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november 2012

Messenger

Mustard Seeds



PM40069337

“We need to invest in one another when it comes to leadership.”



Healthy Leadership

I'm really excited about the REACH strategy that our North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists has adopted as a framework for comprehensive planning in our conferences and churches. Over the past several months, I've shared with you bits and pieces of each part of REACH North America. Today we come to the last one, the H. Healthy leadership and management is what H represents in the REACH acronym.

I've come to think of leadership as a very important aspect of what is needed at every level of our church. This is not new. Leadership has been important to God's people throughout time. Consider Jethro's advice after watching Moses one day: "You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone" (Exod. 18:18, ESV). It was good advice. The people needed quicker, quality decisions. New folks became a part of the leadership process and were given opportunities to develop skills necessary to lead Israel.

We need to invest in one another when it comes to leadership. I've noticed over time that sometimes leaders and the led become frustrated with each other. That's not surprising; after all, we're human. We're still trying to figure out how to live like God, here and now. We still have a ways to go to show what it means to be thoughtful and kind all the time. That doesn't always come easily. So sometimes we give up on people before we've invested in them.

I like REACH because through it we can discover methods to bring out the best in our leaders at all levels of the church.

During this past week, I've looked at the new materials that are now available for leadership development. They will be a great asset to the Adventist Church here in Canada. Whether you are a pastor, an elder, a Sabbath school superintendent, or someone else involved in your local congregation, there's something for you.

As we consider the great opportunities for us across Canada in 2013, your leadership involvement is important. I will be praying for all of our leaders as I wake up each morning. In fact, let's make a commitment to lift one another up in prayer every day, shall we? With God's blessing we can make a difference in the world around us. ■

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Inspiration from images *Moments from the field*

Some people find gratification in what they own; the bigger house, the newest car, the best electronic device with the most apps. But those who know there is a higher purpose for life are aware of the inherent responsibility they have to fellow humanity. Over 2,100 verses in the Bible talk about the impoverished. If we examine those 2,100 verses, their message to us becomes inescapably clear: "Those of us who are followers of Christ simply do not have the option of doing nothing for the poor."¹ Once we accept that responsibility, we are exposed to the greatest form of bliss as we see our contributions and sacrifices making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Since coming to ADRA Canada, I have had the privilege of seeing the accomplishments and gratitude of so many individuals whose lives have been forever changed by the generosity of Canadians. I take great pride in knowing I share a heritage with so many generous donors who love their fellow and feel a responsibility to share the wealth we Canadians so easily take for granted.

This month I wanted to share with you some of the images that have inspired me. The gratitude of the individuals you support through your donations to ADRA Canada cannot be expressed in words or pictures, but I hope you can sense a tiny bit of what your support has meant to these individuals. ■



¹ Charles Stafford, President, Compassion International. Quote in Live58: Film

Divine Human Rights

*"...a true Christian always strives to be an outstanding citizen
who contributes to social prosperity, respect and peace."*

On Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, a high representative of the Catholic Church, Dominique Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States, submitted a very important document regarding a "particularly urgent task for a just, equitable and effective world governance" at the 67th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.¹ The media drew attention mostly to the contributions of today's well-known political leaders. However, it is also essential to analyze the actual discussion, of how to lead the world in this time of crisis. Those who have religious convictions and are grounded in God's Word have ample reason to be attentive.

The text presented by Msgr. Mamberti is skillfully written. We can understand his reasoning when he affirms that international society is witnessing a "juridical disorder," a total lack of solid foundation. Understandably, twenty-first-century leaders find it challenging to universally define what is right and what is wrong.² However, Mamberti's suggestion to take human rights as the ultimate authority is significant.

For instance, Msgr. Mamberti states: "The Preamble and the first article . . . are the result of a lengthy juridical and political process, which began with the encounter between the theoretical and philosophical reasoning of Greek culture and the juridical and practical reasoning of the Romans, to which were added other elements, such as Judaeo-Christian wisdom, the laws of other European peoples, canon law and its developments, the medieval and Renaissance work of Jewish, Arab and Christian philosophers and lastly contribution of the thinking of the Enlightenment and of the political developments due to the revolutions of the 18th century."³

According to the above passage, then, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are anchored first and foremost on the foundations of 1) Greek philosophy and 2) legislative Roman heritage; furthermore, additional elements are mentioned: 3) Judaeo-Christian wisdom, 4) the juridical contributions of European nations, 5) Church tradition (canon law and its developments), 6) medieval and Renaissance philosophy, and 7) the Enlightenment. The monsignor's conclusion is also instructive: "It is only in the light of this complex, rich and intricate edifice, which is simultaneously historical, juridical and philosophical, that the inviolable and inalienable rights of the human person can and must be appreciated as the essence of the law, and to which the rules must refer" (emphasis added).

This declaration calls for some comment:

1. Human rights cannot be defined without meaningful reference to God Himself. In particular, human beings can define the rights of other human beings only inasmuch as they recognize the creation of humanity in God's image. Failure to recognize God's vision for our planet produces wars in the name of human rights and the promotion of entitlements that often work against human dignity.
2. God, the Creator, envisioned the human person as a being of love through whom the dignity of humankind flows continuously. Therefore, it is important to promote not only human rights but also that which will develop human dignity. Ellen White stated that true, holistic education "prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (*Education*, p. 13). Through service, a person becomes who he or she really is: a being of love, an incredible blessing to others.
3. Even though we respect Greek philosophy and Roman legislation and praise the Lord for history's many exceptional individuals and their achievements, ultimately only one reference matters: "Thus says the Lord." We prefer to be grounded in biblically sound principles than to navigate through the labyrinth of human wisdom and confusion. "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord" (Jer. 9:23, 24).

I invite you to always do your best for your country; a true Christian always strives to be an outstanding citizen who contributes to social prosperity, respect and peace. I encourage you to pray for both local and global. But never forget your ultimate term of reference: "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God" (Acts 4:19). Respect the rights of all human beings in all their dignity because you consider them not only protected by the Declaration of Human Rights but uplifted by God Himself. Do not be guided exclusively by human rights; promote divine human rights. ■

*Daniel Stojanovic is Vice-President for
Administration for the Seventh-day
Adventist Church in Canada*



¹ "High-level Meeting of the 67th Session of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law and the National and International Levels," Statement by H. E. Msgr. Dominique Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States and head of the Holy See delegation at the 67th ordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Monday, September 24, 2012, www.vatican.va/roman_curia/secretariat_state/2012/documents/rc_seg-st_20120924_rule-of-law_en.html, accessed October 29, 2012.

² Mamberti states: "Where there is a lack of objective criteria as a basis and guide for legislative activity, the affirmation of the rule of law is reduced to a sterile tautology, to a mere 'rule of rules.'" (par. 5).

³ Mamberti, par. 8.

Forever lost?

T33nTa1k

"Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends"

(John 15:13, (NIV).

I've been following the sad story about Amanda Todd. Is it true that everyone who commits suicide is lost forever?

I'm glad you asked this question. Every year over 4,000 people end their own lives, and many of them are young people like Amanda, young people like you. My home province of Quebec has the highest suicide rate in Canada, and one of my high school classmates took her own life, so this is a subject close to my heart.

I do not follow the news a lot, but I have looked into the tragic story of Amanda Todd and her recent suicide. First of all, I don't know if anyone who knew her personally will read this, but just in case they do, I take this moment to offer my deepest sympathies.

Secondly, what I think or feel about this topic does not matter, but it does matter what the Bible says about it. Let me answer your question this way: If every person who commits suicide is eternally lost, then Samson is eternally lost because his last act was taking his own life and the lives of many others with him. Do you know who else, from a legal point of view, took His own life? Yes, Jesus. You see the Bible is clear, Jesus was clear that He could have walked away from the cross alive. He blatantly said, "I lay down my life" (John 10:15, 17, 13:37). He also said that giving one's life is the highest form of love: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13, NIV).

What is my point? That suicide is heroic and noble? It can be if you are giving it to save life, but that is not my point. My point is this: the Bible states clearly that "people judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7, NLT). I cannot even begin to pretend to know the heart of Amanda Todd. I still wonder why my friend from high school took her life, although I have my theories. I take comfort in this: Jesus knows. And the Jesus who knows is the same Jesus who laid down His life for His friends. He is the same Jesus who sees past our actions to the thoughts and intents of the heart. He is the same Jesus who came to seek and save the lost.

Suicide is a tragedy; all death is a tragedy. Sin, hate, abuse—it is all tragedy. There is One who sees all, reads all clearly, with one motive in His heart: to restore and to save. I will leave the judging in His merciful hands and pray that my life, because of Him, will create hope and the desire to live for Him in others. ■

Dan Wilson is pastor of the Halifax and Fox Point churches in Nova Scotia. If you have a question for him, email us at messenger@adventist.ca.



creation corner for kids



But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light—2 Pet. 2:9

Crowned Lemur

The Crowned Lemur lives in Madagascar and is about the size of a house cat. Its diet is made up mostly of fruit, which it collects and eats during the day because it is diurnal, or active during daylight hours. Crowned Lemurs live mostly in the treetops but come to the ground to travel and pick up fallen fruit. They like the company of other Crowned Lemurs and live in groups.

Male Crowned Lemurs are mostly brown and black, while females are mostly grey. One thing that might seem strange about Crowned Lemurs is their beady, orange eyes. But the thing that most stands out about them is the bright orange crown-shaped patch of fur across their foreheads.

Think about it.

God told Moses to place a gold crown upon the priest's head with the words "Holiness to the Lord" engraved upon it to remind the priests that they were to live holy lives for God. Peter reminds us that we are God's chosen priests to proclaim His praises to those who don't know Him.

Do it!

Ask God to make your thoughts and actions holy so that your life will bring Him praise. You can learn more about the Crowned Lemur at <http://bit.ly/TjHnAr>.



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



CUC NEWS

Record Enrolment at CUC

Enrolment at Canadian University College reached a record high of 576 students this fall as the University continues to grow in both numbers and quality.

The main cause of the record high is the number of incoming transfer students and an impressive retention rate of 79 percent.

Students enrolled at CUC this year are from every province and territory (except the Yukon) in Canada, 15 states in the USA and 15 other countries.

Week in Spiritual Emphasis Sparks 17 Baptisms

It takes place twice every year, once each semester. Canadian University College's first semester Week in Spiritual Emphasis (WISE) falls at the ideal moment of a new academic year. Shortly after classes begin, but before students fall into the grind of academics and general university life, a reminder comes along: WISE. It bears an appropriate acronym that compels not only the students but faculty and staff to consider and remember what the most important aspect of any year at CUC is—growing in our relationship with God.

The Campus Ministries team, led by student director Mary Gordon, a fourth-year religious studies major; CUC chaplain, Paul Antunes; and associate chaplain, Janice De-Whyte, began the process in August with the rest of the Campus Ministries team. As WISE approaches, the team is meticulous in all the details of the week's programming. WISE takes place from Monday to Saturday, with two programs each day during the mornings in the College Heights



Pastor Vandeon Griffin (left) and Pastor Paul Antunes (right) baptizing Jared Clausen, a second-year business major.



Group photo of those baptized and those who are continuing to study so they can be baptized at a later day.

church and evenings in the chapel. Music, student testimonies, audio and visual technicalities are all planned out so that each program will run smoothly and so that nothing will hinder the worship experience of those in attendance. Also in the already busy schedule of WISE is Service Day. A whole afternoon where students are excused from classes and head into the City of Lacombe to serve in whatever capacity is needed. From clearing paths, painting, cleaning windows, picking up trash on the highways and at city hall, Service Day is a chance to put God's love into action.

Pastor Vandeon Griffin, youth director of the South Central Conference, was the WISE speaker and presented a weeklong series of talks themed "The Fight of Your Life." At the end of the Thursday morning sermon, Pastor Griffin conducted an altar call, and over 40 students made their way to the front of the church. After speaking with the pastors, 17 students decided to be baptized that Sabbath, with many more continuing to study with the chaplains! "These baptisms prove that there's a movement of youth at CUC and across the world who aren't satisfied with standing on the spiritual sidelines," says Pastor De-Whyte. According to Pastor Antunes, this particular WISE was a very

special one. "During my time here at CUC, I have had the opportunity to experience six separate Weeks in Spiritual Emphasis. This year, however, it was my honour to witness a spiritual wave of students re-dedicating their lives to Jesus Christ in an unprecedented way. The Holy Spirit's presence is deeply being felt throughout our campus, and what happened at WISE is just a foretaste of where God is leading this campus."

Baptism Sabbath was a special day on campus. The first service saw two students baptized with Pastor Griffin delivering a powerful and inspiring sermon. The second service saw Pastor Griffin graciously choose the witnessing power of 15 baptisms as feature of the service over his sermon. Fifteen young men and women, each freely sharing his or her own testimony with the church—no message could be more powerful. Jordane Smith, a second-year religious studies major, decided that she had wasted enough time not answering God's call, "I felt the call to get re-baptized a while ago but never did, so when the call was made this time, I figured I had wasted enough time and it was time to follow Jesus all the way." She adds, "Programs like WISE are important because they remind students and faculty

alike that there is more to CUC than education. That is our purpose here, but at the end of four years, I should not only be able to say that I have a degree but that I have a closer relationship with God because of my time at CUC." Jared Clausen, a second-year business major, appreciates that WISE gives each student a moment to breathe: "WISE made me consider where I am going in life, especially where my relationship with God is." According to Jeremy-Rodney Hall, a second-year religious studies major, WISE is also a time for connecting with God and friends: "It brought the school closer together. I believe many friendships were started that week and were strengthened by it."

From September to April, the ebb and flow of life at university can overcome even the most diligent student. Beginning the school year with WISE ingrains in each student the importance of not only academics but also each person's relationship with God. This, most of all, was apparent to Smith: "WISE gave me the opportunity to take a break and really focus on God. It is a reminder that God should come first in everything." ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director of the Canadian University College

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *Can you speak a little bit about your childhood in Canada? What was it like growing up on a farm?*

Malcolm Graham: I'm glad I grew up in Canada. Growing up on a farm meant a lot of hard work, and sometimes it meant getting cold and wishing I had more to eat, but things went well. One thing we did was go to church every Sabbath and sing God's praises and learn our Bible lessons. It was a great experience that set me on the right path for life.

M: *You earned a degree in theology. Where did you study?*

MG: I attended Okanagan Adventist Academy and graduated from there, and then I went to Canadian Union College and got my theology degree, not that I had intended that to begin with. I wanted to be a doctor, and my mother prayed that I would be a preacher. I graduated with a theology degree and ended up being a teacher. I guess God, rather than my mom or I, knew what was best.

M: *You were actively involved in mission work. When did you know God was calling you to mission service?*

MG: I felt that when I was still a small boy. I used to go to the campmeetings

and listen to the missionaries come and tell their stories, and I was very inspired. When I was a boy, I got the mumps, and my mother made me stay upstairs in the attic, away from everybody, so I wouldn't spread the mumps. I had an old geography book that told all about the countries of the world, their populations, and what the people did and what they ate, and I consumed that book during the week of my isolation.

M: *Tell us about your work in Rwanda.*

MG: In Rwanda I was in charge of our school at Gitwe College. I was the director and brought the school up to university entrance standards. God really blessed. Some of our students were able to go into university, even though we were not an officially recognized school.

The missionaries established a residence and eventually a school, and it became the central place for the development of our work in Rwanda, where we currently have one of the most dense Adventist populations in the world. God has really blessed.

M: *You returned to Africa several times. Can you tell us about the projects you worked on while you were in service there?*

MG: I've been back to Rwanda twice after the genocide to help re-establish and rebuild. I've worked with the provisional director of ADRA and also with

the Liberian Refugee Crisis in Guinea, West Africa. In Guinea we were able to strengthen a church there and get permission from the government for a good location to build a school. ADRA funds came from overseas to build that school. I felt that the Lord had led in all of my travels, and with our work, mostly in education, on behalf of our church.

M: *What lessons and experiences did you take with you, after leaving Africa and coming home to Canada?*

MG: The thing that strikes me most of all was that every experience God led me through, He was preparing me for the next project that He had in mind and my faith was strengthened. When I went to CUC as president, a couple of our prominent leaders told me very frankly that the job was too big for me. I said, "I know it is, but I also know that it is not too big for God. If we are in God's hands and work together for His glory, things are going to turn out okay." And they did.

M: *Where are you now?*

MG: We are in the Whitelake area of British Columbia, in Sorrento. The church that we belong to is Salmon Arm Seventh-day Adventist Church. Both I and my wife, Elizabeth, are active and hold offices in the church. We are getting up in years, but we expect to get even older, thanks to God's grace. ■

Ties to the Land: Relationships and Tax Breaks



As Erv Wiens gets ready to travel from Sherwood Park, Alta., to St. George, Utah, to participate in the Seniors' Slow Pitch competition at the Huntsman World Senior Games, he states his philosophy on staying fit and on stewardship: use it or lose it.

"We don't go to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but we are church-going people," said Erv, who, along with his wife, Lorraine, recently donated a valuable piece of land to the Ryley, Alta., congregation. "A guy is getting toward retirement and doesn't need everything he's accumulated. I talked to my lawyer about winding down, and my lawyer suggested contacting the church."

The suggestion of a gift of land made sense to Erv. He'd gone to Ryley High School with some of the church's members, and the land is next to the Adventist church.

To establish the value of the donation, an appraisal was required. "I didn't think it would appraise at what it did," said Erv, "but that was OK; it helped on the tax end." What he can't use this year in terms of his tax deduction Erv can carry forward and use against his income for up to five years.

Leslee Desjardins, a member of the Ryley church, volunteered her expertise as a land titles examiner to transfer the title. The transition was seamless, and Erv will glide more lightly around the bases knowing he's done something good not only for himself but also for God and his friends. ■

Receive a free copy of *George's Tree: The Story of a Well Planned Gift*, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Edition, by calling 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, or, emailing legal@adventist.ca.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE BOWMANVILLE, BRAMPTON,
AND ST. CATHERINES CHURCHES IN ONTARIO

It's almost Christmas time, which makes me think of heaven. What five things will not be in heaven?

Rutendo Nyambiya: The first thing that comes to mind is stress. There will be no stress in heaven: no bills, no work, no school, none of that will be there. The second one is death and sickness. We see a lot of sick people around us. None of that will be in heaven. No going to hospitals and seeing your loved ones slowly dying. There will be no hate. We see a lot of hatred in this world, and a lot of racism. There won't be any of that there. We're all equal; we're all the same. There will be no winter; we're not going to be shivering and cold. There won't be any senseless killing. We will live in peace.

Emlyn Campbell: There will be no death. No disappointment. No more bills. No more pain and suffering. And no more taxes.

Addison (5 years old): There will be no bad people, or fossils. Certainly no horses that kick each other. No bad books, or videos.

Adventist Youth Concerned About World Inequities



Mikelle Wile with kids at Simotwet School.

Seventeen-year-old Mikelle Wile couldn't wait to travel to Kenya. Her father and brother already shared their great experiences after travelling to the East African country with Central Alberta-based international development organization A Better World Canada. Now, family friend and co-founder, Eric Rajah invited Wile to go and lead a project to raise money for a school.

"I always thought I'd be going on a trip, but I never thought I would be organizing it," says Wile.

Wile and the rest of her classmates at École Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife, N.W.T., raised more than \$40,000 for a new school in the Kericho area, located in the tea-growing district of Western Kenya. In March, Wile attended the school's opening.

Wile is now enrolled in an international baccalaureate program at Pearson College, near Victoria, B.C. "I think my spark came at 14 when I went on a mission trip to Belize," says Wile, a longtime member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While volunteering on a school building project and at a children's day camp, the teenager discovered how impoverished some people really are. She befriended a young mother and her three children who

lived with very few belongings in a one-room shack. "I really wanted to help out in a lasting way," says Wile.

Wile's desire to make a better world isn't unique. A Better World, founded in 1990 as part of the College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, formed a youth division in early 2011. Tomorrow's EDGE empowers high school and university students to compassionate action. Wile has become involved in this group, which is headed by Azalea Lehndorff, a 25-year-old who has been busy fundraising to build 100 classrooms in Afghanistan; a key project she founded with mentorship from A Better World Canada.

"This gives them a chance to plug into humanitarian causes and services at a young age," says Lehndorff. Lehndorff believes various reasons exist why today's youth are eager to help the world's poor. For one thing, she says this generation is learning so much about global inequalities because they have so much information at their fingertips.

"They almost can't avoid the realities of what's happening," says Lehndorff.

EDGE encourages young Canadians to volunteer in developing country with the hope they'll invest time and money throughout their lives. So far, it has

organized five trips to Kenya, including those involving University of Alberta medical students. EDGE is already planning three trips for 2013. One involves a "general trip" to Kenya involving high school students from various schools. This trip will take place during the first two weeks of July 2013. There will also be a trip for university students from any discipline. The trip will be led by Eric Rajah, A Better World co-founder and director, who will provide workshops in international development in addition to focusing on engaging students with the education and health initiatives that A Better World is implementing in Kenya. A third trip is being organized by EDGE volunteer Rob Weich, who will be leading a month-long trip of Canadian University College students to Peru in May.

Tomorrow's EDGE anticipates this youth involvement will be long-lasting. Wile already has a vision to do just that. She says, "I'd love to work in a developing country one day." ■

Laura Tester is a reporter with Red Deer Advocate and volunteers her time with A Better World to travel and tell the stories of humanitarian needs. Her passion is to help people using her pen.

Give me that online religion



Hello, Pastor Kumar ... This is Simone. I wanted to know what I need to do in order to join New Hope. I would like to join New Hope and be re-baptized ... I'm sure you can tell me what I need to do ... I look forward to hearing from you.

I received this message about two weeks after I created my Facebook account. The last thing I wanted was another avenue for somebody to reach me. People already had my office number, cell phone, email address, personal email address, home phone number, text message — now a Facebook message was yet another thing I would have to respond to. Have you felt overwhelmed by all of the ways of communication people can use to reach you?

From the note above, it seemed pretty routine. Simone wanted to know how to join the church. If she would have emailed this same note to me, I would have most likely forwarded the note to my secretary and asked her to follow up.

After contacting Simone, however, I discovered that her Facebook message was a plea for help. She had just ended a long-term relationship after having an abortion. Her request to become a member was out of her desire to start over. I didn't personally know Simone. She wasn't a regular attendee. If it wasn't for her Facebook profile and picture, I may not have even recognized her.

This young woman wasn't connected enough to my church to have easy access to the church or our phone number. The world she lived in was through social media. This was her natural form of communication. She, along with millions of other young people, spends her life on social networking sites, like Facebook.

Who Uses Email?

The next generation isn't using email. They are communicating through social media and text messaging. The total unique visitors in the United States using major email services such as Yahoo and Hotmail has been

declining steadily. Email use peaked in 2009 among users 12 to 17 years old; it has since fallen by about 18 percent.¹ "The problem with email, young people say, is that it involves a boringly long process of signing into an account, typing out a subject line and then sending a message that might not be received or answered for hours."²

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone" (Mark 16:15, NLT). It is interesting to note that he didn't say, "Tell them to come"; rather the instruction is for the workers to go. This often requires a learning curve for God's workers. When missionaries enter a new country, they are often met with new obstacles, such as adjusting to the culture, learning a new language and getting accustomed to new idioms. In the same way, we are being called to be online missionaries. If we are going to reach people for Jesus, we must go where they are hanging out. We need to learn their language, culture and idioms.

Our seminary professors taught us a great deal about homiletics (art of writing/preaching sermons), about how to effectively parse Greek and Hebrew, and how to understand contextualization. However, online missionary work requires a new set of learning tools. Are you up for the journey? Are you ready to delve into this online world and share the incredible message of Jesus? ■

Rajkumar Dixit is a pastor at New Hope Adventist Church. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.

¹ Matt Richtel, "E-Mail Gets an Instant Makeover," New York Times, December 20, 2010, www.nytimes.com/2010/12/21/technology/21email.html.

² Ibid.



CHASM

Words by God — (Romans 8:38, 29, NIV)

I am so thankful God is always with us and that nothing can separate us from His love. In the midst of the storms of this life, when blue skies and sunshine seem like an ocean away, Jesus is still with us. He will never leave our side.

In the middle of a dark stormy night, Jesus was walking on the water and invited Peter to get out of the boat. So Peter stepped out and walked toward Jesus. Then he saw the wild waves and the chasm between them. When Peter saw the obstacles, he got scared and took his eyes off of Jesus and directed his focus to the situation and the waves surrounding him. Jesus was still there; He never left Peter's side. But when Peter realized he was walking on the stormy water, it freaked him out and he started to sink.

In our own storms of life, when Jesus asks us to get out of our comfort zone and walk with Him, do we do as He asks or do we hesitate? As we walk toward Jesus, do our eyes get caught on the obstacles ahead? When we focus on ourselves or focus our eyes on the chasm in front of us, we may begin to sink into feelings of fear, doubt and hopelessness or we may trust our own abilities. Peter called out and said "Lord, save me!" His focus no longer on himself or the situation at hand, Peter instead refocused on Christ. The Bible tells us that "immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him" (Matt. 14:31, NIV).

Jesus is with us when the oceans rage; we do not have to be afraid. Whatever you're facing, His love extends beyond the reach of the sea. His love stretches across the sky. There is no place God's love cannot reach. His love never fails.

Be Blessed



Tia Lawrence is 18 years old and a first year college student. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com

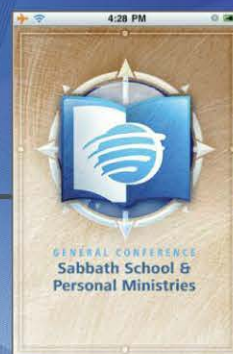
refresh with Tia

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38, 39, NIV).



app review

by Josué Sánchez



In Brief:

The Sabbath School and Personal Ministries at the General Conference want you to have instant access to a vast assortment of resources that you can carry with you at all times without causing permanent damage to your back. Imagine having all this in your palm: Bible study guides from Beginner through Adult, the Kindergarten and Primary audio podcasts, the Kindergarten animation podcast, the weekly reading of the Collegiate Quarterly, Sabbath School University video, Sabbath School University audio, and podcasts in various languages, plus Cool Tools and the Sabbath School Manual for leaders.

Wow Factor:

You can add notes to each lesson, check-mark as you study them and even listen to them.

Meh Factor:

Lack of social media integration.

Developer:

SimpleUpdates.com Inc.

Seller:

General Conference

Price:

Free

Works On:

iOS 4.3 & up (iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad), Android 2.1 & up



it is written

Touching Hearts, Impacting Lives ...



These are letters from students of our correspondence Bible school. Some are in the midst of challenging times, yet the study of God's Word encourages them to move forward in faith.

"THANK YOU, IT IS WRITTEN, for this brilliant idea of freely offering the study of the Bible to everyone interested in learning the way to a godly life.

You gave me this opportunity to discover myself and live a peaceful life. The study of your "Bible Discovery Courses" taught me what my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ expects me to be. I discovered that I have to repent from my sins, be born again and have a true and friendly relationship with Him in order to inherit eternity with Him in heaven. It revealed to me a lot about the character of my Creator, that He is just and fair and loves me unconditionally. He sent His only Son to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. By His grace He

gave me the free gift of salvation.

Finally, Bible study revealed to me that the time has come to make a choice, to choose to be on God's side."

North York, Ont.

"I STARTED THIS JOURNEY of Bible studies with hope. Now hope has evaded me. I am now in a wheelchair. My kidney cancer has progressed. I am grateful for all that I have learned through these studies. And I will continue as long as I can do so. Nothing is impossible with God. I am in His care. Thank you for caring."

Winnipeg, Man.

It Is Written Canada, a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada maintained through the sacrificial contributions of our supporters, is a television media ministry committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost to the people in Canada but also to the whole world through national and international television programming, Bible Prophecy seminars, and the development of resources to support church evangelism.



November 2012

15

Who's holding your ladder?

ON A WARM SUMMER EVENING IN AUGUST, I ATTEMPTED THE IMPOSSIBLE.

I knew there was a good chance that I had a spot on my roof, probably near my chimney, that needed to be repaired. So I decided I would fix that spot and that I didn't need anyone else to help me fix it.

I worked up my courage by doing another small job before I attempted the climb. It took me the better part of 30 minutes to get the courage to climb the ladder and spray the hornets' nest under the eavestrough. I celebrated with arms raised as I cautiously looked around for angry hornets preparing to pounce on me after spraying far more bug foam than that small nest required. But I had done it, just me, and no one else.

So around the other side of the house I went, lugging a ladder far heavier than I could manage, but not wanting the neighbours to think I was helpless. I am sure the sore muscles the next day were punishment enough for my pride.

I positioned the ladder, checked and double-checked to make sure it wouldn't tip. And up I went. Look up and don't look down! I can do this. I stopped at the level of the eavestrough, pretending interest in the design and function of it all just so I could muster the courage to go further up. Then, placing my foot on the edge of the roof, I brought my foot back, not quite ready to step forward and go up further. "Take a deep breath for courage," I said to no one in particular, and up went one foot and then the other foot. "Now, try to remember," I said to myself, "What did my brother tell me the last time I came up here with him last year? 'Turn around and inch backwards.' ... Now how is that progress?" It worked, though, and I made it to the top, straddled the roof and inspected the chimney.

Sure enough, there was a hole near the base of the chimney that needed to be repaired. Of course, I had not brought the tools to do this, so I knew I would have to descend and then climb back up again. Now the full implication of where I had positioned myself settled tightly on my chest, and the full impact of my fear set in with a grip so tight I could hardly take a breath. "Lord, please don't let me fall!" Why am I trying to do this alone? Am I out of my mind? I am not qualified to do this! Why do I have to do this alone? And so I inch my way closer to the ladder, or should I say the tip of the ladder, because that was all I could see—it seemed so very small and so very far away.

As I got closer, I stopped. I was trying to breathe, but I was unable and so very frightened. My neighbour popped her head out of her window and asked, "Are you OK, Pam?" I nodded yes, but the look on my face told her I wasn't. She asked me, "Would you like me to come and hold the ladder?" I nodded because I was unable to speak by this point. She said she was on her way but then said that Alan, her husband, was coming instead. "Stay there. He is on his way." I could just see my neighbour around the corner over the edge of the roof, and he grabbed a hold of the base of the ladder, securing it. I was still afraid, but I knew that he was there, that someone much stronger than me was waiting for me and holding the ladder, ready to catch me if I fell.

I stepped onto the ladder, eyes tightly closed, and started to descend. Alan asked me if I was afraid of heights, and I nodded, not really thinking I was, but knowing how afraid I felt. Halfway down the ladder, I froze and held on tight; I couldn't move up or down, so I cried. Patiently he waited at the bottom of the ladder, making sure I was OK and waiting for me to take the rest of the steps toward him, and toward safety. At last my feet touched the ground, and I tried to laugh at my silly tears.

He asked me what was wrong on the roof, and when I told him that I had to go back up to fix it, he said, "I will do it for you." He made his way up, made all the necessary repairs, and when it was all done and the ladder was put away, he reminded me that there were people in the neighbourhood who would help me; all I had to do was ask. Perhaps the stress of the climb had kept me awake, but as I lay there trying to fall asleep, I thought about what that night had taught me.

Psalm 139:10 says, "Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me." It reminds me that He holds me up through all sorts of trials, through good and through bad.

Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge, and strength, a very present help in trouble," tells me that He is my strength, the One I should be relying on when faced with trials rather than trying to fix my own problems in my own strength.

John 11:22, "Whatever you ask of God, God will give you," tells me that He is there for us if we would just ask Him for help, guidance, strength, wisdom and courage.

So who held my ladder that day? Was it just my neighbour on his own, who happened to see the dilemma I was in? Or did my Heavenly Father send my neighbour to hold it so that I would feel safer, less afraid? When I tried to fix my own problems and got into a predicament, God sent my neighbour. When I was stuck up on my roof, God sent my neighbour. When I didn't think I needed anyone but me, God sent my neighbour—as a reminder that He is watching over me and that He is more qualified to fix my problems than I could ever be.

Did I raise my arms in celebration that time? Yes, but in a different way. I lifted my arms in prayer and in thanksgiving for His watching care, strength and love.

So who holds your ladder? Do you try to fix your own problems? Do you think that you know and have all you need to "do it yourself"?

When you get to that point, when you have read all the available how-to books and are ready to tackle the job on your own, remember me, stuck up on my roof, afraid, trying to "do it myself," and before you go any further, stop, pray and ask your Heavenly Father for help, for strength and for courage. ■

Pam Lister writes from Oshawa, Ont.



BY STAN JENSEN

Over the past number of years, I have phoned the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and was always pleased that an actual person answered the phone. When I accepted the position as communication director, one of my first tasks was to finally meet the person behind the friendly voice.

STAN: *How long have you worked with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and what are your functions?*

MYRIAM: I started at the SDACC in January 2008. I was hired to perform two main functions, the first being the office receptionist. Unlike many offices that rely on automated telephone services, we still have someone answering calls during most of our operating hours. Being able to talk to a live person is still very important to many people. Answering calls is just one of my many duties. I also sort the mail, welcome visitors, prepare the worship schedule, and place orders for office supplies.

My second function is that of an archivist. I perform that duty one day a week. Archiving is a time-consuming job that requires a lot of patience. This type of work may not suit everybody, but I find it fascinating to be able to go back and read about the history and see the development of our church in Canada.

STAN: *Have you worked for the church another place?*

MYRIAM: Yes, in 1980 my family and I moved from Oshawa to New Brunswick where our church was opening a new nursing home. I worked as the director of nursing at Kennebec Manor until the spring of 1990. From my work with the seniors, I moved on to working with teenagers when I took the position of assistant dean and part-time school nurse at Kingsway College

in Oshawa. This allowed me to be close to my children, who were already attending Kingsway. After two years I became head dean and continued in that position until the beginning of 2002.

STAN: *Do you miss working as a nurse or a dean?*

MYRIAM: I enjoyed both positions at the time, but I can't say that I miss the hectic schedule at Kennebec Manor or the demanding hours of working as a dean. There is a time and a season for everything. Now as I move towards the end of my working career, I am quite content doing what I'm doing currently.

STAN: *Tell us about your family.*

MYRIAM: I was born in the French-speaking part of Belgium, where I was raised. When I was 17, I was invited by my uncle and his wife to come to Canada for a time to learn English. In two years, in 1969, my parents, my brother and his family immigrated to Canada and settled right here in Oshawa. This gave me the opportunity to continue studying at Kingsway College and to continue on to nursing school at what was then known as the Oshawa General Hospital.

I have three children of my own, and in 1995, when I married my husband, Ed Mosier, I added a stepdaughter to the mix. Seventeen years later, Ed and I are now enjoying being grandparents to nine lovely grandchildren, ranging in age from newborn to 7. It



Myriam Mosier

was just last week that my youngest two grandchildren made their entrance. One of the most important online networking tools is Skype, as it allows me to keep in touch with my children and grandchildren, most of whom reside in the United States.

STAN: *What parts of your job do you enjoy the most?*

MYRIAM: I really enjoy working in the archives, although it is a challenge to sort through over a 100 years of documents. My work as a receptionist is also gratifying, but I must say that what I enjoy the most is being able to work with an amazing bunch of caring people. Every morning we start the day with worship, we pray for one particular area of the work in Canada, we pray for each other and for others who have sent requests for prayers. When you start the day that way, how can it go wrong? It gives us strength and carries us through the day.

STAN: *What is your favourite scripture or phrase?*


MYRIAM: It is hard for me to pick just one, so I will start with Ephesians 4. This chapter is full of simple but relevant advice on how to live a Christian life. If we take a few verses of this chapter at a time and meditate on them, our lives can't help but be changed. Matthew 22:34–40 gives us a very clear idea of what is most important, first to love our God above all and, second, to value our neighbours as we value ourselves. My favourite saying is: "By beholding we become changed." We can be changed for the good or for the bad; it all depends on our focus. The more time we spend reflecting on the life of Christ, the more we will become like him. ■

Stan Jensen is the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

Photo by Alexandra Yeboah.

Mustard Seeds

by Jason Chang



Investment. It's a sensitive topic for some. Housing market. Mutual funds. Job security. Economic uncertainty. Investment? However, regardless of how one feels about various types of investments or the risk of investment in general, one thing is certain: investing in the future of our children is without question, without hesitation, something we can't afford not paying close attention to—and tops the list for "investments."

At Edmonton South we have a bursting-at-the-seams young-family population, with a steady stream of bouncing babies being born and a baby dedication occurring once every few months on average. It's only natural that we have an ever-expanding population of primary and junior Sabbath school students.

Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church to this point has always been blessed by solid and strong leadership in our children's divisions—from cradle roll on up. In October 2011 one such leader, in our primary/junior division, Linda Greaves (née Fortunat) brought a project proposal to the pastor; it was a creative idea to engage our very young members in missions. One month later the church board quickly voted unanimously and approved the proposal. In December 2011 the project was out in full force.

The project would see the church provide the funds to lend each child in these divisions \$20. That investment "seed" money could then be spent and invested in whatever way they wished, with the understanding that at least the \$20 would be returned in a year's time. We had 16 children, so the money to be invested was \$320 total. The intention was to obtain a return on the investment that would then be put toward missions.

Specifically, the church decided that these mission funds would go to support Mamawi Atosketan Native School, an Adventist-run school in the hamlet of Hobbema, Alberta, a predominantly First Nations community approximately 70 kilometres south of Edmonton. Mamawi is the largest Adventist First Nations' school in North America and is located on one of four Cree reserves in Hobbema. It is currently a K to 9 school with hopes of expanding to grade 12 curriculum in the near future. The school has been a positive influence and huge asset in helping deal with many of the social issues that tend to plague the Hobbema community, which, sadly, often suffers tragedies that make local and provincials news. Linda collaborated with Mamawi school principal, Gail Wilton, in this mission project. They decided that the money raised through this investment project would go to fund the development of an after-school recreation program.

The project was not only an investment in the children but an investment in the parents. All the children were part of unique and creative ventures, and their parents had to commit to facilitate them. As our Pastor John Murley so frequently shares with us during baby dedications, "It is a dedication of the parents, as much as it is a dedication of the baby, to God." Behind each venture is a story.

Nakita Greaves, Linda's eight-year-old daughter, took her \$20 and sold mini cereal boxes. She purchased ingredients that would allow her to personalize and market

her own formula of granola cereal. She got her father, Anthony, to print out little boxes with pictures of her, a special title "Temple Fuel," and a relevant Bible verse (1 Cor. 6:19, 20), among other personal touches to her product. Once the cereal was put into plastic wrapping and into the boxes, it was made available for sale at various church functions. With the money she earned, she was able to reinvest in her product, and this went on for numerous cycles. One such cycle found her at B.C. campmeeting this year. With apprehension, father Anthony admits he thought Nakita might be faced with interrogation and resistance—waiting for a comment like "What do you think you're doing here selling cereal?" Instead, Myrna Tetz, from the B.C. conference, was so impressed by the product and its purpose that she wrote an article about "Nakita's Kitchen" for the *Messenger* (published September 2012). Also at B.C. campmeeting was Pastor Bill Santos, from It Is Written Canada, and he got in the mix and decided to personally interview Nakita and have it recorded (to be aired at a future date).

Other children, too, chose the culinary arts to grow their investment. Some made organic cookies, cinnamon buns, granola bars, chocolates and even Argentine specialty cakes, for example. Still others chose a particular craft, such as hand-beaded hair clips and name bracelets, ceramic piggy banks and homemade soap. Children are so creative; some produced art work for sale.

Another way to invest \$20 was farming. The Hymanyks at Edmonton South are farmers (not to be confused with the Hymanyks at Edmonton Central). So it comes to no surprise that Jayden decided take his \$20 and plant corn. He was given his own patch of soil in his father's



Jayden
Hymanyk



field where he would plant his own corn. His father, Matt, noticed this patch of corn seemed to grow bigger and taller than most of the remainder of his field. When harvest time came, it was time to get busy! Jayden sold corn by the dozen to members at church, neighbours, friends and any other potential buyers—how can you resist fresh, homegrown, organic corn? Indeed, the corn was big and tasty. In the process, Jayden went from being bashful to unashamed and proud about selling his product, and more willing to share what this was going toward. Growing corn was not the only farming investment among the children. We also had delicious tomato plants.

Lastly, some of the children decided to go into the “labour force,” shoveling snow or picking up recyclable bottle items for the deposit refund. The projects reflect the diversity of the children involved, which is a direct representation of the church at large. Background and ethnicities varied from urban to rural, from Russian to Argentinian to African to Burmese.

The children who participated were Coe, Kwopyo, Solo and Taw lo Moo, who are siblings; Jerel Bobb; Nyasha Chapendama; Gabrielle Funk-Dorocicz; Nakita Greaves; Ashton and Lyndan Hillier; Jayden Hymanyk; Emily Jeske; Roman and Maksym Kravets; Emily and Adam Kunyk; Matias and Sebastian Perez Lavooy; Daneel Pavlov; Lily Polenchuk; Matthew and Megan Prangle; Mackenzie Smith; and Ethan Wutzke.

On October 8, 2012, Thanksgiving weekend, the church held a special recognition ceremony during the

main service. The group stood in front of the church, and each child brought an envelope full of cash. The \$320 total lent to the children last year came rolling back in the amount of over \$4,000. Well, that is over a 10-fold return—12.5 times, to be more exact. An unexpected and impressive feat achieved by our little folks, and not a bad return on these little micro-finance projects. Incidentally, this type of creative micro-financing concept (to empower the poor) won the Nobel Peace Prize in Economics a few years ago. It was unknown to them, that what these little ones accomplished parallels those in larger circles.

It was a small investment, only \$20, in very small people—primary- and junior-age children. But, isn’t that how God works? Remember the mustard seed of faith in Matthew 17:20? No one—not even Linda, or the pastor, or the church board—imagined the magnitude of return and sphere of influence this would have on not just the children but our community of faith. Still, this was originally intended to expand the minds and hearts of our little folks, and it did. It provided the platform to teach principles of faith, hope and love, using real-world skills such as setting goals, implementing plans and money management. We saw the children grow in excitement and, with it, confidence in God and in themselves. What a creative way to implement Proverbs 22:6 of training up a child. We know that each child will always remember his or her experience. Many can’t wait for the next round of investment projects!

It is only in hindsight that we recognized the various levels and meanings of investment in this project. We invested a small amount money by lending our children a few dollars. The fact is, what we did was simply invest in our children with a plan to help “grow” their hearts and minds. Coincidentally, this plan actually required the children to invest themselves, and for a purpose toward missions, helping others. Investing in an investment that invests! Amazing how the branches of this tree of blessings grew in so many directions—all from a small seed of faith.

For all of us, we’re reminded of Jesus’ parable of the talents (Matt. 25:13–29), where investment (of talent and skill, for God’s purpose) is looked upon not just as a good idea but as something vitally important, even a command. We saw from our humble little investment that with God as “project manager,” faith and works can come together and produce fantastic results for his purpose. Perhaps ... just maybe ... a few more seeds have just been planted in the hearts and minds of some of the leaders of our young out there? ■

Jason Chang is a freelance writer at Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church

Meet Pam Lister, Eastern Canada's Adventist Book Centre Manager



It was just this August that Pam came to the managerial position at the Adventist Book Center (ABC) with a deep passion and dedication to ministry. Already she feels at home. "I've been here now, and I feel like I've been here all along," Pam says.

And Pam has plenty to bring to the table. After graduating from Kingsway College, she landed numerous jobs, some in retail and hospitality. Pam also worked at the Hudson's Bay Company for 24 years, at both the Toronto and Ottawa locations. But the story of how she eventually ended up working for the ABC involves a long journey.

Pam grew up with a rich Christian education, but at age 18, Pam left the church. When she moved to Toronto to take on a position at the Hudson's Bay Company, she was still not in the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

It was on Christmas Eve of 1995 that Pam's life began to change. After overhearing a rendition of "The Greatest Gift of All" by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers, Pam began to feel the tug of the Holy Spirit.

The day after Christmas, Pam walked into her boss's office and told her she could no longer work on Saturdays. Despite the pressure she began to receive from her

colleagues because of this new change, she remained firm in her decision. Seventeen years later Pam is still at Hudson's. "The fact that I was still there told me that God had a reason for me to be there," Pam says.

But Pam had an unmet desire. She longed to work in ministry.

In August 2012 Pam received a call from the ABC offering her the position of store manager. Pam didn't think twice. "I truly believe that God was answering a prayer of mine," Pam says. "I wanted to be able to start as soon as possible. It was the most peaceable decision I have ever made."

Alongside her work with the ABC, Pam is also deeply involved in music ministry. One of the highlights of her music career was when she sang onstage as part of her ensemble group with Steve Green at the It is Written Toronto partnership.

She confesses that at times she is moved to tears when it comes to her music. But seemed to be the most touching moment was back in January 1996, when she sang for the first time after being truly convicted in the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

Pamela sang "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." "This is the first time I ever really felt like I went to church, when my heart went to church with me," she says.

The ABC, located in Oshawa, sells and distributes products to customers in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and P.E.I. The store also travels to eastern Canadian campmeetings including those held in Simcoe and Toronto, Ontario, and in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Pam says that the ABC is an integral part of the community, and she hopes to do her part to make sure it remains this way. "I'm just happy to be here, and to make sure that we're working together in such a way that the [ABC] can stay in the community and continue to be a ministry," she says.

Pam has a vision for the ABC that remains strong. She hopes to improve customer service, increase product sales, and take the ABC Bookmobile (store on wheels) to new areas. "I'm trusting that God is going to give me the business sense with each thing that I have to deal with. Everything from ordering the food, to making sure my conversations with people are positive and uplifting," Pam says.

And she has hasn't forgotten the true mission. "We're fulfilling what God wants us to do. We're sharing the gospel." ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD



WHEN SOME THINK OF PEOPLE OF EXCELLENCE, a wide array of names including Steve Jobs, Aristotle, Michael Jordan, Michelangelo, Barbara Streisand, Clint Eastwood, Ellen G. White, Mother Theresa and Pierre Trudeau may come to mind. These names are easily recognizable because of contributions considered excellent in their fields of influence.

However, I want to draw your attention to a few less famous individuals whose work may often go unnoticed because they labour every working day in ordinary classrooms in Adventist schools. And yet, what work could be more excellent than educating our boys and girls for service to God and country? The following individuals are the recipients of the 2012 SDACC Excellence in Education Award for their excellent contributions to Adventist education. They were nominated by their peers, parents, superintendents, school board members and students, and selected by a panel of judges. We honour and congratulate them for their outstanding work.



GAYLENE BEST—

Gaylene graduated with a B.Ed. degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1983 and has 33 years

of teaching experience. She has two adult children, Lynne Marie Browell and Ryan Browell. Currently, she is the librarian, learning assistant, and vice-principal at Deer Lake Seventh-day Adventist School in Burnaby, B.C.

Gaylene chose teaching because she has a passion for teaching children, and she believes that it was part of God's plan for her to teach in an Adventist school. In this setting she is able to share her faith with students and staff every day.

Gaylene is highly respected for her spiritual leadership and innovation in teaching. Of the many exciting teaching experiences she has had, Gaylene identified the leadership role she played in spearheading the "Seven Habits" program at Deer Lake. As a "Seven Habits"

school, Deer Lake incorporates the teachings of renowned psychologist and author Steven Covey to create a positive, respectful school environment where students and staff work collaboratively for common success.



JASON PERKINS—

Jason graduated from Canadian University College with a B.Ed. in 1995. He is married to Brandy

Perkins, and they have two teenage sons, Joshua and Brandon. Jason likes spending time with family and friends and enjoys playing hockey and volleyball.

Jason has 17 years of teaching experience and currently serves as the physical education, computer, and Grade 4 French teacher and vice-principal of College Park Elementary School in Oshawa, Ont. He is appreciated and well-respected by his colleagues. He "brings a joyful and positive disposition to his in-

teractions with other members of the staff. He is a ready listener who is willing to offer support and meaningful advice," attests Dan Carley, school principal.

In addition to his teaching and administrative duties, Jason organizes and runs the intramural sports programs, the after-school athletics program, the ski club and hockey school, and regularly leads a Sabbath School class at his church. But what he values most about teaching in an Adventist school is the opportunity it gives him to help students develop their characters and foster a relationship with Jesus.



LINDA BASTIEN—

Linda is a JK-4 teacher at Windsor Adventist Elementary School in Windsor, Ont. She graduated

from Atlantic Union College with a BA and has been teaching for the past thirty years. She is married to Claude Bastien



and has one grown daughter, Maria, who is working on her PhD at the University of Ottawa.

Linda is an innovative teacher, introducing students at a young age to the world of computers and musical instruments. She is diligent and dedicated, often arriving at school early in the morning and leaving late at night. She organizes a lot of extracurricular activities, thus making the school experience of her students rich and rewarding. She is celebrated by parents for her selfless community service and her excellent reading program. People are amazed at how well her students read at an early age.

Linda chose teaching because she enjoys being with students and helping them develop in knowledge and understanding. She recalls the incident of a little boy who was distraught and came and sat under her desk because his mom had passed away. Speaking to him words of comfort, she told him that he will see his mother again when Jesus returns. The countenance of the boy changed and he returned to his seat feeling much better.



PAULA MARSHALL—

Paula received her M.Sc. degree from the University of Nebraska in 1999. She is

married to Andy Marshall and chose to teach in an Adventist school because of the spiritual freedom of expression it allows her and her students. Of her 12 years of teaching, the last 11 were spent at Crawford Adventist Academy, in WilLOWdale, Ont., where she currently teaches Grade 7.

Paula is described as “an excellent role model to her students because through her they can truly understand Jesus’ love and care.” She has a great rapport with her students and co-workers. Her students confide in her, always seeking her advice on school-related and personal matters. She serves as chair of a guidance curriculum team working on a curriculum guide for Grades 1 to 8.

She is a dynamic, innovative teacher who recently introduced American Sign Language to her Grade 7 classes. As a trained counselor, she uses her skills to enhance the learning and achievement of her students. Outside of school, Paula is a prominent leader in her church and is involved in a dynamic music ministry with a group of her peers. Most memorable for Paula are times when God inspires her to include an activity to enhance a lesson that, when she follows His lead, results in even better outcomes than if she had planned it all along.



MURRAY MCLEOD—

Murray McLeod, BA, is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and has 19 years of teaching

experience, the last 11 years as teacher and principal at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, in Calgary, Alta. He is the father of two adult children, Meghan and Terrence. His hobbies are walking, hiking and playing hockey.

Murray is a diligent and dedicated worker who is willing to take on all tasks directly or indirectly related to his job as leader, tasks such as school maintenance, snow plowing and plunging toilets. He is described as a caring teacher and principal with a positive disposition who encourages students to excel in their work and who is always available to listen and respond to parents’ concerns and problems.

Murray retired in September 2012 with many rich experiences and happy memories of his work in Adventist schools. He says he enjoyed the healthy and enjoyable working atmosphere with colleagues who share a similar worldview, and with children who can understand and relate to that worldview. One of his memorable experiences as a teacher was helping a student pass a government exam when the student did not expect to.

THESE CARING TEACHERS may never gain the fame of professional athletes or Hollywood stars. But we recognize them today for their influence as positive role models for our children and for their dedication to Adventist education. ■

Dennis Marshall is general vice-president and director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Enabling Encounters with a Holy God

Kingsway College wants to make fully devoted followers of Christ who help others biblically withstand the final deception.



Photo by Alexandra Yeboah.

Allen Decena (right) standing with his son, Allen Decena on the Kingsway College campus.

Kingsway College would like to introduce Pastor Allen Decena as its new chaplain for the 2012–2013 school year.

After graduating from Crawford Adventist Academy High School, Pastor Decena obtained a B.Sc. in nursing and worked in a health clinic before going on to seminary at Andrews University.

He served as the assistant pastor at the Filipino Canadian Adventist Church and the primary pastor at the Faith Filipino Adventist Church for two years before joining Kingsway College.

Pastor Decena is now responsible for teaching Grade 11 Religion, which covers various topics such as Hebrews and the Sanctuary, John and the development of devotional life, the practical application of marriage and the family, as well as the acceptance of and witnessing to those practicing other world religions. He is also responsible for leading out in both dormitory worship and Bible studies.

Pastor Decena's campus ministries vision for Kingsway College is to use various worship methods and programs to springboard students and staff into a genuine and tangible encounter with God. He wants to foster an environment where students and staff are drawn to Kingsway College because the presence of God can be

found there; he envisions them saying, "I am now different because I have had encounters with God."

He states that Kingsway College "should be known not only for academics or extracurricular activities but primarily for the spiritual experiences that students have at Kingsway College." He adds, "I want to bring value to our services so that kids are running to the worship service at Kingsway College because they don't want to miss it!"

In addition, Pastor Decena would like to hold communion at least three times a year for the students to participate in. Communion is a way for students to recognize the solemnity of corporate worship so that "God's presence can be felt. We need to foster the mindset that He is here."

Lastly, vespers will occasionally take the form of Café Night, to be held in the Kingsway cafeteria. It will incorporate music and the spoken Word, which sets the tone for prayer. Even though this kind of vespers isn't taking place in the chapel, students are still asked to dress formally for the event. ■

Jennifer Parent is development coordinator for Kingsway College.

Please note: Items in the "News" section may originate from various sources. The Canadian Adventist Messenger will give credit, via a byline, to authors of material submitted directly to us for first printing. Stories without a byline may have been written by Messenger staff, reprinted from other publications or supplied to us by a general press release.

Ontario

Hamilton Dignitaries Honoured at Living Word Christian Fellowship

A Living Word Sabbath Celebration—Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012



Imagine a city without crime control. Imagine unleashed looting, vandalism, and random burglaries and a city where fires blaze out of control and rescues never happen. In the ensuing chaos, imagine no mayor or city council to which we could take our suggestions and complaints. No city hall departments to organize garbage collection and disposal, to collect taxes or to prepare budgets.

What would Hamilton be without our mayor and city councilors, police services or fire department? Truly, it would only be a vision without substance. However, thanks to our city councilors and community first responders, we are able to put optimism and hope to our vision. Ask any crisis survivor who has gone to the edge and back.

With a sermon series entitled "Love Hamilton," Living Word Christian Fellowship began by recognizing the following guests: Dave Christopher, Public Information Officer of the Hamilton Fire Department; Sergeant Berkeley, Crime Manager of Sector 4 of the Hamilton Police Department; Mayor Bob Bratina; and Officers Beck and Bullock of the Hamilton Police Department.

Pastor Francis began by praying for the City of Hamilton, a city long known for its ferocious spirit, steely will and dynamic creativity, and invited all to join in the Garden of Prayer where he asked God to reign over our great city.



(l. to r.) Pastor Francis Douville of LWCF; Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina; public information officer of the fire dept., Dave Christopher; Sergeant Rennick Berkeley of the Hamilton Police; and two other unidentified officers.

Why were these local dignitaries here in our church? We believe they are a shining example of true service to our city and the community. This was brought to the forefront with the story of P.J. and his magic dragon, a true story of a five-year-old boy who was suffering from leukemia. This story was not just about P.J.'s courageous battle with his illness but more about the impact he had on his community and on his father, who was a policeman in Detroit, Mich. Although P.J. did not survive his illness, his legacy lives on. P.J.'s legacy contained three lessons:

To see the good in people (see Phil. 2:5–8), God came to save those who needed to be saved, not those who were already perfect. Firefighters do not

interrogate before putting out a fire, and you can't be a police officer if you can't see the good in people.

No strings attached. You need the proper motivation to serve. You serve because you should, not for your own glory. You have to want to make the world a better place.

We don't have to do it alone. It is impossible to keep our city safe alone. The mayor has a competent staff and the support of the city councilors, and our firefighters and police officers get back-up when necessary. The mayor and Hamilton's first responders were invited to Living Word so we could let them know that we want to be their back-up and to honour them for making our city

a better place, with no strings attached and to assure them that we are praying for them.

All four dignitaries were presented with plaques from the Seventh-day Adventist community, and the Mayor presented all nine Roots leaders (our small groups) with \$100 each to be used as seed money for the performance of an act of kindness to be done on Oct. 20, 2012. In turn, we made a promise to the mayor that we would endeavor to make

Hamilton a better place.

Each guest expressed their gratitude for our recognition, and Mayor Bratina thanked everyone while reminiscing about his time spent as a radio broadcaster and his childhood growing up in Hamilton. His love of trains reminded him of the city's homeless. He told us we have a great city, but it needs more love. There is still too much anger in Hamilton, but seeing firsthand how kind, welcoming and hospitable we are gave him hope.

He emphasized that our ambition and enthusiasm is special and is reflective of our city's diversity.

We are constantly reminded that life is precious and precarious, but with God's help and the help of our city's leaders, we can make our great city of Hamilton even better. ■

*by Davilyn Henderson,
Living Word Christian
Fellowship Church.*

Broken Bikes—Healed People



This year the Ottawa East Seventh-day Adventist Church has really seen changes in the way they “do” church. The church is situated in a tough, depressed neighbourhood, but there is a bustle in the air these days as the church prepares to launch several large-scale outreach activities designed to meet the needs of their community.

After a careful study of the neighbourhood in which the Ottawa East church is located, and in consultation with local and civil stakeholders, the church has prepared to open its doors in a big way by offering a number of small-group resource and support classes. Beginning this

fall the Ottawa East church will be home to cooking and sewing classes, a single mothers’ support group, a Let’s Talk Adventist café where people can make new friends, computer classes for seniors, a Bible study class and much more.

And when the Ottawa East Seventh-day Adventist Church tries to live out Jesus’ mandate to “go ye therefore” (Matt. 28:19), it can sometimes take on the simplest and most practical forms. These days folks at Ottawa East are beginning to realize that some of the most effective ways to minister are right at home, alleviating the needs of neighbours no matter how small or seemingly inconsequential. This is the pattern of Jesus: the “Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence” (The Ministry of Healing, p. 143).

For example, in years of ministry in the McArthur-Overbrook area, where the church is located, one thing church members noticed was a serious need for bike repairs. “Many of the bikes the children ride are old and ill-fitting,” says Dru Antoine, personal ministries leader. “Some are badly in need of tune-ups and height adjustments,” she explains, “while others have flats, missing seats and other more serious issues. Because most households in the neighbourhood have been identified as under-waged, single-parent households, bicycles are generally neglected and children ride them dangerously as is.”

On Sunday, Aug. 19, the first annual OE SDA Bike Clinic was held, slated from 12 to 3 p.m. By 12:30 p.m., 8 to 12 young people were in line waiting patiently for repairs; volunteers were still working on stragglers by 4:05 p.m. Nothing could have prepared bike mechanics, assistants, volunteers, cooks and kitchen crew for the overwhelming amount of community interest in this event. Throughout the afternoon, everyone was kept busy repairing and tuning 35 child, youth and teen bicycles, and five donated bicycles for 40 young people in all.

Smiles all Around

"It was great to see the smiles on the faces of the young people," says Paul Carless, head deacon and event organizer. "There was one little boy who waited for over an hour while we worked on his bike. He needed so many parts, and when it was finished—I will never forget his smile."

"It was nice having some of the community members working hand in hand with us," says Miluambe Hamweeta, Adventist Youth (AY) leader. "You could tell they were a little skeptical at first, but when they saw the turnout and the good we were doing, you could tell they were happy to be involved."

Repairs

Surprisingly, many stayed onsite after the bikes were fixed. Luckily, volunteers had also planned a lunchtime meal of veggie burgers and veggie dogs, veggies, fruit and cake. Some parents asked to see the inside of the church; quiet moments were spent in the sanctuary; a few requested prayer.

Already the area community is anticipating next year's event. The word has spread and expectations are high. This time the community members who volunteered will be invited to be a part of the planning committee. "We want the community to be empowered," says Pastor Daniel Bhookun. "We want them to feel that they have a legitimate part to play in the shaping of their community, and we want the church to be a positive influence in that positive change."

With the help of church leadership, all of whom are on board, step by step, the Ottawa East church is working

to win the hearts of the community one event and one person at a time.

"As we work closely with the community," says Erol Channer, first elder, "we are doing our best to exemplify the love of Christ lived, not preached. If we are faithful to Christ's method of soul winning, we will not only improve the image of the church, get the name Adventist to be better known in our community, but we will also go a long way to lift up the name of Jesus to those who do not know Him."

"Most importantly," says AY elder, Linton Haughton, "we will be showing our young people that we can be effective agents for change in this day and age, walking the walk, not just talking the talk." ■

*by Peggy Caesar, Bible Instructor,
Ottawa East SDA Church.*



Six Nations Church Hold Fellowship in Ontario

If Pastor Sormin (student of the Mohawk language) and members of the Six Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church on the Six Nations reserve in Ontario invite you to fellowship with them ... seize the day!

These Nations include the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Tuscorora, and Seneca peoples.

Several members of the St. Catharines church experienced a memorable Thanksgiving Sabbath in type of exchange visit. We had hosted in June; they, in October.

We left St. Catharines eastward along

the QEW toward Hamilton. Motoring along, we passed ground-level country markets through a region threaded by two-track concession lanes. Growing alongside, were fields of unharvested corn, and 21-carat pumpkin fields sunbathing in acre after golden acre.

This is Ontario in Autumn: Beautiful valleys, rolling hills covered with birch, pine, spruce, their foliage blending seamlessly into kaleidoscopes of fall colours. Albert Camus, the 1950s Nobel Prize winner who, overtaken by similar fall seasons, wrote, "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." In this explosion of beauty, he had experienced not a dying of summer but a flowering of spring.

If an imperfect world can still be so

ever blessing and ever blest, what might heaven be like?

The Six Nations church, crowned still with bell and belfry is a century-plus old. Its rectangular wooden frame and steeply pitched gables is characteristic of a style once popular in rural 19th century Ontario.

Hospitality, expected to be good, bettered expectations. We returned home—having been at home—more desirous of that future when from among every nation, tongue and people will the redeemed bask in the presence of one another, and of our Redeemer. Nya-weh! ■

*by Lennox V. Farrell,
retired teacher,
elder, and writer*

Alberta

Substantial Growth = Amazing Blessing for Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS)



Janet Hall presents Alex Knopp, a PACeS student from Leduc, Alta., with his high school diploma at the Alberta Camp meeting. Alex will be attending Walla Walla University studying for a degree in engineering.

PACeS is excited about this new school year. The current enrolment for the 2012–2013 school year is over 90 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, a substantial growth increase from 14 students at our founding in 2007.

This year we are also blessed to have our largest Kindergarten and Grade 12 classes yet (5 and 3, respectively). Although we are based in Alberta and teach Alberta curriculum, PACeS has students from almost every province in Canada and even one state.

An online distance learning school, PACeS offers families, no matter where they live, Adventist Christian education with Adventist certified teachers. Students enjoy the opportunity to study in an Adventist Christian school in a unique and fun learning environment that is extremely relevant for students of the 21st century. Current Grade 12 student Aldana Kerbs says, “PACeS gives me the opportunity to learn in a Christ-centred setting.” Aldana has been with PACeS for most of her high school education. PACeS graduate and current Canadian University College student Sarah Clausen adds that “Going to PACeS was one of the best decisions I could have made for myself. The teachers are extraordinarily dedicated and always available to help. They helped me prepare for university and life by teaching me to be accountable for myself and for my studies.” ■

by Lori MacDonald, PACeS teacher, Bowmanville, Ont.

Alberta Conference Re-elects Officers



Re-elected administrators (l. to r.): Larry Hall, Ken Wiebe, and Keith Richter.

On Sunday, Sept. 23, delegates to the Alberta Conference 50th Constituency Session voted to re-elect their administrators. Reaffirmed and returned to office were Ken Wiebe, as president; Larry Hall, as secretary/vice-president, administration; and Keith Richter, as treasurer/vice-president, finance.

This year's session, held at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Lacombe, Alta., held a positive tone. The day began with a motivating message by Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division. A strong emphasis on prayer was the continuous thread of the day.

Virgil Covell, the prayer coordinator of the Alberta Conference, along with a prayer team, met together to pray for God's leading. Also, the session provided several opportunities for the delegates to pause and pray as they considered motions on the floor.

After being re-elected, Wiebe addressed the delegates and said, “We have only one reason to be here and that is to glorify our heavenly Father, and we look forward to the second coming of Jesus.” He went on to say that “we must always depend upon Jesus to lead.”

Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, ended the meeting with an appeal for all members to remember that as Seventh-day Adventists, we have the hope that Jesus is coming again. “I’m so excited that Jesus views people the way He does,” he said. He concluded with a line from the well-known hymn “We Are Nearing Home”: “Just over the mountains in the promised land lies a Holy City built by God’s own hand.” ■

Troy McQueen, communication director, Alberta Conference

SDA Church in Canada

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Mongolia: Aug. 11–30 (application deadline May 6, 2013)

Africa (country TBA): Oct. 12–31 (application deadline July 12, 2013)

Cruise: (time and destination TBA)

Contact the Connections coordinator today for more information! Toll-free phone: 1-888-274-2372 ext. 3101; email: connections@adra.ca; or online at connections.adra.ca (no www). ■

The *Messenger* earns recognition at the annual Society of Adventist Communicators' convention

This year at the annual convention of the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC), the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* was presented with two awards. The SAC convention was held from October 18–20, 2012, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where almost 200 individuals/organizations were honoured for their outstanding work in the field of communication.

The *Messenger* was awarded “Best in Class: Column or Department” for the “Creation Corner for Kids” page—a regular column written by freelance writer Tammy Burak. Tammy has been engaging readers since Creation Corner made its first appearance, in July 2005. The design and layout was done by Joan Tanasiychuk. Due to their contributions, this column was seen, as one judge commented, to be “creative and well-designed” and “educational and engaging” for children as its intended

audience, as well as for readers of any age. Another judge remarked on the “development of ideas and illustration” as being “biblically grounded and excellent.”

The *Messenger* was also awarded an honourable mention for “Best in Class: Magazine Design Overall.” The win is a treasured one for the *Messenger*, as it highly esteems the work of *Messenger*’s graphic designer, Joan Tanasiychuk. *Vibrant Life* and *Adventist Frontiers* won “Best in Class.”

The SAC as a professional development organization began in 1988, and its first national convention was held in 2000 at the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. The *Messenger* has been a dedicated member of the SAC and is proud of the role it plays as a top communicator in the Adventist community. ■

“I’ve Come Home”—Share Your Story

The biblical narrative of the prodigal son in Luke 15, is a touching story that demonstrates how beautiful a loved one’s return home can be, especially if he or she has been away from home for quite some time.

The *Messenger* is looking for stories of people who have found their way home. Those who were raised in the

Seventh-day Adventist faith and have a testimony about their journey back home and how they are now rejoicing in this comfort. Does this describe you or someone you know?

We are also looking for stories of churches who are making a big difference in their community, whether they are involved in the ministry of feeding the

poor, providing clothing and/or shelter, visiting people in prisons, etc. Share what you are doing in your community and what big things you are doing for His glory.

If you have a story for us, please send us an email at messenger@adventist.ca with the subject line “I’m Coming Home.” We look forward to your submissions. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Sept. 30, 2012, there are 458 depositors with a total deposit of \$23,200,564. There are 72 loans with a value of \$19,044,183.

National Blind Camps Frenda and Mountainview

Marvelous is the adjective that best describes the 2012 National Camps for the Blind (NCB) programs at Frenda and Mountain View. The excitement and anticipation of attending these camps was equally matched by the experiences and memories captured.

At Camp Frenda, in Ontario, blind camp was both exhilarating and rewarding. With two guest pastors sharing wonderful and engaging worships, as well as the baptism of a longtime camper, Paul Arrigo, the spiritual component was filled with inspiration and encouragement! Paul, totally blind, has been cared for by Bill and Anne Van Alma, who introduced him to NCB camps and the Adventist message.

Though many in attendance had been to previous camps, newcomers soon discovered a strong sense of love, joy and compassion demonstrated during these seven days! Marie Rutter, a patron of National Camps for the Blind since childhood, states that "John and his sister, Stephanie, 22 and 19 respectively, had never attended an NCB summer blind camp until this year. They both enjoyed taking part in many activities such as riding a horse, water skiing, radio broadcasting, boat rides, kayaking and archery."

"And with the waterfront always being a big hit in Ontario," says Marie, "campers were thrilled that the week was so warm and pleasant." She affirms that "Frenda's new swim dock, among many other improvements to the camping grounds, were welcomed 'sights.'"

Marie mentioned the joy of seeing Ed Ritsema, a retired Christian Record representative who comes back year after year. "Many of us call him Opa Ed, because we have known him as a loving CRS rep since we first started attending NCB as kids." In conclusion she shares how wonderful it was to participate in a "Hawaiian Day" filled with many theme events and activities, a fabulous dinner with many sporting their tie-dye T-shirts. "I know most campers enjoyed creating their own tie-dye shirt, and we all had a blast!"



Concurrently, at Mountain View Camp in British Columbia, lifelong relationships flourished and strengthened. Cheryl Richards states, "It felt like we had never been apart." Lee and Cheryl attended as volunteers on behalf of the head office, located in Oshawa. Their roles were many and diverse, all the while working alongside Peter and Daisy Khoo, B.C. representatives. On the first day, many reminisced on the events since their last encounter. "Earl and Ken were sitting with a group of campers eagerly catching up on things they had done and 'seen' since last year. Someone asked Earl if he was going to sing 'The Shaving Cream Song' for the talent show. He smiled and said, 'I have two songs I'm going to sing, and one is Johnny Cash's 'Ring of Fire!'" shares Cheryl.

Early in the week, the weather was not very cooperative. "It was cool during the walking classes, so campers could walk briskly without longing for the pool or feeling overheated," Cheryl remarked. "The horse corrals were a bit soggy, but the truly committed cowboys, like Bobby, rode every day and enjoyed every minute." By mid-week, the sun shone brightly, and water activities resumed. "It was a toss-up as to who would catch the wave first, but

Ben, always the gentleman with the ladies, let Tepi have the first pull around the lake on the tube," recalls Cheryl.

The B.C. campers had fun swimming, canoeing, boating and tubing in Kawkawa Lake. Crafts such as ceramics, candle making, tie-dyeing, and activities such as checkers, horseshoes and hay rides gave ample opportunity for everyone to enjoy the week. Cheryl notes that the spiritual skits orchestrated by the camp staff, Pastor Little's short devotions, and the infamous talent show were among some of her favourite moments during blind camp. "Richard's energetic light show with glow sticks, Peter's lovely rich baritone voice, and Yuko's Japanese song added diversity and a multicultural flavour to our show!" She also adds, "As usual I felt incredibly blessed by the relationships and wonderful people I encountered at camp and wondered how some of them navigate their world with what 'I saw' as limitations. Something that has come to me over time is that no matter our gifts or disabilities, we are all equipped adequately to serve God with what we have been given." ■

Michelle Richards is the associate director for the National Camps for the Blind.

Pastoral Transitions in Port Hardy, B.C.



Retired pastor Don Felkley and his wife Linda.
(Their story appeared in the November 2003 issue of the Messenger.)

The search began in 1991 for a task force worker to serve in Port Hardy, B.C., and work with the First Nations people of northern Vancouver Island. The search was successful; Don and Linda Felkley moved to Port Hardy from Oregon that November. Don had followed a career in public education as an elementary teacher for 23 years, and Linda as a high school secretary.

After 18 years as the pastoral couple of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Seventh-day Adventist Church and community, Don retired at the end of 2009. Through those years Don and Linda were deeply involved in sharing the love of Jesus and His saving grace with the First Nations people of the region. The Felkleys continue to live in Port Hardy with their people, while also enjoying travelling

and visiting their children and grandchildren in the United States.

Since March 2010 Randy and Cheryl Elliott have been serving the region. Randy is from the Stz'uminus First Nation, which is in Ladysmith, B.C. He worked as a trauma and addictions counselor. Cheryl is from Nanaimo, B.C., and was an office administrator.

There is a common question that is asked in Port Hardy: "What brought you to Port Hardy?"


Before they knew about Port Hardy's search for a new pastor, the Elliots were praying and seeking God's will for their lives. They prayed for open doors and closed doors. Randy was praying about two well-paying jobs, and the answer from God was a clear "No." So they continued to pray to discover God's will for them. Just three days later, he got a call from Port Hardy asking him to serve as the pastor for the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Seventh-day Adventist Church. The doors were all open, and they knew without a doubt that this was where God had called them to be.

Serving the First Nations communities on the North Island keeps them quite busy. Beyond his pastoral duties, Randy assists his wife Cheryl, who is the manager of the Harvest Thrift Store and Food Bank.

Having both pastoral families in the community is a great blessing. The community is enriched by their contributions and values them both. They are fulfilling God's commission to further "the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God" (Acts 20:24, NLT). ■

Ramona MacKenzie is a field writer for the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

Should I Fight?



Despite an historic stance of refusal to bear arms, today more Seventh-day Adventist young people have voluntarily joined the military than in any previous generation. Edited by Barry W. Bussey, *Should I Fight?* is a compilation of essays presented at a symposium called to discuss the Adventist Church's position on conscientious objection.

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Good News!

Join the growing number of Adventist churches who are receiving the official Adventist TV network, **Hope Channel**, in their community. It's the perfect way to help your neighbours, family and friends discover the Adventist Church. Hope Channel recently received CRTC approval and could soon be broadcast by every cable and satellite company in Canada. Ask your pastor what you can do to help make this a reality. Register at <http://hopechannel.ca> for more information.



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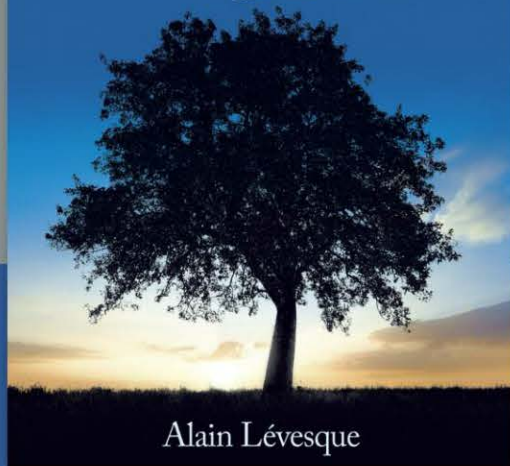
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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ Missing Members

The Cranbrook Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Robin Goldsby, Jason Hagkvist, Brian Partinton, Kenneth Wornardt, Charlene Wornardt. If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact Janice Evans, church clerk, at lostdog49a@hotmail.com, 250/421-0845.

■ Weddings

Heidi Fuchs and Jonathan van Appelen were married on Aug. 19, 2012, in Marysville, Wash., and are making their home in Nanaimo, B.C. Heidi is the daughter of Harvey and Rhondee Fuchs, and Jonathan is the son of Nathan and Darlene van Appelen.

■ Obituaries

Gertrude (née Maier) Trudy Stokes was born Aug. 29, 1951, in Salzburg, Aust., and died Sept. 7, 2012, in Berrien Springs, Mich. Gertrude served as a secretary at the

Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews University, as well as at Adventist Frontier Missions. She is survived by her husband, Keith; mother, Maria Maier; son, Enoch Stokes of Berrien Springs, Mich.; brothers, George of Cherryville, B.C., Fred Maier of Kelowna, B.C., and Paul Maier of Kelowna, B.C.

Victor Frank was born Aug. 25, 1921, in Lacombe, Alta., and died June 6, 2012, in Cranbrook, B.C. Victor was active in the founding and building of Woodlands Adventist School, located in Ponoka, Alta. While he was there, he served as custodian, bus driver, chaperon and friend to the students from 1982–1993. Victor served his church as deacon over the years while in Terrace, Rutland and Ponoka. He is predeceased by his brothers, Edward and Albert. Surviving: wife, Dorothy; son, Rob; daughters, Sherry Heisterkamp of Kingston, Ont., Teresa Cort of Cranbrook, B.C., Rene Kraberger of Grimshaw, Alta., and Jennifer Bunce of Cranbrook, B.C.; 11 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Edna (née LeMarquand) Ganz was born May 27, 1937, in Sidney, B.C., and died Aug. 22, 2012, in Qualicum, B.C. Edna was treasurer of the Nanaimo Seventh-day Adventist Church for 40 years. She served as a member of the Hope Campmeeting music committee and was a member of the board of trustees for Canadian University College, the British Columbia Conference and board of directors of the SDA Church in Canada. She is survived by her son, Gary; daughter Cindy Kettner; brother, James LeMarquand; and sister, Joan Lawson.

Joyce (née Atkinson) Philcox was born June 17, 1920, in Nanaimo, B.C., and died on Jan. 19, 2012, in Parksville, B.C. Joyce was active in fundraising for her church Pathfinder club. She is predeceased by her husband, Hebert, and her brother, Robert. Surviving: sons, Anthony, Nigel and Timothy; and daughters, Susan, Jane and Christine; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Darlene (née Thurston) Skinner was born on Dec. 4, 1958, in Kingston, Ont., and died on Sept. 18, 2012, in Kingston. Darlene was a faithful member of the Kingston Seventh-day Adventist Church. Darlene volunteered regularly at the soup kitchen. She is predeceased by her husband, Carmen, and her sister, Amelia Thurston. Surviving: sisters, Linda Peterson of Parham, Ont., and June St. Pierre of Sharbot Lake, Ont.

Ethel Margaret (nee Payne) Steele was born Mar. 12, 1914, in Oshawa, Ont., and died on Sept. 23, 2012, in Calgary, Alta. She is predeceased by her husband, Robert. Surviving: sons, Charles, of Kelowna, B.C., Robert Jr. of Franklin, Ohio; daughter, Ruth of Calgary Alberta; seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

■ Advertisements

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from the editor

Making Connections

It is that time of year again, when the dust is brushed off the church manual. We turn to page 106 in order to prepare to reelect or elect all the church members needed to make sure the business of the church runs smoothly and that divisions continue to operate without any noticeable interruptions. Elders, deacons and deaconesses will be ordained. Felts, books and other teaching tools will be handed down from one Sabbath school teacher to another, and the churches will continue to meet every Sabbath with fresh budgets, money receipted by new treasurers and fresh funding for various ministries and schools.

All that is fine and well, but let's remember we are a church and have a specific mission, and that mission is to reach our community for Christ. What if we added a few tasks? What if the church made sure there was someone in every community who was involved with the people of influence? What if we made sure there was someone involved in the local Rotary Club? Lions Club? What if there was someone from an Adventist church involved with the people who make decisions about the community? What if there was an Adventist in every professional organization in your community?

I was recently told about a Christian university that has classes on how to be an administrative assistant to those who are the elected government officials. Having that degree has given over two dozen graduates the connection that those looking forward to the second coming of our Saviour should have. This reminds me of the influence that some individuals in the Bible stories had in similar situations.

I was once a member of a local political party. It was not so much that I was passionate about the agenda, but it did give me an avenue to connect with some of the strongest political leaders in our country.

When I first became a Seventh-day Adventist, I remember reading that Ellen G. White said we should first work with the physicians, lawyers and other people of influence when entering into a new area. Credible people give credibility to an organization, especially a church. I do not think this concept has changed since the time when she first penned these thoughts.

In conclusion, our focus is about reaching our community with the message of the three angels. We can only do that when we use the methods Christ used and mingle with people. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

The Secret of Happiness

By ROBERT HARE

DO YOU KNOW THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS? A Seventh-day Adventist evangelist editor by the name of Robert Hare (1858–1953) revealed some insight into this topic in the February 13, 1952, edition of the *Canadian Union Messenger*. Hare was originally a boat builder by training and converted to the Adventist faith in 1885. He then attended Healdsburg College (later Pacific Union College) in the United States, graduated and received ordination in 1888. In 1990 Hare went to Australia, where he served as an evangelist until his retirement in 1929. Hare wrote more than 2,000 poems in his lifetime. This is one article that clearly shows Hare's love of prose.



THE story is told of an angel who was flying over the earth. To and fro, to and fro he went. There were the beautiful mansions and the flower gardens and the running streams. But still the angel kept flying. Another angel passed by and inquired, "Why are you flying back and forth over the earth?" The other replied, "I am looking for what I cannot find. I am looking for human happiness." "Oh," said the second angel, "you will not find that in the mansions of men, nor in the flower gardens of earth. Happiness is in the invisible temple of the human soul."

Of What Does Happiness Consist?

I believe four attitudes underlie human happiness.

The first is a *willingness to forgive*. You will read in Mark 11:26: "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Do you know that the unforgiving mind carries a hell of its own? I do not believe there is anything in this world so bitter as jealousy and an unforgiving spirit. So if you are going to be happy you must learn the lesson of forgiveness. I have found by experience that this is true.

You must have an appreciative mind. You know that every day we receive God's blessings and forget to appreciate His kindness. We read in James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Every blessing we need comes from Jehovah, but there are thousands and millions of people who never say "Thank You" to God. You cannot be happy without being grateful, and that will make you think more of the blossoms, more of the bright skies, and more of all God's beautiful creation than you have ever thought before. You cannot

buy an appreciative mind; you must cultivate it.

The third requisite is *kindly thought for others*. Selfishness is like the Salt Sea where there is no life, no beauty, nothing at all to bless the soul. We read in Galatians 6:7: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." We get the harvest that comes from our sowing, and kindly thought will bring forth kindly action when the time comes.

I was reading about Mr. Gladstone, that grand old man of England, when he was prime minister. He was one night preparing his speech for the next day, and at 2 o'clock he was still writing. Then came a knock at his door. He opened it and there stood a poor woman. "Oh, Mr. Gladstone," she pleaded, "will you come and talk to my boy? He is dying." Gladstone took down his overcoat and went with her and sat down by the side of the dying boy. He talked and prayed with him, and by and by the eyes closed, and Gladstone went home again to his work and worked till daylight came. Then he went to Parliament and made one of the greatest speeches of his career. It electrified his hearers. Someone said to him afterwards, "Well, Mr. Gladstone, you gave us a wonderful speech this morning." He replied, "I couldn't help it. I was never so happy in my life. I stood by a dying boy last night and pointed him to the kingdom." Unselfish service always brings happiness.

The fourth point is *companionship*. You remember the old hermits used to have the idea that if they could get away from humanity they would be happy. One built a tower sixty-five feet high and lived on top of it. When he died people thought he was so holy that the king bargained for his old shirt. God does not plan that man should be a solitary creature. That hermit was never happy. We need the friendship of God, of our dear ones, and of those with whom we associate, if we are going to be happy. The man who is stuck all over with spines, so that people are afraid to come near him, will never be happy.

"It is in unselfish ministry that true happiness is found." I know this is true, friends; so I want to leave the thought with you that there is the possibility of being happy. Happiness is something in the mind, undisturbed by the storms without. "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

I want to be happy and always true,
Happy, yes happy, the whole day through;
Calm and contented, busy and sweet,
No matter how dark the storm clouds meet.
Somehow I know that in earth or in
heaven,
Measure for measure is surely given,
And sunshine sent out in smiles or in tone
Will ever bring back to the heart its own.



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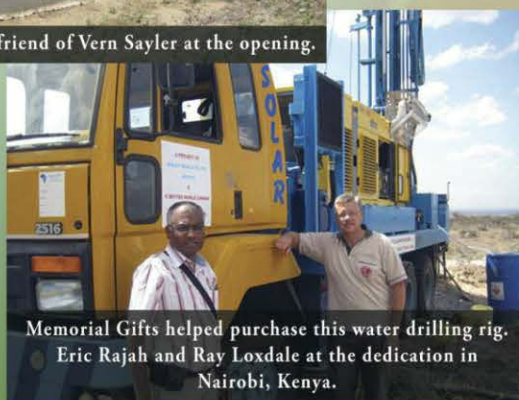


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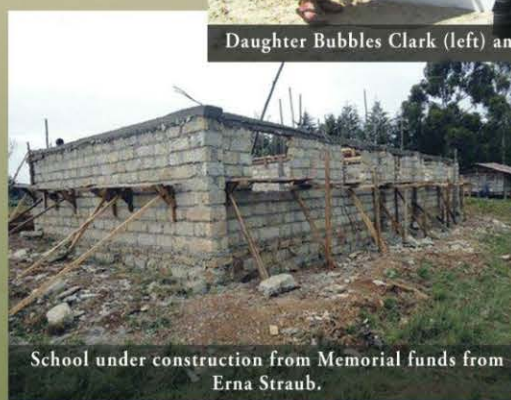
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