

canadian adventist

# Messenger

march 2008

## MEETING THE CRISIS IN KENYA

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*"In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God."*

John 1:1

## What's the Word?

When I was a kid, my best friend, Stephanie, and I used to sit together on the floor of my living room on Friday nights and read the dictionary. We did it in spite of the fact that her brother and my sister and her parents and my parents never, ever tired of telling us that we were "weird" to be thus occupied. Why did we continue to pour over the tomes week after week? The obvious answer is the correct one . . .

I love words. Always have. I love the sound some of them make in my ear. I love the way some of them feel in my mouth. I love the tiny nuances that make one a better choice than another in a particular circumstance. I love stringing several of them together, creating a cadence that in itself communicates. But mostly, I love what words do: teach, move, create, reveal.

Given this confession, it will come as no surprise that when John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"—well, that captures my attention. Of all the metaphors to describe Jesus, this one is, I believe, the least appreciated and the least understood. Even I, in spite of my love affair with language, am completely boggled and am only beginning to understand small pieces of the analogy. What I've got a handle on so far only serves to remind me that there is much more to think through.

For instance, it can be said that figuring Jesus as 'word' is apt in that Jesus' function and the function of a word are similar. But are they? I said that, among other things, words teach, move, create and reveal. And they do. And Jesus does. But words also bond people together and tear us apart. They simultaneously heal and wound. They bring both happiness and sadness, love and hate. Words help us express our feelings, but sometimes words get in the way of our expression.

How can all of this relate to Jesus?

Something that really resonates within me most as I devote time and brainpower trying to figure out all of this is Oxford's definition of word: "a principal carrier of meaning." When I read that and relate it back to what I know of Jesus, something inside me says, "Ah!" I haven't yet put my finger on it; I cannot yet confidently deliver the nugget of truth that would sum up the analogy. But I sense an answer forming somewhere in the back of my mind.

The Principal Carrier of Meaning—what so many people long for—He "became flesh and dwelt among us." ■

*Crystal*

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*Messenger*

March 2008 Vol. 77 No. 3

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The Canadian Adventist Messenger—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$10.00. Printed by Maracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press.



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### Deadlines

June issue	April 1
July issue	May 1
August issue	June 2

>> View this issue online at [www.sdacc.org/messenger](http://www.sdacc.org/messenger)

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Messenger subscriptions, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.



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March 2008



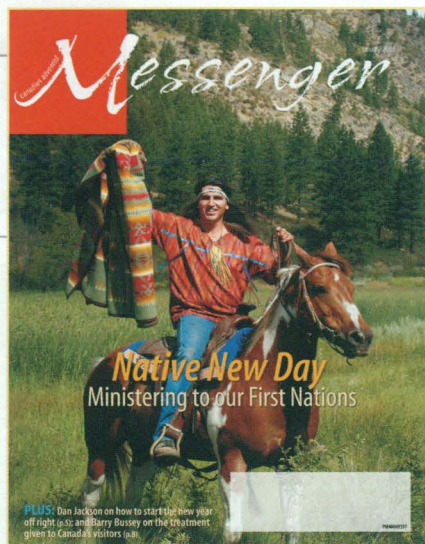
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# Your Words

“Thank you for your ministry, and keep up the excellent work. May God continue to multiply your talents and bless your efforts in order to revive and unify His people throughout Canada.”

## RE: “God and Graceland,” Editorial, January 2008

Being a “closet” Elvis fan myself, I was delighted to read “God and Graceland” in the *Messenger*. The analogy to the church and the Christian’s relationship to Christ was good.

I also appreciate the articles on environmental issues, especially when authored by young people (e.g. Chad Kettner).

Keep up the great work!

—Joyce V., Lacombe, Alta.

I was truly amazed and appalled by your eulogy of Elvis “the Pelvis” Presley. For someone who occupies a responsible position in our church, that is truly a disgrace. Even a man of the entertainment world, Ed Sullivan, was reluctant to put Presley on his show when Presley was at the height of popularity. When he did have him on his show, he only showed him from his waist up because of the sensual gyrations of his hips. Yet you indirectly compared Presley to Jesus in His humanity. What blasphemy! Presley corrupted millions of young people by his sensual performances, robbing them of the eternal home that Jesus died to procure for them. Do you think he should be eulogized for his service to the prince of darkness? Heaven forbid!

—Floyd S., via email

## RE: January issue

A few months ago I swore I wouldn’t, but . . . I am writing again.

Two articles in the January *Messenger* bothered me. The editorial with the Elvis story and “Tasered by Canada.” The former tended to idolize Elvis; the latter was based on a one-sided, slanted view of the Dziekanski problem. Admittedly, the lessons they presented were very good, but the feelings left by the examples did not elevate me a single notch heavenward.

—Caesar N., Ponoka, Alta.

## RE: “Messy Christianity” Teentalk, January 2008

I have to say that Pastor Sanchez really missed the mark with his reply to the young person who was concerned because she is not praying enough, seldom reading her Bible and not sharing her faith enough. His answer did not even address this young person’s concern. Jesus does love her and wants to spend time with her daily. Going to bed earlier and getting up an hour early to spend time with God will help her to grow as a Christian. It will help her to have the strength to overcome when she is tempted and will also give her something to share with others because of the blessings that she will receive and the growth that is happening in her life.

Yes, Paul talks about his battles with temptation and speaks of himself as a

wretched man, but he goes on to say that it is Jesus who delivers him. In Ephesians 6:10-18, he makes it very plain that we need to have on our spiritual armour in order to win the very real battle that we are in here on this earth, and prayer and Bible study are indispensable parts of this armour.

There is no way that Jesus will be able to use us to bless others if we are spending very little time with Him because we will be spiritually starving. If I see a young Christian person who is not spending time with God in prayer and Bible study, I hope that I would love her enough to encourage her to do what I know will bring her blessings and strength to meet the trials we all face daily and help her to become like Jesus, which is what happens when we spend time with Him.

Pastor Sanchez says that Jesus is much more interested in developing a relationship with us than in measuring us on some spiritual scale. A deep, meaningful relationship with someone is only developed by spending time with him and really getting to know him. I develop my relationship with Jesus by spending time with Him daily and of course that is done in prayer and Bible study.

Prayer and Bible study are imperative for Christians and so is witnessing. They are the same to us spiritually as air, food and exercise are to us physically.

—Therese R., London, Ont.



## RE: Appreciation and Encouragement

I must confess that when I first heard that Carolyn Willis was retiring as the editor of this vital communication instrument of our Church in Canada, I was somewhat apprehensive as to what the magazine might become. I had been so blessed by the God-focussed changes that she brought and implemented during her tenure that, in my own mind, I questioned whether or not it was even possible to improve upon what the journal had become by her retirement.

Forgive me for even thinking that the same Spirit that inspired her to improve and refine the the *Messenger* might be absent from her successor! You ladies are truly doing the work of the Lord in consistently producing a Spirit-inspired printed product of excellence,

which literally breathes new life into its many, many readers each month. Tammie Burak, Chad Kettner, Josue Sanchez, Barry Bussey, and the other articles are relevant, timely, and inspiring. Indeed, the entire magazine is one of information, education and inspiration.

I have been so blessed by Crystal's beautiful opening comments (especially the "snow appointment" and its imagery, which brought tears to my eyes, and the "Graceland" visit, as I too am a fan of Elvis' spiritual recordings, and believe he was a deeply conflicted and misunderstood man).

Having read (and re-read and re-read and saved the page!) Lori's "In My Father's Field" poem, I rejoice that people of your skill are dedicating time and talent to the Lord to produce this fine journal.

Thank you for your ministry, and keep up the excellent work. May God continue to multiply your talents and bless your efforts in order to revive and unify His people throughout Canada to prepare the harvest for His soon coming.

— Archie P., Oshawa, Ont.

E-mail comments to [cholloway@sdacc.org](mailto:cholloway@sdacc.org) or mail them to Editor, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8. Be sure to include your name, contact information, and the name and date of the article(s) you are referencing. 200 words maximum. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Not all letters will be published.

## Questions & Answers

**I've been a member of the Church for 5 years, but I still have never received a *Messenger*. I thought it was supposed to go to every member in Canada?**

Something that many people don't understand is that the *Messenger's* mailing list is not directly tied to the Church's membership list. This means that, while every member is entitled to receive the magazine free of charge every month, they cannot assume that because they are a member they will automatically receive it. Each person has to contact our office, or have the appropriate person from their local church contact us, to start a subscription. Likewise, when you move, you have to contact us to supply your new address; you cannot assume that your church or conference will contact us on your behalf. They make adjustments to their own lists, of course, but may not communicate them to us.

**Which of our Church's publications use the *Messenger's* mailing list? Can I make just one phone call when I move and expect that all my Church magazines will follow me?**

No! Only the *Messenger* and the *Adventist World* use the mailing information gathered and maintained by us. Address changes you communicate to us do not go to the *Adventist Review*, *Liberty* or any other denominationally produced magazine, just as address changes you communicate to them will not come to us.

*If you or any Church members you know are not receiving the Messenger or the Adventist World, simply contact Lori MacDonald at 905/433-0011 (ext. 2092) or [messenger@sdacc.org](mailto:messenger@sdacc.org) to begin your subscription or update your mailing address.*

From time to time, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada shares the information contained in the *Messenger's* mailing list with other entities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This sharing happens in accordance with the Privacy Policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada which is outlined in detail at [www.sdacc.org](http://www.sdacc.org). Readers who do not wish to have their name and mailing address made available for use in this manner should contact Lori MacDonald, circulation coordinator, at 905/433-0011 ext. 2092 or [messenger@sdacc.org](mailto:messenger@sdacc.org)





# studio ne

by Rebeca Pereira

Building  
a studio  
inside a  
church  
on a busy  
downtown  
Toronto  
street can  
be quite  
challenging

**One sunny Sunday three-and-a-half decades ago**, for no particular reason, Joe and Isabel decided to change their plan to take their two sons, Billy and Bob, to the beach. Turning on their television, they happened across a program in Portuguese. What a treat to watch a program in their first language!

The program was on prayer, and the presenter was Pastor Henry Feyerabend. Calling the number on the screen, Isabel requested the Portuguese Bible offered on the program. On the other end of the line, Tracy Bravo offered to visit the family. Pastor Feyerabend went along with Tracy, and, during their visit, he offered to study the Bible with them. Even though Joe Santos was not very fond of religion, the Holy Spirit touched him, and he could not say 'no' to Pastor Henry's invitation. The Santos family began attending the Portuguese Adventist church. Some months later, Pastor Feyerabend had the pleasure of baptizing the entire family, including Joe and Isabel's son, Bill Santos.

This conversion story tells us a little about the beginning of the *It Is Written* program and how it touched people's lives—impressive enough on its own, but only part of the story. God had more uses for Joe.

Carpentry was in Joe's blood. For four generations, Joe's family had been carpenters, so naturally Joe became a carpenter, and with that kind of family history, he was an exceptionally skilled one. Under his careful hands, the very first studio for the new Adventist television program was built. It was located in a small room on the upper floor of the College Street church. With a meager \$300 budget, the group managed to purchase essential equipment—a small camera and some decoration for the set, including carpet assembled from carpet sample squares patched together by Joe and Isabel during some late-night hours.

The telecast quickly outgrew that space, and that small studio became a control room for a studio set up on the floor below. Joe Santos, along with his wife Isabel and other friends, volunteered many hours of labour to construct the studio, Studio One. Of course, this one cost more than \$300, but, as Joe says, it was a delight to see the improvements. They bought a better camera and included on the set a fireplace and bookshelves. Pastor Feyerabend's sermons and music from Isabel Santos and the College Street Church choir were reaching the homes of people in the Toronto area. And the program went from five minutes to 30 minutes in length.

Building a studio inside a church on a busy downtown-Toronto street can be quite challenging. The noise from streetcars, ambulances and other traffic would occasionally interrupt the taping. A method of keeping that noise out of the studio was needed, but when there were no funds for regular sound-deadening material, Joe came up with a very unusual and creative idea: use egg crates on the walls. The shape of the cartons provided the necessary acoustics—and they only cost 15 cents each!

With a heart of passion, Joe Santos came up with many new ideas for the studio and set. He truly served the Lord with his talents. Joe recalls that he always did the work "with much joy, because if it was not for this television program, I would not be where I am now, in the Seventh-day Adventist church." For more than 30 years he has had the opportunity to see the fruits of the television program—fruits he helped bear.

As you may already know, 2008 is a year of celebration.

It has been 35 years since the first telecast aired, and we've been sharing some of that history with you. We have travelled a long road of miracles and blessings.

As we continue down that road, our vision is to see *It Is Written* on CTV from coast to coast. ■

*Rebeca Pereira is responsible for communications at It Is Written Canada.*



>> Next month we will share a little about the move from  
Studio One to a better, more professional studio, the ARTS. <<



# Reflections on Grace

*There are moments in your life when you sense God's hand reaching down; when events go beyond coincidence or good fortune. And as you look back, these events become markers of God's grace in your life—reminders that He has a plan for you, that He has walked with you in the past, that He can be trusted to lead you into tomorrow.*

**M**y wife Kari and I were in Nigeria at the beginning of the Biafran War, a brutal, bloody conflict in which many thousands of people were killed. I was the principal of our college in West Nigeria, where Babcock University now stands. The college had a bakery that produced the best bread in the country. Every morning, vans set out to deliver the delicious bread to stores in Lagos and Ibadan.

One of the drivers who took bread to Ibadan came to my house late one evening. He was from the Ibo tribe of east Nigeria, the tribe that was at war with the rest of the country. As the turmoil had intensified, most of the Ibo students at the college had returned home to east Nigeria. But this driver had not. For him the value of an education was too high, and he wanted to stay. He said, "I am afraid to go by myself into Ibadan tomorrow. Would you come with me?"

We left at four in the morning with an extra box of bread to distribute to soldiers at the military checkpoints we passed through. We made our deliveries at Ibadan and headed back to the college. As we came around a long bend in the road we found a number of cars had been stopped. There were a half-dozen soldiers in uniform with automatic weapons; these were Hausa soldiers from north Nigeria, the Ibos' most implacable enemies. They were drunk on palm wine, unsteady on their feet and somewhat irrational. They could not speak a lot of English. As they came to each vehicle, they asked just one question: "Which nation?" meaning, "Which tribe?" And when they came to our van they really didn't need to ask the question because they saw the tribal marks on the face of my driver.

"Come out, come out," they said to him. I knew what would happen if he left the van.

There were so many stories of Ibos who were taken just off to the side of the road and shot. I opened the door on my side. "No," they said and gestured for me to stay. The leader of the group was on my side of the van, so I prayed and began to talk to him. I spoke for about 15 minutes, and as I talked the other soldiers, who had been pointing their weapons through the windows of our van, also came around to listen. I have no idea what I said to them—even immediately afterward I could not recall the words I spoke. But I know it was in English, a language they did not speak beyond a few words.

After a quarter of an hour the leader said to the Ibo driver, "We will let you go, but only because your master talked so well." If there was ever a classical case of speaking in tongues, this would be it! Without the intervention of the Holy Spirit there was no way my words could be properly understood by the soldiers, let alone impress them to let us pass unharmed.

Although there have been other times also, this stands out for me as a moment when I became profoundly aware of God's presence in my life; He stopped me on my journey, stepped in and said, "I want to give direction to your life. I want you to know that your work isn't finished; there are other things I want you to do. I will sustain you and stay with you. Stay with me and things will be okay."

Some 40 years beyond this event, a different African conflict is dominating headlines. The crisis in Kenya is fuelled by deep ethnic and political divisions. In the reports of death and upheaval, I hear echoes, not only of the Biafran War, but of innumerable other tragedies of the past century: from the genocides of Sudan, Rwanda and the Balkans, to the endless back-and-forth of the Middle East conflict,

to the devastation of the World Wars and the Jewish Holocaust.

As I see heartbreaking images from Kenya—of a young man, shirt bloodied and head bowed; of a small child sitting lost and alone beside the body of her murdered mother—the question comes forcefully to me: "As one whose life has been touched by God's grace, what am I doing to make His presence visible in a world that desperately needs to hear His voice and feel His touch?"

Grace is not just a private, one-way experience. It's not a theological proposition we can hold up to the light and examine then put aside and go on with business as usual. Grace is a powerful, living force that cannot be contained. When God reaches into our lives, His touch animates us. It opens our eyes to needs around us; it compels us to go into our communities with practical, hands-on care. When we feel God's touch, we can be sure that it is not for our benefit alone, but so His love will also be reflected and amplified in our actions and our relationships.

My hope is that Seventh-day Adventists will be known as agents of God's grace; that our first care will always be for people—before things, before traditions, before our own comfort. I pray that our churches will be places of spiritual and physical refuge; that all who enter will be embraced with warmth, acceptance, and compassion. And I pray that each of us, as we reflect back on God's presence in our lives, will be able to say with the Apostle Paul: "[B]y the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect" (1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV). ■

Jan Paulsen is the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.







## Text Dating

*There's this girl I really like that goes to a church 30 minutes away from mine. We've never met in person (it's a long story), but we spend a lot of time everyday talking on the phone and texting. I want to ask her out. What's your advice?*

Go on a phone date! No, just kidding. =)

My advice is to meet in person first, and then, if things go alright, consider asking her out. As much as possible, you should try to follow this order: friends, best friends, dating. Going from texting to dating is quite a jump, man. What if she looks at your forehead instead of at your eyes when she's talking to you and that makes you very uncomfortable? (I knew of someone who did that all the time and drove me crazy). What if she doesn't like your mannerisms? I know these are very trivial examples, but the point is that there are many factors playing all together to form the right "chemistry." Texting is not enough. You need a face-to-face relationship.

Go together to a church youth event and meet there. Make sure that you guys are with common friends. That will soften a possible awkward situation (which is very normal). Then relax and enjoy the outing, chatting with her and with other friends. It's important that you don't glue to each other; you want to see how she interacts with other people! That will give you a better idea of what her character is like. Next time you talk on the phone, you'll have many more common things to talk about.

Who knows, maybe after a few group dates, you'll want to take a more emotional step... =)

# TEEN TALK



Youth Pastor, speaker & writer,  
**Josué Sánchez** enjoys sharing Jesus with teens. For questions  
or speaking engagements, contact him at [Josue@JustSmile.org](mailto:Josue@JustSmile.org)



# Creation Corner for Kids



"I'll see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied..." Isaiah 53:11 (NKJV)

## Chick Rescue

Our daughter, Emily loves chickens. But mostly, she loves chicks. So when our speckled grey hen hatched out five little balls of peeping fluff, Emily was thrilled. Soon she had chosen a favourite—an all-white chick with three or four black feathers that looked like spots on its back and wings. Often she would catch it just to hold it and stroke it. She even took it swinging on the swing with her.

One day as we were getting ready to go on a trip, I heard a chick's cry. I knew that the chickens were all cooped up, but the sound wasn't coming from the chicken coop. In fact, it was hard to tell where the sound was coming from; it sounded near and yet far away. After searching for some time, I discovered Emily's chick at the bottom of a tight, deep, black hole where an old shed had been demolished. The hole fit the chick so perfectly that it couldn't move, but only cry for help.

## Think about it.

The chick had been in the hole at least a day and a night. It must have been a cold, uncomfortable, scary dark night for the little chick. But salvation finally came. And although I scraped my arm trying to reach the chick and bring it to safety, I was very happy too. It was a delight for me to hug the chick to myself and give it food and water. Sin is like a black hole that we've fallen into. But Jesus stretched out His arm and saved us. Imagine how Jesus will feel when He brings us safely home to heaven!

## Do it.

Use a concordance to find Bible verses about God's outstretched arm. You may need an adult's help. Look up some of the verses. What do these verses tell us about Jesus' efforts to save us? Make a poster illustrating your favourite verse.

—Tammie Burak writes from Cherry Grove, Alta., where she enjoys studying nature with her husband, Randolph, and their three children, Samuel, Emily, and Joshua.





# the first thing we do

**“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him” (2 Chronicles 16:9).**

by Barry W. Bussey

Shakespeare's retelling of the War of the Roses in *Henry IV Part II* has perhaps the most abused quote of all time concerning lawyers. Dick the butcher calls upon Cade (a.k.a. Lord Mortimer), the proposed usurper of the English throne: “The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.” He knew that to maintain his violent overthrow of the Crown, he would have to overthrow the rule of law. The revolution was not to be successful if lawyers and judges remained to thwart the pirate's plan. Unfortunately, there are many who take that Shakespearian quote to support their belief that all lawyers are evil and that for good to prevail lawyers must be done away with. Actually, the opposite is true; Shakespeare was of the view that lawyers help to ensure civil stability, that the rule of law would protect against anarchy.

In early November 2007, General Musharraf, the self proclaimed president, while General of the Pakistani military, declared emergency rule. He claimed that such a move was necessary because terrorist organizations were increasing their violence throughout the country, especially along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. A week before the imposition of martial law there had been a serious attack against Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's party, in which she'd narrowly escaped a bomb. That bombing killed 130 people and injured scores more. That assassination attempt and the later, tragically successful assassination of Bhutto seems evidence enough that anarchy was imminent. Ostensibly, Musharraf seemed to have enough reason to impose dictatorial powers. Upon a closer look, however, one could see that one of his primary motivations was to target the legal profession.

His declaration of emergency rule came just three days before the Pakistan supreme court was to announce its decision as to whether Musharraf could continue to rule as president while still holding position as general of the Pakistan military. Musharraf had earlier dismissed the Chief Justice of the supreme court but was forced to back down from that decision by protests from those in the legal profession. The Chief Justice returned to the bench.

Upon declaring emergency rule, Musharraf began rounding up the country's lawyers. While the lawyers were being loaded onto paddy wagons, the al-Qaida and Taliban groups solidified their positions in the outlying areas of the country. Lawyers in their business attire marched through the streets of Karachi demanding the return of the rule of law. Thousands found themselves in prison along with their clients.

The practice of law has an honourable pedigree filled with the tales of those willing to lay life itself at the bar of justice. While we are aware of many who used law to satisfy the vice of greed, there nevertheless remains those who thwart dictators. Martyrdom for justice is a noble call that lawyers in the Pakistan of 2007 were willing to answer.

Isaiah 59:14-16 reveals the depressing state of affairs amongst God's people at the end of time:

*So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one; he was appalled that there was no one to intervene.*

Shakespeare's words were apt: dictators must remove the lawyers; their passion for justice and the rule of law is at odds with any usurper. Those of us who are of a Christian persuasion recognize that law comes from the ultimate Lawgiver of the universe who has called us to the bar of justice to intervene on behalf of the poor and downtrodden. Ours is a noble call of those who recognize their own personal weakness but rest in the assurance of the power that gave strength to those lawyers who went before us and stood up to the tyrants of their own age. ■

Barry W. Bussey is General Counsel and director of Public Affairs for the Adventist Church in Canada. [bbussey@sdacc.org](mailto:bbussey@sdacc.org)





# Earth Talk

## ► Environmentalism Makes Cents

**L**iving an environmentally friendly lifestyle doesn't just make you feel good about your contribution; it can also save you a lot of money.

With worldwide sustainability issues hitting the news on a daily basis, it can be difficult to understand our role. The problems seem so much larger than one person's sphere of influence. Sometimes you might wonder, "Does it really matter if I turn off the lights or not?"

It does matter, regardless of how small of an impression it may seem to make. But beyond that, many environmental options can also provide you with significant financial savings in the long run.

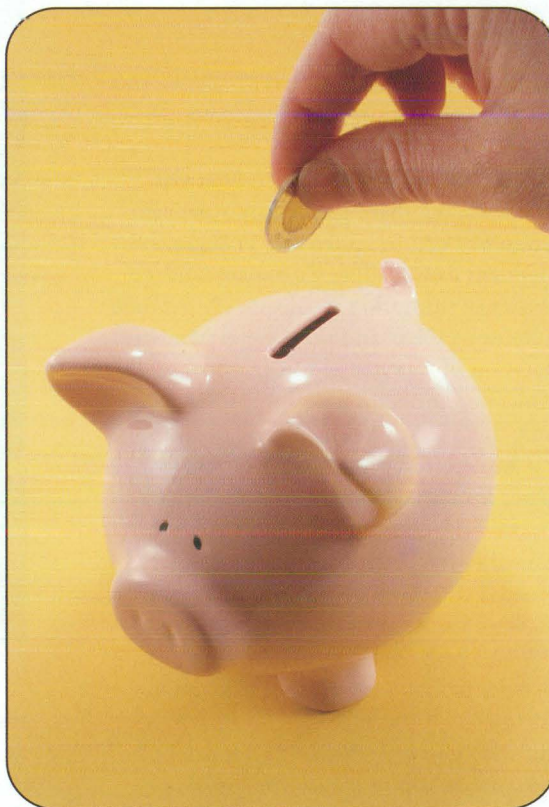
Here are 10 environmental tips that can put more money in your wallet:

**Buy Used When You Can:** While I agree that some things feel better new, there are many everyday items that you can buy used at eBay.ca or second-hand stores.

**Get a Home Energy Audit:** Some utility companies offer free energy audits to find ways of making your home energy efficient.

**Reduce Vehicle Use:** You don't need to use a car for a two-minute drive. Walking or biking might take more time, but you'll get valuable exercise without paying gym fees.

**Water Use:** You can minimize your



water use by taking shorter showers, turning the tap off while you brush your teeth, and only washing clothes or dishes when you've got a full load.

**Not Just the Lights:** While turning your lights off when you're leaving a room is a great habit, you should consider turning off other energy wasters as well. Your computer, television, and radio are other common items that should be turned off when they're not in use.

**Buy Local Food:** Purchasing local fruits

and vegetables isn't just better for the environment; it also supports the local economy and saves you money.

**Rechargeable Batteries:** These might cost a bit more at the start, but they'll provide you with much better use in the long run.

**Remanufactured Products:** You can save a lot of money by purchasing electronics that have been remanufactured including digital cameras, iPods, computers, printers and more.

**Buy Energy Star Labeled Products:** The Energy Star symbol is placed on appliances, office equipment and electronics that are energy efficient. These products are typically 10-50 per cent more efficient than industry standards.

**Recycle:** The little bit of money you receive for returning empty cans, bottles and other used items can really add up.

By making little changes in your life you can make a big difference. You'll not only know that you're contributing to environmental sustainability, but you'll also be helping your bank account. These habits really do make a lot of sense (and cents)! ■

*Chad Kettner is a freelance writer who busily writes about a wide variety of topics from his home in Kelowna, BC. He can be reached at [kettner@thewritechoice.ca](mailto:kettner@thewritechoice.ca).*



# EDUCATING EDUCATORS WITH AN ALBERTA-BASED DEGREE

On January 30, 2008, at Government House in Edmonton, Alberta, a few strokes of a pen completed a process, a journey that began many years ago. Surrounded by representatives from Albertan universities, university colleges and local government, Dr. Andrea Luxton, president of Canadian University College, and the Honourable Ronald Liepert, Minister of Education in Alberta signed their names on a Memorandum of Agreement between CUC and the Alberta Ministry of Education. The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement was the final step in recognizing that graduates of CUC's education program have completed a provincially approved program and are fully qualified to receive certification in Alberta. The Bachelor of Education degree was approved in 2004, and, in April of this year, CUC will have its first graduates from the Alberta-based degree.

CUC's Alberta-based Bachelor of Education degree is an important milestone for the university college, but CUC has already been producing quality teachers for over two decades. In 1980, CUC partnered with Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska and began to offer the Union College Bachelor of Education degree on the CUC campus. Twenty-seven years later and with over 400 students graduating from the program, the Union College Bachelor of Education degree has been a vital part of CUC's history.

While the partner-campus arrangement with Union College was important for CUC's growth, steps were taken in 2003 to present a proposal for the university colleges' own Bachelor of Education degree. Previously, the province was not accepting application from private schools to offer BEd degrees, but in September of 2003 they got the go-ahead for CUC to apply. The faculty and staff of the School of Education were excited for the chance but soon found out that the lengthy proposal had to be submitted by December of that year—less than two months later.

What took place next was a battle to be ready for their deadline. Classes still had to be taught, of course, so readying the proposal became an after hours project for many in the Education department. In November of 2003, a month before the submission deadline, new application guidelines were given to CUC. Undaunted, faculty and staff continued to work on the project. The schools facilities were reviewed as were the qualifications of its faculty. CUC also had to gather statements of support from administrators of local schools and the local school district. Fortunately, teachers

from the hilltop were gaining reputations as excellent educators, and so statements of support from the local schools and the school district were received without trouble. Adding to the success of the proposal was CUC's partnership with Union College. "The quality and rigor of the Union College program and its NCATE (National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education) accreditation gave us a very solid foundation on which to build as we designed our own program, which made it possible for us to meet the required application deadlines," states Dr. Carolyn Doss,







Associate Professor and School of Education chair.

In June of 2004, CUC's Bachelor of Education degree was approved—opening up a new era for teacher preparation. The fall of 2005 was the first time that new students were able to register for the restructured degree. According to Doss, “The long-awaited dream had finally come true.”

The Union College program was a big part of CUC, but the school's own degree brings with it many benefits. CUC is only the sixth teacher-preparation institution in Alberta to offer an Alberta

Bachelor of Education degree. They join a prestigious group that includes among others the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. It also brings increased levels of collaboration at both local and provincial levels and a streamlined certification process that will allow graduates with job offers to begin working almost immediately.

But even with all these changes and benefits, the core of the program remains the same: teachers shaping teachers. It is the dedication of the faculty and staff of the School of Education that really drives the department. Jennifer Harris, a

recent graduate who was hired straight out of her practicum states that preparation was key. “The [school administrators] were impressed by my questions and strategies that worked well in the classroom . . . My professors brought great perspective into our classroom, and that's what I try to do in my classroom today.” ■

*JR Ferrer is the director of Communications for Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alta.*





# Meeting the C



>> How a Person with Purpose Can Cre



# crisis



In late December, as most of us in Canada were still recovering from yet another gluttonous Christmas, Kenyans were casting their votes in an election that would rip their world apart. In a country where people from various tribal backgrounds normally coexist quite peacefully, suddenly friends and family became suspect and worthy of hate. As one man said, "I woke up on December 29 wondering what the people had eaten the night before that made them want to kill me. These were people that I knew. I worked with them. I grew up with them. I intermingled with them. Our relatives intermarried. And on December 29, they wanted to kill me. They burned my house down. They burned down my family's business. I ran for my life. I ran to the local hospital for refuge. Finding none, I ran to the police station, and I stayed there until I could get a truck to get to Nakuru." His story, or variations of it, could be repeated by thousands of Kenyans displaced by post-election violence.

Eric Rajah is a businessman from Lacombe, Alberta. Most days, he lives a fairly normal life with his wife Candi and their two sons. But in 1990, unwilling to accept that being a normal person and living an average life precluded him from serving mankind in a powerful way, Eric worked with others at his church in College Heights and established A Better World, a humanitarian organization that initially focused on just a few international projects. Since that beginning, A Better World has grown to help people in countries around the world, including Kenya. As Eric planned a trip to check on projects there, his intention was to spend a few days. What he saw when he arrived on January 25 would keep him in that place for much longer.

I was privileged to connect with Eric by phone just as he was ending a long day.

Our editor interviews Eric Rajah of A Better World.

# in Kenya

Part I

te a Better World



**Messenger:** Can you describe exactly where you are?

**Eric Rajah:** I'm in Nakuru which is about two and a half hour's drive west of Nairobi. At one of the largest camps in this district.

**M:** What were your first impressions of Nakuru as you visited there this time?

**ER:** When I came here this time, I was actually shocked because of what I found—something that I didn't expect would happen in Kenya with so many tribes that live so reasonably in harmony. I was shocked and devastated to find, all of a sudden, all these people were divided. That was the first shock.

I went to a camp—a refuge . . . no, actually we should be calling them IDP camps [note: these people are not properly called refugees as they have not left their home country. Because they've been forced from their homes but not their country, they are "internally displaced persons" or IDPs.]—I went there. The first thing I saw was a sea of people with no place to sleep and hundreds of children running around. And especially the mothers and their babies—some delivered within the past two days—were all sleeping on the floor in five small rooms. That was shocking. The need was overwhelming.

**M:** How many mothers and children might that have been?

**ER:** We have a fairly accurate number. It was 700 mothers with children one year old and under and with two or three additional children under seven. These were children without fathers.

**M:** What have you been able to do to help alleviate that particular need?

**ER:** The first thing we did for mothers and children was to give them mattresses so each one could sleep with their children on one mattress. So, immediately we delivered 250 mattresses by going and buying them and bringing them to the camp within two days. Actually, the first set was bought within three hours of my being there, and then the rest were delivered and set up over the next couple of days.

But what's important is to remember that these people had been there for almost 30 days with not a single person having provided any mattress for them. It was hard for me to believe. In fact, I went from house to house just make sure that we were not duplicating. And blankets. We also delivered blankets to go with those mattresses. That was the first two days of my trip.

**M:** You said you were at one of the

largest IDP camps. How many camps are there?

**ER:** It is hard to say, but yesterday the district commissioner who is in charge of this district said to us, "There are 77 camps," and this one that we're working in is the biggest. As of yesterday there were 14,000 people in this camp.

**M:** Fourteen thousand people in the camp where you are?

**ER:** Yes, in the camp we are working in. And I have specific statistics. In the update of yesterday [note: Eric and his team faithfully post messages to a blog that can be viewed at [www.a-better-world.ca](http://www.a-better-world.ca)] you can read some of the numbers of children and so on.

In terms of teams, A Better World is working in one camp. We're also working with people who never made it to a camp—who are just sheltered in churches and farm buildings and so on. And that number of people right now is about 775.

**M:** It seems to me that keeping track of that large a number of people would be a problem in itself never mind actually giving them resources and distributing help to them.

**ER:** It is a big task. But we have Kenyan people looking after certain sections. We have our frustrations, but that's why we're on the ground monitoring and doing what we can. And, at the camp there is a person—a volunteer—contracted by the Red Cross, who is what they call the lead agent.

**M:** But the last I heard, the government in Kenya was not willing to acknowledge the trouble there. Is that still correct?

**ER:** They were not willing to recognize the existence of camps and people flocking to these places for safety until about a week ago. But that's when the front page of the national newspaper carried a picture of the camp that we are working in and said, "Folks, here is what you need to know. Here's what is happening in the country." Until then they were reporting the violence, the politics, how they were trying to negotiate a settlement. To my knowledge, even yesterday the government was keeping an eye, but there didn't seem



Eric Rajah (centre) and other members of A Better World's team



to be a sign that they had invested money. They are doing education—that's all—at the camps. They have their offices now functioning at the camp.

**M: Has the newspaper article made much difference in your work? Or in the attitudes of the IDPs you are working with?**

**ER:** Yes, that was very important to us who are helping because the government never asked us to come and help. Now they are acknowledging the need for help and welcoming us. We had already been here, but we were waiting very quietly.

**M: Our president, Dan Jackson, told me before he left Oshawa to join you there that, at least at one point in time, when it came to humanitarian organizations in that part of Kenya you were, in his words "the only game in town." It sounds like that is not the case anymore?**

**ER:** No. We were the first ones to do the grass roots level work, right? Buying the mattresses, finding the food for the mothers. But relief efforts for the Red Cross were already running, and they were the lead agency, but nobody else was coming because of the violence.

**M: I believe I read on the blog one day recently that 443 people had arrived at the camp where you are in just one day?**

**ER:** Yes, more people arrive looking for help every day. And there are lots of reasons. The main reason for that, Crystal, is that the government is closing down all the small camps. See, you cannot manage 77 small camps to get help off to all of them. So they are closing them down. Bringing a bus and saying, "Get out of here. Here are your options."

**M: Is that what happened to cause the camp at the fairgrounds to be closed? [The camp where A Better World is working was first located on the grounds of a local exhibition center, but we'd been receiving reports that IDPs were being told to leave that location.]**

**ER:** No, no. That was not the situation

for it. Here what happened was that they wanted the show grounds back to do the shows. They wanted the people out of there and cleaned up . . . to exist on the next property which the showground owned which is completely vacant—no buildings, no nothing. So 7,000 people were moved, and about 7,000 people still have no place. So, they are still occupying the showground, but it doesn't look as congested. For example, instead of 160 mothers in one room a little bigger than the conference room in the Church's Oshawa office, we have moved five mothers and their babies into one tent. It is like a big campmeeting.

**M: And the violence? Are you and the IDPs reasonably safe now?**

**ER:** It's good here. 'Good' meaning no problem. You have to watch the road every now and again. But we have contacts throughout the highway. There may be a trouble spot, but if it is clear, which is something we're advised of every two or three hours, then we're clear. And usually, when one of our people leave the airport, we monitor that road until they get here. It takes two and a half hours. Once they get here . . . well, I've been walking all over town buying stuff—no problem.

I have traveled extensively to all our projects except one area that we cannot get to which is only about three hours' drive from where we are. And we have major projects there, but our drivers cannot go there because they are from a different tribe, and this is the boundary for their tribe. It is very disheartening. That is probably the most discouraging for me right now. Wonderful people just two and a half hours from here, and we can't even go just to express our sympathy to them. But we have to be careful for the sake of ourselves and our drivers.

Incidentally, there is a curfew in our town. Seven o'clock. The problem there is that everybody has to get out of the camp by six o'clock. All the workers. And all the stores are closed. It's a blessing and a curse because we cannot go out to buy



Stadium benches where thousands of IDPs slept after fleeing their homes.

stuff, to buy food for the camp for the next day. So it's always delayed. The blessing is that we're in our hotel and we're working on other things. We have a meeting every night until about now. We debrief, we plan for tomorrow, we visit with a guest. Every day we have a guest from another agency come and address the team, which is six in total right now. On Friday there will be 10 more so there will be 16 of us on the ground, plus two locals.

**M: With so few of you it's especially remarkable that you've been able to do so much work.**

**ER:** Oh yes, quite a bit. Likely the main reason for that is we make decisions on the spot. Everybody else has to go back and make a proposal to their head office, wait for two or three days. For us, if we have no mattress, we are in the store—somebody's in the store within a few minutes. Somebody is delivering it. Somebody is distributing it. And that's what people see.

On that first night when I asked somebody from an organization, "Hey, how come you guys are here and there are no mattresses?" they said they applied to their office in Switzerland to buy mattresses, and it's now been three weeks and they haven't gotten an answer. That was just shocking to me because it's something we are not used to. So I said "Okay, I will bring some mattresses here in about two hours." And the guy looked at me and said "Yeah, yeah, yeah. We have heard this story before." He told me that! And when the





Some of the mothers, who hoping to provide a better life for their children, asked Eric to take their babies.

van actually came and we were unloading it and the mothers were sleeping on them by five or six o'clock, he was shocked.

After that, they took us so seriously that I was getting worried. They look at us as having unlimited resources and decision making power. And, of course, that is why the camp director became so close to us. He comes three or four times a week in the evening just to brief us and to thank us and to tell us what we should be planning and really giving us the inside scoop.

**M: Eric, there is one thing I am wondering about. It sounds as though this huge catastrophe is happening in the middle of what seems like business as usual for some people. The stores are still open; the show grounds want to continue doing shows. I'm trying to understand the dynamics of that, why some people seem devastated while others seem to be unaffected.**

**ER:** This is typical of these countries where the businesses are unaffected. We have come when it's a national crisis but people for generations fend for themselves. If you didn't know . . . if you came through Nakuru and didn't know there was a camp, you wouldn't even notice that there is a problem in the country.

**M: And with the stores being open are you able to buy everything you need locally?**

**ER:** Yeah, locally. But we are short. Like, we can't find baby stuff. We can't find baby blankets; we're buying blankets and cutting them in fours. I don't know why that is. But I think Ray and those guys brought enough. At least over 250 for sure. We're sorting it out today. It will be good for a while.

**M: Now Eric, I'm going to ask you to do something that could take all night. I'd like to ask you to tell me about some of the people you've met, what their stories are.**

**ER:** If you saw Ray's blog from two days ago, we ran into the head teacher of the school that we have been sponsoring in this community. He saw us and came to us among the 14,000 people; he was with his family and had had to run away from the school. The school enrolment, once 108, is now down to six. I was shocked when I saw them. He came there with nothing and with his three or four children. He's probably 25 years old.

The most challenging experience for me was when I first went into these mothers' rooms where there's 160 children. I had about 13 or 14 young mothers bring their baby and give it to me and say, "You take them and give them a future." They were just babies—meaning one month or two months. They were just in a blanket wrapped up. That was hard.

The next day we made a plan and took 20 babies. We actually took two more babies today, and sent them to an orphanage. Altogether now we have 22 which I will go and see this week—how they

are doing in the orphanages. And you know, it took us just 30 minutes to do the paperwork. That is partly, I guess, due to the fact that this is temporary custody. At some point, when the mothers are ready psychologically and physically, they can get them back. The problem is I've tried looking for some of those mothers; I cannot find them. I have their names, so I will work on it a little bit more. I just wanted to bring some pictures of their babies back to them this week so that they can see how they are doing.

Also, there are kids here that were misplaced—parents went on a bus to another camp and the children's bus showed up at this camp. We're talking 2500+ children between 0-7 years. I can give you exact numbers . . . 2842 as of yesterday. Those are babies up to seven years of age.

One more story is that yesterday we bought a coffin for \$85 for a family following the first death at the camp. The family had lost their father. They had the body in the local hospital and didn't have any funds to take him out. There's no such funding. There's no budget. It's \$85 for a coffin and \$10 for transport. So with \$100, we went to the hospital, got the body, got a coffin, sent them to bury him, and they should be back to the camp tomorrow.

All of these are stories are difficult for me. ■



Part one of this article ends on a discouraging note, but part two begins with the happiest news of all: there are ways that every average Canadian can contribute to building a better world in Kenya. As my conversation with Eric continues, he discusses those and other issues in detail. But you don't have to wait until next month to help; go to [www.a-better-world.ca](http://www.a-better-world.ca) right now to donate your time, your money or both!



# ADRA INTERNS—CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



Besides providing for lots of adventure, internship teaches young people to interact with individuals from different cultural backgrounds.

To help us paint a picture of what it's really like to intern with ADRA Canada, we asked our interns to write about their experiences in a blog. The following excerpt from Matthew Whitty's blog describes one of his recent adventures in Rwanda:

It was Sabbath afternoon and, while most everyone had gone to town for a concert, I decided to stay behind to go exploring in the hills. We had sat in meetings all week, and I really wanted to get outside. We had been discouraged from leaving the hotel, but that only made me want to leave it more. (For the record: I did leave a note giving the general direction in which I was heading).

I found a narrow goat path leading through a pine forest up one of the hillsides. The view from the top was spectacular! I saw the lake and islands, the small town and the hills behind.

I started walking a path that I thought would make a circle around the top of the hill, but about halfway around, I lost the trail. I also became aware that the approaching thunderstorm would soon be overhead. I bushwhacked back up to the summit and reached a clearing where there was radio tower. It had started to rain, and I didn't want to be so near such a lightning rod for long, but I noticed that there was a little-used road leading downhill from there. Even though the road was heading in the opposite direction I needed to return to the hotel, I decided to take it. It would be quick and easy to reach the bottom, I reasoned, and I knew that it would eventually connect to the main road.

As I was reached the bottom of the hill, I noticed a number of buildings in a clearing. Under a large carport five men were sitting on chairs around a small table. At about the same moment that I realized I was entering a military base, all five heads turned to look at me. I approached, holding out both

hands, palms out, in the standard respectful greeting. One of the men, in plain clothes, got up and marched briskly towards me. As I was silently praying for his sense of humour, he started with the interrogation.

"Do you know where you are?"

"What are you doing here?"

"I think we should sit down and discuss this!" He said, much louder than was necessary.

I explained what had happened, saying as little as possible, playing the part of the dumb, lost tourist—which wasn't much of a stretch. He told me to wait there while he marched off to find someone, I supposed. He returned in a few minutes and told me to follow him. As we walked, I started imagining where we were going—the single chair in an empty room, the bare light bulb—but we ended up at the front gate. To my relief, he said I was free to go. I shook his hand and, though I turned the wrong way and had to walk the long way back, I was glad to be leaving and happy to return to the hotel.

*As you can see, being an ADRA intern can teach you more than how to run a project.*

*You can learn how to live in a different country and to adapt to the cultural norms—improving the quality of life for the intern as they work to improve the quality of life for the local people.*

*And, learning that there are many ways of "being human" can allow people to open up and interact with different people—improving communication between the local people and the ADRA workers. ■*

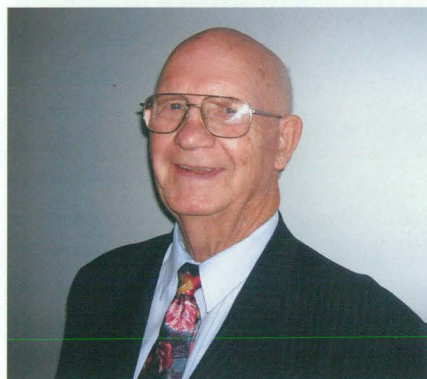
Ryan and Christine Wallace are the coordinators of ADRA Canada's Intern Program.





## SDA Church in Canada

### Thanks to Treasurers



Norman Gascoyne

We very much appreciate the work of the volunteer treasurers who serve our local churches and schools across the nation. Whether you've worked one year or many years, we thank the Lord that you said "yes" when your church or school asked you to take on that responsibility. We also very much appreciate and depend upon the treasury departments of the conference offices and the auditing staff who

support the local church and school treasurers.

Many of our volunteer treasurers have really "run up the numbers" when it comes to years of service: I think of Phyllis Batten who was, until recently, treasurer of the Bay Roberts church in Newfoundland for 35 years! In Ontario, Leona Selman has faithfully served as treasurer of the Haileybury church for 38 years! Then there's Harvey Deer, treasurer for the Canora church in Saskatchewan, who told me that he began his service when he was a young fellow of 20 years old. He has now recorded 48 years as treasurer (but I won't tell you his age!) Our sympathy goes out to Harvey in the recent loss of his wife, Grace, who faithfully stood beside him in service for 42 years.

But I really must take my hat off to Norman Gascoyne and his wife, Mary, who assisted him, for the 55 years and five months that he has borne

responsibility for the treasury work at the Edmonton Central church in Alberta! That is a record that will probably stand a long time! Can you imagine? Fifty-five years multiplied by 52 Sabbaths a year equals 2860 weeks worth of receipting donations, paying bills and reporting to boards! He was treasurer when they constructed their current church building in 1957; treasurer when they added on to the building in the early 1990s; and treasurer during the beautiful 2007 renovation project! Those 55 years spanned his entire career with the City of Edmonton Tax Department and stretched well into retirement years.

Norman and Mary Gascoyne—every hardworking treasurer in every church across Canada—*thank you!* You have faithfully used the talents that God gave you to build up His kingdom. ■

—John Ramsay, vice-president (finance), SDACC

Go to [sdacc.org](http://sdacc.org) and click on Keypoints for blogs from the Treasury and other departments.

### Ministry Liaisons Named

Because members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Board of Directors voted in 1991 to operate the union office solely as a bureaucratic entity, there have been no national representatives of the Church's ministries employed at the Church's headquarters for sixteen years. While some may rejoice in the thought of dollars saved, it did come with a cost: Canada was without a voice when it came to projects implemented and issues discussed at the North American Division level and the General Conference level.

To address this lack, the Board of Directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada voted last fall to invite eight individuals to serve as liaisons between the Church in Canada

and the North American division. They and the ministries they serve are listed below:

- Gwen Bader—summer camps
- Debra Carby—health
- Larry Hall—ministerial
- Crystal Holloway—communications
- Donna Jackson—women's ministries
- Cyril Millet—youth/young adult
- Darlene Reimche—children's ministries
- Hébert Valiame—family ministries



## Ontario

### Mt. Olive Prison Ministry

Witnessing to our brothers and sisters is the primary objective of the Prison Ministry department of the Mt. Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church. During 2007, the team worked with one of the correctional institutions in the Greater Toronto Area. They visited

the institution monthly, and each time they had a motivational speaker.

The speakers spoke on topics that included forgiveness and creation, providing an opportunity for inmates to learn more about God's unconditional love and mercy. Most of the inmates

were very receptive, and a few even expressed their desire to give their lives to the Lord. ■

—V. Little,  
communications secretary

### Store on Wheels

A school bus converted to a store on wheels visits 10 communities each month to distribute used clothing, towels, linens and many other items to those in need. It all happens as part of the outreach program and community



service ministry of the Haileybury church—a little church with only 19 members but with a reputation for generosity.

People know that when there is a need, Haileybury church can be called upon to help. One Sabbath day, as church was being dismissed, one of the children noticed a paper taped to the door of the bus/store. "Please help this woman who has nothing," it read. "She needs food, clothing, furniture and bedding. If you can help, it would be God's blessing to her."

That very day, help went out. Within the week, the woman's apartment was furnished and stocked with food and personal items. And church members stay in contact with her—building a relationship for help and heaven.

So far this year, Haileybury church has logged more than 2000 volunteer hours in community service and more than 1500 people helped by our store on wheels. ■

—Ruthann MacDonald,  
community services leader

### Thirty-seven Baptized at Ruth

The Life of Victory evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Omar Palmer, associate pastor of the Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist church, and sponsored by the Ruth Seventh-day Adventist Church was a life-changing experience for the many who attended.

In September 2007, after months of intense preparation led by Pastor Reynold Hazelwood of the Ruth church, members went into full evangelistic mode when approximately 400 people arrived for the opening night presentation, "Escape for your Life." For five nights each week for three weeks, Palmer worked with three singing evangelists—Howard Groves, Rosanna Bullock and Ladine McKenzie-Dowe—and two hard-working Bible workers—Leonard Northe and Veta Mogg—to share the gospel of victory to both members and visitors.



Twice during the series, the church was blessed to host baptisms as altogether 37 people signified their commitment to Jesus Christ. While the evangelistic event has concluded, the work continues with the many visitors who attended and expressed interest in learning more about the Bible. ■



# Alberta

Photo credit: photo by Jerry Livadney Photography



## Schafer Takes Silk in Edmonton

On December 31, 2007, Wayne Malcolm Schafer was awarded the honorary Queen's Counsel (Q.C.) designation by the Alberta Minister of Justice. In Alberta, candidates are screened for their legal competence, professional qualifications and contributions to the community by a committee of lawyers, judges and lay persons. Their recommendations are then forwarded to the Minister of Justice for approval.

Those lawyers meeting the requisite standards then receive their Letters Patent in a ceremony presided over by the Chief

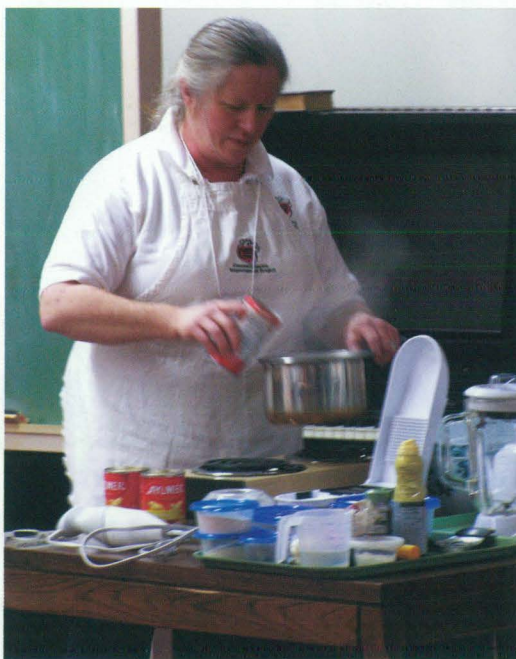
Justice of the Court of Appeal.

The induction ceremony, commonly referred to as "taking silk" was conducted at the Law Courts in Edmonton on February 26, 2008.

Wayne Malcolm Schafer, QC, is the eldest son of Dave and Shirley Schafer of Lacombe, Alberta. He is a graduate of Canadian Union College, Walla Walla College, Duke University and the University of Saskatchewan School of Law. He is a Senior Counsel with the Federal Department of Justice in Edmonton. ■

## Sherwood Park Church Hosts 5th CHIP Program

The Sherwood Park church kicked off its fifth Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) program just in time for national Heart Month. The program began with a baseline heart screen on February 10, 2008, and continued on with lectures throughout February and early of March. A team of eight dedicated volunteers, led by Veronica Dribnenki, oversee all aspects of the program including lecture facilitation, table hosting and cooking demos. The volunteer team is made up of a core of Sherwood Park and Edmonton area church members but also includes one non-member CHIP alumnus. In addition to the core team, several other Sherwood Park church members lend their support by providing assistance at the heart screen, guest lectures, alumni testimonials, shopping tours, and audiovisual support. Dr. Christine Simpson, a member of Edmonton South Church and an internal medicine



Barbara Riddle demonstrates a CHIP-approved apple crisp recipe.

specialist, serves as medical advisor to the program.

Over the past several years, the

Sherwood Park CHIP program has graduated approximately 50 people of which at least two thirds are non-church members. Several of the graduates attend the Edmonton CIIP Alumni Association which holds meetings monthly at the Edmonton South Church.

The Sherwood Park church has a very active Health Ministries department. After hosting the CHIP program, the Health Team has planned a follow-up health weekend with Darlene Blaney, noted Nutritional Consultant and co-author of *The Optimal Diet Cookbook* which is used in the CHIP program. This health-focussed weekend is planned for April 18-20, 2008 and will include several sessions throughout the weekend. Everyone interested in improving their health is invited to attend. For more information, contact the Sherwood Park Church at 780/467-2355. ■



# British Columbia

## Answered Prayer

**M**iracles often begin with just one or two people gathering together to pray in Jesus' name, believing that He is able to hear and answer.

On December 11, 2007, one member of the Victoria church and I, the prayer coordinator, asked that God would somehow find her a car with which she could transport herself and her five-year-old daughter, Seda, to the many medical appointments they had on an on-going basis. Seda was considered a miracle baby, for when she was just two-and-a-half years old she underwent a liver transplant. Seda is doing well but must be monitored closely by doctors—appointments which had involved travel by bus and exposure to winds,

cold temperatures, viruses and infections. Seda's mother, Diane, told me that she'd contacted a local charity that provided cars for low income people, but her request was denied.

I felt impressed to call another automobile company in Victoria that had a reputation for helping people get cars in spite of a poor credit status. The public relations officer at the car company listened to my explanation of Diane's situation and told me that he would contact her when he'd reached a decision. On December 16, Diane got a call telling her to "come pick up 'her' car!"

I was so pleased to take Diane and Seda to claim their new treasure—a blue '96 Neon complete with registration in Diane's name and six-months' worth of paid insurance.

Yes, God surely does delight in answering prayer. ■

—Maggie Godin,  
prayer coordinator



## BC Welcomes New Pastors

**T**he British Columbia conference is happy to welcome pastors to new ministerial assignments throughout the province. Whether coming to B.C. from another area or simply relocating within the region, these men are taking up new duties and embarking on an adventure in service to our Master:



**Norman Johnson**—We're proud to say that Norman got his ministerial training right here in Canada, at our own CUC. He comes to us from the Minnesota conference where he has been a pastor for three years now. The members and friends of the Williams Lake SDA Church, the Bella Coola SDA Church and the Valley SDA Outreach Company look forward to working with him for many years into the future.



**Erroll Palipane**—Erroll's formal training for the ministry came, in part, from a Master's degree he completed at Andrew's University. But his training has continued throughout the 18 years he's spent in the ministry both as a pastor and as a school chaplain. His most recent post was to serve as chaplain at the Okanagan Adventist Academy in Kelowna. Together with his wife Kersten, he now serves the Chetwynd church.



**Terry Sparks**—Terry, his wife Lee-Ann, and their children Jonathan and Sasha, have joined us in the Abbotsford area so that Terry can serve as pastor to the Abbotsford church. He has been a pastor for 29 years with his most recent post being in the Mount Royal church in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference. Terry has a Master's degree from Andrew's University as part of his ministerial training.



**Jorge Tenorio**—Jorge and his family come to us from the Upper Columbia conference in the North Pacific union. Jorge got his pastoral training at Peruvian Adventist University and has added an abundance of on-the-job training to the schooling as he's worked in pastoral ministry for the past 29 years. Jorge works with the support of his wife, Debbie, and their two children, Victor and Shaila, to lead the Vancouver Hispanic church, the Maranatha Hispanic company and the Abundant Life company. ■



# Home TEAM 2007

Sabbath, November 10, 2007 marked the culmination of an amazing journey for the Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coquitlam. It was the celebration of the completion of our first annual Home Team project with more than 250 people in attendance at worship—including several dozen volunteers who had never stepped foot inside an Adventist church before.

The project began to take shape earlier in the year when a group of nine members came together to hammer out a vision for a ministry modeled after the television program *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and the Aldergrove church's *Extreme Home Repair* ministry. The original plan was to start small—perhaps do some exterior painting, gutters, and maybe a roof for a family in need in the Tri-cities area—but God had bigger plans.

Through the process of determining criteria and choosing a family in need, we were led to Gord and Kim Penner



who had lost their 20-year-old son Jesse in a stabbing incident in February of 2006. Jesse had been making plans to help his father renovate their recently-purchased home just prior to his untimely death. The renovation was, of course, put on hold as Gord, Kim, and their younger son Cory struggled through grief, a difficult court case and financial hardship due to lost time at work.

The Home Team offered to do some repairs and the family graciously accepted. Within a short time, the media got wind of what was happening and Global TV ran a report as their top story on the 11 o'clock news early in September. Other media outlets followed, and within a short time we had a flood of offers from businesses and individuals outside of our congregation to help with the project. By the time the project began on October 21, we had donations of materials for

the following projects: a new roof, kitchen cabinets and countertops, flooring throughout (carpet, tile and hardwood), finish a roughed-in downstairs bathroom, a new furnace and heat pump, a patio cover, gutters, a complete paint job inside and out, new windows throughout, some replacement furniture and a built in vacuum. As the project proceeded, more donations came in including new trim throughout, a power garage door unit and a landscaping makeover.

There were also donations in the form of time spent in hard labour that came in from more than 200 people—more than half of those being non-members. At some points during the week there were as many as 60 people working together at the house in an atmosphere of cooperation, respect and goodwill that never faded. Even those who weren't directly involved








with construction helped by bringing food to the jobsite in appreciation of what we were doing. Many of the businesses and volunteers have made it clear to us that they want to be involved again next year.

The impact of the project was felt by each volunteer and throughout the community, but the biggest blessing of all, however, is what this project did for Gord, Kim and Cory. The look on their faces when they were given a tour of their newly renovated home was worth every ounce of effort that went into the project. They were shocked and deeply moved, and shed many tears of joy and disbelief. Their appreciation was indescribable. They report that the project has also played a key role in the family's recovery.

Plans are already underway for the Home Team Project 2008. We don't know what it will involve this time or who the family will be, but we are already excited about what God has in store for us. The Home Team slogan is "Repairing Homes, Changing Lives." Little did we realize when we chose this that it would be our lives that would be changed, too. We are grateful for the opportunity to, in a very practical way, shed a little light into our community about who Jesus is. In doing so, we sincerely believe we are following the biblical counsel of Proverbs 3:27 (NIV): "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act." ■

—Rodney Davis, pastor



**Arriving from Korea**  
**Dr. Sang Lee, MD**  
**Sept. 21-28, 2008**  
**@ Camp Frenda**  
 on Lake Rosseau  
 In the ♥ of Muskoka

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"And Jesus went about...healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease..." Matt. 4:23  
 "Bless the Lord...who healeth all thy diseases."  
 Psalms 103:2-3


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Host: Bracebridge & Parry Sound Adventist Churches

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 mail: 1148 King St. East, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 1H8



*We need  
your story.*



## ■ Announcements

**Missing Members:** The New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa, Ont. is looking for the following missing members: Roger Wilkins, Marie Wilkins, Marlene Proudly, Maryanne Nickerson, Rebecca Nickerson, Jamie Maxwell, Pattrell Fletcher, Martin Giguere and Shirley Gray. If you have any information concerning these members, please contact Bev Carby at 905/571-5155 or bevcaby@rogers.com.

**Grandview Adventist Academy** of Mount Hope (Hamilton), Ont. will have their first school reunion on June 6-7, 2008. Former students, teachers, principals, pastors or other faculty members of Grandview are invited. To register, please visit [www.grandviewschool.ca](http://www.grandviewschool.ca) and look under "alumni." Spread the word; we are hoping for a great turn-out.

**All German Seventh-day Adventists** are invited to attend the 2008 annual German Meeting at Camp Hope, 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, B.C. on May 3. Meetings begin at 9:30 am on the youth hill. Bring your German Bible, musical instruments and special music for blessings in worship. Also, please bring a dish of delicious German food for the potluck. For room and camping reservations, call 604/869-2615. For more information, contact Reiner Kupperts at 604/826-0300 or email [rkupperts@telus.net](mailto:rkupperts@telus.net).

## ■ New Members

### ALBERTA

**Tamara Hager** was baptized on June 23, 2007 by Pastor Tyler Rosengren. Tamara is a member of the Edmonton Central SDA Church.

### ONTARIO

**Zachariah Morado, Josiah Morado, Russel Viray, Owen-Daniel Poplawski** and **Daniel Mildenburg** were baptized at Camp Frenda on Sept. 22, 2007 by Pastor Juan Fresse. They are members of the Living Word Christian Fellowship in Hamilton, Ont.

**Joshua Hernadez, Emylee Aguas** and **Joseph Doornick** were baptized on Nov. 24, 2007 in Hamilton, Ont. by Pastor Juan Fresse. They are members of the Living Word Christian Fellowship.

**Ronald and Susan Peterson** were baptized on Nov. 24, 2007 at the Living Word Christian Fellowship church in Hamilton after studying with Pastor Ralph Juriansz. They

are members of the Good News Adventist Fellowship in Brantford, Ont.

## ■ Weddings

**Angela Balfour** and **Brent Burdick** were married Dec. 30, 2007 in Lacombe, Alta. and are making their home in Saskatoon, Sask. Angela is the daughter of Tony and Judy Balfour of Lacombe, Alta. and Brent is the son of Al and Doris Burdick of Lincoln, Nebr.

**Erika Sperling** and **Dave Laughton** were married July 1, 2007 in Rutland, B.C. They are making their home in Whitehorse, Yukon.

## ■ Anniversaries

**August and Erika Sperling** of Kelowna, B.C. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May 2007. The Sperlings were married in Germany in 1947 and emigrated



to Winnipeg in 1954. They have five children: Bernd (Elaine) of Gabriola Island, B.C., Heidi (Angus) McLellan of Kelowna, B.C., Erika (Dave) Laughton of Whitehorse, Yukon, Antje Sperling of Coquitlam, B.C. and Elsie (Keith) Swartz of Vernon, B.C. They also have 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

**Ed and Audrey Teranski** of Vernon, B.C. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 22, 2006 at the Winfield S.D.A. Fellowship Hall with over 100 guests in attendance.



Ed and Audrey have served in the pastoral ministry for almost 50 years working in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. conferences. The Teranskis have four children: Randy of Winnipeg, Man., Ron (Laurel) of Grimsby, Ont., Dona (Rod) Fleck of Calgary, Alta., and Lora (Charles) Toop of Winnipeg, Man. They have seven grandchildren.

## ■ Obituaries

**Frank Marvin Astleford** was born Oct. 15, 1925 in Green Bay, B.C. and died Jan. 28, 2008 in Calgary, Alta. He spent his younger years doing missionary work with his parents in Belize. He is predeceased by his wife Orlo Alice (Kierstead). Surviving: son Timothy (Wendy Betanco) Astleford; daughters Beverly Astleford, Susie (Ivan) Chamberlain and Sally (Eugene) Thorarinson; two brothers; one sister; 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Mabel Atsinger** was born Dec. 19, 1914 in Flaxland, Alta. and died Oct. 22, 2007 in Ponoka, Alta. Mabel served as volunteer secretary-treasurer of the S.D.A. Community Services Centre in Lacombe, Alta. for 20 years. Surviving: son Kenneth (Linda) Atsinger; daughter Marjorie (Paul) Dubuc; siblings Verlie Elvedahl, Irish Smelser, and Vergne Smelser; and six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Irene (Harder) Choban** was born Sept. 8, 1919 and died Dec. 18, 2007 in Victoria, B.C. Irene served her churches in music ministry and also served as treasurer in Regina, Sask. and Rutland, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband, Wesley. Surviving: son Randall (Mary) Choban, daughters Rene (Douglas) Devnich and Weslynn (Donald) Sahly, and seven grandchildren.

**Grace (Nischuk) Deer** was born Aug. 26, 1946 near Stenen, Sask. and died Dec. 13, 2007 in Canora, Sask. She served her church as children's division teacher and Sabbath school superintendent for many years. Surviving: husband Harvey; sons Tim (Sheila) Deer, Sask. and Ted Deer of Prince Albert, Sask.; daughters Charlene (Kelly) Jensen of College Place, Wash., Cynthia (Robert) Winsor of Eckville, Alta.; parents Louis and Mary Nischuk of Canora; brothers Leighton (Joanne) Nischuk of Lacombe, Alta. and Lornen (Glenda) Nischuk of Yorkton, Sask.; sisters Jeanette (Peter) Lewis of Calgary, Alta. and Betty (Gary) Schmidt of Fox Valley, Sask.; and two grandchildren.

**David Bruce Hiscock** was born in 1949 in Halifax, N.S. and died Oct. 18, 2007 in Halifax. Surviving: wife Nancy; sons Stephen of Kingston, Ont., Glenn of Timberlea, N.S.; and Mark of Barrington Passage, N.S.; brothers Gary of Calgary, Alta. and Brian of Timberlea; and sister Sandra of Timberlea.

**Amalie (Molly) Leiske** was born Jan. 1, 1905 in Laub, Samara, Russia and died Jan. 21, 2008 in White Rock, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband John. Surviving: son Gerald (Rita) of Nashville, Tenn., daughter Marjorie Haluschak of White Rock, B.C., stepdaughter Norma Fox of Lafayette, La., brother Alex (Eva) Borrath of Chilliwack, B.C., 13 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 14 great great grandchildren.

**Katie (Yuros) Mandzuik** was born May 24, 1921 in Bortiatyno, Poland and died Sept. 30, 2007 in White Rock, B.C. Katie served her church as deaconess for many years. She is predeceased by her brother Peter and her sister Ann. Surviving: husband Fred; sons Sam of Langley, B.C., Al of Victoria, B.C. and George (Lou Ann) of Custer, Wash.; foster children Darlene Day of Boise, Idaho and Colleen Erickson of Creston, B.C.; brothers Harry (Rita) of Lacombe, Alta., John (Ruth) of Lincoln City, Ore. and Bill (Jean) of Kelowna, B.C.; sister Rose (George) Holdal of Calgary, Alta.; and two grandchildren.

**Elizabeth "Betty" (Hollett) Markwell** was born Mar. 3, 1930 in Cornerbrook, N.L. and died Jan. 5, 2008 in Winnipeg, Man. Betty provided 21 years of faithful service to the elderly at West Park Manor Personal Care Home. She is predeceased by her husband Wilfred. Surviving: son David (Denise) Markwell of Calgary, Alta.; daughters Sharon Markwell of Winnipeg, Man. and Linda (Ron) Pondy of Winnipeg, Man.; sister Vida (William) Tkachenko; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Eva Neudorf** was born Oct. 13, 1913 near Saskatoon, Sask. and died Dec. 14, 2007 in Langley, B.C. She served as a clerk in the Langley church for many years and was active with the Dorcas Society. Surviving: sons Lloyd (Jane) of Thunder Bay, Ont. and Edward of Surrey, B.C.; daughters Florence Seidel of Salmon Arm, B.C. and Rosella Neudorf of Langley; brother Bill (Ruby) Klassen of Bothwell, Ont.; sisters Betty Teichroeb of Surrey, Ont., Helen (John) Neudorf of Saskatoon and Susan (Bill) Hoehn of Whitewood, Sask.; six grandchildren, six great grandchildren



and one great great grandchild.

**Nick George Tarangle** was born Feb. 15, 1916 in Slava, Alta. and died Aug. 3, 2007 in Hope, B.C. He was predeceased by his wife Pearl. Nick was a caring person who was always ready to lend a helping hand. He lived true to his convictions and readily shared his faith. Surviving: son Harold; daughters Lynda (Mike) Weber and Brenda Kotanko; brothers Steven (Esther), Tim (Myrna) and Martin (Adeline); sisters Anna (Duke) Singbeil and Dolly (Nicholas) Revega; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Peter Wheatley** was born Mar. 24, 1923 in Regina, Sask. and died Nov. 26, 2007 in Abbotsford, B.C. Peter served as a departmental director in the British Columbia conference. Surviving: wife Catherine; sons Colin of Calgary, Alta. and David of Mission, B.C.; stepsons Harry Phillips of Los Angeles, Calif. and Bill Phillips of Tulum, Mex.; daughter Anne (Michel) Chartier of St. Jerome, Que.; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Tresia Doris (Schmitke) Will** was born June 27, 1914 in Bassano, Alta. and died Jan. 22, 2008 in Lacombe, Alta. Tresia and her husband John were charter members of the Lacombe Community Church which they also helped to build. She is predeceased by her husband John; brothers John, Robert, Emmanuel, and Ronald; and her sisters Sarah and Mavis. Surviving: sons Fred (Marilyn) and David (Lynn); daughters Beverly (Jim) Bauer and Barbara (Charles) Middleton; brother Ben; sisters Marion and Emma; nine grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

## ■ Advertisements

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**Forget winter!** It's time to play in the Florida sunshine. Call Luella Clausnitzer at 407/306-7740 or 321/946-1034. Email [luellarealty@yahoo.com](mailto:luellarealty@yahoo.com). Ontario native living in Orlando, Florida. Licensed Florida Realtor at Exit Real Estate Professionals, Orlando, Florida. (5/08)

## ■ Advertising Policies

### PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
- Payment must accompany your ad, or it will not be published.
- The Messenger assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements. Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

### CANADIAN RATES:

**Classified advertising** — \$20 for 50 words or less; 35 cents for each additional word.

**Display advertising** (camera ready) — \$20 per column inch (b/w) \$25 (colour). For larger display ads, please contact the Messenger for a rate sheet.

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## Deadlines

June issue: **April 1**  
July issue: **May 1**  
August issue: **June 2**

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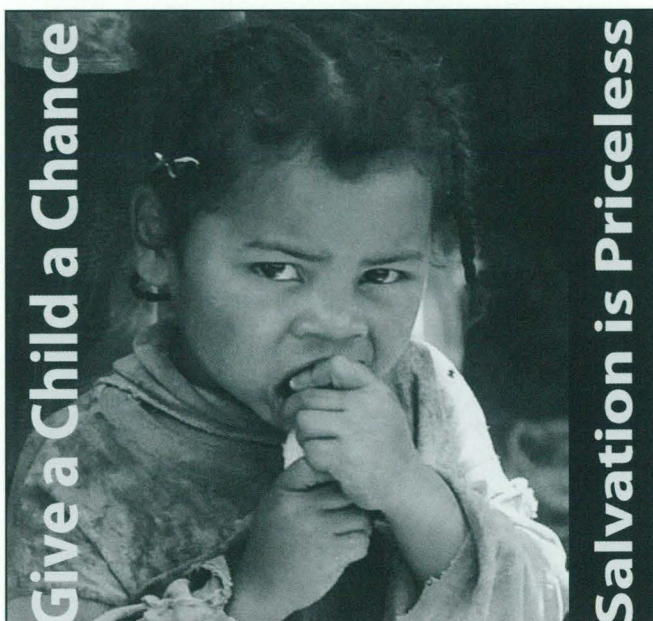


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# Grounds for Belief

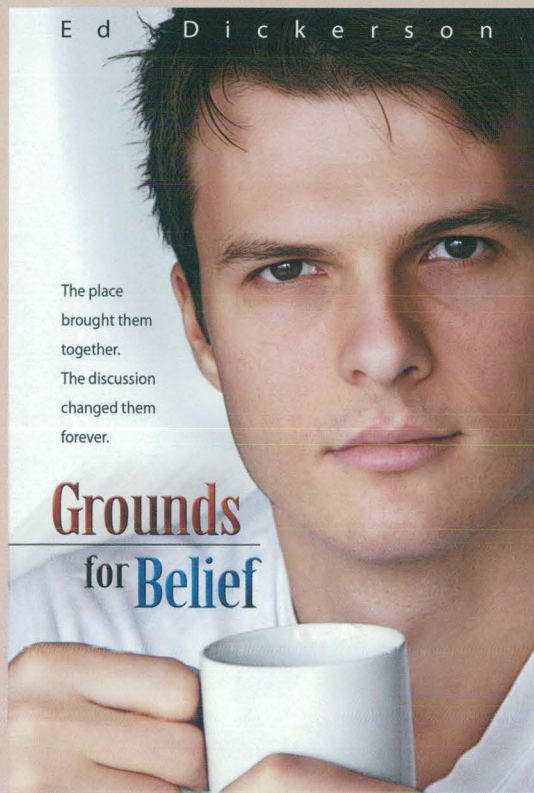
*"Change is inevitable—  
except from vending machines."*

## Aristotle. Socrates. Descartes. Dickerson?

Well, even though listing Ed Dickerson among the pantheon of great philosophers is a stretch, it does introduce the fundamental content of his book *Grounds for Belief*. This 143 page paperback delves into philosophical approaches to ethical and moral concerns affecting youth and young adults in a 21<sup>st</sup> century environment. "Times change. It's not your daddy's world anymore," reads the back cover. Enticing to readers with its personal approach, it is an easy read, which contrasts greatly with dry philosophical textbooks. Here are some of its highlights.

Dickerson creates a first person perspective of a lay pastor who helps run a weekly coffee shop/discussion forum suitably called "Grounds for Belief," so named due to the various philosophical discussions that arise in a very informal setting. These conversations "represent actual discussions [he] has had, though sometimes [he] changes details and edits to protect privacy and to make an easier read." The reader is quickly introduced to Dave, a jaded Christian who had recently served in the Middle-East in the US Marine Corps. His questions about God, morality and ethics develop into discussions that approach the topics without prejudice or condemnation. It is through Dave, his wife Renee, Rose, and other "coffee shop" visitors that this book takes shape. From chapter one's commentary on the need to ask questions, this book progresses through topics like sin, death, prejudice, the devil, communion, taking risks and other relevant subjects. Although that sounds like many other Pacific Press books of the past, this book goes a step further to connect with today's young person. Dickerson approaches the internet-generation with references to television shows, movies, current events, as well as to other authors and philosophers for further growth. Pulling relevant Christian lessons from *Monk*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Friends*, the War on Terrorism, Post-it notes and FAQs allows this book to better connect with modern, sometimes skeptical readers.

Ed Dickerson's style is simplistically refreshing. His chapter divisions are topical in nature and are relatively short. *Grounds for Belief* is a book for those people "on the go" as a selection from this book can be digested in under 20 minutes. Even the chapters are subdivided into smaller selections,



breaking the narrative style into relevant flashbacks, insightful perceptions, and unique situations that complement the topic at hand. Although the narrative thread weaves its way through the whole book, a reader can easily find satisfaction in a single chapter.

His goals with his text? "The same goals we all have. *To find answers to the great questions of existence. To make the most of the time we are given.*" He then invites the reader to "come along and listen in" which in turn allows him or her to share with others and to stimulate interactions about the grounds for our fundamental beliefs.

I enjoyed reading this book. The first person point of view totally immerses the reader into the philosophical culture and allows him or her to interact with other characters in a realistic manner. It is very relevant to our modern society and the philosophical questions that accompany it.

It has potential for opening up doors and building bridges between generations as it takes old topics and adds new relevance to them. Being contemporary in nature also adds to its appeal. This book would be quite suitable as a devotional for teens as well as a book-club selection as it whets the appetite for further study and introspection. Although this book is categorically linked to "Generation X," I would recommend *Grounds for Belief* to anyone desiring a Christianity that is relevant to contemporary audiences." ■

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*J. Scott MacDonald is an English teacher  
at Kingsway College.*

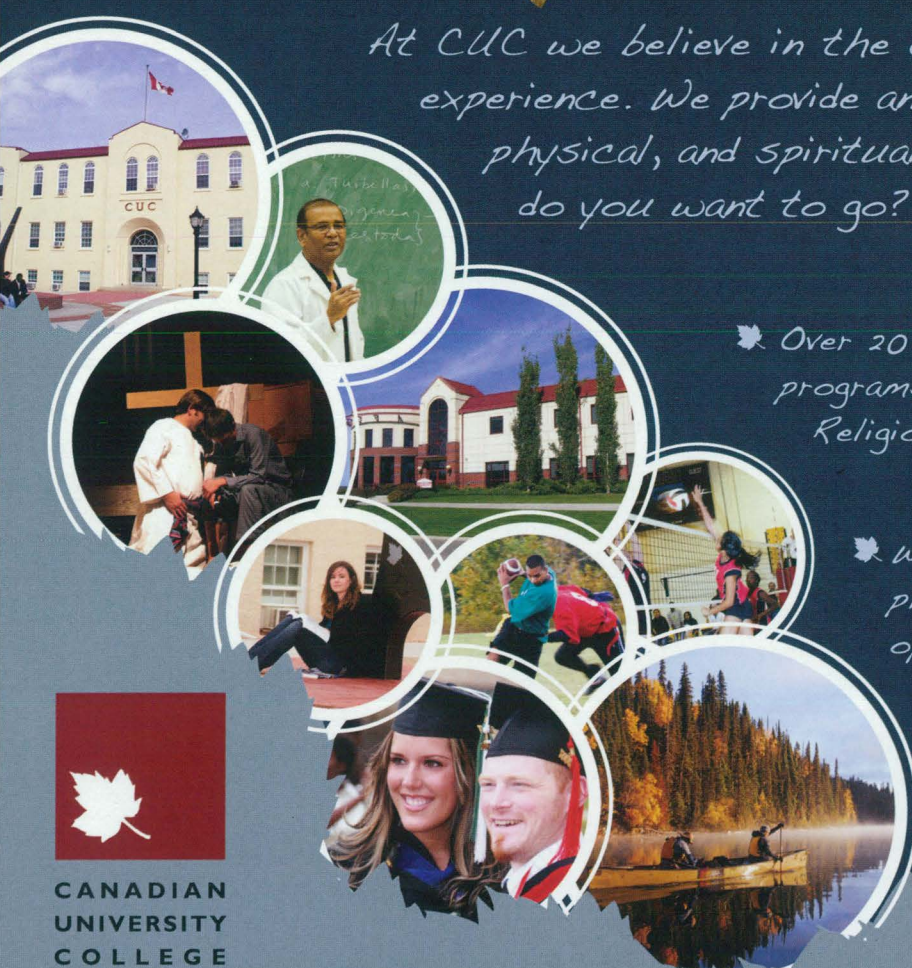


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