have experienced. I hope that my witness of how He has been there for me all along will bring glory to His name. Oh, I love to tell the story of Jesus and His love and I would like now to share it with you.

One night, my entire family was all cuddled up on my bed. Joyce, our youngest daughter said, "Mommy, sometimes I think I want to be a doctor, maybe a teacher or a veterinarian, a photographer of wild animals, or even an accountant, like you. How did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up?" Her question flooded my mind with many memories of God's leading in my life. So I began to recount my story to my three children.

When I was in Grade 2, I wanted to be a teacher. Later, I wanted to be a nurse. However, when my youngest brother had an accident, and I saw blood flowing from his face, I fainted. From that incident, I knew that I couldn't be a nurse! As a Junior in high school, chemistry was one of my favorite subjects. My

January 2003

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Gifted Hands-In God's Hands

Praise God that Dr. Ben Carson will be OK (see article "Gifted Hands-In God's Hands," by Jonathan Gallagher, November NAD). It will make him an even better doctor, since he now personally understands what the patient feels. In the hallway at Johns Hopkins is a picture of Carson and his nurse. It states that they try each day to put themselves into their patients' lives and see it from a patient's point of view. I was in awe when I saw that a doctor and his staff have such compassion.

Carson was the reason I chose Johns Hopkins Hospital for treatment and surgery for a severe spine injury that plagued me for 23 years. Surgery was highly successful, more than I could have ever hoped for. Carson had an impact on my healing for just being who he is: a deeply committed Christian who cares for his patients. I found my surgeons and staff at Johns Hopkins to be the best. Without that back surgery a year ago last Thanksgiving I would be wheelchairbound. Now I can walk three miles, and I'm off all nerve pain medication.

Carson's testament to his deep faith in God to see him through is where we should all be in our relationship to God. But that faith grows in the small things and stands out in the big things. We have to use the experiences that life throws our way to make this world a better place.

-Debbie Burns

ELBERFELD, INDIANA

The article "Gifted Hands-In God's Hands" reminded me how much we

are holding up our traditional teachings instead of following up "thus says the Lord." Trying to get through this article, I learned that after Carson experienced the symptoms of having prostate cancer, he says, "I changed my diet and started eating more organic foods, especially salads. I cut out processed foods and eliminated sodas and potato chips. The symptoms I had been experiencing disappeared with this change in my internal environment." What is amazing to me is what he says a little bit further down: "I began to entertain the thoughts of not going through with the surgery—that the changes I had made could reverse the cancer. But I realized that as a role model to many people, this would be an incredibly irresponsible thing to do. People needing traditional medical therapy might not go through with it, and many lives might be lost needlessly."

Shouldn't we follow the Lord, who gives us clear explanations regarding this subject in Counsels on Diet and Foods? "Let them teach the people to preserve the health and increase the strength by avoiding the large amount of cooking that has filled the world with chronic invalids. By precept and example make it plain that the food which God gave Adam in his sinless state is the best for man's use as he seeks to regain that sinless state" (p. 460). Shouldn't we try to experience and promote the Genesis 1:29 and Daniel 1:12 diet? Should we follow our traditional medicine, which carries serious risk, or God's instruction to take care of our body?

These days we have the tendency to complicate our lives with senseless

DVENTIST

COVER STORY

Beyond Fear

In a world where no one is truly safe, where everyone lives in fear, there is an antidote.

BY LONNIE MELASHENKO

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BY GROVER WILCOX AS TOLD TO ROLAND R. HEGSTAD

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NEXT WEEK

South Korea's Growing Church

Editor William G. Johnsson reports on the vitality and vision of South Korea's Adventists.

ADVENTIST

"Behold, I come quickly

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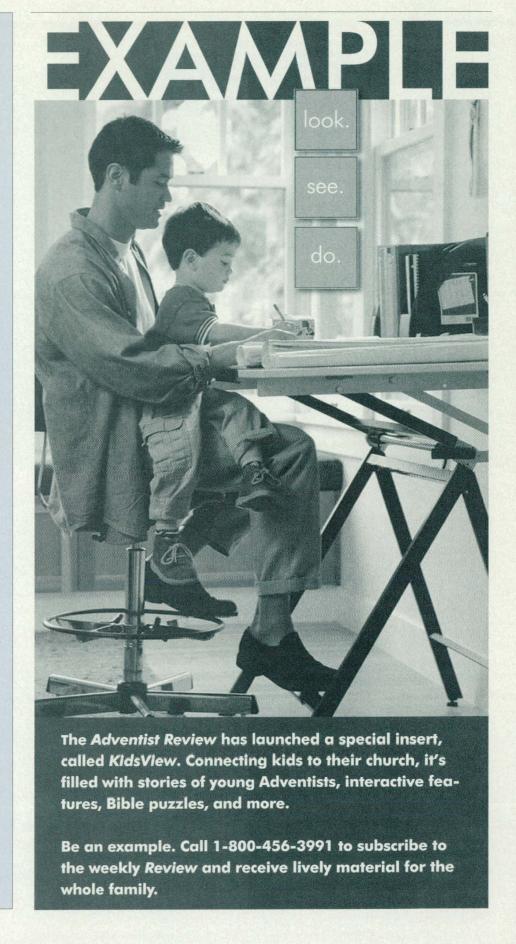
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thoughts and inducted actions. Isn't it much easier and wiser just to pick up and eat?

—Eugene Nicholas Romania Portland, Oregon

Successful Evangelism

The November NAD edition of the *Adventist Review* carried two inspiring articles in it: the editorial by Kermit Netteburg ("Success—By Any Measure") and the evangelism article by James Gilley ("Alive and Well"). I became a full-time conference evangelist at the age of 28, and I love it. The articles rekindled my fire, and I want to tell more about the everlasting good news of the three angels.

Netteburg's editorial was perfect for today's world. I am often asked by members about how many were baptized at a certain meeting. As they wait in anticipation for the number that meets their personal criteria for success, I always reply, "More than enough to make heaven celebrate."

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

—Joe Cirigliano, Atlanta, Georgia, area evangelist Georgia-Cumberland Conference

An Apology

On page 15 of the November 2002 NAD Edition the Adventist Review printed an anecdote, with accompanying sketch, that was in poor taste. This material was inappropriate for the Adventist Review, and I regret that we ran this item and apologize for it.—William G. Johnsson, Editor.

ONLY IN THE WEEKLY REVIEW



Ed Christian

"I got an e-mail my university president sent to the entire faculty. He expressed his sorrow over the kidnapping and murder of our student Michelle Johnson.

"Now the alarms went off, and I felt as if I'd been slugged in the belly. Could it be? I grabbed my grade book and turned to the page for ENG 252: New Testament Literature, spring semester. The name stared up at me: Michelle Johnson. I felt faint. . . ."

• Starts January 16, 2003, in the Cutting Edge Edition: monthly column by Ed Christian, "Tales From State U."

"Just in case you are having trouble coming up with a worthwhile issue, here is a suggestion made by the seventeenth-century English poet, Thomas Traherne: 'The Cross is the abyss of wonders, the centre of desires, the school of virtues, the house of wisdom, the throne of love, the theatre of joys, and the place of sorrows; it is the root of happiness, and the gate of heaven.'"



• Starts January 16, 2003, in the Cutting Edge Edition: monthly column by Nathan Brown: "Get an Issue."

Nathan Brown

Also in the weekly Review:



Clifford Goldstein

• Clifford Goldstein: You either love this column or hate it, but you have to read it. Every month in the AnchorPoints Edition (fourth issue of the month).

• Leslie Kay: Beguiling writing about everyday life. Readers rave over it. Every month in the AnchorPoints Edition.



Leslie Kay

And then there's:



• Fylvia Fowler Kline, writing from Kathmandu, Nepal. Every month in the World Edition (second issue).

• Angel Rodríguez answers your questions about the Bible. Every month in the World Edition.

Fylvia Kline

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A Prayer for the New Year

'm ready to say good riddance to the old year. Unlamented and unsung, 2002 is now history, and I am glad.

With all the sad and terrible things the year brought, its dominant note was anxiety. It beset us before and behind and on all sides with apprehension and fear. Warnings of al-Qaeda strikes. A wave of child kidnap-

pings and murder. The stock market plummeting. Bombings in Bali. Mayhem in Moscow.

And capping the terror, the three weeks in October when those in the Washington, D.C., area lived in the ever-tightening grip of a sniper. Despite all the resources of high technology and firepower, an unseen assailant held millions hostage to fear.

Life was reduced to its most elemental level—survival. Day by day the toll mounted, until 10 had been killed, another three wounded. Each by a single bullet fired from a distance by a sharpshooter who immediately disappeared.

The whole area was paralyzed: kids were locked inside schools, outdoor events were canceled, mammoth traffic jams clogged the highways as law enforcement authorities cast out dragnets.

During this same three-week period 15 or more people died in "ordinary" crimes that rated only a couple of lines in the Washington Post. As tragic as these deaths were, they had some sort of rational basis—robberies, domestic arguments, and so on.

But the sniper shot and killed in utter randomness. He gunned down without warning and without mercy people doing what we all do every day—mowing the lawn, sitting on a bench, filling the car's gas tank, going to school.

Ordinary people. Good people. One, a Seventh-day Adventist, Prem Kumar Walekar, loving husband and father of two, murdered while fueling his taxi.

Suddenly everyone was afraid. Afraid to go to the store. Afraid to go to school. Afraid to get gas.

Thank God, the terror is over. The suspects turned out to be quite unlike the profiles painted by "experts": an angry failure of a man who was a sharpshooter, and a fresh-faced youth who idolized him.

It all seems so simple now. While police and public focused on white vans, the two vagrants drove around in their beat-up old blue Chevy, passing through roadblocks on their murderous rampage.

And here we are at the gate of another year. What can we expect?

The dogs of war are barking, straining at the leash. We long for peace and security, but they may be far away. "On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea," Jesus told us about the last

> days. "Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:25, 26).

These times call us to earnest prayer, to seek the Lord as never before. To pray constantly, personally, privately. To unite with others in prayer.

The Bible is full of prayers, especially the psalms. Here are prayers from the Scriptures (some of them personalized)

that may be just right for you:

The simplest and shortest: "Lord, save me!" (Ps. 3:7). If you are struggling with doubt: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief" (Mark 9:24).

Learning to pray: "Teach me to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Looking ahead: "Lord, teach me to number my days aright, that I may gain a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).

For a new start: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10).

For daily living: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. . . . Lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23, 24).

And for the blessed hope: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

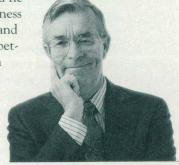
The times are strange, the future uncertain. But God is real, His Word sure.

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." *

*The New International Version is quoted or adapted throughout.

*Minnie Louise Haskins, "God Knows," Desert.



Do I need

to pray for

food that's already

been blessed?

KERMIT NETTEBURG

What's the Half-life of Prayer?

he Adventist Review recently sponsored a luncheon for about 75 church leaders at the world headquarters building to hear from church leaders and listen to their ideas.

I rushed in 45 minutes late. Luckily there were still places—and food!—left. So I grabbed a plate, visited the serving table, found an empty seat, sat down, bowed my head, and prayed over the food.

As I raised my head I was a bit embarrassed by the lull in the conversation caused by my tardiness. So I asked the others, "If the food was blessed by a prayer at the beginning of the meal, do I need to ask God to bless it again?" I thought I'd get the conversation restarted.

Someone responded, "It's been more than 10 minutes since the blessing, so you have to pray again." A smile tweaked the corners of her mouth.

Another added, "It's like the fivesecond rule for food that drops on the floor: you can eat it only if it's been on the floor five seconds or less." Another

smile.

We began to discuss the need to pray over leftovers from the fridge. Did it make a difference if they were microwaved? How long after the original prayer does its effectiveness end?

The half-life of prayer

The half-life of an element is the time required for half of the atoms in a radioactive isotope to decay (I'm glad my son teaches physics). For example, nuclear waste has a half-life of a gazillion years (my son didn't say "gazillion"). Uranium-238 has a half life of 4.5 billion years. That means that half of the radioactive material has become stable. But half of that uranium is still dangerous—4 billion years from now!

Not every half-life is long. Polonium-194 has a half-life of seven tenths of a second. Iodine-131, eight days.

The same concept applies to medicines, not because they are radioactive, but because they pass through the human system at varying rates. One brand of hay fever pill passes through the system quickly, so I have to take a Sudafed every four hours. Claritin lasts longer in the system, so you take it only every 12 or 24 hours.

Does the principle apply to prayer? Is there a half-life to

prayer? I turned to the Bible for answers.

- Elijah prayed once, and it didn't rain for more than three years.
 - Jesus prayed once, and a fig tree withered in a day.
- Jesus prayed for unity among His disciples until He returns. That's a prayer that's still being answered.
 - Paul said we should pray without ceasing (1 Thess.

5:17), that we should always be in an attitude of prayer.

So does prayer have a half-life? If it does, it seems the half-life varies.

But let's get back to my original question: Do I need to pray over food that's already been blessed? Our conclusion: Yes.

Prayer doesn't change the food; it changes me. Prayer isn't about some chemical change in the food, even some metabolic transformation in my body; it's about my life as a believer. Prayer before a meal acknowledges God as my Savior, as

my Keeper, as my Lord.

That's true of every prayer. The purpose of prayer is to strengthen and maintain my relationship with God, not to meet some quota before I eat.

Ellen White said it right: "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 93). Friends talk to each other, stay in touch.

My friend Bruce Juhl pastors a church in Idaho. He told me about getting lost on a rainy night and calling the person he was going to visit for directions. After he got directions Bruce was fine—for a while.

Within five minutes he was lost again, so he called the friend again. He was fine again—for another five minutes. He had to call every few minutes just to stay on track. The half-life of those conversations was very short.

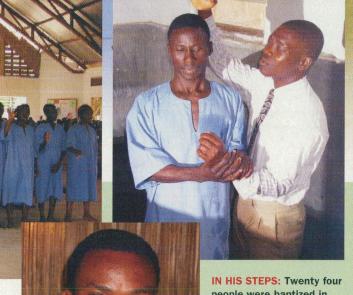
The half-life of my prayer life is short as well. I need to pray often. I get lost often. I need to get back in touch with God—often! I need to follow Paul's advice and pray constantly.

Kermit Netteburg works at the North American Division headquarters office. As assistant to the president for communication he attends lots of meetings and prays lots of prayers.



RICK KAJIURA

Taking on the Togo Challenge



people were baptized in June in Lome, Togo. Eight more people, from five districts, were baptized that same Sabbath in east Lome at the Be-Amfame Adventist church. SLOW BUT STEADY: When Global Mission started in 1990, there were five churches and some 1,200 church members in Togo. Today there are 30 churches; 55 companies, and some 6,000 Seventhday Adventists.

long narrow country,
Togo stretches from the
sea, north toward the
Sahara through six distinct geographic
regions. One of the smallest West
African countries, Togo has a population of 5.2 million. Of these some
6,000 are Seventh-day Adventists. The
majority, more than half of the people,
follow animist or traditional African
beliefs. Nearly a third of the people
live below the poverty level.

response to the baptismal vows, 24 candidates from six Global Mission pioneer districts gathered at the Adidogome Adventist church in west Lome to be baptized.

Raising their hands in

The first Seventh-day Adventist worker, Georges Vaysse, a colporteur, arrived in Togo in 1956 and spent two years selling books and papers. In the

STRONG IN ADVERSITY: As a teenager,

Thomas Tovigna's parents took away most of his clothes when he started studying the Bible with an Adventist. But he refused to stop studying and went to church in just a work cloth. His father was so angry he grabbed his machete and tried to kill Thomas. Today Thomas is a Global Mission pioneer through Gospel Outreach and wants to become a pastor (you can read the full story in the next Frontline Edition).

early 1960s H. Kempf and his family, the first church-appointed missionaries, arrived from Ivory Coast and stayed until 1970.

Today Global Mission pioneers are on the front lines in Togo taking the gospel to unentered villages and communities. Thanks to their efforts more



GOOD STEWARDS: Global Mission pioneers recently attended a three-day training seminar on stewardship presented by Itamar de Paiva, from Montemorelos University. The seminar focused on understanding and applying stewardship principles to all aspects of life. Pastors and staff from the Togo Mission also attended the seminar along with stewardship directors from surrounding countries.

than 30 people were baptized one Sabbath last June.

Togo remains one of the great Global Mission challenges for the Adventist Church. Please remember the pioneers and the five ordained Adventist pastors in Togo as they take on the Togo challenge.

Rick Kajiura is communication projects manager for the office of Global Mission.

TELL ME MORE

For more information about Global Mission work in Togo and other areas of the world, call 1-800-648-5824, visit www.globalmission.org or write to Global Mission, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600.

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Julie Christman, AFCOE graduate



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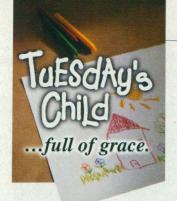
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Watch Me!



ee you later," Sid called, pulling on his woolly mitts.

"Have fun," Mom called back from the living room as Sid opened the door to go outside.

"Be careful with that toboggan," Dad advised.

"Be careful with that toboggan," Dad advised. Sid shut the door and looked around. The northern lights danced and shimmered in the frosty night sky in northern British Columbia. Although it was very cold, the children in the logging camp had planned to gather on the big hill above the camp after supper. After being cooped up all day in the small schoolroom at the back of the church, now they wanted to enjoy the snow.

I wonder if Rick will have his new bobsled? Sid thought. He could hear his friends talking on the hill above him.

As Sid neared the group, Bev shouted, "There's Sid!" "Come see Rick's bobsled, Sid," called Charlie.

"We've all had a ride. Bet it can go faster than your toboggan," said Rita.

"Let's race," challenged Sid. Calling his friend Charlie, he said, "Come with me. We'll give them a run for their money." The two boys leaped on Sid's toboggan. The other four children ran for the bobsled. Tucking their feet up around the person in front, they got ready for the race.

"Get ready. Get set. Go!" yelled Sid.

Everyone pushed off, and the race was on. Down the hill they sped, past the clump of evergreens and on past the pile of logs. The powdery snow blew in their faces. Everyone shrieked in excitement. The heavy bobsled was made of wood with steel runners, and once it got started, it gathered momentum until it left the toboggan behind.

"OK, OK," laughed Sid when he reached the bottom of the hill. "You beat me—but I know something you can't do. Just wait."

Laughing and teasing each other, the children reached the top of the hill and turned to look down on the camp below. Rick poked Sid and said, "OK, show us what you can do that I can't."

Sid grinned good-naturedly.

"Watch me!" he yelled. Flinging himself on his toboggan, he lay with his head toward the front and his arms folded across his chest. Giving himself a push, he was off. Sid gazed up at the bright winking stars in the sky. They seemed so close that he felt he could almost reach out and touch them as he whizzed down the hill.

Meanwhile, the group at the top of the hill watched in horror as the toboggan veered off course and headed for the huge pile of stacked logs. They could see what was about to happen.

Crunch! The impact of the toboggan hitting the logs echoed in the cold air. It jarred the group at the top into action, and they raced down the hill.

Sid lay still. His head had been pushed up under the curve of the front of the toboggan. Blood covered his face from a long gash on his forehead. Someone ran for help, and Sid was taken by car to the nearest medical help 30 miles away. There the doctor stitched up the four-inch cut on his head.

After that experience Sid felt that God was calling him to be a physician. Today he helps other people who are hurting. When you see a doctor, look to see if he has a scar on his forehead. It just might be Sid.

Family Time

Invite your family to join you in worship.

- Jesus chose disciples to follow Him. What does that mean? Does He ask us to follow Him today? How?
- Ask the adults if they think God has asked them to do a special job for Him. If so, what is it?
- Make a list of some of the talents Jesus has given people. How can these talents help us to follow Jesus even in our life work?
- Think of one talent each family member has. Using that talent, what could they do for another person that would let that person know they are following Jesus?
- Sing together a special song of dedication, such as "Be Thou My Vision," No. 547 in The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal.



Literature Requests

In many areas of the world pastors and libraries don't have the resources for witnessing and studying. The following persons and institutions have requested denominational literature and would be grateful for your help. The list is for literature only. Please discourage any solicitations for funds or expensive equipment by the recipients. Materials can be boxed up and sent via M-Bags at the U.S. Postal Service (reasonable because they go by ship).

GHANA

Paul Wiredu Anyankwah, The Hour of Prophecy, P.O. Box KW 151, Kwadaso-Kumasi, Ghana: Bibles, Bible commentaries, slides, and sermon outlines.

P. Adiyea Brobbey, University of Cape Coast, c/o P.O. Box 16, Adrodie-Saviour Mission, Brong-Ahafo, Ghana: Bibles, Picture Rolls, Ellen White books, Arthur Maxwell books, SDA Bible Commentaries, Bible Readings for the Home, books on prophecy, videos, cassettes, and Adventist Review.

Agya Moses, Seventh-day Adventist Church, P.O. Box 4, Kukuom-Ahafo, Ghana: needs Bibles, Better Life and Sabbath school picture rolls, Daniel and Revelation prophecies, Ellen White books, SDA Bible Commentaries, videos, cassettes, children's stories, and Adventist Review.

Evangelist Boye Nyere, Second Advent Messengers, P.O. Box CS 8129, Tema C7, Ghana: Bibles, Picture Rolls, Ellen White books, literature for public evangelism, and evangelism supplies.

Elder Samuel Anno Yeboah, c/o Pastor Ebow Bonnie, SDA Church, P.O. Box GP 2039, Accra, Ghana: Ellen White Conflict of the Ages series and Bible commentaries.

HAITI

Pastor A. Benjamin Akyiano, Haitian Adventist University, Boite Postale 1339, Port-au- Prince, Haiti, West Indies. A university professor, he is requesting books for the university library and also teaching aids for chil-

dren in the Sabbath school, sermon tapes, videotapes, and evangelistic materials.

INDIA

Hermon Reading Room 4-16-200, 1, Bharath Pet, Guntur—522 002 [A.P.] India. This non-SDA Christian ministry has been established for young people. They need Christian literature to stock the reading room.

KENYA

Jane Chepkwony, P.O. Box 66517-00800, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya: Ellen White and other SDA publications, women's devotional books, cookbooks, and videotapes.

David Chumo, P.O. Box 455, Kericho, Kenya: Ellen White and other SDA publications, videotapes on prophecy, cookbooks.

Joshua Kenduiywa, P.O. Box 1404, Nakuru, Kenya: Ellen White and other SDA publications, videotapes on prophecy, and evangelism tools.

Stanley Kipyego, P.O. Box 3059, Eldoret 30100, Kenya: Ellen White and other SDA publications, and *Adventist Review*.

Jane Mukung, P.O. Box 2164, Kitale, Kenya: Ellen White and other SDA books, cookbooks, videotapes on prophecy.

Ronald B. Nyabinge, Community Christian Center, Nyamira Road, P.O. Box 4037, Kisii 40200, Kenya: Bibles, *The Desire of Ages*, and other religious books.

Joshua Migiro, Health Ministries Director, Western Kenya Field, P.O. Box 3059, Eldoret, Kenya: Videocassettes concerning the cardiovascular system would be greatly appreciated. He is in need of health education materials because of pollution, lifestyle, and high fat consumption in the local population.

The following have been requested by the Nyanchwa Adventist College Church:

Miss Everine Mangare, P.O. Box 2578, Kisii, Kenya: Bibles, Picture Rolls, Bible commentaries, SDA books, hymn books, Sabbath school teaching aids, and tracts.

Simon Mariga, P.O. 2578, Kisii, Kenya: Same as above.

Elder Evans Nyamari, P.O. Box 2578, Kisii, Kenya: Same as above.

Sammy Sitieniei, Equator SDA Church, P.O. Box 3, Timboroa, Kenya: Ellen White books and Bibles.

PHILIPPINES

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Federico, SDA Church Compound, 5800 Lanot, Roxas City, Philippines: Picture Rolls, religious cassettes and videotapes for children, children's visual aids, used greeting cards, children's program helps, church magazines for children, memory verse cards and Children's Hour Bulletin, Adventist Review, Women of Spirit, and Signs of the Times

Evangelist Robert B. Paler, Calinan SDA Central Church, 8018 Calinan, Davao City, Philippines: pictorial aids, Bible study guides, Bibles, hymnals, Ellen White books, Church Manual, handbook for elders, used encyclopedias, Millennium of Prophecy videotapes, Picture Rolls, devotional books, Signs of the Times, and Adventist Review.

He also requests the following for his workers (to be sent to the same address):

Lesly Jondonero: periodicals, Bibles, Ellen White books.

Novem Mamacang: periodicals, Bibles, hymnals.

Elder Antonio P. Palaca: Ellen White books, Bibles, sermon outlines.

Mrs. Vivian P. Paler: hymnals, Picture Rolls, Bibles, children's storybooks, devotional books, flannel sets, and used dictionaries.

UGANDA

Fordson Chimoga, Bugema University, P.O. Box 6529, Kampala, Uganda (fax 256 (41) 245597). He trains pastors and needs Bibles, and books on Christian ethics, theology, and church growth.

They Still Go

Regular Mission Service

Rafael Osvaldo Laracuente-Bernat, to serve as assistant professor, respiratory therapy, Antillean Adventist University, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Inocencia Laracuente-Cancel, and two children of Tampa, Florida.

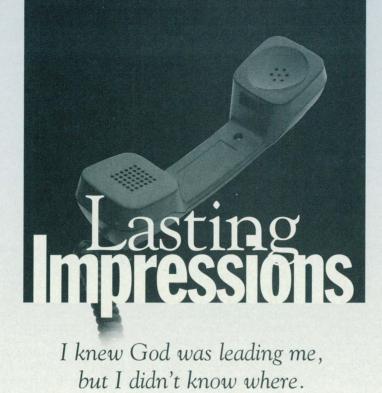
David Stephen Penner, to serve as principal, Newbold College, Berkshire, England, of Riverside, California.

Andrew Christopher Smoot, to serve as ADRA country director, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, Sharyn Smoot, and four children, of Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Arlyn Carlyle Sundsted, to serve as associate country director, ADRA, Delhi, India, and Judith Lucille Sundsted, of Antelope, Montana.

Homer Wendell Trecartin, to serve as secretary-treasurer, Middle East Union Mission, Cyprus, and Barbara Trecartin, of Calhoun, Georgia.

Artour Vasmout, to serve as director, computer services, Euro-Asia Division, Russian Federation, Azanetta Vasmout, and two children, of British Columbia, Canada.



BY JUDY CAGLE

Y INTRODUCTION TO THE
Adventist Church came when I was a
teenager. I dated an Adventist boy in high
school, and I questioned him about going to
church on Saturday. "Do they call their
Bible studies Saturday school?" I asked. "Sabbath school"
sounded so strange, so Jewish.

I later asked to visit the church with him one Saturday. Everything seemed normal, except that it was Saturday. I never attended again, but I left with a good impression. Adventists seemed to be OK; they just went to church on Saturday and didn't eat ham.

Upon graduation, I moved to Mobile, Alabama. Although raised a Baptist, I attended a large Methodist church in Mobile and became involved in the Stephen Ministry, a lay ministry for people in crisis. For two years I was employed as part-time director, all the while praying for a full-time position. By this time I had been divorced for 12 years, and my only daughter was on her own.

During those two years I solicited the prayers of my fellow Stephen ministers for God to send me a partner. We prayed weekly for someone who was a nonsmoking fully employed Christian. I believed God would answer my prayers, yet no one appeared. I asked God to help me channel my love to others, and He did. I focused on praying for others. Seeing their prayers answered strengthened my belief that my prayers would be answered also.

Sweet Dreams

In 1997 I began having a recurring dream in which I would be dialing the phone, and Renny, the Adventist boy I knew in high school, would answer. Each time the dream ended as soon as he said hello.

The dreams became more and more frequent. This is ridiculous, I thought. He'd be married; he wouldn't remember me. But the dreams were so strong that they stayed with me all day.

One day as soon as I got home from work, I called directory assistance and tried different locations and versions of his name until I had his number. I decided to call him and just get it over with.

Renny answered the phone. He remembered me! During

our conversation I discovered that his marriage had ended the previous year. We made plans to see each other the next time I traveled to my hometown.

We established our friendship via e-mail. I discovered that after being away for many years, Renny had returned to the Adventist Church three years earlier and was now a deacon. We corresponded from June until the beginning of August, when we saw each other for the first time in 30 years. Then something happened that changed my life forever.

Renny invited me to attend NET '98. I quickly found that there was more to being an Adventist than abstaining from ham and attending church on Saturday.

I always knew that Saturday was the Bible Sabbath, but I had accepted the first day as a memorial to Christ's resurrection. I thought that it really didn't make much difference. But to be honest, it wasn't the Sabbath that got to me.

Service Call

I could attend the seminar only on weekends, but I pulled the messages from the Internet and studied them every night. When I came to the subject of death, I was stunned. This was something I had not heard before. I began to devour the Bible; I wondered if I had ever really read any of it before. Certainly not with the clarity and leadership of the Spirit that I experienced this time.

I began keeping the Sabbath and going to church on Sunday, too. After all, I was still employed by the Methodist Church.

I prayed for the Lord's guidance. I prayed that I could find a job and move back home. My relationship with Renny was growing stronger.

The moment of truth came for me one night as I sat at my desk. I was studying the Bible about what happens at death. I received a phone call from a young woman in need of a Stephen minister. She said her fiancé had died two weeks earlier and she needed some answers. "Where is my fiancé now, and when will I see him again!" she asked.

I prayed for the Lord's help. This was all so new could I share it so soon?

I told her the truth: "Your fiancé is sleeping, and you'll see him at the resurrection when Jesus returns."

She asked if this was in the Bible, and I gave her the scriptures. She said no one had been able to tell her this, not even her pastor. Then she asked, "Is there a church that teaches this?"

The moment I answered her questions, I knew where I belonged.

Shortly afterward my supervisor called me in and told me that my part-time salary had doubled, and that a full-time position would be opening soon. This was something I had wanted and had prayed for. But that was before I had been confronted with Bible truth. I turned down his offer and resigned.

It Gets Better

I took several days off at Thanksgiving and went home. I

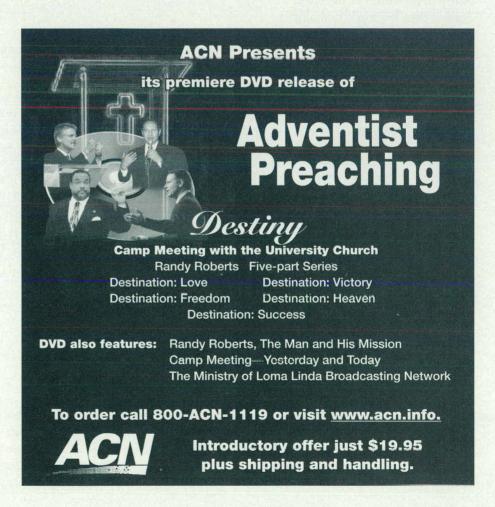
applied for a job at the local hospital on the Monday after the holiday. I was offered a job that had come open the Friday before. I moved home three weeks later. I was baptized on April 17, 1999.

In May 1999 Renny and I were married. Oh, in case you're wondering: he doesn't smoke, he's fully employed, and he's a Christian. Perfect, huh?

I had been alone a long time, and for many years I thought the Lord had forgotten about me or didn't want me to have a partner. Not so. He had the perfect plan—not just for a partner, but for the revelation of the truth of the Scriptures.

I'd go through all of those years again to have a wonderful husband and partner, not to mention the light of truth.

Judy Cagle writes from Laurel, Mississippi.



Old Enough to Know Better

Saving Parents From Childish Behavior

Over the years my mother has grown resentful because she's felt that Dad neglected our family. When my parents retired, my dad was ready to spend time with Mom, only to realize that they had very little in common other than

the church in which they've been active for more than 50 years. I talked them into going to a counselor, and the counselor sided with my mom, so things ended up even worse. They maintain a false front at church, but at home they disrespect each other, battle, and try to bring me into it. I try and stay out of their problems, but the latest development has made that almost impossible.

At his age, living alone is a scary option.

In addition to attending our church on Sabbath, my parents have started attending a Sunday church and have met a man who, with other senior citizens, walks with my mom each morning at the local park. B lost his wife to cancer two years ago and has since become a "third wheel" to my parents.

B is obviously smitten with my mother, and she enjoys his attention. My father, desperate to have friends now that he no longer has as many responsibilities at church, has become friends with him also. The three of them have traveled many places together. B continually interrupts, brags, and monopolizes conversations. My dad often calls me to complain about B and his latest antics, yet sticks up for him when I make negative observations.

Neighbors and church members have commented on how much time my mom spends going on outings with B when my dad says he has other things to do. I've met B on several occasions, and it is painfully obvious that the situation is not a healthy one.

I have prayed, confronted my parents, and had several upsetting discussions about this. I'm afraid that my mom actually sees B as a boyfriend, and that if my dad passes away, she might end up marrying him or living with him. My dad says to wait until we get to heaven and it will all be better.

I realize that I probably can't solve their problem, but I need to figure out how I can deal with it.—A distraught daughter

Dear Daughter:

It's difficult for parents to watch their adult children make foolish decisions, but it's even more difficult for children to watch their parents do the same—because they

should know better.

B is meeting your mom's need for acceptance and belonging. This is such an important function that it doesn't matter to her what church he belongs to or how obnoxious his behavior is. It sounds as if your dad has given up trying to win her love and is willing to live out his life playing second fiddle rather than face rejection. He probably realizes that if he were to force a choice, he

might not make the cut. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em," seems to be his attitude. Let's face it: living alone at his age is a scary option.

But here's the hardest part of all: I don't think anything you do is going to make much of a difference. As long as Dad isn't meeting Mom's needs, she will give up B only if he ceases to meet her needs. Why is she attracted to B's church? Because there's more acceptance there for this questionable relationship, and less guilt.

Here's my prediction. If something happens to your dad, she may marry B, only to discover, when the routine of living together sets in, that your dad wasn't so bad after all. If only couples who have invested so much of their lives in each other would realize the gold mine they have rather than trying to mine someone else's claim.

My advice is the same I'd give to parents of grown kids making foolish decisions: Love them regardless. Talk to them about your concerns as the Holy Spirit prompts you, but don't nag. Pray and wait patiently on the Lord. Time has a way of revealing the truth about people and relationships.

Kay Kuzma, Ed.D., is founder and speaker of Family Matters. Send your questions and comments to Dr. Kay, c/o Family Matters, 1105 Big Creek Road, LaFollette, TN 37766; or via e-mail to kaykuzma@aol.com.



POEM

Marriage in Name Only

Tomorrow is a blushing maid Betrothed to time,
Who, at the end of the courtship,
With hopes sublime,
Takes his name and becomes Today.

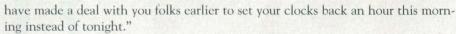
But the marriage is foredoomed,
For the bride of faith
Is unfulfilled and becomes
A pale, sad wraith:
The widow of time—Yesterday.

-R. M. Walsh, Mountain View, California

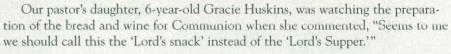
ADVENTIST LIFE

On Pastor Appreciation Sabbath on October 26, 2002, at the Crossville, Tennessee, church, time flew, with many "important" announcements and activities—Church Life, a baptism of four, a solo during the morning offering, a children's trio with the lambs' offering, a great but lengthy children's story, and the surprise honoring of the pastor that followed.

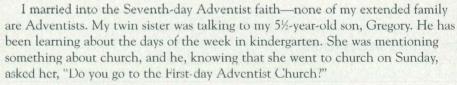
The result: The pastor came to the pulpit to preach at 12:07 p.m. Always the gentleman, Pastor Craig Carr had a few appropriate remarks and then said, "It looks like I should



-Jerry Coyle, via e-mail



-Ellie Green, Indian Trail, North Carolina



-Catherine Dollins, Poplar Bluff, Missouri



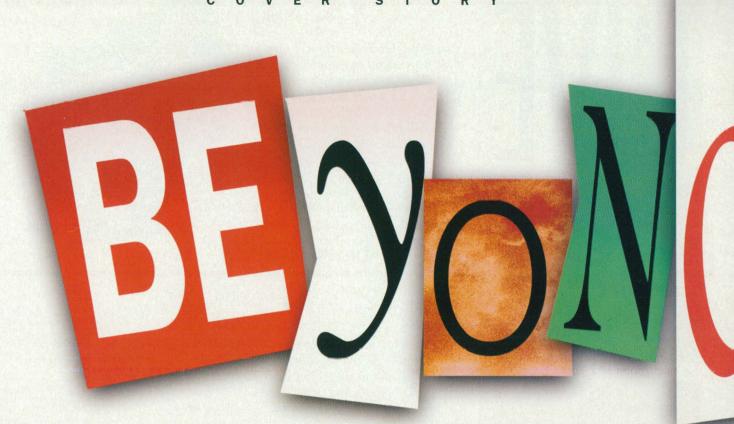
"Holiness is not transferable; holiness is personal."

—From a sermon given by pastor Jose I.. Vazquez at the Columbus church in Columbus, Indiana, during the fall of 2001

"Worship is PRACTICED in private and CELEBRATED in public."

—Barry Tryon, during the sermon "The Discipline of Worship," on October 12, 2002, at the Hampden Heights church in Reading, Pennsylvania

OTOS @ PHOTODISC



Hope is God's antidote to a

BY LONNIE MELASHENKO

AST OCTOBER 22, CONRAD E. JOHNSON, 35, stood on the top step of his parked Ride On Bus in Aspen Hill, Montgomery County, Maryland. At 5:56 a.m., just moments before the veteran bus driver was scheduled to begin his route, a shot rang out in the darkness, and Johnson fell to the ground, mortally wounded. The husband and father of two died shortly after being care-flighted to a nearby trauma center. The snipers who had terrorized metropolitan Washington, D.C., had struck again.

In addition to the 10 people killed and three wounded, the attacks drastically altered the routines of millions of area residents. School and community activities were canceled or postponed. People began thinking twice about engaging in activities as simple as going to the store, eating at a restaurant, filling up the car at a gas station, or mowing the lawn. More than one parent had to answer a child's question: "Daddy, Mommy, are you going to die?"

The fear of life's uncertainties has cranked up the anxiety levels in all of us. Not so long ago tragedy struck in ways that were unexpected, but not without cause. Now random attacks by terrorists and snipers join the list of reasons we may have to face the great and final question of our mortal existence: Are we going to die?

While we wait for the Lord's return what can we hold on to that gives us a fulfilling life now and an eternity of neverending happiness?

What Next?

Not one of us doesn't know of a mound somewhere that guards the form of one who once was dear to us. What lies beyond this vale of tearful goodbyes? Today as I write these words poignant reminders of our mortality come as uninvited guests, unannounced, into my personal life.

Last October my own family had to endure the ordeal of awaiting the results of my dear dad's triple bypass heart surgery. Dad is my hero. Beloved friend to Adventists worldwide because of his giant bear hugs and loving charm as an evangelist, H.M.S. Richards used to call him "basso profundo in excelsis" when Dad sang bass in the King's Heralds Quartet.

When they wheeled Joe Melashenko in for surgery, his chances for survival were, of course, excellent—thanks to the miracle of modern medicine. Bypass surgery in this millennium is "about as routine as having your appendix removed," to quote one physician. But every major surgery holds a slight chance that something could go wrong. So my family too had to experience what it means to "walk



a injected with uncertainty.

through the valley of the shadow of death" (Ps. 23:4).*

The apostle Paul said that the Christian's life is "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). What does that mean?

In Jan Paulsen's opening remarks to the Autumn Council last fall, our General Conference president announced an exciting new initiative for Adventist mission. He proposed that giving hope is at least as fundamental to our church's mission as is reformation and revival. The giving of hope involves preaching about the future, but it also involves here-andnow ministries: providing education, responding to disease and natural disasters, serving as the mouthpiece for the poor, the refugees, the disenfranchised. This is not a mere "social gospel," but a broadening of our ministry in response to the example and call of Jesus Christ.

If Elder Paulsen is correct (and I believe he is), then how does the Adventist understanding of what happens when we die contribute to that mission of hope? What do we offer people whose lives are fractured and undone by the threats of violent or untimely deaths?

Let me answer these questions with another question: What is the greatest event that has *ever* taken place on earth since its creation?

Was it the birth of Christ? The Crucifixion? Christ's resurrection? One could argue that they are all equally important.

But the resurrection of Christ was the key event that proved that Jesus is everything He claimed to be—the Son of God, the Messiah. His resurrection proved He had gained the victory over death (Rev. 1:18). The resurrection and Christ's victory over death became the driving power of the early Christian church.

What It Means

Before Christ's resurrection there was no real hope beyond the grave. The grave was a deep, dark pit out of which no one could hope to escape. Now that Christ is risen, Christians have a message of hope. The grave isn't the final end. There is life beyond the grave. Those who die "in Christ" will live again.

The catacombs beneath the city of Rome vividly illustrate the difference between the pagan outlook of life after death and that of the Christian. Today's tour guides can show you inscriptions of sorrow and despair: "Goodbye, my love, forever!" "Farewell, dear heart, for eternity."

But notice the inscriptions on Christian tombs: "Goodbye, precious, until we meet again." "Good night until morning." Without Jesus, no hope; with Jesus, we all can look forward to resurrection day. And more important, we can all face the uncertainties of random, accidental, and untimely deaths with the confidence that He in whom we've placed our trust has already conquered death.

"I am the Living One," said Jesus in His revelation to John on Patmos, "I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Rev. 1:18). Despite the Niagara of fiction overflowing our planet about what happens when we die, the truth of the Bible is crystal clear: there is no real hope for the future unless Christ is

life after death— came upon humankind because our first parents, and all who've lived since then, chose to separate themselves from God, the source of life. That's what sin is all about: death (Rom. 6:23). This, then, is the key to understanding death and what God intends to do to save us from eternal separation from Him.

The Bible says that at death a person returns to the dust from which he or she was taken; very simply, they become a corpse.

That's why the wise man said in Ecclesiastes 12:7, one of the clearest verses in all the Bible on this subject: "The dust returns to the ground it

that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished" (Eccl. 9:5).

Death is an unavoidable reality to anyone born on this planet. But the Bible uses an interesting image to describe the believer's hope beyond the

Job said: "If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. You will call and I will answer you" (Job 14:14, 15).

The Bible writers repeatedly used the term sleep in describing death. "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake," said Daniel,

> "some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2).

One of the most comforting truths in God's Word is that



our personal Savior.

Paul stated clearly that if there is no Resurrection, there's no future for the Christian. "For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost" (1 Cor. 15:16-18).

Why It Matters

To understand why Paul said this, we must understand what the Bible teaches about death. When God created man and woman, it was never His intention that they would die. When Adam and Eve were tempted to disobey God and eat of the forbidden tree, they forfeited God's gift of eternal life.

Unfortunately, humanity has been believing Satan's lie—"You shall not surely die"—ever since. Death—not

came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

This is essentially the same thing that lob had to say about death: "As long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness" (Job 27:3, 4). The breath of God is the air we breathe.

King David introduced something new: "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing" (Ps. 146:3). When our breath leaves our bodies, our bodies return to the earth and our thoughts perish.

This harmonizes with the clearest text in the Bible concerning this subject. Solomon said: "The living know

when a person dies, he or she rests quietly, undisturbed by the problems of life, until the call of the Lifegiver. Is it any wonder that the Bible likens death to a sleep? In sleep, as in death, there's no awareness of the passing of time.

The prophet Nathan told King David what would happen to him when he died: "When your days are over . . . you [will] rest with your fathers" (2 Sam. 7:12). Jesus Himself called death a sleep. He used that descriptive term to describe the death of His friend Lazarus.

A Case Study

There was a home in Bethany that Jesus often visited, the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

One day when Jesus and His disciples were out by the Jordan River, He received an urgent message from His friends in Bethany that Lazarus was ill. But Jesus stayed two more days right where He was.

Lazarus died, and he was buried within 24 hours, as the custom was with Jews and is still carried on today. Jesus' disciples were amazed that Jesus dillydallied three days before going to visit His dear friend. Finally Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

"His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.'...

"So then [Jesus] told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe'" (John 11:11-15).

They sadly made their way to Bethany, where the family lived. As they approached the city Martha came running to meet them, weeping. "'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died'" (verse 21).

But Jesus had a plan. "Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again'" (verse 23).

expected to see Lazarus in the resurrection at the end of the world. However, Jesus was about to give a dramatic preview of that event. Jesus then said plainly: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (verse 25).

John tells us that as Jesus came to Lazarus' tomb, He wept. He wasn't weeping for His friend Lazarus; He knew He was going to raise him to life. He was weeping for us. He wept for the grief the family and friends were experiencing and for all those who through the ages would sorrow and grieve when they lost loved ones.

Jesus asked that the stone sealing the entrance be taken away. The stone was rolled away, and Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (verse 43).

Someone has said it was good that Jesus specified that He was speaking only to Lazarus; otherwise, every grave on Planet Earth would have opened.

What a day for those three friends in Bethany! What rejoicing and joy. What exciting headlines for the 6:00 news. But it was only a small preview of the glory and excitement that will occur when Jesus comes again and all the graves of His other friends who have accepted Him as Savior are opened and they rise to meet Him.

It takes something more than Jesus' own resurrection to guarantee ours. Just as God did for

Adam and for Lazarus,
God needs to
breathe

again become "living souls." That's the Bible's antidote to death, pure and simple.

Our Precious Hope

Many of the early Christians in Macedonia were distressed to see their loved ones die before Jesus' return. They had been led to believe that no believer would die before Jesus came, so they were puzzled and confused about the question "What happens when a person dies?"

The message of comfort that Paul, the intrepid apostle, shared with those early Christians was: "We do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13).

Paul continued, "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (verse 16).

Then he described in detail the events that will occur when Jesus comes:

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. . . . Then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in

Notice carefully Martha's response: "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (verse 24).

Martha had it right chronologically when she assured Jesus that she

again

into our nostrils the breath of life, and men and women will once

victory" (1 Cor. 15:51-54).

This wasn't something new. Jesus had told the disciples that all would be raised from the grave. "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned" (John 5:28, 29). The resurrection of the righteous is our "blessed hope."

Hope Deferred

With the passing of time this "blessed hope" has dimmed within Christianity. You don't hear it preached much, except at funerals and evangelistic meetings.

As it did by the mid-second century, the vivid desire of the "blessed hope" has died away. The hope of our Lord's return had faded like a half-forgotten dream by the time of Emperor Constantine in the fourth century. By the Dark Ages it was an outdated dogma that failed to have any impact on the established church.

Historically, two thought systems of the time caused the problem: the conflict between Greek philosophy and Jewish expectations. Even now these differences have a profoundly important impact on what we see in today's religious world, even capturing the attention of evangelical Protestants like a storm in warehouse book departments and religious radio and television broadcasts.

First,

10 Things the Bible Teaches About Death

- 1. Breath plus body equals a living being. "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7).
- 2. Adam and Eve's sin brought death into the world. "Dust you are and to dust you will return" (Gen. 3:19).
- 3. The only antidote to death is grace. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).
- 4. The only means of overcoming death is having faith in Jesus Christ. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (John 11:25).
- 5. Death is a state of unconscious nonbeing. "The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing" (Eccl. 9:5).
- 6. Jesus characterized death as "sleep." "'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep.'... So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead'" (John 11:11-14).
- 7. The resurrection of the righteous takes place at the second coming of Jesus. "A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live" (John 5:28, 29).
- 8. Those who are alive at Christ's return will be reunited with those who died believing in Him. "The dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).
- 9. At the resurrection all who have faith in Christ will receive the gift of immortality. "We will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye. . . . For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality" (1 Cor. 15:51-53).
- 10. Those redeemed by God's grace will never have to experience the heartache of sickness, separation, and death. "[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Greek philosophy engendered the belief in an immortal soul. Generated by Plato and Aristotle, the idea was that a resurrection was impossible, because the body was considered evil. When Christianity compromised and began linking pagan ideas to

this Greek paradigm produced the idea of the soul flying off to heaven at death. Perhaps this comforted the martyrs and even made the eternal kingdom seem closer, but the biblical teaching of Christ's glorious return became the heresy of the soul's flight



NET 2003 Coming April 27-May 24

Lonnie Melashenko will present NET 2003, "The Voice of Prophecy Speaks," from Columbia, South Carolina, on the Adventist Communication Network (ACN), April 27 to May 24.

ACN is offering a special equipment package for as little as \$300 to churches and schools that cannot presently receive the satellite signals (phone 1-800-ACN-1119 for information).

NET 2003 sessions will be broadcast every night at 7:30 for the first eight evenings, then on Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings through May 24, allowing more time for pastors and Bible instructors to visit those who attend.

Four additional Wednesday night sessions will be telecast on May 28, June 4, 11, and 18. During this time of transition from the satellite meetings to a local church, pastors and members will present weekend meetings such as a pastor's Bible class, worship services on additional prophecy topics, cooking schools, or a series based on the "New Beginnings" DVD seminar.

—Eldyn Karr, Public Relations Director, Voice of Prophecy

Satellite Evangelism Works for Them

When Pastor Marvin Glass arrived for his first day of service in February 1999, the Ownbey Chapel congregation of Ider, Alabama, already had completed the NET '98 series and was prepared to baptize three individuals into the church. "I had already been involved with the NET programming in my previous church and knew what type of impact it had," said Glass. So why reinvent the wheel? Shortly after, he conducted the NET New York '99 series, and five more baptisms resulted.

Glass marketed the NET programming through brochures sent to people within a 15-mile radius of the church, as well as by utilizing his church sign. It was the sign that attracted Scott Harmon to a Y2K preparedness seminar conducted by the women's ministry department. His being the only man in the seminar did not faze Harmon or his wife, Teresa. In fact, Teresa established a friendship with Sonja Davis, a church member at the seminar. The Harmons invited Davis to their Baptist church, and the Harmons continued to visit Ownbey Chapel.

Davis made sure the Harmons received a videotaped series of a previous Doug Batchelor evangelistic event. They enjoyed the series so much that they decided to attend NET New York '99 and were baptized in October of that year. Currently Scott is the men's ministry leader of Ownbey Chapel, and Teresa is a teacher's assistant at Floral Crest SDA School, the school operated by Ownbey. Their son, Jake Adams, was baptized last November.

—By George Johnson, Jr., assistant director of communication for media relations, North American Division

to heaven.

Second, today's ideas about the rapture harken back to the Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation and two Jesuit priests, Ribera and Alcazar. These scholars took the time prophe-

cies of Revelation and tried to turn people's attention away from the church by stating that these prophecies were either future or fulfilled in the past. Today we call those schools of thought futurism and preterism.

A man named Scofield placed these ideas into the notes of his reference Bible, and they have crept into the church. Today Protestantism generally touts the gap theory and the rapture as gospel. Evangelicals have no idea where their theology comes from. This has profound implications for today's rapture dogmatics. All of a sudden Jewish political and military events play a major role in the demise of the Advent hope. The hope of Messiah's earthly reign and Israel's supremacy rather than the saints ascending to heaven at Christ's return is connected with evangelical Christians and their hope to form today what is known as millennialism—the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth when the faithful will have all their desires fulfilled.

This belief, just like the Greek one, is widely repeated in the rapture-theory novels selling by the millions.

Focus: Hope

So what are we to believe? How shall we proceed to live unafraid and declare confidently God's end-time truths?

The Bible provides the answer. Jesus is coming again to claim His redeemed from the darkness of this world and rescue all who died believing in Him from the millions of graves that dot our planet. When He comes back the second time, He declares: "My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done" (Rev. 22:12).

When people die, they sleep in the grave and rest from their labors and troubles until Jesus comes. He comes to resurrect and reunite all who have accepted His sacrifice on their behalf. This is good news: "We who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (1 Thess. 4:17).

Tongue cannot tell it, pen cannot portray it, when all the saved, all at the same time, receive immortality—just like Jesus—a glorified body and eternal life! Sinless. Deathless.

Glorified forever!

When my dad went under the surgeon's knife, the sleep induced by the anesthesiologist was only temporary. Even in death, Jesus, Dad's Great Physician, paid the price for his redemption and restoration. Regardless of the outcome of that surgery, my dad is going to live forever!

Jesus is in control! This is why the greatest gift that God can give to humankind is eternal life, victory over death! It's yours and mine for the taking.

And the cost? Only a surrendered heart. A heart cleansed and changed. A proud, selfish heart made new by God's grace. Because Jesus lives, we have a glorious hope—a hope beyond the grave!

My predecessor as speaker at the Voice of Prophecy, Harold Richards, Jr., died a painful death back in April 2000, at the young age of 70. Before he was ravaged by disease he had a passion for preaching about Jesus' soon coming and the blessed hope of the Christian.

As I stood at his hospital bedside just before he died, he reached out and grasped my arm, drawing me closer to him so I could hear him between labored breaths. His hoarse whispers came in short spurts. "He's on His way, Lonnie!" he urged. "Far out in space, light-years behind the Great Nebula and the Pleiades, there's a great stirring and rush of excitement beyond human description. Chariots rumble. Thunders roll like kettle-drums. Lightning shakes its fiery white lances. The trumpets sound. He's on His way! Past unnumbered universe systems. Down through the corridor of Orion. Down, down, down toward a blue planet hanging out there in space. See it? That lonely one, the one that spat on Him and crucified Him, the one He couldn't forget. He's on His way!"

A meaningful symbol of Christ's power over the grave has been sculpted on an old English tombstone. Chiseled on marble is the representation of a door. In the door hangs a lock; in the lock, a key. Holding the key is the hand of an angel. The angel's other

Satellite Evangelism Works for Them

Located in rural eastern Pennsylvania, Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church has a unique congregation. During the summer months the membership numbers approximately 50 people. But during the rest of the year the congregation grows to 220. Pastor Joel Johnson sees these 170 additional people, the students of Pine Forge Academy, as his second community.

Students were excited about viewing the NET evangelistic programs in 1996 and 1998. "Viewing the programs helped the students to understand and experience the global mission and ministry of the Adventist Church," said Johnson.

Since attendance at the meetings was never required, Johnson did not know what to expect. But approximately 65 students and 15 members came each evening. Although the meetings resulted in no new members to the church, Johnson believes that the meetings "piqued spiritual interest and the students became more in tune with spiritual things."—*George Johnson, Jr.*

How to Get Involved in NET 2003

More than 2,000 locally operated Discover Bible Schools in North America will play a vital role in preparing for NET 2003, says James W. Gilley, vice president for the North American Division. "For churches with a Discover Bible School, now is the time to develop more interests. For others, this is a great opportunity to get one started."

Mass mailings and door-to-door distribution of enrollment cards have both proven effective in cultivating interest in personal Bible studies. For details on either organizing a local Discover Bible School or personally inviting neighbors to study the Bible guides, phone 1-877-955-2525 for an information packet.

Voice of Prophecy radio broadcasts encourage listeners to enroll for the Discover Bible guides. Persons signing up now will be ready to dig deeper into Bible prophecy when NET 2003 begins. As opening night draws near, the broadcasts will announce the series. In most areas a church can request a free 90-second promotional spot at the end of the VOP program to advertise its Discover Bible School or other local activities.

Preparation for NET 2003 includes three interactive Sabbath afternoon training sessions by satellite on January 25, March 15, and April 19.

Handbills that feature the headline "What's Next?" must be ordered by January 31 from Color Press, Walla Walla, Washington (1-800-222-2145). The handbills will be mailed to arrive at every home in a zip code area a week before the series begins.

For further information, visit www.net2003.com.—Eldyn Karr.

hand is held up to shade his eyes as he gazes steadily upward. Beneath this engraving are the simple and yet profound words "Til He Come." The message of the epitaph is clear: When Jesus comes, the angel will turn the key and throw wide open the door of the tomb.

As we turn our eyes toward Calvary, we discover answers to the dangers that threaten all around us. Our only hope for eternal safety is to stand in the shadow of the cross. Thank God we can put our trust in our Savior. He came to this world to solve the problem of death. And only He holds the

Satellite Evangelism Works for Them

With a burden to reach out to the community, Pastor Steve Poenitz and his Greeneville, Tennessee, congregation have held satellite evangelistic programs since 1998. "We marketed the program to the community by sending handbills to all our area zip codes," said Poenitz. "We also used newspaper, radio, and television ads. But what worked out best for us was a friend bringing a friend," he said. And that's what happened in the case of Trixie Kidwell.

In 1999 Kidwell was invited by her medical doctor to the NET New York '99 production at the Greenryille church. Kidwell had been going to Dr. William Hamilton's office since 1996. "I have no idea why he invited

me," said Kidwell. Kidwell had attended Presbyterian and Methodist churches in the past and always wondered why they worshiped on Sunday. "The calendar showed that Saturday was the seventh day," she said. After the NET New York '99 meetings Kidwell frequently drove past the Greeneville church to see if the church was offering more satellite evangelistic programs. Last November Kidwell was baptized into the Adventist Church. She is the only Adventist in her family.

The satellite evangelistic meetings have worked well for the Greeneville church. Members of the congregation now conduct a branch Sabbath school at their Community Services center. Some of the lay members have also held a prophecy seminar series. "This has built relationships and opened more doors of opportunity for other church members to get involved in various ministry programs with the community," says Poenitz.—George Johnson, Jr.

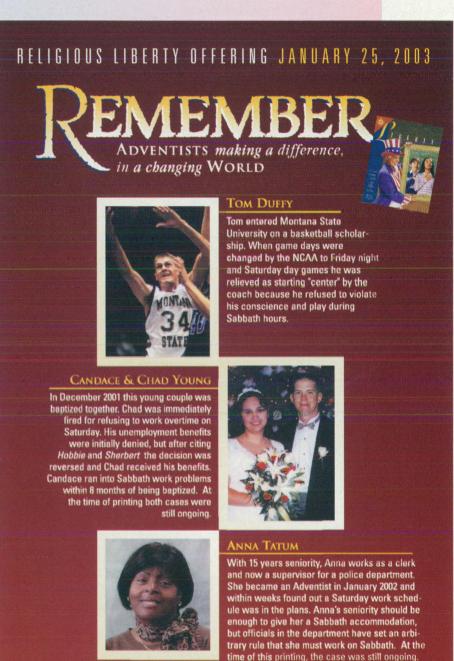
keys to the grave.

Come soon, Lord, to turn the key in the lock and open heaven to all those who turn their lives over to You.

*Bible texts in this article are quoted from the New International Version.

Lonnie Melashenko is speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry.





Public Affairs and Religious Liberty = North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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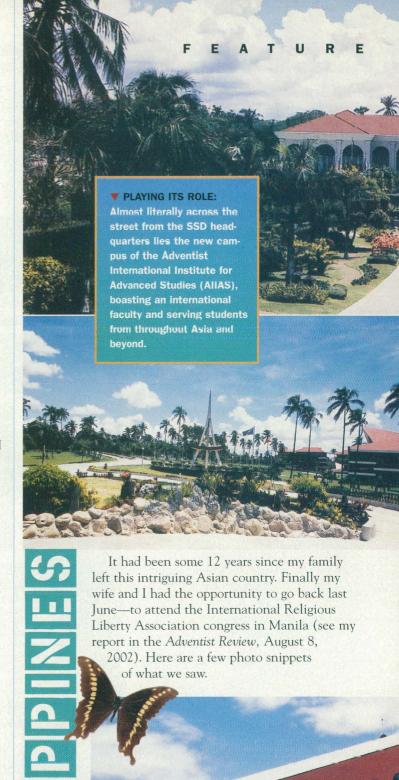
Four stories that didn't make it in 2002

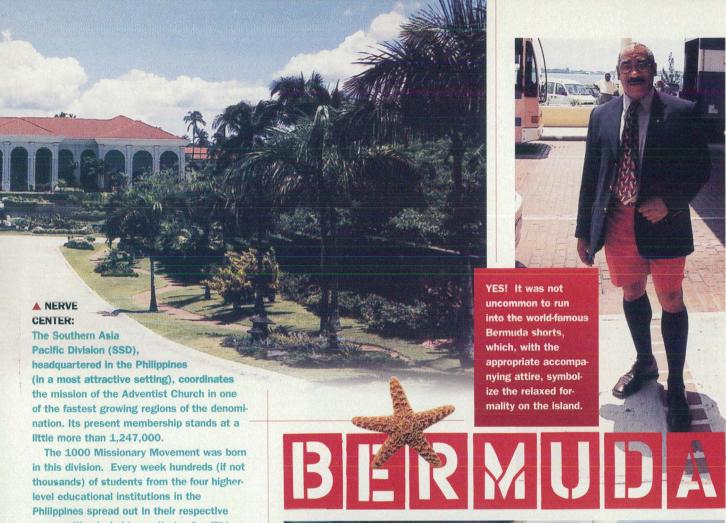
LOOKING BY ROY ADAMS OACK

OST OF THE PLACES AND PEOPLE I ENCOUNTER IN MY TRAVELS NEVER SHOW UP IN MY WRIT-INGS. NOT BECAUSE NOTHING HAPPENS, BUT OFTEN BECAUSE

OF TIME—AND SOMETIMES SPACE. IN MOST CASES THE REASON FOR MY VISIT WAS TO SPEAK, NOT WRITE. AND WHILE THERE I'M FOCUSED ON MY PRESENTATIONS, SERMONS, OTHER ASSIGNMENTS. OFTEN I LEAVE DRAINED, EXHAUSTED. AND ARRIVING BACK IN THE OFFICE TO OTHER APPOINTMENTS AND A FULL DESK, THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS WRITE ABOUT WHAT'S NOW BEHIND ME.

BUT A FEW WEEKS AGO I FOUND MYSELF
REFLECTING UPON THE YEAR JUST ENDED, UPON
EVENTS STILL BEGGING FOR THEIR DAY IN PRINT.
JUST THEN A FEW PAGES OPENED UP IN THE MAGAZINE—AND HENCE THIS PHOTO ESSAY, PRESENTING A FEW GLIMPSES OF STORIES MISSED. EACH
MENTION COULD BE EXPANDED, AND THERE'S A
LONGER TALE BEHIND EVERY PICTURE.



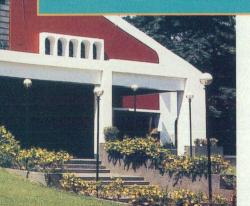


in this division. Every week hundreds (if not thousands) of students from the four higher-level educational institutions in the Philippines spread out in their respective communities to hold meetings, give Bible studies, and offer help to the needy. At the moment, 81,660 lay persons stand ready to participate in the Adventist Church's Go One Million program.

Evangelism truly permeates the blood of this division.

RETRACING ROOTS: After attending the congress, I stayed on to speak at the dedication service of the Philippine International Church (on the campus of Philippine Adventist University), whore I onco hold membership. What an inspiration to connect again with former friends and colleagues, listen to the university choir, and hear amazing stories of how God has led that congregation!

ALL



Sometimes it's the little things that leave the longest memory. In Bermuda for an *Adventist Review* rally last May, Bill Johnsson, Steve Chavez, Eliseo Lozano, the members of the Breath of Life Quartet, and I traveled to the Warwick church for a Friday evening vesper service with church employees and their families. As the early arrivals waited for the

A SHOWING THE FLAG: As with every Adventist congregation, these members of our Southampton church visit after the Sabbath morning service. Totally unstaged, the shot managed to capture the woman in pink with a copy of the Adventist Review cradled lovingly in her arms, a detail that came to light only after the film had been processed.

(25) 25

BERMUDA continued...

service to begin, someone began humming a Sabbath tune; someone else joined in; then someone else again; until practically the entire audience (ahead of the song service) broke into "Don't forget the Sabbath, the Lord our God hath

blest. . . . "It was a moving witness of a spontaneous eagerness to welcome the holy hours. What a joy it was to share with God's people over Sabbath on this paradise island!

Seventh-day Adventist Church BERMUDA HEADQUARTERS

* ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE



■ TO MAKE YOU WELCOME: A friendly lot, Bermudians. They serenade visitors the moment they arrive at the island's airport. ▲ For their part, Samuel Bulgin and Sydney Gibbons (center), conference president and secretary, respectively, added their greeting for their Adventist Review guests: Eliseo Lozano (far left), Steve Chavez, and William Johnsson (right).

GERMANY

The Euro-Africa Division, with headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, is one of the most challenging administrative units of the Adventist world church. Among its territories are places such as Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, Monaco, and the

Holy See. As division leaders gather for their annual meetings, participants might address the gathering in English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Spanish, Portuguese

—and the list goes on. My wife, Celia,

and I had the privilege of attending their midyear meeting last June on the campus of Friedensau University in the former East Germany. Delegates grappled with many issues I wish I had space to cover.

TO THE NORTH: The German publishing house and the food factory, De-Vau-Ge—both part of the same complex in the city of Lueneburg in the north of the country—make strong contributions to the church's work in Germany and the whole division. After an interview with Eckhard Boettge, the engaging general manager of the publishing house,

I joined my wife for a tour of De-Vau-Ge, where at one point (inset, center) she received a minicourse in how the food wheels turn. Among other goods, the factory produces delicious fruit bars, muesli, corn flakes, puffed wheat, and its specialty, nut flakes. It also makes vegetarian sausages and burgers, baby foods, and an amazing variety of vegetarian spreads.

My visit to Barbados, St. Vincent, Bequia, and Dominica in the East Caribbean Conference (headquartered in Barbados) to speak for the conference's annual Adventist Heritage Week left me inspired and invigorated. The spirit of evangelism is not only alive here, but growing. It seemed that everywhere I went, some evangelistic effort either had just concluded, was in session, or was about to start. In Bequia, evangelist Samuel Telemague gave up one night so I could speak to the people. Don't ever go to Bequia thinking to slccp through the hymn. The entire makeshift evangelistic podium vibrated as the song leaders, with instrumental backup, took it away. I was impressed by the energy and deep earnestness of the people. As they got into the hymn:



"Watch, Ye Saints [with eyelids waking]," and in their own spirited way broke out into the refrain ("Lo! He comes"), you almost felt that if you went outside and looked up, you'd actually see Jesus returning!

TIME TO SHARE: With East
Caribbean Conference (ECC) secretary Dermoth Baptiste looking on,
ECC president James Daniel presents a check for EC\$10,000 (about US\$5,000) to the prime minister of St. Vincent, Doctor the Honorable Ralph Gonzalves (left), in the executive committee room of the government building. The money was to help the country recover from the damages of Hurrloane Lily. The prime minister, who had many kind

things to say about the Adventist Church, has every reason to be familiar with us. After all, the deputy prime min-

ister, the Honorable Louis Straker (inset), is an Adventist, as is Attorney General Judith S. Jones-Morgan, (inset) a native of Trinidad and Tobago. Throughout my stay in St. Vincent, the ECC president and others accompanying me kept dropping one name after another of Adventists holding responsible positions in government and the private sector.



Part of Dominica's spectacular rain forest is reserved for the

Carlbs, the indigenous people who first inhabited the island. The AdventIst message has made some inroads into this population. As we drove through their area on our way back to the airport, Pastor James F. Daniel (second from right) and I stopped to greet our members at a shop along the way.



right) in the secretary's seat, the EUD midyear committee listens to a report from EUD youth director Corrado Cozzi. Esther Hanselmann is a secretary at the French-Italian Swiss Conference in Renens, Switzerland. Without her efficient translation skills, communication at the meetings would break down. She can handle English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and a few others. As one who struggles with a single

tongue, I was impressed!

SHE HOLDS THE KEY: With Ulrich

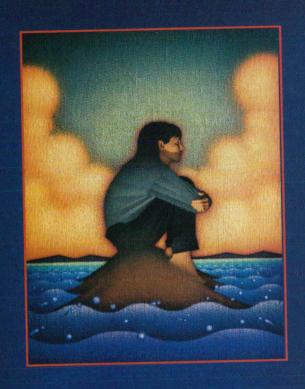
Frikart in the chair, and Carlos Puyol (far

his is all I have room for. In little ways and big, through countless surrendered lives around the world, God is daily writing another book of Acts. And those with eyes to see it can read verses from its

exciting chapters everywhere. But only in eternity will the full story come together.

Roy Adams is an associate editor of the Adventist Review

It's OK to Be Lonely



The wounds of loneliness can actually serve a purpose.

my attention. The more I think about myself, the worse I feel.

Needless to say, I hardly feel acceptable to God, so of course my instinct is to avoid Him. Surfing the Web and watching television for the evening may occupy my attention for a while, but sooner or later it's just me and my lonely thoughts.

I pick up the phone to call a friend, and we talk for a while—mostly about insignificant things. I call because I'm lonely, but I usually don't say it. Why? Because the person on the other end sounds happy; why would I want to drag them down with the cold reality that I feel isolated? So I sound happy too.

Sad, isn't it? Lonely people everywhere, yet we never help one another. There is of course the God who promises peace. But inside of me there is also the Christian who truly believes I shouldn't feel lonely, because I have God. Guilt and shame at my condition overrule any instinct to reach out to anyone for acceptance, so I avoid God and humanity.

Deep Relationships

A story I've heard for years tells of a young girl who was afraid to sleep alone. Her mother reassured her that God was in the room, to which the girl responded: "Yeah, but I need someone with skin." The girl had it right. So do we when, in addition to closeness with God, we long for human closeness. God intends for us to have deep relationships with each other.

Recently, while preparing for a presentation about the mind-set of contemporary people, I asked a friend how to distinguish a "deep" relationship from all other relationships in life. When I later asked the same question at the presentation, many echoed her answer. Everyone I've asked since has repeated some form of this response:

A deep relationship is a free and reciprocal sharing of our vulnerable self, especially in regard to our negative traits. We don't usually veil or hide our positive characteristics—but only in deep relationships are our negatives exchanged. (This is why few would say they have a deep relationship with their counselor, because though they share much about themselves, the counselor rarely reciprocates.)

I've noticed that my loneliness is rarely, if ever, salved in superficial relationships. My buddies and acquainrances may help me forget about loneliness for a time, but deep within there is still a hidden part of me desperate for acceptance. Yet when I dare to share with others what I perceive to be unacceptable aspects of myself, I am usually met with relief. As it turns out, they also wanted acceptance but suspected no one else would understand. To this day I have not ceased being lonely, but I have experienced some healing through mutual sharing of wounds and the relief in knowing I'm not the only one struggling.

A degree of shame is involved in self-revelation, because we usually associate loneliness with sin. A friend recently wrote, "I might be free to admit certain sins and struggles, but I'm too ashamed to admit them to anyone but God. He might accept me, but I don't accept myself and therefore cannot believe that others would." While loneliness and sin *ure not* the same things, it is impossible for us to share loneliness without also sharing our inner faults and weaknesses—the

BY ADAM ANDREASSEN

ONELINESS IS THE ONLY recorded negative emotion/ experience that preceded sin.' I'm feeling especially lonely right now, and have been all week. As a Christian, I'm wondering if this means I'm not faithful enough. I saw a bumper sticker once that said, "So you're feeling distant from God—who moved?" This doesn't help.

For days now I've focused my energy inward, seeking to find where I went wrong so that God will take away my loneliness. I always find a countless number of faults and shortcomings to occupy

things that make us feel unacceptable. We sense that we cannot be open without those tendencies becoming visible, and this is why we often avoid vulnerability with others.

Witnessing Through Forgiveness

When I share my lonely, sinful heart with people and get accepted anyway, it feels like forgiveness and grace. While other people cannot grant me release for self-blame and guilt, their acceptance of me in spite of what they now know brings me some degree of courage in accepting myself.² It's ironic; I'm usually the last person to give myself grace.

Living in relationship with one

another has become even more important since the fall in Eden. for in relationship we begin to taste God's unconditional acceptance. These connections are God's chosen bridge to a relationship with Him. Amazing! God uses my brokenness as a means of drawing others to Him-I can't even begin to comprehend this mystery.

My openness

did not cure

my loneliness;

instead, I grew

in hope.

through the public sharing of Himself, set the example. His woundedness and His loneliness on the cross are endless sources of healing for us. What would be the effect on the world "out there" if Christians were known as those who (like their Master) made available their loneliness and wounds to others as a source of healing?

Instead, Christians are usually seen

Instead, Christians are usually seen as the most pretentious, noninclusive, and judgmental element in society. It seems as if rather than being the *most* secure people we are just the opposite. The mistake we make is in thinking that such privacy is harmless.

Because we have not yet dared to risk the necessary vulnerability of deep

relationships, those who don't know lesus are robbed of the opportunity to meet Him through a genuine relationship with us. Instead, we focus on sterile techniques that allow us to explain the Bible to the unchurched while never getting close enough for them to see our humanity. Indeed, we

often protect ourselves even from those *in* the church who so desperately need to know they aren't the only ones who feel lonely.

When we hide our weaknesses, we offer a living testimony to the world that says, "God hasn't healed my insecurity, and He probably won't for you, either." Why would anyone want to have a deep relationship with that God? On the other hand, consider the courageous testimony of hope we would send if we dared to be open about our loneliness while the rest of the world stayed hidden?

Henri Nouwen, in *The Wounded Healer*, writes, "Who can save a child from a burning house without taking the risk of being hurt by the flames? Who can listen to a story of loneliness and despair without taking the risk of experiencing similar pains in his own heart and even losing his precious peace of mind? In short: 'Who can take away suffering without entering it?""

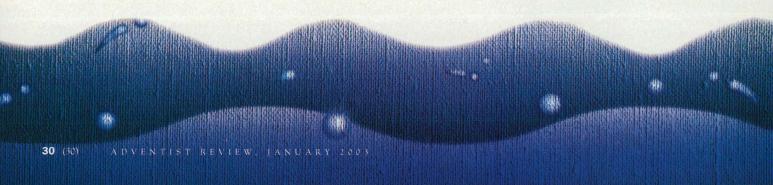
As we enter into relationship with others, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Rather, in the midst of our loneliness we courageously point to Him who offers both hope and the promise of an end to every wound. As Nouwen puts it: Perhaps the main task of the minister is to prevent people from suffering for the wrong reasons."

While sharing and exchanging our vulnerabilities with those we seek to reach, we can also help them understand why loneliness is a *universal* experience. Our education of others springs naturally from deep relationships, as we echo the questions they didn't even know they had.⁶ Like Jesus on the road to Emmaus,⁷ we can then open the Scriptures to them as a source of healing and self-understanding.

In this way the wounds of loneliness can actually serve a purpose. "The

Witnessing Through Loneliness

Deep relationships are never meant to be hoarded and exclusive. Jesus,



more I think about loneliness, the more I think that the wound of loneliness is like the Grand Canyon—a deep incision in the surface of our existence which has become an inexhaustible source of beauty and self-understanding."8

This new approach to witnessing bypasses the patronizing and often hypocritical techniques to which we've grown accustomed. Genuinely sharing ourselves (the good and the bad) can be a very natural form of outreach. It can also be the most risky-for in it we relinquish control of our

vulnerability and wounds, trusting God for protection.

In Action

It's Friday evening now, and a most interesting thing has happened. A few hours ago a close friend of mine called for help on his sermon. A collection of Bible stories illustrating the need to meet with God daily, his sermon struck a chord of loneliness inside me. Nevertheless, my temptation was to dig deep into myself and offer him some insight that would help him. Fortunately, I was too weak from my extreme loneliness to offer much assistance.

So instead of playing God (the one with all the answers), I took a deep breath and told him about my week. I had talked to this same friend about four days before and had said very little about my state of mind. But tonight I

I've noticed

that my loneliness

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in superficial

relationships.

decided to take a risk.

My prayer partner of many years had been left out of the loop when I needed his prayers the most! The relief I felt in now being understood was noticeable. My openness did not cure my loneliness: instead, I grew in hope.

Then I

asked, "If I were in the audience for your sermon, how would this message speak to me?" We then had a great discussion about God's faithfulness in reaching out to us, even in our loneliness. He also shared some of his loneliness since the death of a family member. He agreed that it was vital to share his own loneliness in the sermon, lest his listeners think he was speaking as one who was already removed from the daily struggle of life.

As the conversation ended we had helped each other through a mutual sharing of our loneliness. The Bible

describes it as bearing one another's burdens.9

Taking the Risk

If you're like me, admitting your loneliness won't come easy. In writing about loneliness, I didn't set out to use myself as an example. I was not yet willing to risk the vulnerability of loneliness. My first draft contained all kinds of advice, but not one personal experience!

The skeptic Nietzsche once wrote of Jesus, "His disciples will have to look more saved if I am to believe in their Savior." 10 When we hide our basic human struggles, it indicates that we are too scared to be vulnerable and have been saved from nothing. On the other hand, when we speak of our faith in Jesus while honestly admitting our loneliness, we carry a message of hope to the world.

Gen 2:18

²These concepts were taught to me primarily through Paul Tillich, The Courage to Be (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1952).

³ Henri Nouwen, The Wounded Healer (New York: Doubleday, 1972), p. 72.

1 Thess. 4:13.

Nouwen, p. 93

⁶Paul Tillich explains that "it [education] must make the pupil aware of the questions which he already has" ("A Theology of Education," Theology of Culture [New York: Oxford University Press, 1959], p. 154).

⁷Luke 24.

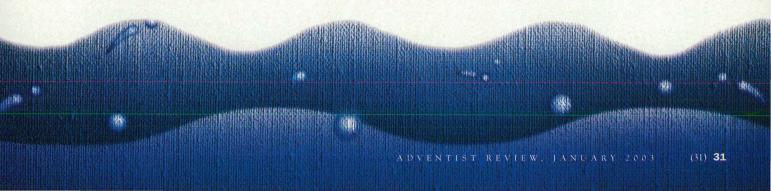
⁸Nouwen, p. 84.

9 Gal. 6:2.

10 Philip Yancey, Disappointment With God (New York: Guideposts, 1988), p. 143.

Adam Andreassen is a second-year student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and a pastor for the Texas Conference.





my toes, especially early in the morning before the sun warmed the beach. But what 4-year-old wouldn't? It was mine, all mine. Of course, I didn't know that it was Long Beach, and that on a summer day a thousand other children would also claim it.

liked the feel of sand between

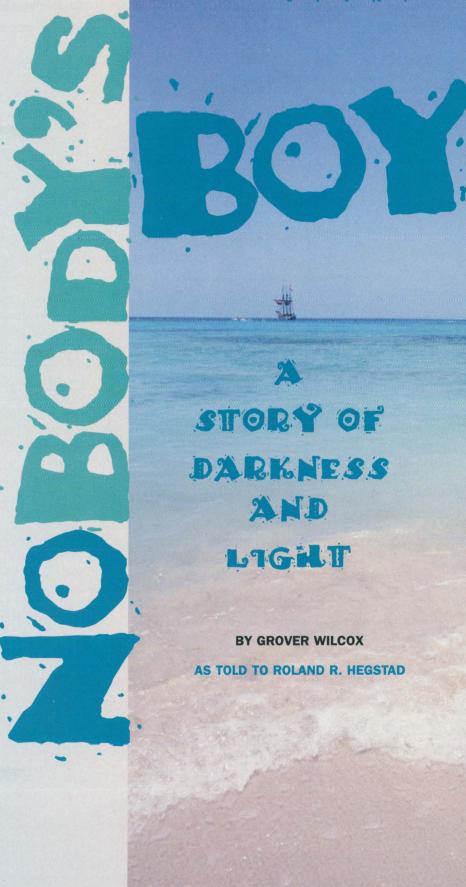
I loved the silence of early morning. Even the waves seemed strangely gentle, and the sun's rays caressed me as they peeked over the horizon. The morning gulls swept overhead, sliding on unseen currents. To my untutored eyes they seemed held aloft by unseen hands—perhaps those of someone or something called "God."

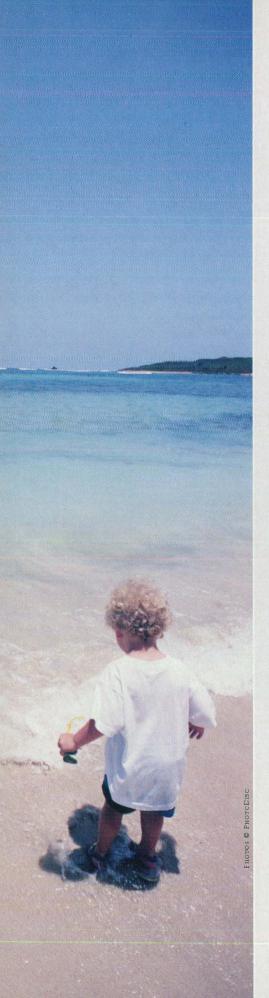
At the margin of the gentle waters I could see the homes of unseen little creatures, tiny bubbles marking their presence. Occasionally a crab would scuttle across in front of me, and I would curl my toes protectively. It wouldn't do to cry out and shatter the silence. Strangely, even then I observed that silence has a sound. It hovers at the verge of consciousness, a muted something that vanishes if you concentrate on it.

In the years since, as I've retraced my childhood steps, I've heard the waves roar as they attack the beach and gulls lecture their fellows and humans alike with raucous abandon. Freeway traffic plays its basso profundo background, and children chitter and chatter the lyrics of summertime. Strange it is that the once-silent beach has become a babel; strange too that a silent child now dares to disturb the sound of silence.

Those who have heard my story find it incredible. "It couldn't have happened," they say. "Your parents must have spoken to you sometime. Don't you just mean that they never said they loved you?"

No. They never spoke to me. The only sound I heard was the sound of silence. It became my refuge . . . a refuge for Nobody's Boy.¹





The Darker Side

I was a child of nowhere and everywhere, for we—my family—were street people during my childhood and teenage years. We lived in tents on a California beach, along railroad tracks near Riverside, in cow pastures and deserted shacks, campgrounds along the roads to Arrowhead and Big Bear lakes, a log cabin with a dirt floor, and scores of houses where we never paid rent and usually disappeared by night.

By the time I was 11 years old we had moved more than 100 times. My father never worked a steady job, nor did my mother. We children—seven of us, of whom I was the next-to-youngest—learned to survive from farmers' orchards and vegetable fields, supplemented by begging from relatives and strangers alike. We often went days without a meal.

There was an even darker side: Our houses, if they can be called that, were dark places of abuse—physical, emotional, and sexual. Tension and fear hung like black clouds over our days as we children watched fearfully for telltale signs of violent eruptions. During my childhood years my parents choked and beat me, resulting in my attempts to escape deep within myself. I became the invisible child, never speaking to an adult. I never heard the words "I love you," never knew the security of a hug.

My parents were Seventh-day
Adventists. Church members.
Professing to know the Lord; talking
heaven but living hell. I remember my
father's selling subscription study
Bibles to church members on Long
Island in New York. They never
received one. When I was 7 years old,
my mother went to prison and my
father abandoned us. We children
lived for a few weeks by begging door
to door, stealing from grocery stores,
even eating chicken feed from a
nearby barn.

One midnight police broke into the shack where we were living and took all seven of us to the Riverside Juvenile Hall. During the year we were confined, we would look through the barred windows and over the barbedwire fence to see well-dressed children going to school and playing during recess and noon hour. A year later our parents claimed us, and it was back to the nomadic existence that had been our lot from birth.

Recite the scenario above to a psychiatrist, and vou'll be told that I surely grew up hating my parents—and my heavenly Parent as well. That I've likely been in jail and, at the very least am a rebel who cannot stand authority figures-including God. Dr. Alane Samarza, of Redlands, California, has spoken of the lasting psychological damage to be expected from such an abusive childhood. "The early experiences of maltreatment, abuse, and neglect," she says, "may result in depression, fears and anxieties, and problems in relationships—including distrust and intimacy dysfunctionsand poor self-esteem." She couldn't have described us children better if she had written our case histories.

A Soldier's Armor

In 1965 I was drafted into the United States Army, a fate that thousands of young men would gladly have foregone. For me it was emancipation. At worst, the Fort Polk (Louisiana) first sergeant's barking at me came in a poor second to my father's brutality. At Polk and later at Fort Sam Houston, where I took my noncombatant training. I found the camaraderie in the ranks a refreshing contrast to my parental relationships. The years of abuse had left me carrying an impressive load of defensive armor. I wandered through my Army years carrying a huge load of shame, guilt, pain, and fear. Still, I worked diligently at becoming a good soldier and for the first time in my life heard words of praise. But as good a fix as these were, they could not fill my hollowness or erase my depression.

At times, lying on my bunk, I'd

ponder the universe, with its distant and unfeeling stars. Was there really a God, as I had heard on our family's occasional excursions to Sabbath school and church? Somehow I believed there was. But He wasn't my Father and He didn't care about me. However, I sometimes threw a silent prayer heavenward and clutched at a tenuous thread of faith. To my surprise, it grew into a rope that bound me to all-but-forgotten truths.

After the Army I went to college on the GI Bill. And wonder of wonders, I became a teacher and principal in the Adventist school system.

Whether in my office or classroom, I sought to create and share the kind of security and unconditional love I had never experienced at home. But deep inside, in the center of my soul, I felt empty and alone. Gradually I lost my grip on the rope. I compensated by becoming a workaholic, desperately seeking to bury the burden of my past.

One day, 20 years into my teaching career, the Great King called a few select angels together. It was time, in His grand design, to shatter the armor in which I had encased the tortured soul of my childhood. It was to be a dangerous task, He knew, and He issued careful instructions. The soul within must be quickly enveloped by loving arms—His arms, He said; this delicate act He would handle Himself.

The blow was struck; the armor shattered. Madly the boy within clutched for his armor. "Let go, My child," the King said gently, "for I cannot reach you otherwise." The boy within cried back, "I can't! I can't! You're killing me!"

The Verdict

My armor was shattered in May 1996. I became deathly ill and was checked in to Denver Presbyterian Hospital (now Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center), followed in a few weeks by a stay in Porter Adventist Hospital. In both, doctors listened to my lungs, looked at the huge boils that had broken out on my body, and took X-rays. I had severe joint pain, developed pneumonia, could hardly breathe,

and was hallucinating. I thought things couldn't get worse. They did.

Four doctors circled my bed and put X-rays up to the light. "You have huge tumors in your lungs," one said. "We're going to have to remove your right lung." But they didn't—probably because they felt my condition was ter-

I never heard the words "I love you," never knew the security of a hug.

minal.

For two months I languished in the Colorado hospitals, still without a definitive diagnosis. When all seemed lost, my wife, Charby, borrowed enough money to fly me to Loma Linda Uni-

versity
Medical
Center in
California. I
said goodbye to her and
our two daughters, Sabrina and
Melanie, thinking that I
would never see them
again.

Another team of doctors ran scores of tests, grew cultures, and saw me lose 50 pounds and much of my blood. Eventually my kidneys began to fail. The doctors were agreed on only one finding: I was dying. A few days later they came up with the why: I had Wegener's granulomatosis.² There was no cure.

The Song of the King

During long sleepless nights, still

reeling from His blows, I began to talk to the King. "Is this my reward for 20 years of faithful service?" I asked. "Are You abandoning me to a lingering death?" For the first time in my life I listened for His answer. And it came. No. He was about to teach me His song.

I left the hospital the first week of July. As I pushed through the heavy glass doors I paused, leaned against the wall, and, with tears streaming down my face, sobbed, "I'm alive! I'm alive!" But the doctors said it would not be for long.

I returned to my Colorado academy

classroom. Each morning I'd walk the

short distance from home to school, pausing at the park to vomit.

Weakness and nausea dogged my every step. I carried on until the doctors told me that if I continued, I would be carried out—to the cemetery. I bade my colleagues and students goodbye and headed back to Loma Linda. For seven years now (thank You,

Father!) I have amazed my doctors as I daily drink chemo—to date, more than 600,000 milligrams—(not to mention N

bags and

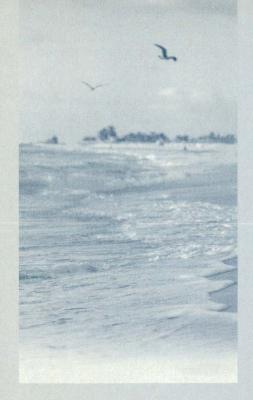
drugs
inserted or
ingested).
In a small
and aged
motor
home

other

the eastern edge of Loma
Linda, the King continues my music lessons. Strange that trials and pain either turn one away from God, in cold, lonely bitterness, or toward Him. As a child I had first experienced emptiness, and I wanted no more of that. But confronted with daily pain and hopelessness. I won-

parked at

daily pain and hopelessness, I wondered whether I could continue to let Him grow me into His child. That would mean, I knew, unfailing trust



and allegiance. Could my life become a home where He could visit and His heart could glow during our time together?

Slowly I turned my face from the searing certainty of imminent death to God's great and gentle face. And there—often late at night in the stark quiet of my soul—I thrilled to his assurance: I was His boy. From nobody's boy to His boy! The peace and joy that flooded me defy explanation.

The Healers

I have not been alone in my quest for a Father. There is Dr. Steven C. Stewart, who stood by my side through a year and a half of injections, pain, bruising, and eventual surgery. Next came Brian Hopwood, a man in a wheelchair who had survived a small plane crash. He stood by me during my wife's three breast cancer surgeries. His wife was in the intensive-care unit for a year with liver cancer. Many were the nights we stood in the hospital parking lot at Loma Linda, and beneath the halo of street lamps talked to our Father, the King of the universe. Then one day at the hospital in walked the king of care—Don Schneider. I will never forget him wrapping his arms around me and

assuring me that I am a favored son of the King of kings.

Then there is Garry Sudds, associate superintendent of the Lake Union Conference, who first called me "God's Boy." I call him by his middle name, Jack, but if ever I have met a fellow human who warrants the name God's Boy, it is he. He gently turned my face toward my heavenly home and my divine Daddy, forever changing my life.

I studied these healers. I saw the King in their eyes. Ellen White described their ministry: "There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ" (The Desire of Ages, p. 297). That's what my Father did for me. At a time when I had learned only the first stanza of His song, He sent some of His other children to share with me their faith.

Often it was, however, that I again became the fearful little boy who had known only abuse and abandonment. He stood by the chain-link fence at Juvenile Hall, his grubby hands clutching the wires as he looked at the distant fields and questioned, Does anyone love me? Does anyone care? Does anyone even know where I am? And a tear would slip down the cheek of the little boy with the shock of black hair and dark, hollow eyes.

But ever there would be those to remind me that I do have a Father who loves me. I am God's boy! In the bleakness of fearsome and painful nights He slips into my motor home to comfort me. There may be more surgeries, more crises, but no matter what, my Father knows what He's doing. The worse my situation, the closer I cling to Him. When His eyes sweep the earth and He asks, "Who will stand with Me? Who will never let go of My hand no matter what?" I grasp His hand tighter and watch His heart soar!

Learning to Trust

What a transformation! The King is teaching trust to a soul who had never

trusted anyone. Ask Him for healing? How can I? The wrong answer—or worse, no answer—could send me back down that deadly trail of rejection and abandonment. Better never to ask. When black and blue from injections, I simply look heavenward and say, "I love You, I love You." When sick and vomiting from the daily chemo, I turn my face toward heaven and say, "It's all right, Father; You're in charge. Do what You know is best for me.'

It isn't that I suddenly acquired a good or brave attitude. No, it is the love I feel that now lets me see things through my Father's eyes. I look at things in terms of how they'll affect Him. Will I hurt Him or honor Him? Will my attitude give Him joy? Will it give Him glory?

So it was that we became friends. I became His son, and now I am His boy. I long to be with him-my God, my Father, my Daddy! The joy of visiting Him thrills my soul. Trust is a badge of honor now. No longer do I think of fellowship with Him in terms of laws and rules—even obedience. These are not the real keys to fellowship. Rather the key is oneness with my Father, and with that comes blessed assurance. No matter the problem, it must first pass through the hands of my Daddy.

The Heart of the Matter

The other day, while in a grocery store, I saw a scene that says it all. As I pushed my cart up to the checkout line I noticed a tiny boy sitting in the one behind me. His father, a large, husky man, picked him up, and the tot tried to hug him, but his arms reached only a little way around. I heard his father ask, "Do you hear it? Can you hear it?" The child pressed closer, trying to hear his father's heartbeat.

Just that closely are we privileged to clutch our heavenly Father! As Ellen White put it: "Let your heart break for the longing it has for God, for the living God" (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 149).

It was with my ear against His heart that I stopped asking the painful questions: "Why are You doing this to me, God? Why do I have to be the one?"

Instead, I now ask, "Father, what can I do for You? What appointments have You made for me today? I await Your loving wish, Father."

I often talk to Him about my brothers and sisters. Sadly, psychologist Alane Samarza's list of likely consequences of physical, mental, and sexual abuse are all too apt a description. I cannot bring myself to reveal their histories. I thank my Father for the good I see; only He knows how bitterly fought the battles, how sad the defeats, how glorious the victories! Perhaps I'll not know the impact of my prayers until my Father welcomes me to His throne room. No matter: I trust Him, and I know that He loves my brothers and sisters even more than I do. And that kind of love is hard to resist.

A Message From My Father

As I write this I own little more than the clothes on my back. Lost are my career as a respected and loved teacher, my home, my friends, my money, my belongings, my health, and, almost, my life. Doctors tell me now that the ravages of chemotherapy make it imperative that I get a kidney transplant. I know that many more patients need kidneys than the supply can meet. I shall meet this crisis as I have the scores of others: by putting it in my Father's hands.

There is another sadness with which I live. I have lost my wife, who could not, as I did, understand and love a God who would, as she saw it, "do such things" to me. The last night we spent together, I lay beside her and prayed for God to intercede. Oh, the darkness of those hours! The stark intensity of my pleading!

Toward morning I had my answer. My heavenly Father confided in me. His message was simple: "I'm not having any more success with her than you are." Sad as I was, I was satisfied. God had done, and would do, all He could. He would not, however, force allegiance. She had made her decision.

She calls once in a while to ask how I am. I'm lonely, of course. But my Father has a plan. With no place to go, with no one to impress, I spend my days picturing Him in His throne room. Conversing with Him. Trusting Him. Loving Him. After all, I'm His boy! Maybe my wife will become His girl again, and we'll put our arms around each other and praise our Daddy together.

¹This introduction is condensed from the book *Nobody*'s Boy, soon to be published.

² Wegener's granulomatosis is not hereditary; it can strike anyone. In 1996, when I became ill, only one in 750,000 Americans had the disease. Medical books say that it is "fatal within months." Often patients live only weeks.

Grover Wilcox is a pseudonym. Roland R. Hegstad is former editor of Liberty magazine, now writing for and editing Perspective Digest.



Questions for Reflection

or for Use in Your Small Group

- **1.** How was affection demonstrated in your home as you were growing up? How do you wish it had been shown?
- 2. How has your understanding of God been affected by the authority figures in your life? What has been the most positive influence?
- **3.** Why have trials and heartaches kept you close to God, and not driven you away from Him?
- **4.** What is the most significant by-product of being able to relate to God as a loving heavenly parent?

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God

converts obstacles

into opportunities.

LESLIE N. POLLARD

Move, Mountain, Move!

n this first month of 2003 I want to do some mountain climbing. Understand, I have no intention of literally climbing a mountain. I will leave that to the more robust and adventurous among us. This year I wish to climb the mountains of personal challenge. An African

proverb asserts: "The taller the mountain, the longer its shadow." Our world is full of towering mountains. When the sky is clear and the sun sets on the western horizon, the shadows of these mountains can cover entire villages.

Similarly, each life is shadowed by mountains, personal problems that darken the landscape of the Christian's life. Towering mountains

such as wayward children, unwelcome sickness, a ruptured marriage, family rejection, professional disappointment, personal abandonment, or church misunderstandings can darken the horizon of every child of God.

I shall never forget a church member I encountered in the courtyard of one of the churches I served many years ago on a beautiful California spring morning with blue sky, white clouds, sunshine, and warm breezes. I greeted her at about 9:00 as she was hurrying to teach her kindergarten Sabbath school class. Her eyes glistened. I said, "Happy Sabbath, Mary. How was your week?"

She looked at me through her tears and sighed, "Pastor, I have so many problems." And she did. Failing health, a wayward teenager, a new husband who admitted that he never loved her, a supervisor who harassed her because of her Sabbathkeeping, and a host of other personal problems had landed on her all that week. My question was the pinprick that unleashed her pain. The grief in her heart welled up into her eyes and rolled down her cheeks. "I have so many problems," she intoned.

Is that your testimony at the beginning of 2003? Our great God is not aloof, leaving us to fight life's problems alone. He is not detached or passive, like the Greek gods who through the mists of Olympus looked in amusement at the plight of struggling little mortals who scampered about helplessly on terra firma.

He is not a prim and proper God who wears white gloves and handles only bone china. The great God we serve is a God in overalls. He is God in a hard hat who wears steel-toed boots and carries a sledgehammer over his shoulder. He is a John Henry kind of God. He's a steel-driving kind of God.

My African-American foreparents used to say that God is a waymaker, a road repairer, a mountain mover. They used to say that He specializes in heavy construction.

The Old Testament God says: "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying Grace, grace unto it" (Zech. 4:7). God converts obstacles into opportunities. He is a mountain mover and a bridge builder. He turns stumbling blocks into stepping-stones. "Mountain,"

He says, "who are you?" God is saying to us: "There is no mountain so large that I cannot move it." He challenges our problems: "Unemployment, who are you?" "Loneliness, who are you?" "Childlessness, who are you?" "Sickness, who are you?"

The Holy Spirit will come and give us the power to level every mountain. Like Jesus, who stood up in a wobbly speck of a boat while the sprays of persecution figuratively stung His face, and yelled to the frowning heavens, "Peace!" and to the lapping, hungry waters, "Be still," His Spirit will brace us for life's conflicts. For it is "'not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty" (Zech. 4:6, NIV).

What is your mountain's name? Is it loneliness? Before you it shall become a plain. Maybe its name is heartache. Before you it shall become a plain. Mountains are for scaling and climbing, plains are for strolling and walking. God will level your problems so that you may walk in freedom. In 2003, let God work on your challenges. If need be, He will bulldoze them into submission. If necessary, He will jackhammer them into surrender. If demanded, He will crane-lift them. He is a mountain mover. He is a waymaker. He specializes in heavy construction.

Leslie N. Pollard serves as vice president for diversity at Loma Linda University Adventist Health Services Center.





· MARK •

Connecting: Devotions for Young Adults



Trudy Morgan-Cole, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Maryland, 2002, 206 pages, US\$10.99, Can\$16.49, paper.

Reviewed by Nathan Brown, who was an editorial intern at Adventist Review when he wrote this review.

The Review and Herald is developing an interesting tradition in their publishing of yearly devotional books for young adults. The tradition is this: doing something significantly different each year. Yet lining up the devotional books from the past few years, you do find a common thread: the foundational intention to present, explore, and recommend a relationship with God in a fresh and attractive way.

Connecting—the designated young adult devotional book for 2003—continues this fine tradition in an entertaining and intriguing discussion of the various relationships that make up our lives. The 44 stories are drawn from the author's own life and from those of many of her friends, whom she contacted to request their insights and experiences.

Contrasting with previous young adult devotional books, *Connecting* is more focused on the older young adult audience. This is a reflection of the author, Trudy Morgan-Cole, and her life experience—she is a freelance

writer, youth group leader, and mid-30s mother of two. The relationships are more serious than younger young adults might expect: there are marriages and children and friendships developing over many years.

While some of these pieces may be removed from the experience of younger readers, the basic principles of relationships are universally applicable. The book is also liberally sprinkled with college flashbacks to which they will be able to relate more readily. Having said that, the swing from college days to parenthood can at times be disconcerting, and the drawing of anecdotes from so many sources somewhat disrupts the continuity of the book as a whole from a storytelling perspective.

There are, however, common themes. The most significant of these is simply the importance of relationships—of connecting with others. The short story pieces are divided into six categories—friends, enemies, family, children, mentors, and love and romance—with the treatment of each section working together to build a bigger picture of that form of relationship.

Curiously, with all this talk of relationships, there is not a section specifically devoted to a relationship with God. Instead, this preeminent relationship is shown metaphorically through the many interactions described and, in practical terms, through its infusion into all the other relationships of our lives. Connecting is an enjoyable devotional book, challenging readers to be open to the impact that our relationships can have on those around us and on ourselves—and ultimately to realize how they can point us to God.

Unconditional Excellence: Answering God's Call to Be Your Professional Best

Alan M. Ross and Cecil Murphey, Adams Media Corporation, Avon, Massachusetts, 2002, US\$19.95, Can\$29.95, hardcover. Reviewed by Richard Guldin, Silver Spring, Maryland. Books about modeling Christian



attitudes and behaviors in worldly business situations are rare. This is the best book on this topic I've seen in years. As an Adventist executive with a federal agency,

who has received training at the nation's premier business schools, I found the book better than many of the texts used in those courses. It teaches solid leadership and management skills, illustrating them with anecdotes and case histories. It has a lively writing style and is by authors who have been successful in a variety of business settings. The book helps Christian managers and leaders in the marketplace live relevant lives and become credible messengers.

I found three chapters particularly enlightening. One chapter describes how the time spent on communications clutter interferes with its effectiveness. A description section on team alignment and team roles is one of the best and most succinct I've read. The chapter on the strength of humility in leadership and how that links to being a peacemaker during corporate brawls is excellent.

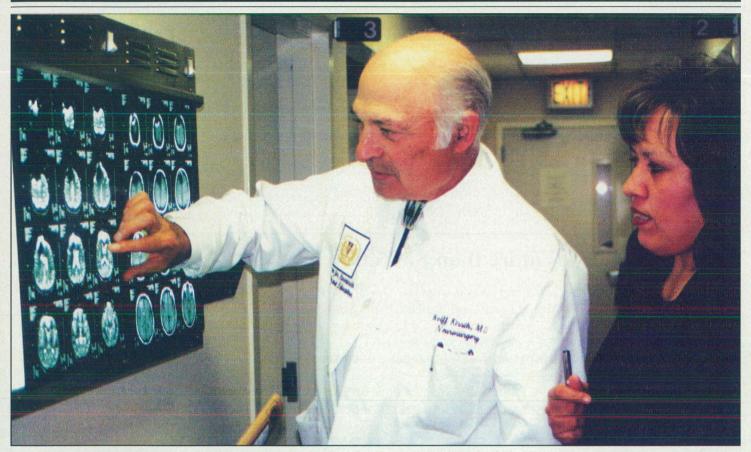
Many of us in the business community spend more time than we like waiting in airports or flying across the country. We often use that time to catch up on business reading. Add this book to your must-read list! You'll easily get through it on a transcontinental flight. It's a stimulating and thoughtprovoking book. Like me, you'll be making marginal notes and then a short to do list of things to start on when you arrive at your destination. Speaking of destinations, Ross and Murphey conclude that "unconditional excellence is both the destination for people who want to leave a godly legacy and the path that leads to it. . . . It's both a journey and a goal. It is attainable." Amen!



THE

Loma Linda University Medical Center "Educational center of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist health-care system"

LOMA LINDA REPORT



Wolff Kirsch, MD, principal investigator of the Alzheimer's study, and Cindy Dickson, program coordinator at the Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training, and Education, and project administrator for the study, examine magnetic resonance imaging scans.

Loma Linda researchers granted \$6.5 million by NIH for Alzheimer's disease study

Loma Linda's Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training, and Education received official approval of a \$6.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health in September for a research project that may help to determine a reliable biological marker for early stage Alzheimer's disease.

Information for this section is supplied by the Loma Linda University Medical Center office of public affairs. The research being conducted at Loma Linda is on genetics. The study, "Iron Metabolism Alterations in Alzheimer's Disease," will track iron metabolism in a group of patients to determine if changes in peripheral blood correlate with changes seen in the brain by utilizing a special sequence magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The ultimate goal of the study is to develop a diagnostic tool for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Through this research, the team hopes

to determine several key items including if the gene responsible for abnormal iron uptake in the brain can be found in circulating blood and what its relationship is to abnormal iron deposits in the brain.

Principal investigator for the project is Wolff Kirsch, MD, a Loma Linda University Medical Center neurosurgeon, and professor of neurosurgery in the School of Medicine. Dr. Kirsch is also director of the Neurosurgery Center for Research, Training, and Education.

Please turn to next page

"FULFILLING THE VISION"

"FULFILLING THE VISION"

"The ability to positively detect Alzheimer's disease in patients at a very early stage, prior to the onset of symptoms, will contribute greatly to the success of treatment and provide a very important tool to researchers toward possibly discovering the cure of this devastating disease," Dr. Kirsch says.

At a press conference held in mid-October, Dr. Kirsch explained how the five-year range of the study, along with the application of noninvasive and minimally invasive tests of perturbations of iron homeostasis, will allow Alzheimer's disease to be explored.

The potential benefits include identifying erroneous iron metabolism in areas of the brain through MRI and a small

blood test, according to Dr. Kirsch. These tests could possibly explain the risk factors associated with the conversion of mild cognitive impairment (MCI, an identified precursor to Alzheimer's disease) into a much more serious and aggressive disorder.

One of the most promising things in this study is the highly motivated and dedicated team working on the project. The team is composed of Medical Center clinical psychologists, Alzheimer's diseaseiologists, immunologists, internists, and physicians specially trained in the neurological evaluation of dementia and memory disorders.

"The great thing about this grant is that we have so many people from so many different areas," Dr. Kirsch says. "We know we are going to find something."

The study comes at a critical time in the growth of Alzheimer's disease. Approximately 4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease—one in 10 people over the age of 65 and one out of every two people over the age of 85. Fourteen million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the middle of this century unless a cure or prevention is found.

There were 49,558 deaths in 2000 caused by Alzheimer's disease, making it the eighth leading cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia among older people.

Radiothon raises more than \$315,000 for LLU Children's Hospital

An Inland Empire-based radio station raised more than \$315,000 during a two-day radiothon for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

KFRG 95.1 held the radiothon to benefit the pediatric cancer patients at Children's Hospital on November 12 and 13. During the two-day event, KFRG broadcasted live from Inland Center Mall in San Bernardino.

"The donations were incredible," says Patti Cotton Pettis, executive director, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation.

By noon on the second day of the event, more than \$190,000 in pledges had been collected—far exceeding expectations, accord-

ing to Ms. Pettis. Seven hours later, an tentative total of \$315,275 had been collected or pledged

"We are so grateful for the wonderful partnership that we share with KFRG to benefit the children in our community," Ms. Pettis states. "And we can't say enough about KFRG listeners who made this possible. They are wonderful!"

"We surpassed all expectations," says Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, senior vice president, Loma Linda University Medical Center, and administrator, Children's Hospital.

Working in corporate

partnership with Wal-Mart, the Children's Hospital Foundation donated more than 1,100 bicycles to San Bernardino and Riverside county underprivileged children.

"More than 200 of these bicycles were given as Christmas gifts to our pediatric cancer patients," Ms. Pettis says. "The donations of the bicycles were made on behalf of each person who pledge at least \$195.10. The unusual dollar amount has KFRG's station number—95.1—in it."

During the two-day event, people listening to the broadcast heard testimonials from dozens of pediatric patients and their families. More than 20 Children's Hospital employees volunteered their time to work the phone lines on each of the two days.

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital admits more than 1,500 children to the pediatric cancer unit each year. Recently, stemcell transplantation has been incorporated as the newest component of the comprehensive program.

"After a child's initial diagnosis, immediate treatment begins, and the child can spend more than two weeks in the hospital," says Ms. Pettis. "Many of these children require stays for extensive diagnostic testing and treatment and become part of our family. Our staff love these children as if they were their own."



More than \$315,000 was raised during the radiothon held by KFRG-FM radio station to benefit LLU Children's Hospital. Pictured are (from left) Vivi Burns, senior marketing specialist, LLUMC marketing department; Bob Sweet, KFRG marketing and promotion manager; Patti Cotton Pettis, executive director, LLUCH Foundation; Doug Vincent, KFRG on-air personality; Shelly Moore, LLUMC marketing graphic designer; Gene Bridges, independent radiothon producer; Jane Hoffman, marketing specialist, LLUCH Foundation; Tammy Veach, administrative director, LLUMC marketing department; and Ray Massie, KFRG program director.

Canadian Evangelistic Series Exceeds Expectations

"Revelation Speaks Peace" series fills churches

BY MYRNA TETZ, A RETIRED MANAGING EDITOR OF THE ADVENTIST REVIEW WHO WRITES FOR ADVENTIST TELEVISION NETWORK

hen Canadian
Adventists organized the country's
first-ever satellite
evangelistic series,
"Paraletic Scrolar Pages" integer in

"Revelation Speaks Peace," interest in

the concept stretched far beyond their country's borders.

The four-week meeting, held October 18 to November 17, featured evangelists Shawn Boonstra, director-speaker, and Henry Feyerabend, emeritus speaker for the Canadian It Is Written television ministry. The series was downlinked from Dalhousic University ın Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Since other countries also wished to receive the satellite

signal, Adventist Television Network (ATN), the global satellite television service of the church, joined the series. As a result, the meetings were beamed throughout the world. Thus far more than 1,000 persons have been baptized or are preparing for baptism in Canada.

Although brochures and advertising were prepared for 200 sites throughout North America, nearly 600 sites around the globe actually received the programming. Through the ministry of ATN, the series was also viewed in Trinidad, Australia, Libya, Belize,

Germany, Netherlands, West Indies, Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Africa, and the United States, as well as other places. SAFEFM 9.1, 104.5FM Beliz and 3ABN transmitted the program.

The evangelistic team attempted to



LARGE CROWDS: Attendance at Dalhousie University ranged between 350 and 500 nightly. (Inset) Evangelist Shawn Boonstra

respond to hundreds of responses coming to the e-mail address, including messages from 18 states in the United States, and reports from several countries. Some told of packed auditoriums and churches, while others described small groups meeting in homes.

"A distinctive theme runs like a thread through the e-mail messages," said Feyerabend. "The Word of God is reaching hearts and decisions for Christ are being made. Over and over we hear the comment that never before have they seen so much interest in the truth of God's Word."

Preparation Pays Good Dividends

Preparation for the series began in early 2002 with the launching of "Reigniting the Flame" workshops in nine locations across Canada. The weekend classes, taught by the

Canadian evangelistic team and other It Is Written personnel from the United States, included training for laypersons and an opportunity for door-to-door witnessing.

After the training, participants were encouraged to distribute Discover Bible School cards, packet literature, or Something Wonderful cards in their neighborhoods. Other suggestions included advertising the Adventist Communication Network

television events, gathering names of relatives of members, and visiting former members. A Community Appreciation Day was encouraged, in which a local church would honor a significant community leader such as the mayor, fire chief, police chief, or teacher.

Starting in February and continuing until April 3, one-hour broadcasts featuring *The Return* via satellite with Boonstra and a local leader were available to participating districts. This gave those acquainted with church members an opportunity to get to

know Adventist leaders in their locality and also hear Boonstra's presentations.

Many Canadian members who attended the It Is Written workshops prior to the meetings visited their neighborhoods offering Bible studies. Lucas and Shelly Jurek, from Quesnel, British Columbia, sent cards to their community inviting individuals to contact them if they wished Bible studies. Several responded. Just prior to the series they invited the Harmony Singers to their locality, and 330 people came to that event. Then the Jureks sent brochures to every house in town with an invitation to attend the coming evangelistic meetings. Six people asked for baptism after taking the Bible stud-

In one area a person who was attending the meetings invited a friend to come too. He didn't realize that his friend was a Seventh-day Adventist. The Adventist went only a couple of nights, but the individual who invited him kept on attending.

ies and attending the series.

After the It Is Written workshop, Jacque Morris and his wife, Maria, visited their neighborhoods in the district of Madawaska and Perth-Andover, New Brunswick. As a result, they studied with 27 individuals. Evangelistic meetings before the "Revelation Speaks Peace" series by evangelist Victor Gill netted several baptisms. These people and others also attended the Revelation series.

In Grand Forks, British Columbia, the Adventist church is rented on Sunday to a Baptist group. A member of the local Adventist church plays the organ for the Baptists. Recently the Baptist leader announced that Adventists were, in fact, Bible-believing Christians. This leader attended the "Revelation Speaks Peace" series on October 18 and 19. On Sunday, October 20, he told his members, "For those who would like to learn more about Revelation, we now have the opportunity. From now on prayer



A NEW BIRTH: Pastor Larry Hall (left) baptizes new convert in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

meeting is canceled. The duration of the 'Revelation Speaks Peace' series will be presented here in this church every night."

"The local visitation team is swamped with work," Feyerabend added. "At an altar call one evening more than 50 people eagerly came forward. The work of visitation, even if we only visit the prime interests, is more than our team of workers can handle."

Thrilling Testimonies

Janet's tears fell freely as she revealed to the visitors that she couldn't be baptized because the person she lived with was not her husband. He also had a terminal illness. "I can't just throw him out on the street," she said. "So no, I can't be baptized now." During the call on Sunday night she was one of the first on her feet. Joy replaced the tears of the afternoon visit. "Jesus will have to take care of him and me both. I surrender all. The only joy is doing it God's way."

A pastor from another denomination told pastor Ishmael Ali of the Silver Heights church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, "Shawn [Boonstra] and Henry [Feyerabend] are destroying all my theology." With a smile he added, "Guess I need to start over with a clean slate and the Bible."

In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, some attendees actually sat on the floor because of limited space. A pastor from the Virgin Islands called to say that he was surprised that the church service ended so early. Then he added, "That was good. It gave us time to baptize several."

Don Stoyanowski, the evangelism coordinator for It Is Written Canada, told about one man in Brantford, Ontario who drove more than seven kilometers (five and a half miles) through rain (and wet snow) on a motorized wheel-chair/scooter to attend the meetings. "Pray for him," Stoyanowski requested. "He

has a flesh-eating disease and has lost a leg. He wishes to be baptized."

"We are receiving messages from all over the world," reports Stoyanoswski. "Many individuals have been baptized and many others are being prepared for baptism. Praise God! These are exciting times."

Follow-up Essential

On Saturday, November 16, an 11:00 a.m. worship service with Boonstra was made available via satellite to the churches that participated in the series. Attendees were encouraged to come and fellowship in local Adventist churches. As an important part of the service, an invitation to prepare for baptism was extended to those who had faithfully attended the series. (Future program schedules are available on the Web site: www.iiw.ca.)

Breathe Free classes, cooking schools, pastor's Bible marking classes, Daniel and Revelation Seminars, and a study on the book of Galatians offer continuing opportunities for individuals to come to Adventist churches. Members are involved in a strong Spiritual Friend program in which they intentionally befriend one or more new attendees or members by involving them socially, sitting with them in church, taking them out to eat, and making reading material available.

News Alert

Starvation Threatens 34 Million in Africa

Mass starvation is a looming disaster that threatens 34 million people in the countries of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Swaziland. Drought in some countries and, paradoxically, flooding in others have disrupted farming, causing widespread food shortages, fluctuating market prices, and depletion of grain reserves. More than 1.2 million Seventh-day Adventists live in these countries.

"The famine in Africa is compromising the future of millions of people. We are reminded as Seventh-day Adventists and a people of hope to share the love of Jesus through immediate service to those in need," says Jan Paulsen, General Conference president.

Through its humanitarian agency, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the Adventist Church has already responded by distributing food aid to 27,000 people in greatest need in Malawi. ADRA/Ethiopia is feeding 10,000 people for the next two months. ADRA/Zambia has distributed more than 13,000 metric tons of maize in 11 districts. In Zimbabwe, ADRA has fed 18,000 people for four months. In addition, ADRA has begun providing seeds, fertilizer, and agricultural assistance to farmers in Malawi and Zambia for the spring 2003 planting season to alleviate hunger.

"We must increase our response efforts immediately if we are to effectively help people already weakened by hunger and reaching the stage of severe malnutrition," emphasizes Charles Sandefur, president of ADRA International. "This is an opportunity for church members to join ADRA in a life-changing ministry."

For more information about ADRA's response to the food shortage crisis, call 1-800-424-ADRA or check ADRA's Web site at www.adra.org.

NEWSBREAK

North American Division Sponsors LA RED (NET) Evangelism Series

ach year the North American Division multilingual ministries sponsors a Hispanic satellite evangelism event. This year, the LA RED (NET) series was hosted by the Potomac Conference and held at Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, Maryland.

"This is the first time we've hosted a satellite effort from the nation's capital," says Manuél Vásquez, a North American Division vice president and director of multilingual ministries. "With the help of the Holy Spirit, we plan to baptize 5,000 people in North America."

The eight-night event, "Me Paz Os Dejo" (I Leave With You My Peace) was held in late November and early December and uplinked live each evening by Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and Adventist Communication Network (ACN). In addition, Adventist World Radio (AWR) broadcast the meetings to more than 60 Christian Hispanic radio stations in Central and South America, the Caribbean, and North America.

Prior to the series, 30 of the 42 area Hispanic congregations held meetings leading up to the satellite series. Alejandro Bullon, speaker and evangelist, spoke each

evening to large audiences with more than 3,000 people attending the final meeting. During the meetings, more than 300 individuals requested baptism, and 1,800 people asked for follow-up Bible studies.

Day of Fasting and Prayer for Kidnapped Adventist Pastor

At the year-end meetings for the Colombia Union (Inter-American Division), December 14 was set aside as a special day of fasting and prayer on behalf of a pastor who was kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas and whose whereabouts remain unknown as of this printing.

Gonzalo Cardona was abducted last August while enjoying a family event along with another pastor, Jacob Rodriguez, and his family.

"We have evidence that Pastor Cardona is alive," said Jose Rojano, communication director of the Adventist Church in Colombia. "He sent a letter to his wife through another victim who was released. In the letter, he pleaded for help to be released."

Cardona and his group were traveling in their car in Uraba, an area in northwest Colombia, when they were stopped by guerrillas. The guerrillas ordered them to abandon their children on the road. Despite the pastors' pleas to be released, the captors took them along with 20

\$487.25 Per Word

BY MARK A. KELLNER, WRITING FROM MARINA DEL REY, CALIFORNIA

ust before Christmas 2002, someone—we don't know a name—was able to do an amazing bit of holiday shopping: they received \$45,317 for writing a 93-word summary of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the next installment of the very popular series. That works out to \$487.25 per word, far more than most writers get for their labors!

Spending that much money for a bunch of words is perhaps surprising, but nothing new. In literature Ernest

Hemingway is renowned for receiving \$15 per word from *Sports Illustrated* for a 2,000-word piece on bullfighting. That \$30,000 paycheck, some 50 years ago, was equal to several years' wages for an average American family of that time.

Presidents, rock stars, and potentates routinely receive multimillion-dollar advances on their memoirs, and a bestselling fiction writer such as John Grisham or Tom Clancy can almost name their price for future work. Indeed, some authors auction off not a précis of their next novel, but that book and several others, to the highest bidding publisher.

That words, new and old, should command so much attention and even value shouldn't surprise us. At the heart of communication, specific words can enlighten, inform,

excite, or depress. Harry Potter fans could eagerly search those 93 words for clues about the newest adventures awaiting their hero.

But the greatest words worth having are freely and widely available for a price far, far less than \$487.25 per word. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life," Jesus said in John 3:16 (NLT). To fulfill that promise cost Jesus far more than \$45,000, but to receive that gift costs only your willingness to believe.

NEWS COMMENTARY

NEWSBREAK

more people. However, as the road became more difficult, Rodriguez's automobile became stuck. The guerillas decided to free him, but they kept Pastor Cardona.

"No request for ransom has been made for his release," said Rojano. "We believe they are keeping him for an exchange or trade later."

Cardona, who pastors a church of 800 members in Uraba, is missed by his congregation, and church members throughout Colombia are saddened by his disappearance

Rojano explained that guerrilla groups continue to resort to kidnapping as a form of financing their war, and that, unfortunately, church members have been affected.

"The church at a national level is being cautious. Administrative leaders and directors at the union and fields are convinced that they cannot access certain conflict areas because of the dangerous situation. Pastors and members are urged to be cautious," said Rojano.

Adventist Representative Responds to Pope's Comments on Proposed European Constitution

Recent comments by the pope regarding the proposed European Constitution currently being drafted has brought a response from Jonathan Gallagher, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's representative to the United Nations.

Interviewed on December 2, Gallagher said that he understood the reasons for the Pope's call for religion to be acknowledged in the European Constitution, but believed that it was more important to speak about issues of religious freedom than religious heritage.

"The Pope's call for the Christian history of Europe to be referenced in the European Constitution is perhaps understandable from his perspective," commented Gallagher. "Europe has been greatly influenced by religious ideas. However, the most important aspect is religious freedom—which was all too frequently lacking in European history. We are convinced that the proposed European Constitution should contain clear and unambiguous guarantees of religious liberty, and that the rights of religious minorities should be fully respected. Freedom of conscience and worship are at the heart of any free and democratic society."

Recent statements by the Pope have called for "a clear reference to God and the Christian faith in the drafting of the European Constitution" and have said that "the specific identity and social role of the Churches and religious confessions must also be recognized and safeguarded."

"We believe that the roles of churches and of any faith community are best protected by an endorsement of reli-

For Your Good Health

Brown-bag Strategy

Kids tend to eat about two thirds of their school lunches. Most of what they eat is the entrée. And what they toss are the fruits and vegetables. Researchers suggest that parents reduce the size of the entrée or sandwich, and kids will be more likely to eat what's left—the apple and carrot sticks. And cut back on sweet treats, too. Kids want to eat these first.—American Academy of Pediatrics.

Hold the Hot Dogs

Men who eat high levels of processed meats, like hot dogs, luncheon meats, and sausages, are at a significantly higher risk of developing Type II diabetes. Researchers followed more than 42,000 men for 12 years. Men who ate processed meats at least five times per week were 46 percent more likely to develop diabetes over the course of the study.

Another study showed that processed meat consumption contributed to a 31 percent increase in the development of colorectal cancer.—Diabetes Care, International Journal of Cancer.

For Your Good Health is compiled at Vibrant Life, the church's health outreach journal. To subscribe, call 1-800-765-6955.

AWR Letter Box

Dear friends at AWR: "Your presentation of God's Word and practical lessons for day-to-day living are a great blessing. Please send me your publications as well as the correspondence course."—Protestant pastor, India.

"Since I do not know too much about Christianity, I hope you can send me some booklets, pamphlets, and a Bible so I can become better acquainted with this great religion. I hope this request will not disturb you because of the fact that I am a Muslim. Above everything else, we are brothers under God's care. I thank you for your programs, which drew my attention to things that I had never considered before."—Listener in the Middle East.

"I love your programs so much. I would like to know more about the truth you preach and then become one of you. Please send me any literature that can tell me more about God."—Listener in Ethiopia.

For more information about Adventist World Radio, write to: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600; call toll-free: 1-800-337-4297; e-mail: awrinfo@awr.org; or visit our Web site: www.awr.org.

NEWSBREAK

gious freedom and strict adherence to civil liberties and human rights," Gallagher concluded. "We look to the framers of the proposed European Constitution to ensure that such clear declarations of principle and purpose are a major item in this new statement of European identity."

Russian Religious Freedom Group Celebrates Ten Years

More than 100 religious leaders, scholars, and government officials gathered in Moscow in late November to celebrate 10 years of the Russian chapter of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA).

"It was impressive to see leaders of most religions in Russia present, such as the Orthodox, Baptists, Catholics, Jews, Protestants, and Muslims, all in favor of religious freedom," says John Graz, director for public affairs and religious liberty for the Adventist world church and secretary-general for the IRLA. "The IRLA Euro-Asia chapter has done outstanding work in 10 years for peace and understanding between religions in Euro-Asia."

While many government leaders in the Russian Federation have a better understanding of religious freedom now than they did 10 years ago, religious minorities still experience discrimination in various towns and cities. Participants and panel speakers all agreed to the

importance of promoting religious freedom in their various faith communities. Several members of the IRLA board serve on the Russian Presidential Commission on Religion, and they will continue to work with government officials to promote religious freedom for all its citizens.

News Notes

✓ A new, less invasive procedure designed to clear completely blocked arteries was performed for the first time in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area by doctors at Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park, Maryland. The new procedure was performed by Dr. David Brill, director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at the hospital.

"This procedure represents a great breakthrough in our ability to use a method other than open-heart surgery to successfully treat patients with a completely blocked artery," said Brill.

✓ The North American Division Women's Ministries Department has launched a new prayer ministry called Prayer Moments. Prayer requests may be sent via the internet at www.nadwm.org. Select contact us and then click on Prayer Requests.

Tiny Seeds of Faith

atthew, Mark, and Luke all mention the tiny mustard seed that grows into a tree. The mustard seed referred to in the Gospels is probably the black mustard. It grows wild in Palestine, and it is

sometimes cultivated for its seeds, which may be used as a condiment or ground up to produce oil. Some of the largest mustard plants may reach 12 feet in height and have sufficient strength to support birds. On a recent vacation I was reminded of this parable of the mustard seed when my wife, Linda, and I hiked miles of trails through the majestic forests of the Redwood National and State parks in the upper northwest corner of California.

Three redwood species are known to science. The dawn redwood is native to China. The other two species of redwood are found only on the West Coast of the United States. The giant sequoias are found only on the western slope of California's towering Sierra Nevadas. Taller and slimmer, the coast redwoods grow only in a narrow strip along the northern Pacific Coast of California and the southwestern tip of Oregon.

The redwoods are incredible to behold. Author John Steinbeck once wrote:

"The redwoods once seen, leave a mark or create a vision that stays with you always . . . from them comes silence and awe. The most irreverent of men, in the presence of redwoods, goes under a spell of wonder and respect."

The most massive living thing on planet Earth is the General Sherman, a giant sequoia found in central California's Sequoia National Park. This tree stands at nearly 275 feet and has a girth of 102.6 feet near its base. It is estimated to weigh 2,756 tons. The tallest of earth's trees are the coast redwoods, known to top out at nearly 368 feet, taller than the Statue of Liberty (305 feet from foundation for statue to tip of torch). The seeds of these behemoths are miniscule in comparison. The seeds of the giant sequoia are about the size of an oat flake, and according to the *Guinness Book of World Records* they weigh only 1/6,000th of an ounce. The coast redwoods grow from a seed the size of a tomato

seed, yet eventually they will tower into the sky and may weigh more than 500 tons.

Faith (as defined by my Bible dictionary) includes: "A confidence of heart and mind in God and His ways that

leads one to act in accordance with His sovereign will. This faith is not based upon a blind, unintelligent acquiescence, but upon a supreme trust in the ability and integrity of God. . . . Christ's righteousness becomes ours through faith in Him. The believer's faith in God enables the Lord to do miraculous things for him and through him. True faith cannot be passive, but manifests itself in works of righteousness."

"We have, moreover, a great priest set over the household of God; so let us make our approach in sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, our guilty hearts sprinkled clean, our bodies washed with pure water. Let us be firm and unswerving in the confession of our hope, for the Giver of the promise may be trusted" (Heb. 10:21-23).*

When we exercise our muscles regularly, they grow and become stronger. It is just the same with faith. We need to develop a strong, unshakable faith to see us through the trials that life throws at

us in a world that is writhing and reeling in sin. Jesus said, "I tell you this: if you have faith no bigger even than a mustard-seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there!' and it will move; nothing will prove impossible for you" (Matt. 17:20).

Let's plant our tiny seeds of faith. Let's allow God to work in us and through us so that our faith can grow—even to the size of one of His magnificent creations, the mighty redwood.

*Scripture references in this article are taken from The New English Bible.

Deryl R. Corbit is a cytologist practicing at Pathology Sciences Medical Group in Chico, California.



ADVENTIST TELEVISION

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EVEN PRIESTS AND PREACHERS



PRIEST

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PASTOR WALTER

Former Pentecostal Pastor

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PASTOR DAVID

Seventh-day Adventist Pastor "If it weren't for Seventh-day Adventist television, I'd probably still be an atheist."

PASTOR JOHN

Former Evangelical Pastor

"My mother encouraged me to watch Adventist television, and, as a result, I will soon be joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church!"

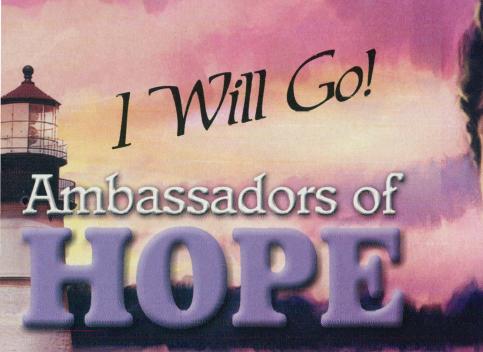
ADVENTIST TELEVISION is making a difference in the lives of millions. Each week over 2 million people watch Adventist television programming in nearly 6,000 cities across North America.

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The Quiet Hour www.thequiethour.org



Though often lacking money for essentials, Girly was able to complete high school because of a scholarship that paid for her books and tuition.

finances. Neither of my parents had a permanent, full-time job, so they could not support my studies. They were not able to support my high school expenses, so how could I hope that they could support my dreams of attending university where the expenses were far higher than high school? But I persisted in telling my mother that I wanted to go to university anyway.

One day my mother relayed to her boss how eager I was to go

to university. She also arranged for me to go to a priest who had contacts in the university's administration. Through his influence, the university decided that they could allow me to attend as a working student. I also received some help from my cousins, who had set up a "revolving fund" that was to be used by relatives interested in going to school. To my delight, I was able to enroll for the second semester.

The first job I had was to wash dishes in the school's cafeteria. Again, God knew what was best for me. By working in the cafeteria, I was allowed to have free meals, not only during my assigned schedule, but even after school hours. I had to wash dishes for almost four hours every day, five days a week. When I had exams, I would put my notebooks on top of the sink and study while I washed the dishes. Sometimes I was asked to buy ingredients at the market on my way to school. Early in the morning, I would make my purchases while trying to keep my school uniform clean. I would carry the bags of groceries in the "jeepney" that would always be filled with a lot of other students. I remember always hiding my hands between my knees because I felt embarrassed at how severely they were chapped. This was due to washing tons of dishes and having no lotion to put on to maintain the natural moisture in my skin.

Sometimes, when I ran out of pocket money for transportation, I had to find my cousin and ask him for money so that I could get to and from school. On one occasion, one of my classmates gave me a peso because I had no money to get home. (This classmate eventually became my loving husband.) Life was so tough. Yet God gave me the strength to do my work and to give my best at school.

I continued to see God's leading despite the closing

of the cafeteria where I worked. My second job was to help in the Registrar's office, where I met another set of caring people. Even though I no longer had access to free meals, these people were kind enough to share what they had for their lunch. I could only offer my fried, boiled, or sautéed egg again. (I know my story revolves around food, but when you are poor, the basic and most important necessity you need is food. When you have something to eat, you're already happy.)

After working for almost two years in the registrar's office, I was transferred to the guidance office. Here I was able to meet another loving person, who eventually became one of my sponsors in my wedding. She was incredibly supportive. She even gave me time to study whenever I had exams. God is just so good. He blessed my life with lots of caring individuals who shared with me what they had. Without these individuals, I wouldn't have been able to march in that gymnasium on graduation day where I received my Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree, with a major in accounting.

God is faithful in His promises to us. Jeremiah 29: 11 declares: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Today, God is still here in my life, in our lives. God is still working miracles for me. He has blessed me with a loving, understanding husband, and three lovely, thoughtful children. I have also been blessed with many more friends in Canada. He gave me the opportunity to work at ADRA and provided the chance to share the education I received to benefit others. ADRA is an organization that helps alleviate poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and brings a sense of hope to people.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, to our faithful supporters who are willing to be used by God to make a difference in the life of another individual, just like me. Thank you for sharing your food, your finances, your time, your talent, your blessings and especially your prayers for ADRA's work here and around the world. Together, we are making a difference...one

life at a time.

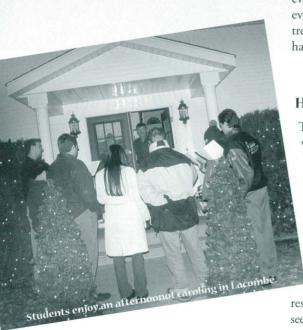
Girly knows that graduation from college was possible only through God's intervention in her circumstances.

Girly Quiambao manages Donor Relations at ADRA Canada.



Sharing Christmas cheer with children in need

by Tina Tilstra



s the fall semester winds down and students' thoughts oscillate between the drudgery of final exams and "home for the holidays" merriment, the CUC Student Association hosts its annual Big Brother/Big Sister Christmas party. Those who sign up to participate are assigned little buddies, often from homes in the community that have been designated as special need situations: single parent homes, low-income families, etc. Despite the thought of looming exams for the students, or less-thanperfect home environments for the children, the mood in the gym is festive and bright on this evening. A table of dazzlingly wrapped packages greets the children as they enter, imparting hopeful expectation of toys and games to take home with them. Activity options include a lively round of dodge ball, an energetic floor hockey match,

or just some much needed one-on-one interaction between the students and their little buddies. On the stage, Santa's elves are busy helping kids make gingerbread houses and candy-cane reindeer. Hugs and cuddles are plentiful, and the smiles on little faces provide evidence that the attention is well received. As the evening winds down and new friends gather for tasty treats and the presentation of gifts, all are happy to have taken time for the sharing of Christmas cheer.



Top: Ron Sydney gives hug to his little buddy.

Above: Students at SA sponsored Christmas party construct gingerbread houses with children.

Here we come a-caroling

old-fashioned jump rope,

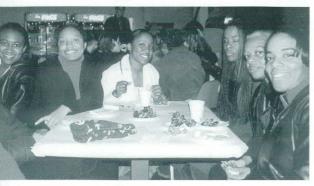
The air was frosty, but the melodies were warm and joyous, as Selfless Uncompromising Relentless Volunteers (SURV) hosted a Sabbath afternoon carol session this past December. The event gave students the chance to lift their voices in song and bring some holiday cheer to residents of the town of Lacombe. "That was beautiful... where are you from?" were the words repeated from one

resident's door to the next. Although a seemingly minor gesture, the opportunity

to represent CUC in this positive way was a small fulfillment of SURV's reason for existence: making a difference in the community through determined service to others.

A special evening of worship and fellowship

Friday night is always a greatly anticipated time to unwind, relax, and rejuvenate one's mind and spirit after the week's struggles and challenges. Never is this time for refocusing needed more than as students finish the last week of classes



Friends gather to relax and bring in the Sabbath at "Sycamore Tree" event.

for the semester and head into final exams. This year, students were not left disappointed as CUCs drama club presented a very uplifting and moving vespers program. An inspiring blend of songs, dramatic presentations and monologue portrayed the precious sacrifice that Jesus made when He descended to earth as a helpless baby. Following vespers, a lighthearted group gathered in the student lounge for an event entitled "Sycamore Tree"—a time for refreshments, songs, and fellowship to welcome in the Sabbath.

Drug awareness week

The campus organization CABL, Collegiate Adventists for Better Living, annually hosts an informative drug awareness week aimed at promoting the benefits of a healthy, positive, drug-free lifestyle. This year, a poignant reminder of the dangers of alcohol and driving was embodied in a twisted, mangled car wreck situated on the grounds in front of the administration building. Students drawn in by the display had opportunity to view compelling statistical evidence posted on the vehicle, concerning the atrocities of driving under the influence. Constable Steve Murray of the Lacombe Police Department delivered another effective message at Thursday morning's community worship. In his well-received presentation, Murray shared convincing facts about the importance of choosing the right friends, having fun without the need for alcohol or drugs, and being in charge of your life.

The world as our classroom

The possibilities for academic growth

and personal development in international settings just keep growing and growing. CUCs Division of Science will host a repeat trip for Tropical Field Biology and Cultural Anthropology students from April 21-May 12, 2003. Participants will have opportunity to earn

academic credit in either area while completing a study tour through Costa Rica and Honduras, Central America.

In addition, details of this coming summer's annual joint project between CUC and ADRA have been announced. Ten students and two faculty sponsors will take part in approximately six weeks of economic development work in Peru, South America. The project's focus will be on improved housing for high-risk Peruvian children and families. Sponsors DonnaLee Lehmann and Wesley Szamko will accompany volunteers Nancy Argueta, Sarah Bordenave, Chris Dubyna, Maribeth Galaites, James Hanson, Ryan Hodgins, Rosalee Knopp, JindaLee Lehmann, Angie Lindberg, Michael Quines, Brian Siebert and Daryl Switak. The trip takes place in May and June of 2003. Watch for reports on the group's experiences in future issues.

A Philosophy study tour of Egypt is also in the works for May 15-June 7, 2003. Participating students will receive credit for the course, Philosophy of Religion, by Dr. Tennyson Samraj.

The success of last summer's student evangelism efforts in Togo, West Africa, has prompted the planning of a second trip to Africa for the summer of 2003. Organizational meetings are now being held for an evangelistic outreach project in the country of Zimbabwe. This year's group hopes to expand the program to include such elements as children's ministry and music ministry. Participants will be given opportunity to receive pastoral practicum credit for their involvement.

Not to be forgotten, European study tours and archaeological expeditions to the Holy lands are regularly in the works for students who wish to gain firsthand knowledge in exciting, exotic locations.

Experiential education is a concept that is held in high regard at Canadian University College, producing the kind of learning that is truly momentous and often life-changing for those who partake.

CUC hosts creation science symposium

Dr. Benjamin L. Clausen from the Geoscience Research Institute in Loma Linda, CA, presented a weekend of explorations in science and religion issues, November 21-23, 2002. Clausen's featured topics included geology, physics, earth history, nature and time, and how evidences from each subject either conflicts or bears compatibility with our understanding of God.



Professor of mathematics announces retirement

Since 1989, Dr. Deva Doss has been

a dedicated educator and advocate of Christian learning at CUC. Recently, Dr. Doss announced that the 2002/03 academic year would be his last as a professor for this institution. Not surprisingly, for anyone who is familiar with his passions and interests, Dr. Doss's retirement plans do not include "taking life easy." This ardent promoter of personal evangelism intends to spend a great deal of his time presenting the Gospel to Tamils living in North America and Europe. Dr. Doss has been a valued member of our faculty and will be a hard individual to replace.

Canadian University College and, in particular, the Division of Science, wishes to express its sincere appreciation and best wishes to a gentleman who has served his school well.

Tina Tilstra is the assistant director of Admissions/Public Relations at Canadian University College.



Read the Bible in a Year Plan, March-June

MAR	CH			
Date	~	Morning	~	Evening
1		Mark 7:14-37		Numbers 23, 24, 25
2		Mark 8:1-21		Numbers 26, 27
3		Mark 8:22-38		Numbers 28, 29, 30
4		Mark 9:1-29		Numbers 31, 32, 33
5		Mark 9:30-50		Numbers 34, 35, 36
6		Mark 10:1-31		Deuteronomy 1, 2
7		Mark 10:32-52		Deuteronomy 3, 4
8		Mark 11:1-18		Deuteronomy 5, 6, 7
9		Mark 11:19-33		Deuteronomy 8, 9, 10
10		Mark 12:1-27		Deuteronomy 11, 12, 13
11		Mark 12:28-44		Deuteronomy 14, 15, 16
12		Mark 13:1-20		Deuteronomy 17, 18, 19
13		Mark 13:21-37		Deuteronomy 20, 21, 22
14		Mark 14:1-26		Deuteronomy 23, 24, 25
15		Mark 14:27-53		Deuteronomy 26, 27
16		Mark 14:54-72		Deuteronomy 28, 29
17		Mark 15:1-25		Deuteronomy 30, 31
18		Mark 15:26-47		Deuteronomy 32, 33, 34
19		Mark 16		Joshua 1, 2, 3
20		Luke 1:1-20		Joshua 4, 5, 6
21		Luke 1:21-38		Joshua 7, 8, 9
22		Luke 1:39-56		Joshua 10, 11, 12
23		Luke 1:57-80		Joshua 13, 14, 15
24		Luke 2:1-24		Joshua 16, 17, 18
25		Luke 2:25-52		Joshua 19, 20, 21
26		Luke 3		Joshua 22, 23, 24
27		Luke 4:1-30		Judges 1, 2, 3
28		Luke 4:31-44		Judges 4, 5, 6
29		Luke 5:1-16		Judges 7, 8
30		Luke 5:17-39		Judges 9, 10
31		Luke 6:1-26		Judges 11, 12

APRIL				
Date	~	Morning	~	Evening
1		Luke 6:27-49		Judges 13, 14, 15
2		Luke 7:1-30		Judges 16, 17, 18
3		Luke 7:31-50		Judges 19, 20, 21
4		Luke 8:1-25		Ruth 1, 2, 3, 4
5		Luke 8:26-56		I Samuel 1, 2, 3
6		Luke 9:1-17		I Samuel 4, 5, 6
7		Luke 9:18-36		I Samuel 7, 8, 9
8		Luke 9:37-62		I Samuel 10, 11, 12
9		Luke 10:1-24		I Samuel 13, 14
10		Luke 10:25-42		I Samuel 15, 16
11		Luke 11:1-28		I Samuel 17, 18
12		Luke 11:29-54		I Samuel 19, 20, 21
13		Luke 12:1-31		I Samuel 22, 23, 24
14		Luke 12:32-59		I Samuel 25, 26
15		Luke 13:1-22		I Samuel 27, 28, 29
16		Luke 13:23-35		I Samuel 30, 31
17		Luke 14:1-24		II Samuel 1, 2
18		Luke 14:25-35		II Samuel 3, 4, 5
19		Luke 15:1-10		II Samuel 6, 7, 8
20		Luke 15:11-32		II Samuel 9, 10, 11
21		Luke 16		II Samuel 12, 13
22		Luke 17:1-19		II Samuel 14, 15
23		Luke 17:20-37		II Samuel 16, 17, 18
24		Luke 18:1-23		II Samuel 19, 20
25		Luke 18:24-43		II Samuel 21, 22
26		Luke 19:1-27		II Samuel 23, 24
27		Luke 19:28-48		I Kings 1, 2
28		Luke 20:1-26		I Kings 3, 4, 5
29		Luke 20:27-47		I Kings 6, 7
30		Luke 21:1-19		I Kings 8, 9

Date	~	Morning	V	Evening
1		Luke 21:20-38		I Kings 10, 11
2		Luke 22:1-20		I Kings 12, 13
3		Luke 22:21-46		I Kings 14, 15
4		Luke 22:47-71		I Kings 16, 17, 18
5		Luke 23:1-25		I Kings 19, 20
6		Luke 23:26-56		I Kings 21, 22
7		Luke 24:1-35		II Kings 1, 2, 3
8		Luke 24:36-53		II Kings 4, 5, 6
9		John 1:1-28		II Kings 7, 8, 9
10		John 1:29-51		II Kings 10, 11, 12
11		John 2		II Kings 13, 14
12		John 3:1-18		II Kings 15, 16
13		John 3:19-38		II Kings 17, 18
14		John 4:1-30		II Kings 19, 20, 21
15		John 4:31-54		II Kings 22, 23
16		John 5:1-25		II Kings 24, 25
17		John 5:26-47		I Chronicles 1, 2, 3
18		John 6:1-21		I Chronicles 4, 5, 6
19		John 6:22-44		I Chronicles 7, 8, 9
20		John 6:45-71		I Chronicles 10, 11, 12
21		John 7:1-27		I Chronicles 13, 14, 15
22		John 7:28-53		I Chronicles 16, 17, 18
23		John 8:1-27		I Chronicles 19, 20, 21
24		John 8:28-59		I Chronicles 22, 23, 24
25		John 9:1-23		I Chronicles 25, 26, 27
26		John 9:24-41		I Chronicles 28, 29
27		John 10:1-23		II Chronicles 1, 2, 3
28		John 10:24-42		II Chronicles 4, 5, 6
29		John 11:1-29		II Chronicles 7, 8, 9
30		John 11:30-57		II Chronicles 10, 11, 12
31		John 12:1-26		II Chronicles 13, 14

JUNE Date	,	Morning	,	Evening
1		John 12:27-50		II Chronicles 15, 16
2		John 13:1-20		II Chronicles 17, 18
3		John 13:21-38		II Chronicles 19, 20
4		John 14		II Chronicles 21, 22
5		John 15		II Chronicles 23, 24
6		John 16		II Chronicles 25, 26, 27
7		John 17		II Chronicles 28, 29
8		John 18:1-18		II Chronicles 30, 31
9		John 18:19-40		II Chronicles 32, 33
10		John 19:1-22		II Chronicles 34, 35, 36
11		John 19:23-42		Ezra 1, 2
12		John 20		Ezra 3, 4, 5
13		John 21		Ezra 6, 7, 8
14		Acts 1		Ezra 9, 10
15		Acts 2:1-21		Nehemiah 1, 2, 3
16		Acts 2:22-47		Nehemiah 4, 5, 6
17		Acts 3		Nehemiah 7, 8, 9
18		Acts 4:1-22		Nehemiah 10, 11
19		Acts 4:23-37		Nehemiah 12, 13
20		Acts 5:1-21		Esther 1, 2
21		Acts 5:22-42		Esther 3, 4, 5
22		Acts 6		Esther 6, 7, 8
23		Acts 7:1-21		Esther 9, 10
24		Acts 7:22-43		Job 1, 2
25		Acts 7:44-60		Job 3, 4
26		Acts 8:1-25		Job 5, 6, 7
27		Acts 8:26-40		Job 8, 9, 10
28		Acts 9:1-21		Job 11, 12, 13
29		Acts 9:22-43		Job 14, 15, 16
30		Acts 10:1-23		Job 17, 18, 19

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Adventist In the News

Pastor Dave Jamieson was acknowledged in the Whos Who in Aldergrove column of the Aldergrove Star for his work in the community. The following was printed in the November 21, 2002 Aldergrove Star.



David Jamieson—Pastor **Believes in Community**

Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, David Jamieson has been pastor at the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist church for the past

15 months. Married to Shandra, the couple has two daughters and two sons. All of the children are or will be attending Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Aldergrove, B.C.

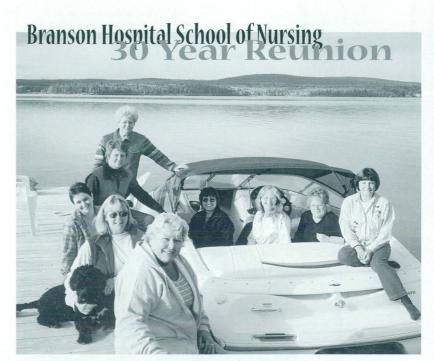
Jamieson graduated with his Masters degree from Andrew's University, an Adventist institution in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and has been in the ministry for 17 years now. He's preparing to begin his doctoral studies in January. His ministry has taken his family to all parts of Canada and he was elevated to president of the SDA Church in Newfoundland before coming here last year.

Jamieson is a hockey fan and played quite a bit in his youth. He coaches the academy students in hockey at Aldergrove Arena every week.

"We love it here even with all the rain we've had," said Jamieson. "We get a lot in Newfoundland, too, but not all of it on the same day like we get it here!"

Jamieson is involved with various worthwhile community projects spearheaded by the Aldergrove church. "I started an interdenominational food bank back home in 1990 that is still going today. I believe in being involved, in helping where we're needed."

The church's current project is organizing the inter-denominational Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child in the region, which is delivering more than 17,000 boxes of gifts to Third World children.



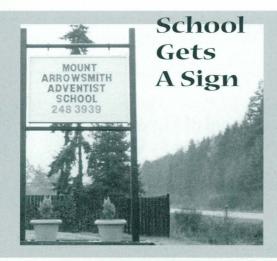
From back to front: Wendy Erickson (Wiwchar), Darlene Rachul, Gladys Sukow (Nichols), Joan Klam (Laing), Liz Chamberlain (Knight). In Boat, from left: Mary Yakelashek (Koziol), Marion Betz (Covey), Barb Willinger, Joann Weir (Frostad).

On the weekend of September 20-23, 2002, nine graduates of the class of 1972 gathered at Green Lake, B.C. They spent many enjoyable hours reminiscing while they hiked, boated, 4-wheeled, and devoured delicious food. The group had a great time sharing their experiences and telling humourous stories around a huge campfire. It was a wonderful experience to reconnect with long-time friends in God's great outdoors.

Double Blessings at Nanaimo and Port Alberni Churches

At the beginning of October, Nanaimo and Port Alberni church members welcomed their new pastor, David Baker and his wife Marie. A few weeks later, a beautiful baby girl, Shannah Marie, arrived. The church families are excited about watching both churches and baby Shannah grow.

Care and affection for dependent children removes the roughness from our natures, makes us tender and sympathetic, and has an influence to develop the nobler elements of our character (The Adventist Home, p 160).



After more than 30 years, Mt. Arrowsmith Adventist School in Parksville on Vancouver Island finally purchased a proper sign. All these years, people have passed by the school not knowing that the school existed. There have already been inquiries about enrolment due to the sign. The next plan is a graphics design above the main sign so the main section can be used to advertise.

Volunteers on the Job



Vancouver Island volunteers (from left) Lily Craiger and Maggie Godin from the Sidney church, and Kathleen Piper from the Victoria church, take turns at manning the Adventist booth during the Saanich Fair held on the Labour Day weekend in September 2002.



Pastors Are Appreciated Too

In recognition of Clergy Appreciation Month, the members of the Victoria church presented the Silva pastoral family with a basket of fruit and gifts for the children, Daniella and Lucas, on October 5. A small token to people who give so much in service.

A Joyous Moment



The happy face of Mark Barnhart signifies the joy felt as he was baptized on May 18, 2002 at the Prince George church by Pastor Normand Cote. ■

High Day at Vanderhoof



August 24, 2002 was a high day for the members of the Vanderhoof church as Pearl Mathew and Jason Hamerberg, two aboriginals from the Lakes District area, and Jay Van Koughnett of Vanderhoof were baptized by Pastor Normand Cote. Forty-five guests from the two churches witnessed this special event and were pleased to welcome these individuals into membership.

Stewart Church Baptism

Members of the Stewart church celebrated the baptism of two special young people, Luke Edgson and Braeden Shipowick, on June 22, 2002. From left: Pastor Paul Antunes, Luke Edgson, Braeden Shipowick, Pastor Ron Johnson.



ALBERTA

What's New In Yellowknife?



Dave and Ida Harris

On August 24, 2002, the Yellowknife church members looked on as David and Ida Harris exchanged wedding vows. This moment was especially poignant as the ceremony was preceded by their dual baptism into the Yellowknife congregation.

On Thanksgiving Sabbath, the congregation celebrated Clergy Appreciation Day and presented their pastor, Clarence Colp, with a

poem written by church member Carol-Rose Carlson in recognition of the tremendous sacrifice and stamina it takes to be a northern pastor.

Many of the members are getting together on Sabbath afternoons to sing and make music together in the newly formed Praise Group. There is much excitement among the younger members who are learning from their elders. The Yellowknife church family are grateful to the Praise Group for helping them all make a joyful noise.

A newly formed Junior's class, an up-coming Breathe-Free program, health and cooking classes all indicate the action and growth that is being experienced at the Yellowknife church. More heart-warming and



Yellowknife congregation

Spirit-filled progress is anticipated under the direction and guidance of the Colps. ■

Carol-Rose Carlson

Asian Association Retreat to Foothills

Members of the Alberta Adventist Asian Association met at the Foothills Camp at Bowden for their annual retreat September 13-15, 2002. A wonderful spiritual blessing was experienced as Dr. Tennyson Samraj delivered his message at vespers and Pastor Ed Beck was the speaker at the Sabbath service. Dr. Paul Ramalingam discussed the Sabbath School lesson for the day. An afternoon panel discussion was moderated by Eric Rajah with John Sipkens, Ed Beck, and Art Robinson reminiscing about the work in Sri Lanka.



Visitors attended from Washington, D.C., Oregon, Arizona, Washington and California.

The next retreat will be held June 27-29, 2003 at Camp Kuriakos at Sylvan Lake. For more information, call Ignatius Rajah at 403/342-6840 or email irajah@shaw.ca.

Reach Out For Life In Hobbema

A 23-night "Reach Out for Life" seminar was held from Sept. 18 to Oct. 19, 2002 for the native people of the four reserves of Hobbema, Alta. Thirty-eight non-Adventists registered and many more dropped by to hear the advertised subjects that interested them.

A Bible was offered to anyone at least 10 years of age who attended a minimum of 10 nights, and 11 attendees received Bibles. For anyone in the same category who attended a minimum of 20 nights, a gift of *The Messiah*, an updated language edition of *The Desire of Ages* was made and six were given out.

Everyone who came the first time received a poster "Going Home" and a copy of *Steps to Jesus*, an updated language edition of *Steps To Christ*. Throughout the series, handouts dealing with testing truths and books such as *Cosmic Conflict*, *A Day To Remember*, *David Dare*, and *The Bible Speaks* were provided for any and all who were interested. People hungrily collected the material.

Almost every evening, Dr. Ray Hetland, a local physician, presented a health nugget at the beginning of the program. Many people seemed as interested in his message as in the Biblical messages by Pastor Frank Johnson.

Each night, Bob Spratt, elder of the Maskwachees church, filled a 12-passenger van, sometimes more than once, for those attendees who need transportation.



Most of the people who attended the last night of the series.

As a result of a number of decisions for baptism, preparations for a baptism are currently being planned for the near future.

"When can we do this again?" was an oft-repeated question as the series drew to an end. Plans are underway to provide further outreach on a one-night-a-week basis in the near future.

Yvonne Johnson

Sedgewick Church Homecoming

Over 200 people gathered at the Sedgewick church on a sunny October 12, 2002 for its 50th anniversary homecoming which drew people from as far away as California, Michigan and Washington.

Gary Schwarz, who was pastor of the church 50 years ago when it was organized, preached the morning sermon "Born Again."



Anderson and Grovet family members enacting an early home Sabbath School.

In the afternoon, a program highlighting the beginnings and continuing history of the church was presented along with musical numbers. Descendants of the Anderson and Grovet families, which formed the nucleus that became the church in 1952, presented a skit portraying a home Sabbath School such as the two families originally held. ■

Glen Carley

ONTARIO

New Assistant Education Superintendent



Francis Lowry-Schander

On January 1, 2003, Francis Lowry-Schander joined the Ontario Conference as the Assistant Education Superintendent.

Francis is a recent Andrews University Ph.D. graduate in Education, Curriculum and

Instruction with an emphasis on teaching students with learning disabilities. Part of her course work included work at the University of Toronto and Landmark College in Vermont.

Her teaching experience has taken her to Pittsburgh, Pa, Sandy Lake Academy in Nova Scotia, Lake Michigan College in Niles, Mich., and most recently at the Grade Expectations Learning Centre in Thornhill, Ont. There she was involved with planning and implementing educational programs, doing academic assessments and placements, and hiring and supervising teachers.

Her varied work experience included administering and interpreting a variety of tests, tutoring, teaching deaf students at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf, writing middle school level English courses for Home Study International and serving as a Canadian consultant for Seventh-day Adventist elementary readers. She is a member of the International Dyslexia Association and the Ontario College of Teachers.

At her home church of Willowdale in Toronto, her musical talents and being the wife of the senior pastor, Ken Schander, are much appreciated. We are pleased to introduce and welcome her to the Ontario constituency.

"Miracle" Church Dedicates Building to the Glory of God

The Toronto Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the "miracle" at Attwell Street. During the weekend of November 16, 2002, members dedicated their church building to the glory of God. This facility is valued at \$500,000 and was constructed through a lot of communal service and donations.

On November 16, the congregation enthusiastically sang the words, "This is my story, this is my song" from the hymn *Blessed Assurance* as the mortgage papers on the church building were burned and turned to ashes. As a tradition, the mortgage burning took place after the building phase history of the church (1995–present) had been read. In part it read, "the Ghanaian Church understood the building phase to involve not only the acquisition of physical structures, but the building of the corporate entity as well."



Two members of the congregation, Kofi and Julie, perform the traditional burning of the mortgage of the Toronto Ghanaian church while the church treasurer, Kwaku looks on approvingly.

The dedication ceremony was officiated by Derrick Nichols, president of the Ontario Conference and Jacob Hiebert, executive secretary of the Ontario Conference. In his sermon, Elder Nichols described the Toronto Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Church as a miracle church and said, "In six years you have paid off your mortgage. This is not by your power but by God's spirit." He also referred to the large number of youth in the church and predicted that the congregation has a great future. He admonished the youth to stay close to God, thus making the future of the church secure. Speaking on Matthew 16:18, Elder Nichols stressed that God's church is

built on no other foundation than Jesus Himself who is the cornerstone of God's church. He then advised "no one can fit into the building (the church) without Jesus." He also used the architectural metaphor by the Apostle Paul to emphasize unity among church members. He pointed out that "diversity doesn't cause disunity but rather it should bring unity." He admonished all members of the church, despite their different educational, financial and social backgrounds to be seen working together for the purpose of unity. "The community must be attracted by the humility of those who make up the church," Elder Nichols concluded. He then performed the Act of Dedication. Elder Hiebert offered the prayer of dedication and asked for God's blessings upon the church and it's mission in this world.

Many friends, well wishers and representatives from sister churches in New York; New Jersey; Chicago; Illinois; Washington, D.C.; Berrien Springs, Michigan; New England and Ohio attended the function. Also, in attendance with their melodious voices were the choristers of our sister Malton church. We praise God for making this special occasion possible.

Joe Kingsley Eyiah, Toronto Ghanaian church

New Pastor at Agape Temple



The new pastor for the Agape Temple church in Pickering is Eustace C. Williams. Along with his wife Marcia, they have come from the West Edmonton church in Alberta. Previously, he has pastured in the Central Jamaican Conference.

Pastor Williams has been active with evangelism and raising up of several new congregations. He enjoys reading and writing. He is a graduate of Andrews University with M.A. degrees in Family Life and Religion. Marcia is a recent graduate with a B.Sc. N. from the University of Alberta and is a registered nurse.

We welcome them and their three children, Melissa, Nimal, and Marlon to the Ontario Conference. ■

Stewardship Training Program Receives Award

The Stewardship training programs in the Seventhday Adventist Church in Canada received the 2003 "Outstanding Stewardship Education Award" from the Christian Stewardship Association at its annual meeting in late January.

Dr. Scott Preissler, president of the association, described it as the highest association-wide education award. "Your impressive education program and numerous books and materials put your denomination out front as a stewardship education leader." The Adventist church was chosen from among many nominations.

G. Edward Reid, Stewardship Director for the North American Division, received the award from Preissler. "Adventists take stewardship very seriously. It's not really about raising money for the denomination; it's about helping people develop a stronger relationship with Jesus."

The Christian Stewardship Association is extending its certification to every Adventist stewardship leader who has completed the church's certification program. "They believe our program prepares stewardship leaders better than any other, so they've said all Adventists can be certified." Reid said.

Kermit Netteburg, NAD Communication Director

SCHEDULES

■ The Quiet Hour

Windows of Hope, **Feb. 3**—"Unforgettable Forgiveness"; **Feb. 10**—"The Best of Friends"; **Feb. 17**—"Jesus the Revolutionary"; **Feb. 24**—"Strength at Your Weakest."

Website: www.thequiethour.org

■ Voice of Prophecy

Week of **Feb. 2-7**—Sun: 'Getting the Goods'; Mon-Fri: 'A Free Extra Decade of Life-1'; **Feb. 9-14**—Sun: '1 Corinthians: How to Grow a Church'; Mon-Fri: 'A Free Extra Decade of Life-2'; **Feb. 16-21**—Sun: 'How to Stay Found'; Mon-Fri: 'A Free Extra Decade of Life-3'; **Feb. 23-28**—Sun: '2 Corinthians: United We Stand'; Mon-Fri: 'A Free Extra Decade of Life-4."

Website: www.vop.com

3 A B N

3ABN LIVE Programs Thursdays, 8-10, CT. **Feb. 6**—Kay Kuzma; **Feb. 13**—Southern Univ. on Location; **Feb. 20**—Cheri Peters, True Step Ministries; **Feb. 27**—Howard Lyman, "Mad Cow in a Mad World."

Website: www.3abn.org

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Announcements

Canadian University College/ Parkview Adventist Academy Alumni Association welcomes all alumni and friends to attend a "CUC/PAA Evening" of food, news, reminiscing and fellowship. We will be meeting in the spring of 2003 as follows: March 27-Aldergrove, BC; March 29-Kelowna, BC; April 6—Port Hardy, B.C.; April 12-Williams Lake, BC; May 10—Calgary, Alta.; May 24—Saskatoon, Sask. Mark your calendar and watch your church bulletin for further details. For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at CUC/PAA at 800/661-8129, press 8 or email alumni@cauc.ca.

The Meadowvale church in Mississauga is attempting to locate the following individuals: Martines Lourdes; Bryan, Laura, and Kathleen McBurney; Monica Lynn McCaloon; Melanie McNeil; Norma Miller; Susan and Yvonne De Asis; Edmarine Gardner; J. Campbell; Judy Clegg; and Nichola Cornish. Anyone having any information concerning any of these individuals is asked to contact Pastor Nephtaly Dorzilme, 16 Falconer Dr., Mississauga, ON L5N 3M1, or phone 905/821-9149.

Kingsway College Alumni will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the school during Alumni Weekend May 2-4, 2003. You won't want to miss this opportunity to renew friendships and to make new ones. For information on programming, rental cars and motel rates, or to register and receive a ticket for the banquet, please check www.kingswaycollege.on.ca/alumni. htm, or contact Wally Wasyliuk, Director of Alumni Affairs, Kingsway College, 1200 Leland Rd., Oshawa, ON L1K 2H4, email wasyliukw@kingswaycollege.on.ca, or phone 905/433-1144. (2/03)

Missing members: The Fredericton Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following members who have moved away. Christel Donnelly, Grace Emojong, Ann Jobe, Marie Mai Maillet, Marjorie McFarlane, Michel Norbert Morin, Oratile Pilane, Sensetsa Pilane Tamaklo, Robert Watson. Please contact Hope Ravelo, Clerk, Fredericton SDA Church, 870 Grandame St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3Z8.

Births

Nadia Mercedes Sabot was born

June 18, 2002, to Philippe and Denean (Culmore) Sabot of Oshawa, Ont.

Jaedyn Townsley was born June 27, 2002, to Jamie and Melissa Townsley of Stoney Creek, Ont.

Katherine (Katie) Sharon Rose Worden was born Oct. 20, 2002, to Mark and Sharon (Oakley) Worden of St. John's, NL.

Renee Sophia Joyce Yamniuk was born Sept. 19, 2002, to Harry and Stephanie (Landing) Yamniuk.

Weddings

Janelle Steinke of Alberta and Brian Sullivan of Nova Scotia were married Aug. 5, 2002, and are making their home in Calgary, Alta. Janelle is the daughter of Terry and Linda Steinke, and Brian is the son of Hap and Chrissie Sullivan and Sara and John MacLean.

Obituaries

Eva Ella Agnes (Helmer)

Anderson was born Apr. 13, 1918, in Lacombe, Alta., and died Oct. 2, 2002, in Lacombe. Eva contributed to her church through her many years of participation in the Dorcas Society. She was predeceased by her husband, Ted. Surviving: sons Jack (Irene) of Edmonton, Alta., and Bill (Devona) of Dixonville, Alta.; daughters Carol (Stanley) Wong of Clive, Alta., and Connie (Loren) Whitecotton of Cherryville, B.C.; sister Evelyn Thompson of Abbotsford, B.C.; 10 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Richard Childers was born Sept. 18, 1926, in Oyen, Alta., and died Nov. 1, 2002, in Lacombe, Alta. He was predeceased by his brothers Robert and Lloyd, and his sisters Ethel, Louise, and Rose. Surviving: wife Nancy; son Ward (Sharleen); brother Bill; sisters Elsie, Bertha, Betty and Nancy Lee; and two grandchildren.

Charles Cooper of Lacombe, Alta., died Nov. 12, 2002, at the age of 91 years. Surviving: wife Violet; sons Stan (Connie) of Delta, B.C., Lowell (Rae Lee) of Silver Spring, Md., and Des (Trudi) of Lacombe; daughters Karen (Brian) Hawes of Lacombe, and Kathy (Lee) Patterson of Williams Lake, B.C.; nine grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren.

Ida Faye (Konschuh) Dick was born Oct. 26, 1917, in Fox Valley, Sask., and died Oct. 11, 2002, in Brooks, Alta. Surviving: husband Reuben; sons Ted of Calgary, Alta., and Dennis of Gwynne, Alta.; daughters Faye Lewis of Portland, Ore., Lorna Dysart of Okotoks, Alta., and Cheryl Dick of Lethbridge, Alta.; brothers Stan Konschuh of Cluny, Alta., and Harry Konschuh of Ann Arbor, Mich.; sisters Viola Steinke of Leduc, Alta., Edna McKee of Vista, Calif., Evelyn Gish of Calgary, and Mildred White of Redding, Calif.; 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren

George M. Morgan was born Sept. 21, 1931, in St. John's, Nfld., and died Oct. 7, 2002, in St. John's. George contributed to his church in many ways serving as a treasurer, Sabbath School teacher, elder, local church historian, and as a committee member on the school board and conference committee. Surviving: wife Bernice; son Greg of Vancouver, B.C.; daughters Jackie (Andy) Rush of Kingston, Ont., and Jennifer Morgan of St. John's; brothers Donald (Joan) Morgan of St. John's, and Jerry Morgan of Ooltewah, Tenn.; sisters Violet (Don) Baird of Oakville, Ont., and Ruth (Bob) Garren of McDonald, Tenn.; and two grandchildren.

Fred H. Oakley was born Apr. 22, 1922, in St. John's, Nfld., and died Sept. 6, 2002, in St. John's. Survivings wife Bridget; sons Frederick of Alberta and George of St. John's; daughter Sharon (Mark) Worden of St. John's; brother Alex Oakley of Ontario; sisters Anne Fedely of Pennsylvania, and Sophie (John) MacKenzie of Brantford, Ont.; and three grandchildren.

John Brian Lionel Reim was born Oct. 31, 1912, in Montreal, Que., and died Oct. 29, 2002, in Thornhill, Ont. Surviving: wife Thelma; son Mark (Kathryn Sawers) of Insch, Scotland; daughters Faith (Cary) Sprengel of Thornhill, and Dawn (Ted) Kirkby of Seeleys Bay, Ont.; brother Garth of Penticton, B.C.; and seven grandchildren.

Christine Rexin was born Aug. 27, 1909, in Leduc, Alta., and died Nov. 23, 2002, in Kelowna, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband, Daniel, and her son, Elgin. Surviving: son Vern Teed of Peoria, Alta.; daughter Eileen (Mel) Steinke of Rock Creek, B.C.

Dorothy Turpin was born Mar. 13, 1913, in Oshawa, Ont., and died June 15, 2002. Dorothy served her church as a pianist and organist for almost 50 years. She was predeceased by her husband, Elmer, and her daughter, Barbara. Surviving:

daughters Rosemary Carley of Ocaee, Fla., and Jean Lewis of Maberly, Ont.; seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one greatgreat-grandchild.

Lucille Wellington was born June 14, 1930, in St. Mary's Jamaica, and died July 9, 2002, in Hamilton, Ont. Surviving: husband Neville; son Renville (Camille) of Toronto, Ont.; daughters Megan (Louis) Thomas of Jamaica, Audrey (Richard) Shields of Hamilton, and Sonia Dell (Wendell) Noel of Toronto; two brothers; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

Lillian Wright was born Feb. 2, 1931, in Maryhome, Sask., and died Oct. 17, 2002, in Edmonton, Alta. Surviving: daughters Carol Ann (Blair) Wright of Edmonton, Gaile Pauline Winterton of Vancouver, B.C., and Vivian Lee Wright of Edmonton; brother Fred Burletoff of Red Deer, Alta.

Victor Velickovich was born in 1923 in Serbia, and died Aug. 7, 2002, in Stoney Creek, Ont. Surviving: wife Mary; son Danny Macesic (Janie); and three grand-children.

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Union College seeks to fill tenure track position with qualified Adventist nursing instructor beginning summer 2003. Experience in Fundamentals and Medical/Surgical Nursing desirable, MSN required, and teaching experience preferred. Submit résumé to Jeff Joiner, Nursing Program Director, Union College, 3800 South 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506. Email jejoiner@ucollege.edu. (3/03)

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Union College seeks program director to lead/teach in Bachelor of Social Work program beginning summer 2003. Must have a MSW, with PhD preferred, minimum of two years post MSW experience, leadership skills. Preference given for community organization and macro skills expertise. Contact Dr. Joe Allison, Chair Human Development, 402/486-2522. Email joallison@ucollege.edu. (3/03)

Take the bus to the Oakwood College graduation, May 9-11, 2003. The bus will leave 243 Perth Ave., Thursday, May 8 at 7 p.m. Please call 416/283-9386. (2/03)

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Union College seeks Adventist instrumental music professor for tenure track position: directing band, ensembles, and orchestra. Other duties may include teaching sight-singing and ear training, or music history. MM or MME required with DMA or PhD preferred. Three years teaching experience preferred. Send vita by March 1 to Dan Lynn, Fine Arts Chair, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506. Email dalynn@ucollege.edu or call 402/486-2600, ext. 2333. (2/03)

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20 hospitals located in CA, HI, OR, WA

For opportunities, contact:

Management/Executives

Leonard Yost, Director Employee Recruitment (916) 774-3355

Physicians

Ingrid Heil, Director Physician Services (916) 781-4684

Fax CV's or Resumes to (916) 774-3390

All Other Jobs www.adventisthealth.org

Conference. Benefits include: a round-trip ticket for those that serve a full year, housing, utilities, insurance, and a stipend. For more information, contact Ray James, 40 Pleasant Dr., Sutter Creek, CA 95685. Email jamegr@cdepot.net, phone 209/267-0416, fax 209/267-0342. (4/03)

Canadian University College invites applications for the full-time position of Director of

Counseling and Guidance. Applicants should have an advanced degree in counseling or related field. Duties include, but are not limited to, managing the Student Success Centre, counseling services, testing/ assessment/evaluation services, career planning, tutorials, resume writing/guidance and making referrals to community agencies. Part-time applicants, on an individual contract basis, will be considered until a full-time person is hired. Send curriculum vitae and reference information to Diane Pearson, VP for Student Services, 235 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5; 403/782-3381, ext. 4033; dpearson@cauc.ca; fax 403/782-3285. (2/03)

Caribbean cruise, November 2003: Join with other Adventists cruising the sunny Caribbean and visiting exotic islands on the world's only non-smoking ship, "The Paradise." Over 60% of space is gone—don't hesitate. Nov 23, 2003 (7 days). Call Carl/Cindy, Bayview Travel, 416/223-3344. Fax 416/223-3278, email bayview@connection.com. (4/03)

Full-time, year-round, reliable individual to work with us on large grain farm with seed cleaning operation four miles west of Winnipeg. Must be spiritually

and mechanically inclined, have agricultural experience, with good management and personal skills. Class 1 license essential. Salary based on experience. Call Lynden at 204/467-9081. (2/03)

Tour Pro presents an exciting bus trip. You cannot afford to miss this one. Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. A tremendous place to learn of how God led and blessed the early Seventh-day Adventists. When: Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2003. Bus will leave 243 Perth Ave., Friday, Aug. 29 at 7 a.m. For further information, please call Dillon Stennett at 416/283-9386. (2/03)



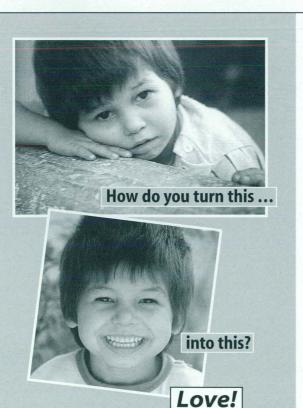
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FRIDAY, MARCH 21 - ON YOUR OWN

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 - THE MEANING OF THE CROSS SUNDAY, MARCH 23 - IT IS FINISHED

TUESDAY, MARCH 25 - GOD STILL MOVES STONES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 - AN ADVANCE ON ETERNITY

FRIDAY, MARCH 28 - A FRESH BREATH OF HOPE

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 - THE BEST IS YET TO COME

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