



canadian adventist

Messenger

february 2013

REVOLUTION

Generation of Youth for Christ holds 11th
annual conference in Seattle, Washington

PLUS

CAM catches up with Roy Adams (p. 10)

Patrick Dupuis — Coming Home (p. 18)

Remember the Sabbath day (p. 38)

PM40069337

“How about a spiritual
cleanser in 2013?”



Cleansing Diet

Lately several of my friends have gone on cleansing diets. So over the Christmas holidays, I spent time on the Internet to see what it was all about. I learned that there are many options and that the goal was to tune up one's health in general. It sounded like a good way to start the New Year.

When we returned from being with family, Becky and I headed to the grocery store and laid in a supply of good, simple fruits and vegetables. For the next week, our diet was simple and spare. It was an adjustment, and it was good, an excellent tune-up for us both.

Thinking about the cleansing diet made me think about my mental diet—what I read, how I spend my time. I decided that I would make a shift there as well. It seemed good to try a new Bible translation, so I picked up the English Standard Version for its clarity and accuracy.

Starting January 1, I've been reading one book of the Bible each day. That's been an adjustment. My best reading time is early in the day while things are still quiet for me. So in my case, I'm up around 4 a.m. I plan to finish my reading by the end of February. This has been an excellent spiritual tune-up for me.

There's a passage of the Bible that has taken on new meaning for me through this reading:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1, 2 ESV).

How about a spiritual cleanser in 2013? Let's make this our year of the Book, setting aside what friends, the Internet or neighbours may say and simply go to the Word. It's safe. It's true. It will change us. It will change God's church. ■

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IN GRADE 1
I LEARNED
AN IMPORTANT
LESSON FROM
VALENTINE'S
DAY.

In Mrs. Scheidt's class we crafted cards out of cut-up doilies, red construction paper, glitter and glue—lots of glitter and glue. But the important lesson was this: from what I remember, everyone in the class made a card for everyone else. No one was left out.

But now decades later, my Valentine's methodology appears to have changed. I choose a handful of friends and loved ones who are closest to me and give them cards or chocolates; I no longer ensure that "everyone in the class" gets equal care. That's for other people to do, right? But that mentality can easily influence other areas of my life. I have plenty of food every day, but not everyone else does. I received a university education; but many girls in the world only dream of the opportunity to even attend primary school. I have a roof over my head, access to health care and a job that gives me an income to meet my needs—all things that much of the rest of the classroom of this world lives without.

However, I believe that God calls us to live as we did in Mrs. Scheidt's class on Valentine's Day. Micah 6:8 says God requires us to "do justly." He wants us to make sure the resources he's blessed us with are shared like Grade 1 Valentines,

not hoarded only to ourselves or left "for other people to do."

Those of us in North America do pretty well showing love on February 14. Over 1 billion Valentines are sent and more than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate sold. In Canada we've outdone ourselves by featuring towns like Love, Sask.; Saint-Valentin, Que.; and Heart's Desire, Heart's Content and Cupids, N.L.! But what about the rest of our world?

In the classroom of our world today, there are about 925 million people who are hungry every day. Do they have access to and the ability to afford food equal to what I have? What about the children who die—one every five seconds—from hunger-related causes. They die in remote villages without news coverage, far away from our view and conscience. Would that be OK for your child? What about the 1.1 billion people who have inadequate access to water? Would that be OK for me? What do our lifestyles and spending habits say about how well we love the 80 percent of humanity struggling to live on less than \$10 a day?¹ Are we loving our neighbour as we love ourselves? Is everyone in the classroom getting a Valentine? The Bible has over 2,000 verses of God pouring out his heart for the poor and mandating that we care for and pursue justice on their behalf. Our world is full of individuals who are desperate for the very love God has asked Christians to show the poor. They're asking us for the same thing God is asking of us.

God calls his followers to centre our lives on loving year round. "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true

justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor'" (Zech. 7:9, 10, NIV). How important does he think that is? Here's His answer: "'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these" (Matt. 12:31, NIV). Matthew 25 tells us that how we treat God as He presents Himself to us in those who are living in drought or without a well in their community, those who are refugees and those with malaria or AIDS, determines whether He'll welcome us into Heaven ... or not. Yeah, it's that important. Added to that, John 13:35 says, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (NKJV). In other words, how we love shows whose we are—or whose we are not.

What if Valentine's Day is meant to be year round for Christians? What if it became a day that reminds us that God calls us to astound the world with love? What if while buying our boxes of chocolates for loved ones we also bought a bag of seeds for a hungry African farmer? What if, in gratefulness for the handwritten love note we receive, we paid a refugee child's school fees so she could learn to write, too? What if floating heart balloons reminded us to fill our global neighbour's lives with hope and opportunity that enabled them to rise above poverty?

Today, more than ever, the world—and God—is asking, "Dear Christian, will you be my Valentine?" ■

Michelle L. Oetman is donor relations director for ADRA Canada

¹ Shah, Anup. "Poverty Facts and Stats," Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues That Affect Us All, www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats#src1.

In God
and

God Alone

"Truly when I accepted Jesus,
I didn't lose a life; I gained one."

My name is Ron Nelson and I am so proud and thankful to take the name of Christ as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Truly, when I accepted Jesus, I didn't lose a life; I gained one! The abundance and personal well-being that I have found in my relationship with Jesus far exceeds the temporary blessings I experienced as a secular person.

Recently in my devotions, my mind was directed to a wonderful promise in Scripture. In Isaiah 55:10, 11 we read, "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but waters the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (NKJV).

This text speaks of God's sovereignty, as well as His expressive desire to maintain and create beauty amid the tragedy of sin. Abundant life is His desire for each one of us. Though the landscape may be barren, the snow highlights the branches, and they stand firm, aptly and beautifully covered. Even though they are surrounded and enveloped by the hard and bitter cold of winter, the certainty of renewal awaits them in God's providential timing. Spring is sure to come!

This reality reminds me that even though we may personally or professionally be experiencing a difficult passage, the determined purposes of God will not be laid aside by the taunts, assaults and best efforts of our enemy, the devil. It is in the Scriptures that we find comfort and counsel, and they are clear that Satan ultimately will be destroyed. In God's timing Satan's grasp upon our world will be broken that we may live without temptation and risk. Praise God!

Accordingly, Christ offers all of us hope and wholeness, and the many promises of Scripture are ours to claim as we develop and strengthen our faith in God alone. Second Peter 1:3, 4 reminds us that "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" and that "through exceedingly great and precious promises ... [we] may be partakers of the divine nature" (NKJV). Truly, to seek God's will through an intentional, prayerful study of Scriptures is central to God's will for us. Through His Word, Jesus offers us peace of mind as we rest in the promises of His providential leading.

My experience tells me that God gently guides and directs His people with a mighty hand and great power. Only in an intimate relationship with God can we safely maneuver through the challenges and obstacles that confront us. Only in His Strength can we find the ability and capacity to successfully reach the goals of our high calling in Christ Jesus. The Scriptures and the calling of God upon our lives are a blessing to each and every one of us. Plainly stated, I live my life as a Christian partly because I cope so much better in His strength.

While it is good for us to be careful, it is not good to be full of care. I pray that God would lift our burdens and give us a better sense of His providential leading. He is God, and He is able to accomplish His purposes without failure. ■

*Ron Nelson is president
of the Manitoba-
Saskatchewan Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists.*



To date or not to date ...

T33nTa1k

It seems all the adults I know dated when they were young but discourage me and others from dating. Is dating wrong?



I saved this question for now because with Valentine's here and spring fever right around the corner, love is in the air :o). Sorry for the delay.

First of all, let me tell you a secret: adults discourage you because they have made mistakes they want to help you avoid. You see it as restrictive, but it is motivated by love.

Your question is complex because there are many levels to it. Is romantic love wrong? Of course not! Is it potentially dangerous? Absolutely. God created romantic love. He created marriage and sexuality. He designed us literally for love. However, we live in a culture that places a huge emphasis on physical love and seems rather clueless about heart and mind love.

Let me approach your question from a perspective we don't consider often enough. We worry about our own opinions and the opinion of others but what about God's? Here is His desire for you: He wants to partner you for life with someone who will love your heart, your mind and your body, and you will love his/her heart, mind and body. He wants to partner you with someone who will love Him supremely and love you above himself/herself. He wants your future home to be a Garden of Eden, a slice of heaven on earth. That is His desire for you. Sounds good, right?

Here is the devil's desire for you. He wants to entice you with someone who appears to be all you ever wanted, but somewhere in the equation there is compromise. Just enough appeal to keep you hooked and just enough compromise to eventually draw you away from your One true love: Jesus.

Dating is the cultural process we use to determine if the person we think we like is "the one." Here is the problem: dating requires you to invest yourself—your heart, your mind and, too often, your body—in someone you may not marry. When that relationship fails, it is a lesser form of divorce; and the tragedy is that a piece or pieces of you are left behind, so that when you meet the next person who might be "the one," you have less to give them than you had before. If this cycle continues to repeat itself, you'll end up with a heart in pieces, a mind afraid of love that no longer believes you'll find anyone, and too often a body that's been given away on the deepest levels.

When I was "younger," I fell in love, deeply. She was "the one"! I remember two things vividly about that relationship. It involved compromising values I had committed to before I met her, and before I got too involved, the Lord had indicated she was definitely not "the one." I did not listen and I paid the price. God will forgive anything, but the scars of sin remain.

Here is the bottom line. God has better plans for you than any you'll make for yourself. Give your heart, soul, mind and body to Him every day and let Him direct your romantic love. Saying no to "the wrong one" who feels like "the right one" will hurt, but not nearly as much as saying yes to "the wrong one" will hurt later. Is dating wrong? No. Is it dangerous? Absolutely. Listen to the One who loves you ...

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

*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all,
able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in
opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance*

—2 Timothy 2:24, 25, NKJV

African Goose



My mother has an African grey gander. Like all geese, this gander loves water. He loves water so much that one very cold day in fall, he stubbornly decided to stay on the water, even though the pond was freezing. The goose honked as she went to the goose coop, but the gander refused to leave his little spot of open water on the pond.

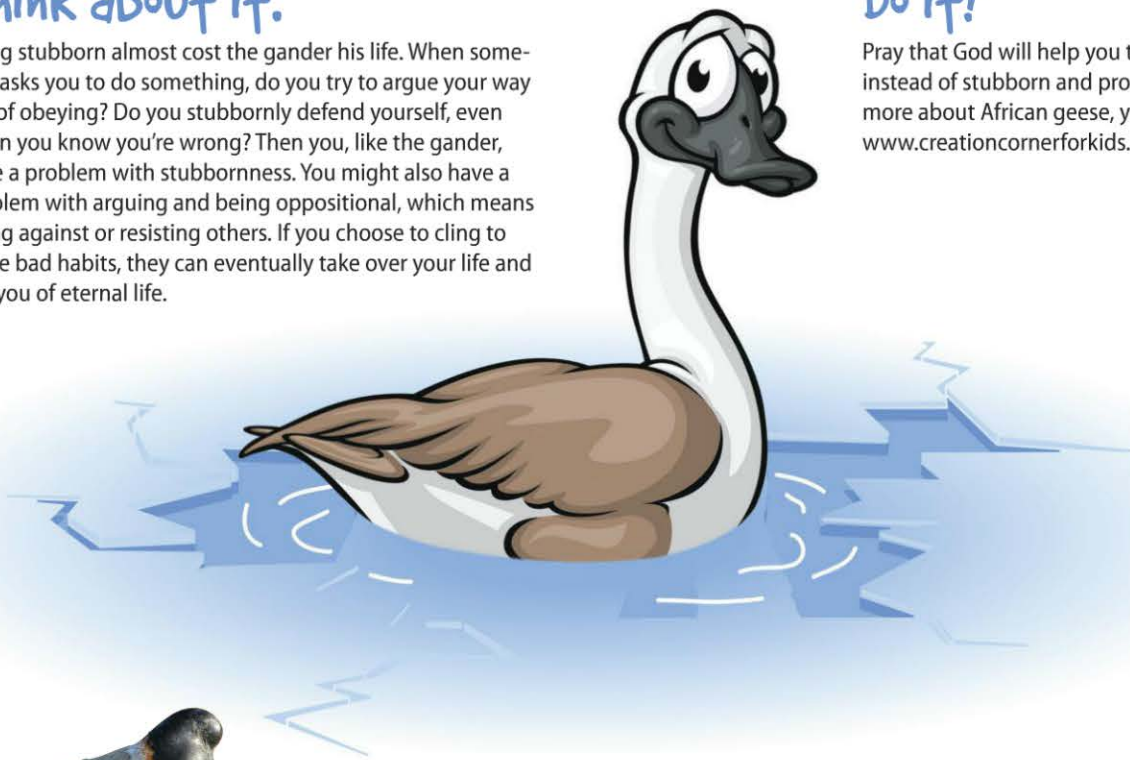
By morning, the gander was unable to move from the spot. The ice hadn't completely closed upon him, but almost. The problem was he was too weak to make the little hop necessary to rise out of the water and onto the ice.

Think about it.

Being stubborn almost cost the gander his life. When someone asks you to do something, do you try to argue your way out of obeying? Do you stubbornly defend yourself, even when you know you're wrong? Then you, like the gander, have a problem with stubbornness. You might also have a problem with arguing and being oppositional, which means going against or resisting others. If you choose to cling to these bad habits, they can eventually take over your life and rob you of eternal life.

Do it!

Pray that God will help you to be humble instead of stubborn and proud. To learn more about African geese, you can visit www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.



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.



February 2013

CUC

positive growth

After four consecutive years of enrolment growth, voices across Canada, the United States and even overseas are starting to wonder, "What's going on at CUC?"



WHAT IS HAPPENING that is causing young people from every province in Canada and from all over the United States to choose Canadian University College for their higher education? What is it about an institution over 100 years old that keeps it relevant to the current and next generation of students? Even with record enrolment growth from year to year, CUC continues to look for ways to improve the experience of every student who attends the university. This willingness to adapt and grow in a continual effort to improve and enhance the CUC experience is attracting young people to the hilltop. And no other tool in the effort for continual positive growth is as valuable as direct feedback from the student.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was administered for the first time in February and March of 2012 to first-year and last-year CUC students. Since 2000, over 1,452 institutions in Canada and the United States have participated in NSSE. The premise of the NSSE survey is that the more students are engaged in the university experience, the more likely they are to learn. The survey measures a university's engagement with its student body in five benchmark categories: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment. CUC's participation in NSSE gives data that will be used to measure the success of long-term goals set by the university's board of trustees. The data is also invaluable in the process to create a positive change in all areas of a student's experience at CUC. A collaboration with all of the North American Seventh-day Adventist universities and colleges has allowed for an additional set of questions to be added to the survey in 2013 to gauge students' spiritual experiences on SDA campuses.

The results of the 2011–2012 NSSE survey have affirmed the quality of education that students receive at CUC. Dr. Joy Fehr, CUC vice-president for academic administration, is thrilled by the results: "I am excited by our NSSE results. In many areas our students indicate that their experience at CUC is better than the average student experience in Canada and even in North America. For years I have been telling students that they are getting a better education here than elsewhere, and now I have data to support that assertion. Students have many opportunities to actively participate in their learning; they develop good relationships with their professors that then pays off in improved learning outcomes; they have incredible opportunities to learn in non-traditional ways through field trips, study tours, Adventist Colleges Abroad programs and so on, and they study in a rich, supportive Christian environment."

The NSSE results revealed that CUC shone in key categories of the survey. CUC excelled in the benchmark for "supportive campus environment." It rated near the top of the table alongside some of the major universities across Canada. The results for the "level of academic challenge" benchmark put them alongside larger institutions such as York University, Simon Fraser University and the University of Alberta—schools with enrolment in the tens of thousands. The survey does reveal that we have room for development in this area. After careful analysis, the institution has already found ways to further strengthen students' academic



Mark Haynal congratulates Sara Sutherland, a 2012 elementary education graduate who is currently teaching at the Okanagan Adventist Academy in Kelowna, B.C.

experience. When asked how they would evaluate their entire educational experience at CUC, 83 percent of students in their final year responded with good or excellent. When asked whether they would still go to the same institution if they could choose over again, 90 percent of first-year students responded with a yes and 83 percent of final-year students responded positively with a yes. The NSSE survey is completely anonymous and confidential so students are encouraged to speak their mind.

The NSSE results are taken seriously on campus and will be used to enhance all programming. The results will be shared with the board of trustees and will also be published in a weekly issue of *Maclean's* magazine. NSSE is only one of many other survey tools used by CUC administration to keep connected to the students on campus and to continually improve their university experience. These surveys help administration make informed decisions about CUC's future. Growth, positive growth, is the focus. Proposals have been submitted to provincial government for a new 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in Wellness, laying the groundwork for other degrees in Health Administration and Physical Education. These programs are focused on providing additional learning and career opportunities that tie into our denomination's commitment to a healthy lifestyle. CUC's ongoing involvement in institutional research like NSSE is because of its continual focus on offering Canada's youth the best university education possible. ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for 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 Roy Adams.

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *What was your childhood like growing up in the Caribbean?*

Roy Adams: I grew up in Grenada. My father, for most of my early years, was working off the island, so the primary influence came from my mother. I had a large family; at times there were as many as 12 of us in the house. I was the youngest boy, protected by my older brothers, so I was not exposed to some of the rigors of young people fighting each other as they would do back in the Caribbean. We were poor, but we always had something to eat.

M: *You spent six years overseas in Asia. What was the calling for you over there?*

RA: My family and I left for Asia in 1981. I worked as an associate professor and then professor of theology at what is now known as the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). It was a very educational experience for me. I had never expected to work in Asia, but having worked there, I wouldn't change that experience for anything. Asian people are very friendly, and you learn much from them—from their gentleness, friendliness and dedication.

M: *What work did you do while serving as associate secretary of the Seventh-day*

Adventist Church in Canada?

RA: I returned to Canada in 1986 as the associate secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and worked there for just under two years. Part of the job description was to serve as the editor of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. I remember one of the innovations we introduced was letters to the editor. This added feature was prominent and gained popularity, and we did get some strong letters, but this increased interest among the readers. I also wrote many of the editorials. I saw the editorial place as a very serious page for serious discussion on issues confronting the church.

M: *What were some of the churches that you pastored here in Canada?*

RA: I was associated with the West Toronto church, now known as Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church. I was there as an intern with Pastor Rudolph James. After just a few months, I was transferred to Montreal, where I was interning with Pastor Earl Parchment. I returned to Toronto, in less than a year, coming back in time for the opening of the Toronto West church at Harvie Avenue. I stayed there until I was transferred to Toronto East as a senior pastor.

M: *Were you surprised at all to receive the Lifetime Achievement award from the Society of Adventist Communicators in 2010?*

RA: I was surprised. I just do my work

without thinking that others are going to be paying attention as to its value. I do it for the Lord and do it the best I can.

M: *You've had a career for nearly 50 years as an author, teacher, pastor and editor. What has the journey been like for you?*

RA: I consider it a sheer joy to have been called to the ministry in the first place and to be used by the Lord, notwithstanding all my inadequacies and weaknesses, to make a difference. In all the things I've done throughout those years, the thing that has really helped me grow most was working as an editor, because you have to always be digging, studying, and staying abreast of issues.

And of course, what flows out of that is my preaching, which I would not want to give up for anything. The people of the church have always been utmost in my thinking. When I wrote for the *Adventist Review*, I was always thinking of how I could touch the people in the pews. This is where I feel at home, with the people.

M: *Where are you now?*

RA: I retired at the end of 2010. Sometimes people ask, "What do you do with your time?" My response is, I don't know where I ever found time to go to work. I have a list a mile long of things to do. It involves speaking, it involves writing, and just a whole series of tasks. Even though I'm retired, I'm not feeling it yet. ■

2nd death gift multiplication



Peter and Lucy,¹ 50-year-old Adventists in good health, wish to leave \$100,000 to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference for Adventist education. The couple contact their financial advisor and learn that the cost of an insurance policy on both of their lives that is payable only upon the second death of either of them is considerably lower than a policy on a single life. This is because the insurance company's risk is spread over two lives and the death benefit is paid only at the second death.

Peter and Lucy are told that a 10-year guaranteed annual premium of \$1,800 would pay for the entire policy. The couple decided to subscribe to a joint \$100,000 life insurance policy, payable upon their second death, and one in which the conference is the owner of the policy. Because the conference (a registered charity) owns the policy, Canada Revenue Agency allows a charitable tax receipt for each of the 10 years the couple donates the cost of the premiums. A charitable receipt of \$1,800 per year from the conference results in tax credits of up to \$900 annually, depending on their province of residence.

After 10 years of payments and tax credits, Peter and Lucy's gift to Adventist education will have cost approximately \$9,000. Their second death donation of \$100,000 will significantly multiply their investment in this insurance product. ■

¹ Be sure to contact your own financial advisor. All names and all amounts are examples only.

This story is based on the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada edition of the planned giving book *George's Tree* (pp. 66, 67). Get your free copy of *George's Tree* by calling 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, or emailing legal@adventist.ca.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

*What are four reasons
you love Jesus?*

MASKWACHEES CHURCH, ALBERTA; MONCTON CHURCH,
NEW BRUNSWICK; SASKATOON CHURCH, SASKATCHEWAN;
AND COLLEGE PARK CHURCH, ONTARIO.

Vicky Ford: He loves me, there are no barriers, He gives peace through troublesome times and He is real and trustworthy.

Jullie Bannister: I love Jesus because He reveals His love for me each and every day in small and big ways. He is the Creator, and I love communing with Him through nature. He is our everything: Creator, Ultimate Sacrifice, Redeemer and Saviour.

Virene Joseph: He accepts me as I am. He wakes me up each morning. He took my place on the cross. I see the wonders of Creation and marvel at His mighty acts.

Aris Jamieson: He is the epitome of the beautiful characteristics He announced about Himself to Moses (Exod. 34:6, 7). He is a personal God. I've experienced all of His loving and gracious characteristics in all their rich fullness. Though He is always with me, He is intensely present in my hour of greatest need. He relentlessly pursues unworthy, wayward me.

Gord Bontje has always been happy to help those in need, but he would rather provide a cure than a crutch. The president of Laebon Homes was pleased to see that philosophy in action when he visited A Better World's Kenya projects in 2007 and again in 2012. Self-sufficiency was the goal.

Why I Give Building Better Communities



Gord Bontje

"What I wanted to see was that the efforts, the work, helps to build people, instead of solving their immediate needs," he says. "I honestly believe that's the effect we're having."

Since then Bontje has become one of the most outspoken supporters of the international development agency. He has supported major fundraising events and attracted thousands of dollars to A Better World from friends and even his own staff, who hold regular fundraisers.

Years before his trip, he started donating, thanks to a trusted friend's assurance that A Better World was credible. Bontje was soon invited by agency co-founder Eric Rajah to become a reference. He quickly accepted because he understood the value of testimony from someone he trusted. Now that Bontje has seen it for himself, he has given countless individuals the same reassurance he needed—that all of their money goes to projects and that they can go see the results for themselves.

"I've gotten phone calls from perfect strangers who know of me," Bontje says. "I've been, I've seen, I know the organization." The initial attraction for Bontje was learning that every dollar he donated was going to help people, not administration. As someone who built a small company into one of Central Alberta's leading homebuilders, such a high-value donation appealed to

his business skills.

Within an hour of learning about A Better World, he wrote his first cheque. Today he realizes the growth of the organization cannot sustain everything through volunteers, so he happily supports the operations as well.

Bontje knows what it is like to start and run an organization. He has volunteered countless hours as former chair of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, with community service agencies, and more recently on the board of Alberta Health Services that manages all health care services for the province. Bontje recounts his first homebuilding experience. Right after high school, Bontje and high school friend Peter Lacey moved from Ontario to Alberta, where they started a small homebuilding business. "There were times when we weren't sure if we would make it." Today Laebon Homes has become Central Alberta's

largest privately owned homebuilder. His friend Lacey went on to found Cervus Corporation, which manages and owns John Deere and Bobcat dealerships around the world. In November 2012 Lacey and Bontje organized a trip for 32 key business leaders to go see A Better World projects in Kenya. Lacey is also a great supporter of A Better World.

"Building Better Communities is our company motto," says Bontje. "I see that in my work with A Better World. I give because I am blessed, and we as a family want to share that with others." Bontje loves the time and investment in young people too. "A Better World is not just about people," he says. "It is about involvement of the community at all levels. The A Better World model is really special."

He also appreciates being able to pick where his money will go but offers to cover projects that Rajah has trouble finding donors for. "He tells me what I'd like to pick," Bontje says with a laugh. "I look at the big picture work of A Better World, and that's what I get excited about: the efforts of the group as opposed to [particular projects]." ■

Laura Tester is a reporter with the Red Deer Advocate and volunteers in the marketing department at A Better World.



Communicating Your Vision Through Membership Classes

I AM OFTEN ASKED WHAT THE SECRET is to growing a stable and healthy church. Over the last 10 years, my church has grown from 250 members to 700. During that time we have experienced a high rate of member satisfaction, and our giving in tithes and offerings has tripled. Is there a secret? Not really. However, I would suggest there are a few things we have found to work. I highly recommend that every person interested in joining your local church (either through transfer, profession of faith or baptism) be required to attend a membership class.¹ Here are some frequently asked questions.

What are the positives of holding a membership class? I must admit that one of the reasons we have never had a major divide in my church is because of the membership class. It is during this class that prospective members get to hear about the culture of the local church. They can never say they didn't know about future plans or the vision. During this time we explain our methodology for ministry.

The other important aspect of this class is for new members to get to know one another in an informal setting. On average our classes have 10 to 12 people attending. This is a nice small group for individuals to share their story on how they found the church and what they are looking for if they chose to become members. It is critical to listen to everybody's story, even

more than giving out your information. In every class the pastoral team attends, along with some representatives from the church board, elders and other key ministries. This allows your key leaders to learn how they can serve the needs of new members.

What about the existing members? How can you get the longtime church members to attend this class so everybody will be on the same page? I would recommend holding a four-part sermon series. In these sermons you can teach on the vision of the church, how your church wants to reach the community. At the end of your series, invite every member to accept the call to be servants. As a result, every member who attends the sermon series will receive a certificate stating he or she "graduated" from the membership class. In essence, you are grandfathering in the existing members.

What if somebody doesn't want to attend the class? There will always be a small percentage of folks who will refuse to attend. This is why it is critical to get the support from your church leaders first, so they will promote the importance of the class. For example, my mother, Gloria, has been attending my church for almost 10 years while her membership remains elsewhere. When invited to attend the membership class, she said, "I am the child of an Adventist pastor. I don't need to learn anything new about the church; I already know it all." My response was, "We are not asking you to attend the class to learn about Adventist beliefs but to learn about your role and responsibility of being a member of this church. If you don't want to go, you don't have to. You

can keep attending this church as long as you want. No one is going to kick you out." I tell people this story so they know that if I am not going to allow my mom to transfer her membership without attending the class, nobody is going to get a special waiver.

What are some of the key principles you teach in this class? The most important principle we express at New Hope Church is that we are a gospel-centred church. We re-educate the members of the class on God's great gift of grace. It is amazing how many people are grateful that I explain Jesus to be the one and true, sole centre of the church. We also explain the importance of serving in the church through ministry, the governing body of the local church, and how giving financially is an expression of one's trust in God.²

Are there other ways people can transfer or join in membership? The only way a person can join the church through transfer of membership or profession of faith is by attending the Entrance to Membership Class. After the four-hour class, they are given a membership application and invited to join the church.

If the church members are all moving toward the same goal and vision, you will discover your congregation will become increasingly unified around the same goal. ■

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

¹ Some people don't like the term class. I would suggest membership orientation as an alternative.

² You can learn more about the membership class at lookingforachurch.org/membership



STAFF BEARERS



Words by God — Exodus 17:8-16, NIV

When the Amalekites attacked the Israelites, Moses told Joshua to gather some men and go out to fight them and said that he would go to the hilltop and hold up his staff. So Joshua went to battle against the Amalekites while Moses took Aaron and Hur with him. As Moses said, he raised the staff above his head, and while the staff was held up, the Israelites would win, but when his hands got tired and he lowered it, they would lose. Can you imagine the pressure on his shoulders? Not just the exhaustion from holding up the staff but the purpose of why he was holding it up. Faith can be like raising the staff in our hands—believing when we don't see, praising even when we are at our lowest and persevering when difficulties arise. When Moses was tired, Aaron and Hur stepped in and held up his hands, one on either side. With their support his hands were steadied until sunset, when the Israelites won the battle. Moses made it known by building an altar to God, calling it "The Lord is my Banner" (see Exod. 17:8–16).

In life there will be times when we face battles. We can be confident that God is fighting for us, but He may ask us to lift up our "staff" in faith. Your staff could be a number of things—your courage, hope, family, relationships, job, school, stress, depression or an illness—anything you are struggling with or facing. As with Moses, our hands can get weak and tired of holding it up on our own. No one is an island. We were made for community, to share in our trials and joys, to laugh and cry together, and to lift one another up in Christ. It is important to have key people in our lives who can come alongside us and help lift up that staff together. It might look different in each unique situation: prayer, encouragement, a listening ear, praising God, playing Ping-Pong or walks in the park—someone to simply be there. Sometimes the answers to our prayers are the people God places in our life for that moment. Whatever your battle may be, whether physical, emotional or spiritual, let your "Aaron and Hur" lift up your hands. Find your staff bearers.

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



Watch "I Lift My Hands," by Chris Tomlin
on YouTube: bit.ly/jXEh0M



app review

by Josué Sánchez

app review

In Brief:

Who said you need to be in Pathfinders to have fun with Bible quizzes? Guess the Chapter is a Bible game for all ages that will challenge you to remember where the stories of some of the greatest heroes, miracles and parables of Jesus, promises, etc., are found in the Bible. There's even a section for prophecies! Oh, and if all these quizzes make you a little nervous, you can always stick to the "Well-Known" area. For those of you who like competition, you can save your score locally and globally. Ready? Go! You have only got 100 seconds!



Wow Factor:

Perfect for Sabbath afternoon fun!

Meh Factor:

Active Internet connection is required to play this game. No Android love here, sorry.

Developer:

Movinpixel, Ltd.

Seller:

Movinpixel, Ltd.

Price:

\$0.99

Works On:

iOS 3.0 and up (iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad)



it is written

Touching Hearts, Impacting Lives ...



Being on CTV gives It Is Written Canada exposure to viewers from all walks of life and with the most diverse backgrounds and beliefs. It also places our program side by side with television ministries from other religious persuasions.

Here is what one of our viewers said about that: "Your series presents a number of issues not necessarily covered by mainstream Christian media. For that reason, it does feed me some solid Christian food."

Our telecast seems to have appropriate content for this time and age—the end times; and there seems to be a special meaning for people living in large urban settings. Here is a comment from one of our viewers: "Thank you for your timely and God-given messages for the people of our cities. I enjoy them so much. May God continue to provide for this wonderful ministry."

As much as our schedule allows us, we as a ministry take the time to visit with people, listen to them and pray for them. I recently visited and prayed with someone in the hospital who had had an aneurysm. A few weeks later, we heard the great news of how God had intervened:

"Dear Pastor, you visited me and prayed to the Great Physician for my healing. He honoured your prayer and healed me. Praise His holy name! Thank you!"

Let us praise God indeed. The Holy One from whom all blessings flow! ■

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.



February 2013

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Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Not all people who visit the building of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada would guess who was born in Africa and is a multigenerational Adventist missionary. Keith Chant also is the IT Support Specialist for the SDACC. A multifaceted job, from keeping websites up to date to fixing things that are broken that would otherwise stop us from getting things done in an efficient manner.



Cheryl and Keith Chant with son, Benjamin.

EDITOR: Keith, first of all, tell us what makes you a multigenerational missionary.

KEITH: My great-grandparents Ezra and Inez Longway were missionaries in Asia for 60 years. My grandparents Carl and Eva Currie (Ezra and Inez's daughter) served in Asia and Africa for 50 years. My parents, Victor and Ruth Chant (Carl and Eva's daughter), served in Zambia and Zimbabwe for 23 years. My grandmother, mother and I were all born and raised in the mission field.

EDITOR: So your great-grandfather was the church's longest serving missionary? Tell us those details.

KEITH: Ezra Longway went to Siam (Thailand) as a missionary in 1918. When he retired in 1979, he was recognized as the longest-serving Adventist missionary with 60 years to continuous service in the Asia. He served in many roles and in many countries over the years, from pastor to division president. He did fundraising for the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital and translated more than 20 Ellen G. White books into Chinese.

EDITOR: That is incredible. How did your family become Adventist in the first place?

KEITH: I am not sure how my great-grandparents became Adventist, but my father's parents joined the church when he was eight. They were introduced to the church through the work of a literature evangelist.

EDITOR: Tell us about your family.

KEITH: I have a wonderful wife, Cheryl, and an eight-year-old son, Benjamin. My father is now retired after teaching for the church for 40 years, but he continues to work part-time for the church as an online teacher and pastor for the local church. My brother and his wife live in Zimbabwe, and my sister and her family live in Tennessee.

EDITOR: How long have you worked at the SDACC?

KEITH: I started working at the SDACC during the summers in 1995, and when I finished school, I worked part-time for the office until 2000, when I started full-time in my current role.

EDITOR: Do you have any kind of Christian education in your background?

KEITH: I started my adventure in Adventist education in Grade 1 and stayed in Adventist education all the way until I graduated from Canadian University College. I have always been thankful for the solid grounding that Adventist education provided for me.

EDITOR: What did you take at CUC? Would you

recommend others go to that institution?

KEITH: I earned a B.Sc. in biology with minors in physical science and psychology. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at CUC and would definitely recommend it to any students looking for a university.

EDITOR: Do you think churches can step up their use of technology to reach their communities?

KEITH: Many churches could enhance their outreach through their use of technology. One big area is through the use of their websites. All churches in North America have been provided a free website through Adventist Church Connect (www.adventistchurchconnect.com) and by maintaining and promoting their websites can reach out to the community. A website provides a way for people who are curious about the church to visit without having to come out and visit.

EDITOR: What is the best way to make that happen?

KEITH: You want to make sure the content on the site is relevant to what the church is doing. If you have registered a domain name that is tied to the local community (such as abbotsfordadventist.ca), when someone is searching for a church in your community, your site will be returned as a top result. The most important point, though, with any website is to make sure it is kept up to date with church news and events so that visitors can always see what is currently happening.

EDITOR: What can individuals do to further their influence for Christ?

KEITH: For me, the most important aspect of my influence for Christ is the example I lead in my day-to-day life, including my online presence. I need never be ashamed of who I am and what I believe (Rom. 1:16), and in all my interactions on and offline, I never need be afraid to stand for Christ and talk about His influence in my life.

EDITOR: Do you want to share a specific, encouraging Bible text with the the readers of the Messenger?

KEITH: One Bible text that has always been a comfort is Jeremiah 29:11–13:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (NIV) ■

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

Coming home

My story begins in the small town of Delson, Que. Sometime before I was born, my Catholic mother was introduced to the Adventist message through the French It Is Written telecast; she later joined the Adventist Church. Although my father did not join the church, he respected my mother's newfound faith and did not object to my mother's desire to raise my older sister, brother and me in the same faith.



Cindy and Patrick Dupuis with their children: Zachary (4), Hugo (3), Chloé (19 months) and Mahée (6 months).

I went to church every week and participated in Pathfinders and other youth activities. However, as a teenager I opted out of church and preferred to sleep in on Sabbath mornings. I must admit that at that time in my life, I only knew of God. Prayer and reading the Bible were merely religious motions I went through; I had not yet experienced Jesus in my life. I turned my back

on the church and everything religious and concluded that my mother was a religious fanatic who had joined a religious cult.

Later on I began to feel a sense of emptiness inside without really knowing why. I could not explain it because I had everything going for me and lacked nothing. I was getting a good education. I was healthy and involved in

sports and other social activities. I had good friends. I went on vacation every year with my parents. However, I felt as though something was missing. Reasoning that I needed to experience new things, I followed my friends into alcohol and partying and eventually got caught up in substance abuse. Although I had completed college, my life was a mess. It was then that heaven sent me an angel in the form of a beautiful young lady named Cindy who brought new meaning to my life. However, Cindy reached a point in our relationship where she was having issues with my lifestyle, namely my addiction to marijuana. She gave me an ultimatum. With everything I had in me, I tried to turn away from my addiction—all in vain.

Depressed and discouraged, I was in my room trying to figure out how in the world I was going to get my life back on track. Desperate, I decided to pray—to whom, I really didn't know. I sat on the edge of my bed, looked up at the ceiling, and said, "If there is a God out there and if what I've heard about You is true—that you can help us when we have problems—well, I have a problem. I can't get rid of this addiction and I'm about to lose a relationship with a precious young lady because I can't get my life together. Can you help me?" Immediately, I felt a presence come over me and fill me with a profound sense of peace. I started crying and felt as though a huge burden had been taken off my shoulders. Additionally, it seemed as though I was being forgiven for past wrongs, and my guilt was being taken away. I must say I hadn't felt this way in a long time. I went to bed and fell asleep with this inexplicable, fulfilling sense of peace. The next morning I woke up and the addiction was gone. For a moment I thought I must have gone crazy! What happened to me last night? I asked myself. Then it dawned on me that I had experienced the presence of God in my life. But which God? Many questions flooded my mind. I decided that I needed to figure out exactly what had happened in my room that night and how it was possible that my struggles with substance abuse were solved just like that.

I took a world religions class at a university. The professor did a great job teaching all the world religions, except Christianity, which he had asked his teacher's aide to present. Frustrated with this, I decided I was going to study the Bible on my own. I went to the university library, picked up a Bible and read the Gospel of John for the first time. I sat there crying as I read John 3:16. I felt so much joy knowing that Jesus desired to be my Friend. That day at the library, I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord.

Eventually, I felt the need to attend church. So I began to study the Bible more and began attending church services of various religions and denominations. I was seeking a church that taught biblical truth, and

the more I studied the Word of God, the more I felt that some of the churches I was visiting were at odds with Scripture on certain points. Up until then my mother had not tried to hinder or influence my Christian experience. However, one day she gave me a DVD and said to me "I know you don't want to be bothered with the Adventist Church, but this DVD is really interesting, and I think you'll enjoy the manner in which the pastor presents the teaching of the Bible." I devoured the prophecy seminar on that DVD and started questioning myself regarding Adventism and its biblical foundations. The more I researched the Sabbath and other important doctrines of the Adventist Church, the more I felt convinced that it was where I needed to be.

One Sabbath morning I decided to visit an Adventist church farther away (not the one I grew up attending). Interestingly enough, I almost got into a car accident on my way there. Walking in, I felt awkward, as if I was coming home, but at the same time I was afraid of not fitting in. It then dawned on me that church was a place for sinners, so I probably would meet others who were working through their own issues and overcoming them by the grace of God. I immediately headed upstairs to the balcony to sit in a corner. After some time I prayed to God and asked Him to give me a sign: Lord, if I am in the right place, and if it is your desire that I join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, then send someone to greet me, and I want that person to tell me that I've come to the right place. A few minutes later, an elderly lady got up from her pew on the main floor of the church, walked up the steps to the balcony and came directly my way. She said to me "Son, the Lord sent me over here to greet you because you are a visitor, and I want to tell you that you have come to the right place." Sister Lee then grabbed hold of my hands and prayed for me. Teary eyed, I thanked Jesus in my heart.

Some time later, on March 8, 2003, I was baptized. Cindy, whom I was still dating, was baptized on June 25, 2005. Exactly one year later, Cindy and I were married. Shortly after my baptism, while doing evangelistic work in Zambia, Africa, I felt an overwhelming call by God to become a pastor. Upon my return, I started working as a teacher and also started studying toward a degree in religion. Soon after, I obtained an opportunity to work for the Quebec Conference. Cindy and I are proud parents to four young children. I am thankful for God's leading in my life, and my desire is to serve Him and make Him known to others who have yet to experience God's marvelous grace and the love of Jesus. I am happy to say that I've come back home. Thank You, Jesus. ■

*Patrick Dupuis is intern pastor
for the Saguenay Adventist Church.*

cover story

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2002, GYC has been holding annual youth conferences that offer Bible-based seminars, networking with various ministries and opportunities for mission work. Past conferences were held in California, Michigan, Texas, and Maryland. This year's lineup of speakers included ARISE instructors David Asscherick and Jeffrey Rosario, GYC founders Israel Ramos and Justin Kim, and Michigan Conference pastors Wes Peppers and David Shin.



THE REVOLUTION

Generation of Youth for Christ holds 11th
annual conference in Seattle, Washington.

➤ ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤ **THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES WITH YOU AND ME.**

As I walked in the main auditorium of the Washington State Convention Center on the evening of Friday, Dec. 27, 2012, I was amazed. Four thousand young people¹ were gathered for the 11th annual five-day Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference. And I was thrilled to be one of them.

The theme for the year was “Acts: The Revolution Continues,” and the conference was held in Seattle, Wash. The apostles and early-century Christians began the “revolution” —a “revolt against ... anything that stood in the way of the relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ”²; we as young people in this generation are called to continue it.

As I listened to each message presented, I became personally convicted. I looked back and thought of how Christ had been leading in my life. He had taken me so far, but hearing the truths spoken by the speakers, I realized I had only further to go. I took comfort in the fact that the Lord would be by my side, and would work the change that needed to occur in my life.

In one evening session by David Shin, I remember sitting very still, just taking in his words. David’s sermon had addressed the need for us to have that true love for souls as exemplified by Jesus. Every day now I try to keep things in perspective, and as I think about the people in my life, I earnestly pray, “Lord, help me to have a unwavering love for souls, just like you.” In addition to the seminars and plenary sessions was the practical side of the conference. On Sunday afternoon GYC attendees engaged in outreach activities, which included going door-to-door and feeding homeless people.

I admit I was a bit hesitant to go knocking on doors in Austin, Wash. All my life I had shrunk away from positions that required me to be in the forefront. I had made an art of blending in with the background; I’d always been good at it. But I believe God was calling me to step out in faith. That Sunday there were 2,500 missionaries; they knocked on 22,595 doors, passed out over 25,000 flyers and 6,150 “Glow” tracts, and they prayed with 915 individuals. Praise God. In addition, 441 people in these communities pre-registered for upcoming prophecy seminars.³ Pretty remarkable for what is considered to be one of “the most secular cities in North America”!

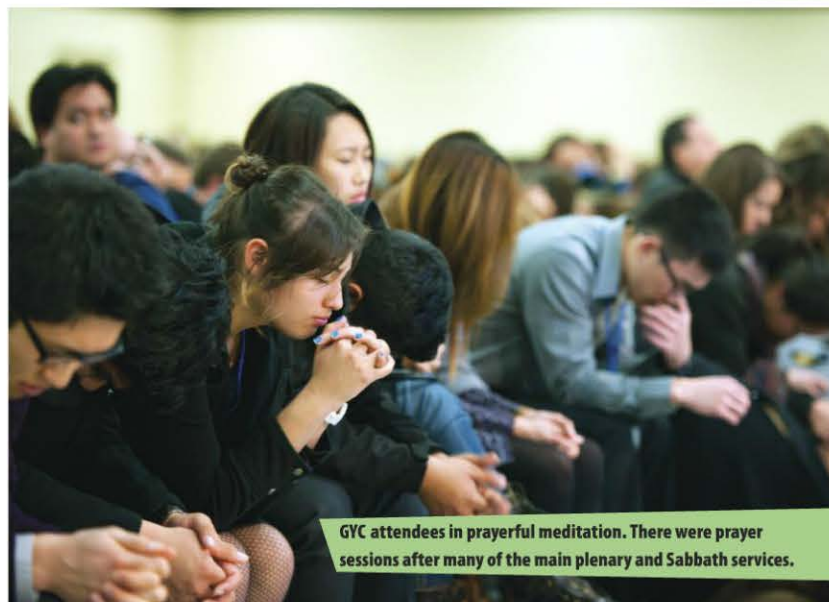
What’s more is that the Washington Conference decided to take advantage of GYC’s presence in their area this year and hold six simultaneous evangelistic series across Seattle only 10 days after the youth conference.



Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Choir performing for the main service.



Alonna Smith, GYC treasurer, and Natasha Nebblett, GYC VP Logistics, have both committed to memorizing the entire book of Acts!



GYC attendees in prayerful meditation. There were prayer sessions after many of the main plenary and Sabbath services.

¹ approximately, 6,000 on Sabbath.

² Justin McNeillus, “President’s Welcome,” GYC Program Booklet, p.3.

³ <http://gycweb.org/gyc-seattle-day-3/>



Ellen Richards, Kalyse Rose, and Jessica Hall, Fountainview graduates, sing at GYC main session: "Saved by Grace."

The need for God's people to work as missionaries is great, and it is a need many of us at GYC sensed. I was pleasantly surprised to hear of the overwhelming interest from attendees to be part of the GYC INTERmissions happening this year, one of which would be a two-week mission to Manitoulin Island, Ont., a joint endeavor between GYC and Eastern Canada Youth for Christ (ECYC).

On the last day in Seattle, I mulled over the various messages and everything that had taken place during the conference. I became more intensely aware of the fact that we have a precious truth to share with the world, and I determined that I would allow God to use me for His glory all the more.

In the final moments as the conference drew to a close, I sensed God's presence as the GYC attendees congregated near the front of the stage for the final charge. "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!" (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 271). My heart swelled as I thought of how wondrously God could work in our lives if we were all seriously dedicated to Him and to furthering the gospel message.

As I left the convention center's auditorium for what would be the last time, a word formerly echoed by GYC president, Justin McNeilus, rang in my head: "Faithfulness." ... This is my prayer for all of us. ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer.

Of the 4,000 people in attendance, 313 were Canadians.⁴ I was blessed to hear some of their stories.



TJ WAYNE THOMAS from Edmonton, Alta., shares his experience:

[GYC] is designed for those who want to be there and who want to know more about God and how to finish the work in our generation. ... The spiritual food is plentiful and you cannot help but be motivated to return home and share what you've learned with everyone!

For our outreach, I was blessed to be able to take part in the homeless ministries initiative, which had not been offered before at GYC, and it was such a blessing. I met many kind people who were in need of both physical and spiritual food, and each one was open to having prayer. Afterward, as we were heading back to the bus at the end of our outreach time, I passed a man on the street who ... was heading toward the mission building. On my way to the bus, he stopped me and asked where all of us were going. I told him that we were with GYC, a group of youth learning about Christ and sharing with all of Seattle. He was very intrigued and asked if he could attend also. I spoke with our bus leader and our outreach coordinator for the homeless ministries, and she arranged for him to be transported to the convention centre for the evening devotion. He attended the evening meeting. My friend and I sat with him, and he asked a few questions throughout. Afterwards, he said that he enjoyed the evening message, and responded for the appeal. He wanted to learn more about how to study the Bible and share it with others. After speaking with a few people, he said that he had to leave but was

very happy he had come. We gave him the information for the upcoming series of evangelistic meetings in the local area, and we got a contact number for him, which will be passed on to someone in the Seattle area who can keep in contact with him when the evangelistic series begins.



ADISON WOOD from Nanaimo, B.C., shares his experience here:

Although there were thousands of others around me [at GYC], I felt like I was in the presence of God—just He and I. This past year I've had a thirst for evangelism and witnessing that has now grown stronger after attending GYC. Outreach was phenomenal. ... By the grace of God, there were three people who pre-registered for the Bible prophecy seminar being held as a follow-up to our outreach. My partner and I also got to pray with people in five different homes. ... On the bus ride back to Seattle, we sang and we even had a ukulele player accompany us. People shared their testimonies, and once again I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as we bonded together as a group.

As we enter 2013, I plan to do more than ever to glorify God by witnessing to others and living a selfless life for Him. I encourage all young people to attend GYC, because you will be changed.

With this in mind, ACTS for Christ, an affiliate of GYC, reaching out to serve Western Canada generally, also holds annual conferences and outreach endeavors. Wouldn't it be nice if your church took advantage of God's youthful talent in your area?⁵

⁴ GYC Logistics

⁵ Courtesy of Andrew Jurello, VP Evangelism, ACTS For Christ, an affiliate of GYC

Spotlight

Ceejay Horrell

*Music is the conduit
that prepares and softens
hearts to receive God."*



I met Ceejay at a church in Barrie, Ont., during the early summer of 2012. He was the person corresponding with me to arrange a sacred concert event at the church. I knew within moments of meeting him and his family that we would become good friends, because of his love, passion and quickly discernible knowledge of music. It was not by chance or coincidence that as my husband and I left the church that evening, we ran into Ceejay, his wife and their two sons at a shopping centre to grab a bite to eat moments later. Since that evening I have learned a great deal about this man's ministry in music, and I am overjoyed to share it with you.

It all began at a very young age in Trinidad as the eldest son of a pastor when Ceejay and his sister started a singing duet ministry at the ages of 10 and 7 years old. They quickly gained recognition, traveling extensively throughout their birthplace before becoming a part of a television ministry that used the group as a witnessing tool for children viewers for several years. By the time they were in their teens, the brother/sister duo recorded an album that gained them an even wider audience, spreading their music ministry throughout the United States and the Caribbean with numerous tours. After years of being on the road, they finally made the decision to part ways and begin new, individual adventures. Ceejay and his wife, Elizabeth, decided to move to Canada and see what God had in store.

After three years of being featured as a solo artist on the Canadian *It is Written* television program with Bill Santos and visiting several provinces with the IIW team, Ceejay is hoping to dig even deeper into music ministry within this great country. His hope is to head back into the studio to begin recording again. "Seeing and experiencing the miracle of hearts uniting in praise and worship to receive a deeper level of intimacy by abiding in

the presence of God through music is indescribable," Ceejay said as we conversed about his goals for the future. "Music has divine origins, and like marriage, the Sabbath and family, for example, it is a gift given to humankind before the fall. Music is the conduit that prepares and softens hearts to receive God; my desire is to see more musicians recognize this. I also believe we should be supporting our music ministers more and those called to serve in this special work, because this ministry often goes places where nothing else will."

Ceejay is not just saying these powerful statements; he is backing it up with his own contribution to the music ministry within the Canadian Adventist Church. He has launched a booking platform, the only one of its kind, for Adventist artists to be seen and heard easily by churches and conferences across the country hoping to arrange concerts and events of all varieties. He has created an easy-to-use website, www.strateupproductions.com, where artists can provide their music and biographies to be placed as witnessing tools for our church to use. The call is being sent out for artists, church members and organizers alike to spread the word and start using the tool to begin planting the seeds for the harvest through music ministry.

Months after initially meeting Ceejay, I was finally able to hear him sing and perform live. I was moved deeply by the praises lifted to God from his smooth, controlled, yet powerful voice, and I know you will agree. Music ministry needs to move forward. ■

Naomi Striemer is a Chapel recording artist, speaker and author who owns and hosts a syndicated Christian lifestyle radio show that airs across Canada to an approximate 3.5 million daily.

www.naomistriemermusic.com and www.naomiradio.com



Jaime Rudyk



Leanne Grinde

Parkview Profiles

Jaime Rudyk and Leanne Grinde are two young women who know how to work hard.

One afternoon, while Jaime Rudyk was going through some old boxes of books, she accidentally stumbled upon an old medical textbook from the 1970s. Even in its dilapidated state, the book fascinated her. This was four years ago, when she was in Grade 11. In high school everyone is constantly asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and because of her encounter with this old textbook, she decided that she wanted to be a doctor.

Jaime had always had good grades in school, but with this new decision, she now had something to really motivate her. She was attending high school at Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) and knew that it was the right school for her. She felt that her teachers worked hard to help her master her subjects and cared that she received a great education. It was a natural step for her, then, to go to Canadian University College and take the biology program upon graduating from PAA. Unlike many students in the regular education systems, Jaime didn't struggle with the transition from high school to college because of the study habits her teachers at PAA had taught her.

After two years in the program, Jaime wrote the MCAT (exam that all pre-med students write) and then nervously waited. The exam was hard. But when the grades came out, they showed just how hard. The average student's grade in Canada was 24 out of 40, and Jaime had earned a 36. Only one student at CUC has ever earned a higher grade. With a 36, Jaime can essentially choose whatever medical school she would like next year.

Leanne Grinde came to PAA in Grade 10 from public school. It wasn't until she was in Grade 12, however, when she did some job shadowing with her aunt who was a dentist that she decided that that was the career for her. She completed Grade 12 at PAA with high grades and moved across the street to CUC's biology program.

During summer school she found out that the University of Alberta is the only school in Canada that accepts students in without an undergraduate degree as long as they have the required classes and do well on the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT)

and the interviews. She had already done half of the required classes, and she worked hard in her second year to complete the rest.

Typically the DAT is written on Saturdays, and she had to make a request for an alternate non-Sabbath date. She ended up writing it with only two other students (who also kept the Sabbath). Leanne received the DAT scores during Christmas break. Her scores were average, compared with others. She waited anxiously for an invitation from the University of Alberta, not sure if she would receive one. But one day a letter came in the mail, letting her know that she had scored an interview. The interview was scheduled for Sabbath, but she emailed the admissions officer and explained her religious reasons and requested an alternative date. The reply came saying that no alternative dates were provided for the interview, and if she did not show up on Saturday, she would not be considered for admission.

Distressed, Leanne went back to her aunt who was a dentist and her husband (uncle), who happened to be a lawyer. They prayed together and told her that God would see her through this. Her uncle said that he would handle it. Once again Leanne received an email from the U of A, this time saying that they would indeed provide an alternate date.

Leanne's stress and tension over the interview process melted away; she ended up enjoying the process. She had to interview with a series of people at different stations and had eight minutes to answer the questions.

She received her acceptance letter in the mail a short time later and had to read it five times to truly believe that she had been accepted. She gives God full credit for getting her into dentistry after only two years of college.

Many parents don't see the value of an Adventist education when public school is free. Of course there are great teachers in public school, but it is difficult to find whole schools who care as much about their students as do our Adventist institutions. Both Jaime and Leanne credit their success to Adventist education. ■

Pattie Reasor Communications, Parkview Adventist Academy

Camping in Winter Wonderland!

"Camping in Winter Wonderland!" is the theme for the 2013 Canadian Winter Blind Camp, which takes place during the first full week of February. Each year dozens of campers from various parts of the country meet at the winterized Camp Au Sable facility in Grayling, Mich.

With numerous activities waiting to be experienced, such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, skating, downhill skiing and "sit-ski" at Challenge Mountain, along with outdoor campfires, crafts and lots of singing and praising God, numerous visually impaired people look forward to this exciting week of winter camping. It's no wonder that each fall, several dedicated individuals labour extensively to raise funds to cover their travel costs to get to camp. After all, these camps are free of charge and provide such a blessing. Jonathon Lewis and Guylaine Savard are among several Maritimers who take on this great fundraising task.

Jonathon, a 32-year-old resident of Moncton, NB, was born with Coloboma and congenital defects such as smaller eyes and sockets, absence of eyelids, damage to cornea, etc. In the fall of 2000, Daniel and I had the pleasure of meeting Jonathon, who was filled with a simple desire to experience "every good thing the world had to offer." So in the summer of 2001, he attended his first NCB camp in Pugwash, NS, and in 2004 he decided to go to winter camp.

When asked what he enjoys the most about Winter Blind Camp, Jonathon stated, "Everybody seems to want to be together. It's like an extended family." He continued to explain his favourite winter activities: "I like snowmobiling, hayrides in the snow, and of course going to the Pathfinder Nature Center. A few years ago, I got to hold a python, and when I felt it breathe, that was enough for me! Being a bit squeamish, I gave it back to its handler. Also, I really enjoy going to Challenge Mountain to snowboard and downhill ski." Jonathon expressed his thankfulness to the camps for helping him get "in touch with his spiritual side." He says, "I am not a 'church person,' but I love religion and spirituality. NCB camps have helped shape me into the person I have become." One of Jon's fondest winter camp memories was when he played "catch me if you can" with his friend's seeing-eye dog, Leroy. Even Josh LeBlanc, his counselor at the time, joined in the fun.

Guylaine, the 48-year-old Montreal native who has been living in Halifax for 27 years, has been attending summer blind



Guylaine on a 'sit-ski' at Challenge Mountain.

camps since 1991, and her first winter camp was in 2005. Born with cataracts and glaucoma in both eyes, Guylaine could distinguish colours and shapes until the age of five. After numerous operations on both eyes, she became totally blind, and at the age of 39, she had her left eye removed, replacing it with a plastic eye. Educated at l'Institut de Nazareth and l'Institut Louis Braille, this remarkable, fun-filled Christian woman discovered the importance of always being active. Guylaine is a member of the CCB club, Visually Impaired Bowling League, Goal ball, and other organizations. Her simple joie de vie causes those who know her to love life, and her laughter and affection are contagious.

Each year Guylaine raises enough travel funds for her guide, another blind camper and herself. She sets up transportation to Oshawa by train and always has time to stop in Montreal

to visit with her dear mother, whom she loves very much. Some of her favourite winter camp activities are cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, singing and spending time with old and new friends. As for some highlights, here is what she said: "Oh, I remember the first time I went snowmobiling. It was in 2006. I loved that! I also love going to Challenge Mountain and doing the sit-ski. That is fun! I remember once, we went to the Nature Center and they put a big snake around my neck. It started to squeeze the muscle, and oh boy, I didn't expect that! I said, 'That's enough.' Another time Marye, Marlene and I went cross-country skiing. We went down a little hill and I fell on my bum. Ha-ha! That was funny!"

Sharing what National Camps for the Blind means to them, they stated the following: a Christian camp for all people, a place to meet other blind people, unity, togetherness, respect, being a part of a community, like a family. "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ... For in fact the body is not one member, but many" (1 Cor. 12:12-14, NKJV). Indeed, NCB continually strives to be "a Christ-centred organization for people from all walks of life where unity and friendship is saturated by respect, love and a strong sense of community." ■

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

"You ask me
'Why?'
I say,
'Why
not?'"



Jason Wilkins is the physical education teacher and Aerials coach at Kingsway College.

As I walked into the gym for another Aerials Homeshow, I heard the crowd cheering and shouting with every gymnast's flip, toss and handstand on the big, blue mats. I used to think that the Aerials were all about the stunts until I had a conversation with Jason Wilkins, physical education teacher and Aerials coach here at Kingsway College.

Jason has had two important mentors: Jim Ryan, former Kingsway College men's dean, and Coach Rick Schwarz, Gym-Masters leader at Southern Adventist University (SAU). Both men served as an inspirational and spiritual influence in Jason's life, in turn motivating him to be a positive role model in his students' lives.

Jason was an active member of the Gym-Masters gymnastics team before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology in 2009. Jobs he had as a student included lawn work, demolition and landscaping, after which he served as a men's dean at Kingsway College.

He used to think that ministry was all about travelling to other countries and participating in mission trips, preaching or singing, but his experiences at Kingsway College allowed him to redefine his personal meaning of ministry.

According to Jason, "ministry is about making a change in someone's life, starting with building relationships." While he was dean, Jason remembers "staying up until 2 a.m. having heart-to-heart conversations and long prayer sessions with students. Simply being a part of these students' lives makes a difference."

Ministry also comes in the form of Jason's leadership role as a teacher, a coach and an overall role model for the students. Jason knows that being a positive role model means that his students have to listen, follow and look up to him. As a child of God, Jason is aware of who he is, and that means having a high set standard and "to speak the truth even though your voice shakes" (one of his favourite quotes).

Ministry also happens on the big, blue mats on which the Aerials perform. Jason refers to the Aerials' mats as the "Blue Church," something he adapted from SAU. His ultimate goal is to walk with Christ in everything he does, to the point where he is fully saturated with Christ, which includes the gymnastic ministry of the Aerials. I asked Jason why he incorporates biblical references in Aerials' performances, and he responded, "You ask me why? I say why not? Every member of this gymnastics team uses their bodies to honour and bring glory to God, the One who has created each of them." Since Kingsway's schedule can get rather hectic, Jason says "it can be difficult to build close relationships with students in Aerials." But Jason continues to strive to be a positive influence.

Jason mentioned that this year's Aerials Homeshow focuses on 1 John 3:1, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him" (NKJV).

Kingsway College is so blessed to have such a dedicated staff member serving Christ through his talents. The next time I sit in the bleachers and watch an Aerials Homeshow, I will be reminded that I, too, am a child of God and that I have the ability to make a difference and be a light in the room. ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN

ASK MYSELF WHY I ATTEND PARKVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY

and my mind floods with good memories, experiences that have made me stronger and memories that aren't so positive. I consistently catch myself comparing the education I receive here to the educational experiences I have had at schools in the past and the experiences I would have been subject to in opponent high schools. Through all my reflections, PAA always proves to have been the most beneficial choice in high school education. This school has a few significant advantages over most: Christian education, the freedom to express religion as well as the freedom to reject Christianity and feel accepted regardless.

Many people see me and assume that I go to PAA because Seventh-day Adventist education is all I know. I admit that my life revolves around my religion. However, I have been exposed to other schools who offer different religious views and I just didn't fit in. Not solely because of my religion but also my racial background, my personality and because of the call God laid on my heart—the desire to honour Him in all that I do and say.

In other nondenominational schools I've attended, worships didn't interest me because they were general. Teachers didn't relate specifically with any religion; they spoke more about spirituality and a higher power. The calling to do good and what it means in my life is a fundamental

truth; however, I felt more lost after I was taught general truths about religion and reality, mixed with influences of the media and perspectives of other religions. When I attended a nondenominational Christian school in Grade 10, I realized the necessity of God's presence in my life. I gained a longing to depend on God, but I didn't know how and I overlooked clichés of Seventh-day Adventist teachings, so when my parents would try to show me where to go, I took for granted the Bible verses I had heard before and God's promises that I was accustomed to hearing. Nothing was new or real to me. I simply wanted to fit in, so I focused less on what God thought of me and placed my value in the perspectives of my peers.

My longing to feel accepted drove me to the doors of PAA. I knew I would find racial diversity here and religious connection. I fit in at PAA, not only as a student but also as a leader. My Adventist education has allowed me to lead as the pastor of the student association because I feel as though I matter and am needed at PAA. My grades have been improving because I have a positive attitude in my studies. I have higher confidence in my capabilities because I am in a nurturing environment where my teachers relate to me on a personal level. They care about me in and out of the classroom and I know my teachers are invested in my well-being. The more activities I become involved in, the more I feel a sense of reliance from my schoolmates. I work for the school pastor and see God working

through him. He shows me by the way he lives that even Christians are imperfect and God loves us the same. Because of spiritual inspiration at school and my leadership role, I am increasingly motivated to grow in my relationship with God.

I have the freedom to express my religious beliefs and opportunities to challenge my perspectives at PAA. I am more open-minded when relating to people who associate with other religions. I am more comfortable when debating controversial topics, and because my pastor and teachers challenge me to think deeper about why I believe what I do, I feel confident and better equipped to answer questions related to my religion. Going to an Adventist school equips me with Christian values that I will base my life on. I will not always be perfect and I don't expect to be; however, I know that God has chosen me as an individual who needs to serve him, and my Christian education has helped me to see the acceptance God has already given me, regardless of my race or my personality. I am learning to live a life based on Christian values, and I'm learning to make decisions in my conduct that align with my religion and also work toward my well-being. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). ■

Rea-Anna Walters is a grade twelve student, from a family of six. She resides in Lacombe, Alberta.



Rea-Anna Walters

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Alberta

Planting Seeds

"It's the best choice I ever made!" states Gloria Stoney, referring to her decision to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2009. But her decision to join the church and become a follower of Jesus tells the story of a continuous journey, one that illustrates how God must often make several attempts to get somebody's attention before that person becomes attuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Back in 2009, Pastor John Gilbert told Gloria's daughter Cree, then 14 years old, about an upcoming prophecy seminar by Lowell Hargreaves. "I did not tell my mom about this, as it was inconsequential to me," says Cree. The following week Cree was checking the mail and noticed a flyer advertising the prophecy seminar Gilbert had mentioned earlier. Not thinking much of it, she tossed the flyer in the garbage. A couple of weeks later, Gloria's aunt called and told Gloria about the same seminar and encouraged her to go. Somehow, that third exposure got Cree's attention. "While I was reluctant to go," says Cree, "I went anyway." And that first presentation was all it took to get Cree hooked. "It was all so clear, and I got it!" says Cree, explaining how Hargreaves had cleared up her confusions about the Sabbath.

But Gloria's decision for Christ goes back even further and is largely the result of a positive experience with Adventist education.

In the late 1980s when Gloria's children were entering school age, Ms. Stoney enrolled two of her children in the Adventist school on the reserve at Hobbema, Alta., a precursor to today's Mamawi Atosketan Native School. "I wanted a small school setting," says Stoney. "I wanted my kids to ... learn



Gloria Stoney

about God. I wanted an opportunity for my children to have the educational help they might need but probably would not be available in a larger school."

After the school in Hobbema closed, Stoney moved her children to the nearest Adventist Christian school, two kilometres north of Wetaskiwin: Peace Hills Adventist School (PHAS). All of Stoney's four children attended PHAS for some of their education.

It was during the early PHAS years that Gloria, who had grown up occasionally attending church on Sunday with her grandma, became curious as to why Adventists held church services on Saturday; but she never made an inquiry. That is where Hargreaves' prophecy seminar came in and became the next stepping stone in the family's Christian journey.

And now the value of Christian education in the Stoney family lives on. Jeunesse, Gloria's eldest daughter, now has two children enrolled at PHAS. She appreciates the small school environment, the Christian atmosphere, and the absence of bullying. "My daughter [now in junior high] just loves school. She is experiencing



Heaven and Cree share a love for Christian education.

leadership opportunities and ... making new friends," she says, reiterating several times how happy her children are in their learning environment.

Just this year, Jeunesse's noticeable positivity about the school led her friend to enrol her children at the same school. Cree has enrolled in Marvel College in Edmonton to complete a cosmetology program in March 2013. She reflects on how far she has come and how certain pivotal events—seeds—took place to make her who she is today. Instead of being reluctant to tell people she is a Christian, she is now confident and enjoys sharing her experience to encourage others.

The story of Gloria and her children is a living, visible example of how much can grow out of a few seeds planted with God's guidance; and now Gloria and her children are planting more seeds, so that God's work can continue to multiply. ■

Linda Steinke, Education
Communications,
Alberta Conference

Edmonton South's Operation Angel Tree

No child deserves to feel forgotten and alone.

That's why the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church partnered with Prison Fellowship Ministries in Operation Angel Tree. The Angel Tree program is operated by Prison Fellowship Ministries, a ministry started by Chuck Colson to help prisoners' children know they're not forgotten at Christmas time.

Pastor John Murley, having been contacted by the provincial representative for Prison Fellowship Ministries, presented the idea of helping out with Operation Angel Tree to his church on Dec. 1, 2013, and it was met with an overwhelming response. Members were quick to get behind the project to make it a tremendous success. Edmonton South helped provide Christmas to 16 children and their families this season.

Pastor John explained how the program works: Prison Fellowship provides the church with the names, ages, addresses and contact information of caregivers for the children of prison inmates. The inmates themselves had completed an application detailing the names and addresses, as well as suggestions for a gift for their children. The inmates then write personal greetings for each child, to be added to a card to go with the gift. Gifts are not to be more than \$30 per child. Churches are encouraged to contact the caregivers in advance and review the details of the

program, gift selections and appropriateness of the child receiving a gift from their mother or father who is in prison. It should be pointed out that some of the inmates are serving life sentences for very serious crimes.

Once the church has had opportunity to confirm details with the caregiver, the members then purchase the gifts, wrap them beautifully and then physically deliver them to the home or foster home. The program at Edmonton South also had us adding a gift for the caregiver, a Bible and a special invitation for the family to join us for our Christmas worship service, on Dec. 22, 2013.

Pastor Murley says that "the wonderful folks at Edmonton South feel that this is just one more way for us to share the gospel with lonely families and to serve as an example of Christ's love to the parents behind bars." ■

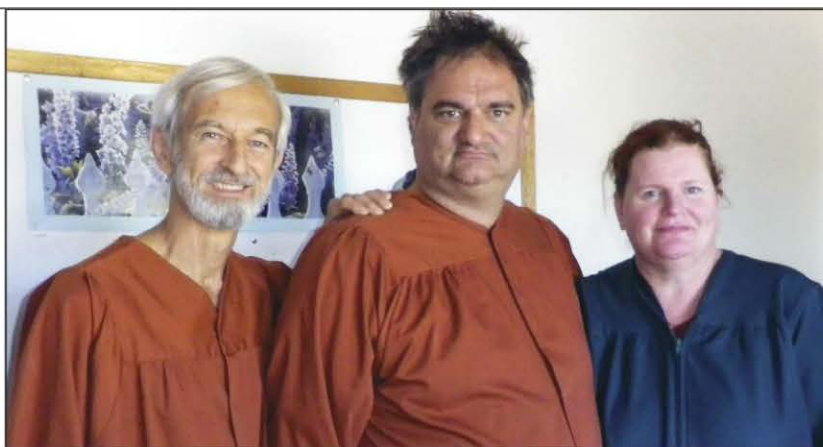
—John Murley, pastor, Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church



British Columbia

I Love Baptisms

At the best of times, baptisms can be challenging. One that I performed recently in another Adventist church was a chilling experience. The 13-year-old girl was assured by me that the water would be warm like a bathtub. The water heater did not work and it was in the dead of winter. The church was located on the side of a mountain about halfway up. The water was the closest to ice that I had ever felt. The look of shock on her face as we both stepped into the tank was evident to all. She started to shiver and I felt the divine impression to abbreviate what I was going to say. As she came up out of the water with a gasp, I am sure the angels smiled and the memory will be one she will always remember. We still laugh about it whenever it comes up in conversation.



Jim Weir, pastor of the Winfield and Kelowna churches, with new members Bernie and Leann.

The opposite happened in a recent baptism in Winfield. I again mentioned to Edna that the water would be warm like a bathtub. We had planned to sing with our quartet while she and I stood in the water and then do the baptism. I was a member of the quartet. This time the water was hot. I began to understand

how lobsters must feel when they are being boiled fresh while the people are looking on. It wasn't scalding, but it was very warm. This time I could not abbreviate the ceremony because of the special music. To her credit, she never complained about it. The joy of the baptism overshadowed the discomfort

we both felt.

The baptism shown in the photo (p. 29) had all the makings of a disaster. This dear woman, Leann, does not like putting her head underwater, especially face up. She adamantly rehearsed that with me before we stepped into the water. I carefully checked the water temperature this time before stepping into the tank. The water temperature was perfect. Her husband, Bernie, was a big man weighing close to double my weight. I had planned to have my Bible worker help me with Bernie's baptism, but the baptismal date was in conflict with his preaching engagement at another church. Knowing this, I had increased my weight training two weeks before to make sure I could handle the situation. I rehearsed the procedure with Bernie, emphasizing several times

the importance of bending the knees and lying back gently into the water, gripping tightly to my arm while I supported him with my hand behind his back.

We started with Leann. Even as I raised my hand above her head, I'm sure I heard her whispering something about not letting water go up her nose. She insisted on pinching her nostrils tight. All went well and we now had a new happy member in our Winfield church. But there was Bernie waiting his turn. A short, silent Nehemiah prayer, one last second reminder to bend his knees, and then it happened. One of his feet slipped on the bottom of the tank as he was bending his knees. That leg came up close to the surface and I felt the full weight of my friend Bernie on my right arm. I planted my feet wider apart, then

another Nehemiah Prayer, and with the help of the buoyant water, our guardian angels, Bernie finding his footing again, and that extra strength you get with an adrenaline rush, Bernie also emerged from the water as the newest member of the Winfield church.

I love baptisms. Leann, Bernie, Edna, Colby, Sergie and Cloe have a special bond among one another and with me, as they have recently given their hearts to Jesus. We all love the Lord so much. A baptism sometimes has special surprises but always has special blessings. Despite the unexpected, it has become one of my favourite parts of ministry. ■

*Jim Weir, pastor for
Winfield and Kelowna
Seventh-day Adventist
Churches*

Summer in Ethiopia



The Volks at the entrance of one of the eleven Orthodox churches carved into the mountainsides of Lalibella.

Five people from the B.C. Conference spent three weeks in Africa this summer, but instead of heat, they found cold and torrential rains.

Steve and Mary Marshall, from Smithers, and Sheila Javorsky and Heinz and Elfriede Volk, from Summerland, signed up to do ShareHim campaigns in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Steve preached in a church, Mary in a church under construction, Heinz in the auditorium of an academy, Elfriede alternated between an orphanage and a village school, while

Sheila was under a tarp in someone's yard. When this collapsed under the weight of the rain, she moved her equipment and audience into the humble home.

In preparation for the trip, the three people from Summerland held a Mother's Day yard sale in the parking lot of the Penticton Seventh-day Adventist church to raise money for Bibles for new believers. But the sale yielded more than anticipated, so that they could also make donations to the Hamlin Fistula Hospital, the L'Esperance Orphanage and Children's

Village, as well as prison ministries.

In Ethiopia alone, up to 7,000 women, some only girls, suffer loss of bladder and bowel control because of injuries suffered through prolonged labour in childbirth. As a result, they become social outcasts. One woman, in a futile attempt to control seepage, had even lost use of her legs. The fistula hospital not only performs 4,000 reconstructive surgeries per year, free of charge, but also offers education, midwifery training, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. After touring the Fistula Hospital and purchasing handicrafts made by the patients, the Summerland trio left a sizeable donation.

Founded 27 years ago, the L'Esperance Orphanage and Children's Village also received a monetary donation, as well as items made and collected at home. It is the only orphanage in the country that allows religious education. Home to more than 1,000 children, the institution seeks to be self-sufficient. A herd of dairy cattle and fields of vegetables ensure that the children get a healthy diet. Any excess is sold to raise money for other needs. In addition to providing basic furniture, an on-site factory also gives occupational training to the older boys. Not all children at the Village are total orphans, but all are in need of care.

Further donations helped finish a baptistery in Mary's church and bought Bibles for prison ministries. The proceeds of the Mother's Day sale also provided reading glasses for school children and shoes

for barefoot youngsters in mud-hut villages.

Before returning home, the speakers visited Axum, home of the world's largest monolith and the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's palace, as well as Lalibella, with its

underground churches carved from stone. ■

*Elfriede Volk,
Communications Secretary,
Penticton Seventh-day
Adventist Church*

Ontario

A Light Shining in the Darkness: The Jericho Road/Touch of Love Annual Dinner

St. Paul's Eastern United Church sits nestled between low-cost student housing and low-income rooming houses within Ottawa's Lowertown area. It is flanked by the Men's Mission to the west and the Shepherds of Good Hope Homeless Shelter to the north. Though its doors are scheduled to open only at 5 p.m., it is 3:45, and already folks are gathering outside, braving the sub-zero temperatures for the chance of having a hot meal.

It is hard to believe that despite Statistics Canada data naming Ottawa as the highest average total family income before tax of all the large cities across Canada in 2010, there are still many people and even whole families who go hungry.¹

"And this is where church communities and committed people can make a difference," says Ray Desmarais, founder of Jericho Road Evangelical Outreach Ministries, a charitable organization that works to bring the gospel to men coming out of prison, hospitals and homeless shelters. "Twelve years ago we partnered with the local Seventh-day Adventist church to serve an annual banquet to the poor, and it has been a blessing."

"When Ray approached us," says Jennifer Caesar, Community Services director of the Ottawa-East Seventh-day Adventist Church and head of the Touch of Love Community Services Program in Ottawa, "we had long felt impressed to begin a street ministry but lacked the experience to truly get it off the ground. And so partnering with Ray was a turning point for us, since he had the relationships with those most vulnerable already in place. The experience gained over the years working with Jericho Road has been indispensable as the Ottawa East church moves to a weekly community kitchen program and a van ministry."

On this night 400 people will be fed a traditional sit-down dinner, and many more will leave with "take-out" orders for shut-ins. "We depend on our volunteers who come out year after year and on the generous donations of businesses who have



agreed to partner with Ottawa East over the years," says Jennifer. "Many of our volunteers are from various denominations; some are not churched, but all come together to make this evening special for those who are most in need."

"It is the body of Christ working together to serve the poor," chimes Ray. "And by delineating clear areas of responsibility in advance, we have had no problems or issues. In fact, Jennifer puts on the program, ministering to the people before, during and after the meal. 'Meeting the needs of the poor,' she says, 'is one thing that all Christians ought to be able to agree on.'"

Pastor Theodore Sargeant, Ontario Community Services director adds that local communities throughout Canada ought to prayerfully consider the implementation of a Touch of Love Program. "By reaching out in love and showing such degree of care to the community, we are doing the kind of work that the good Lord is pleased with. Serving others is one of the ways for others to see a little of who Jesus is. Let us not forget what Jesus Himself said in Matthew 25:40 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me' (NKJV). ■

*Peggy Caesar, Bible instructor,
Ottawa East SDA Church*

¹ Statistics Canada, "Median total income, by family type, by census metropolitan area," www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/famil107a-eng.htm, June 27, 2012.

Robert Martin Moores, Aug. 4, 1944-Dec. 14, 2012



Robert Martin Moores faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Branson Hospital accounting clerk, East African Union secretary-treasurer, South China Island Union Mission treasurer, auditor for West and East Indonesia Unions, Far Eastern Division auditor, Maritime Conference secretary-treasurer, Trans-European Division associate treasurer and Northern Asia-Pacific Division treasurer, for a total of 28 years overseas and seven years in Canada.

Martin earned his Chartered Ac-

countant degree from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia in 1971. He accumulated over one million air miles and travelled in over 50 countries for work and vacation. Martin was always an avid train fan and immensely enjoyed riding trains in numerous countries around the world.

Martin was ordained to the gospel ministry at the 1993 Maritime Conference campmeeting. He was joyfully devoted to his family, to the Lord and to the Church. Martin read his Bible through every year for 46 years and always ended his letters with "Yours in the Blessed Hope."

Born in Oshawa, Ont., on Aug. 4, 1944, Martin grew up in Oshawa and greatly enjoyed his summers at Camp Frenda. He attended Kingsway College, Canadian Union College (now Canadian University College) and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University). In 1970 Martin began his overseas service in Kenya. Over the years the family lived in Kenya, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, Canada, England

and South Korea. Forced to retire because of his failing health in 2005, he and Eileen moved to Tantallon, N.S., where Martin kept active as treasurer of the Tantallon, Barnesville and New Glasgow churches, and for several years edited the monthly Tantallon church newsletter, *Keeping in Touch*.

Martin passed away in the Infirmary (hospital) in Halifax, N.S., early on Friday morning, Dec. 14, 2012, with congestive heart failure; he now rests, awaiting the call of the Lifegiver. Martin was predeceased by his son, Robert Craig; his father, Frederick Moores; his stepfather, Louis Moores; his mother, Dorothy (Elliott) Moores; and his nephew, Peter Mueller. Left to mourn his passing are his loving wife of 46 years, Eileen (née Bayliss); his three daughters, Heather (Ken) Harrington, Holly (Ben) Bruestle, and Merrilee (Dean) Moores; his three grandchildren; his brother, Clarence Edward (Joan) Moores; his sister, Glenda (Keith) Madgwick; and his nieces, uncles, aunts and cousins. ■

*Eileen Moores,
Tantallon, N.S.*

SDA Church in Canada

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*Your friends at VOAR Christian Family Radio,
R. Brian Matthews, VOAR chief engineer
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>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Oct. 31, 2012, there are 457 depositors with a total deposit of \$23,455,017. There are 75 loans with a value of \$19,072,513.

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

Paper Tole Artwork Presented to SDACC

Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), was present to receive a “paper tole” picture from Sophie Mandzuk, from the Paris Seventh-day Adventist Church. She presented this piece of artwork to the SDACC administration and staff on Sept. 26, 2012.

The “paper tole” framed picture represents Jesus Christ knocking on a door. This imagery is based on Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.” Sophie’s intricate artwork displays an array of bright colours and well portrays the wonderful message of Jesus. It is a nice addition to the SDACC headquarters in Oshawa, one that will certainly inspire the visitors.

We sincerely thank Sophie for her generous gift, and we pray for her, her family and her strong commitment to God and to His kingdom. Sophie’s longtime friends, Betty Dahl and Marianne Brittain also attended the presentation. ■



Photo: Daniel Stojanovic

Mark Johnson thanks Sophie Mandzuk for her gift to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



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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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■ Announcements

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- 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.
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about Messenger announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ Announcements

Crawford Adventist Academy 60th Anniversary

Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 60th Anniversary on May 23-26, 2013. We welcome all our alumni and families, former faculty and staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988 and 1983. Our Sabbath speaker will be the dynamic, Dr. Wesley Knight, born in Toronto, ON. Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB — Derrick Hall, VP Advancement, 416/633-0090/toll-free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy-Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook 'The official TJA/CAA Alumni Group'. (5/13)

The Calgary Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church

is pleased to announce Reunion 2013. Saturday, May 4, 2013, is the commemoration of 40 years of service to its members and surrounding communities. We'd love to celebrate this special anniversary with you.

Meet and greet old friends and new. See how our dynamic church has grown! Space is limited, so RSVP early by visiting our website www.calgary-mountain-view-sda-church.com/ or call 403/247-7421. Let us know how many will be having lunch.

The Chilliwack Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Renee Fritsch, Victor Fritsch, Bernie Heudepohl, Linda Heudepohl, Steven Jankovics, Tracy Jankovics, Marie McLaren, John Murdoch, Lamont Murdoch Jr., William Murdoch, Anne Negladuik, Jane Djonov, Phillip Djonov, June Ferris, Gerald Finlayson, Glen Finlayson, Marion Finlayson. If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact the Chilliwack Seventh-day Adventist Church Clerk, Shirley Johnson at (604) 858-3162 or email johnson8@telus.net.

The Maple Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Martha Cecelia Castro and Romeo Castro. If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact the Maple Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church Clerk, Patricia Clark at 604/465-3239 or email pc3239@telus.net.

Please join us on Feb. 23, 2013, as Oakridge Adventist Church (OAC) celebrates their 50th anniversary. With half a century in the Vancouver Oakridge area, OAC has been the mother church to several other churches in the city and has a rich history of serving the community. Join us in worship as we praise God for the work He has done through this church and its members and come celebrate the powerful testimony OAC has given in the lives of all who cross its threshold. For more information please visit our website: www.oakridgeadventist.ca.

■ Weddings

Susan Rieder and Stephen Densmore were married on Oct. 1, 2012, in Red Deer, Alta., and are making their home in Lacombe, Alta. Susan is the daughter of Jim and Marion Rieder, of Thunder Bay, Ont., and Stephen is the son of Mel and Debbie Densmore, of Terrace, B.C.

■ Anniversaries

Richard and Ruth Huether of Beiseker, Alta., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 6, 2012. Their family would like to congratulate them for their many years of dedication,



consideration and love to their family, friends and church. Thank you for setting such a fine example of marriage, love, laughter and friendship.

Elvin and Billie Jean Ferster celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 15, 1962, in Portland, Ore. More than 100 people gathered together to celebrate their 50th anniversary on Sept. 16, 2012. The Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church has been blessed by their talents (renovations, Sabbath School, music), which they generously share. The Fersters are blessed with four children: Bonnie, Kevin, Dean and Terry. They have 22 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

■ Birthdays

Kathleen Bayliss of Halifax, N.S., celebrated her 100th birthday on July 21, 2012. Kathleen attended the



church service at Tantallon Seventh-day Adventist Church. A fellowship meal, held at the Community Services Centre, followed the church service. Kathleen received letters of congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter, Member of Parliament Gerald Keddy, and Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly. Kathleen enjoyed the celebration in her honour, which was attended by her two daughters, Hetty Rimmer and Eileen Moores, as well as numerous church friends. Kathleen has five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grand-

child. Kathleen currently resides at Melville Lodge Nursing Home, in Halifax.

■ Obituaries

Justine (née Krochak) Berdan was born Aug. 12, 1947, in Grimsby, Ont., and died Nov. 4, 2012, in Regina, Sask. Surviving: husband, Ralph; sons, Michael (Karla), of Lacombe, Alta., and Anthony (Tara), of Vernon, B.C.; mother, Stella Krochak; brothers, Peter Krochak, of Toronto, Ont., and Bill Krochak, of St. Catharines, Ont.; sisters, Mary (Ed) Hermanovics, of Cambridge, Ont., Julie (Ty) Burch, of Omemee, Ont., and Yvonne Krochak, of St. Catharines, Ont.; one grandchild.

Janet Cheryl (née Pulsifer) Brown was born on Aug. 24, 1946, in Halifax, N.S., and died Nov. 16, 2012, in Halifax. Surviving: husband, Wayne; sons, Dean, Darren, Dana (Melissa); mother, Muriel; brothers, Randy, Sandy, Timothy and Terry; one grandchild.

Julie Anne (née Perk) Couto was born Feb. 9, 1980 in Oshawa, Ont., and died Dec. 30, 2012, in Oshawa. Julie worked at the Adventist Book Centre (ABC). She attended Kingsway College and Canadian University College. Julie was a loving pastor's wife, who was always ready to help and share. She also worked as a children's Sabbath School teacher and Pathfinder counsellor. Julie is survived by her husband, Steven; son, Alexander; parents, John and Pharoyn Perk; and sister, Melinda Perk.

Mary Demosky was born on Aug. 8, 1918, in Brilliant, B.C., and died Nov. 18, 2012, in Grand Forks, B.C. Mary was a member of the Oliver Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1971. Mary is predeceased by her husband, Fred, and daughter, Myrtle. Mary is survived by her daughter Betty (Tom) Kruk, of Grand Forks; four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Karen (née Donesky) Heinrichs was born on Oct. 21, 1928, in Saskatchewan, and died July 7, 2012, in Kelowna, B.C. Karen's life was one of service. She spent many years teaching handicapped persons and caring for people in need. Karen is predeceased by her son, Ross. Surviving: husband, Theodore; daughters, Bonnie (Douglas) Franks, of Kelowna, Sherry (Fargo) Odaiyar, of Lake City, Fla.; brother, John Donesky; sisters, Ruby (Phil) Sparks, of Saskatchewan, Connie Wood,

of Texas, Nettie Laughlin, of Washington, Mary Livadney, of Alberta, Elsie Sharman, of Alberta, and Kennedy Jean, of Alberta; and four grandchildren.

Michael Kotanko was born Feb. 24, 1915, in Loyalist, Alta., and died Oct. 18, 2012, in Langley, B.C. Michael helped build a church in Simcoe, Ont., and sang with the Voice of Hope (Ukrainian broadcast). In 1967 he helped build Fraser Valley Adventist Academy and the Hope campmeeting site. Michael has never missed a single campmeeting, attending every one even up until the age of 97. Michael is predeceased by his sons Richard and Edwin. Surviving: wife, Olga; sons Ernest (Marilyn), of Chase, B.C., Jack, of Surrey, B.C., and Jerry (Nancy); daughter, Viola (Lionel) Martin, of Surrey; 15 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Edith (née Loxdale) Longard was born on June 4, 1938, in Halifax, N.S., and died Feb. 28, 2012, in Halifax. Edith faithfully attended the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church and served in the children's department and was also a Sabbath school secretary. She, along with her husband, contributed to various charities sponsoring children's education and orphan care, as well as to Sandy Lake Academy. Surviving: husband, Humphrey; brother, Wayne (Shirley) Loxdale, of Halifax; sisters, Sheila (Arthur) Bennett, of Timberlea, N.S., and Marilyn Raw, of Tucson, Ariz.

Hazel (née Kay) Matheson was born Nov. 27, 1920, in Clive, Alta., and died Oct. 2, 2012, in Vernon, B.C. Hazel worked as a nurse and devoted her career to family, church and schools in California, Texas, British Columbia and India. She is predeceased by her husband, Warren; and brothers, Albert and Art (Ilah) Kay, of Stettler, Alta.; and 10 grandchildren.

Elaine (née Densmore) Moore was born on July 21, 1954, in Port Alberni, B.C., and died Sept. 18, 2012, in Port Alberni. Elaine was a leader for many years in the children's divisions in Nanaimo and Port Alberni and led out in many Complete Health Improvement (CHIP) Programs, in Nanaimo. Elaine is predeceased by her brothers Norm and Garry Densmore, and stepister, Kaye Sharpe. Surviving: husband, Bill; son, Justin (Ashleigh) Corbell, of Burnaby, B.C., and stepson, Dene Moore, of Vancouver, B.C.; stepdaughters, Michelle (Blaine) Cyr, of Port Alberni, and Denise (Mike) Carter, of Port Alberni; brother Mel (Debbie) Densmore, of Terrace, B.C.; sister, Donna (Larry) Spencer, of Port Alberni; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Tomas Racasa was born Dec. 21, 1923, in the Philippines, and died Oct. 3, 2012, in North York, Ont. Tomas had 30 years of denominational service in the Philippines. He served 15 years as education superintendent and youth director at the Central Luzon Mission Conference and South Central Luzon Mission Conference from 1955 to 1985. Tomas also served as a missionary teacher with his wife, Miriam, in the Mangyans, and natives of Mindoro in the Philippines from 1961 to 1965. Tomas was also instrumental in establishing the Lamont Mangyan Mission school. Surviving: wife, Miriam; sons, Rudolfo (Wilma Anzoa), of Vancouver, B.C., Reuel (Estrella Dagumol), of North York; daughters, Ruby Ann (Erwin) Borabon, of Vaughan, Ont., Rhodora Minda (Michael) Mitchell, of North York; brother, Gonzalo (Esther), of Portland, Ore.; half-sister, Florie Ramon, of New York, N.Y.; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Tribute



Manfred Spieker was born in Germany on Sept. 6, 1934, and died on Dec. 17, 2011, in Surrey, B.C. Manfred was a wonderful husband, father and Opa. He is greatly missed by his wife, Ruth, of 55 years, his five children and eight grandchildren. Manfred volunteered countless hours at his church in Surrey and at Camp Hope building plumbing systems, with his family in tow. He also loved being a teacher with Ruth in Kindergarten class, lending a hand to the Surrey Pathfinders for more than 10 years and serving as a deacon in his younger years. Manfred's joys were his family, camping trips, the ocean and, most of all, his sweetheart Ruth. Manfred's loving legacy lives on through his family. Manfred is survived by his wife, Ruth; kids, Heidi (Brian) Elliott, Charlott Spieker, Andrew (Mary) Spieker, Martin (Linda), Ruth (Ken) Moeller, Sigfried (Erika); grandchildren, Zachary, Nicole and David Elliott, Jacob, Ethan, Victoria, Liam, and Madelyn Moeller. We will miss him until we can meet again in heaven.

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Good News!

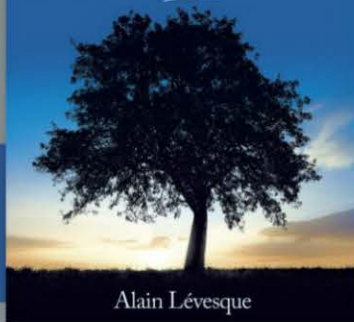
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from the editor

Remember the Sabbath

The morning seemed quite normal. I had breakfast, went to the union office, and joined the other staff in morning worship. After worship, I retreated to my office, turned the computer on, and went directly to my email.

We receive a number of emails in the communications department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Everything from folks wanting us to sponsor them to come to Canada, to desperate mothers wanting help for school fees so their children can stay enrolled in school.

Most of these we pass on to the local country's church headquarters to deal with. Other emails come from various entities across Canada, as well as news from Adventist institutions around the world.

However, that particular morning was different. An Adventist lady in Canada had emailed me asking for advice for a real problem. She is an Adventist member who stands alone for Christ in her family and, hence, feels alone in keeping the Sabbath and in upholding the Adventist message. In addition, the closest Adventist church is small and still over 100 kilometres away and meets in a rented facility, which means that it rarely engages in afternoon/evening activities. We thought we would extend her concern to our readers, in hopes of some solutions.

Here are her concerns:

"If your spouse is not a believer, what can you do on Sabbath? What if your spouse or family wants you to play a game of Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly or some other board game? If they want to go to the mall, then you're in the same boat as a single person on your own for the Sabbath, if you refuse to go. But if you agree to go, then you're in an even worse situation, because all you can do is sit on a bench in the corridor and the noise around you ruins your Sabbath, even if you spend that time in prayer."

So what would you recommend for her? Email messenger@adventist.ca, and we will print some of the best answers. If you have other questions on day-to-day living, email those as well, and we may use them for future questions.

In these troublesome days, it is important to lift up and encourage one another. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

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

THIS TIME AROUND, FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH, we take the time to commemorate those who worked tirelessly before us to give us the freedom we now have today. It gives us an opportunity to truly reflect on the lives of the African-Americans who overcame insurmountable odds to contribute to the betterment of our society as a whole. We have seen these tireless efforts in our own church, such as in the work of the individual featured in this month's column. A prominent author, editor, teacher and pastor, Dr. Roy Adams has been quite an influential figure in our church. For this month's column, we take a look at some of Dr. Roy Adams' contributions to the Adventist Church.

Canadian Student Takes Part in Temperance Oration

Saturday night, April 10, was a great night for ten young men and one young woman from our senior colleges across the line, as well as our own CUC. These folk had gathered on the campus of AUC to present their temperance orations! They had been chosen from many other young people of their respective college as "the winner". Now they, in turn, would match their wit and charm with other contestants in the field. There were



Roy Adams

very rigid rules governing these orations. Each oration must not exceed seven minutes in length. Your reporter was thankful he didn't have to act as one of the judges, for each speech was fabulous.

Roy Adams (whose picture appears with this story) was CUC's representative. He gave an excellent account of himself and held CUC's banner high. His speech was dynamic and kept one interested throughout. Naturally, we were sorry that he wasn't selected as the number one speaker; on the other hand, we have reason to know that he was not far from the top either!

As a student representing Canadian Union College, Adams took part in a college speech contest known back then as a temperance oration. According to the May 5, 1965, article, he gave quite a dynamic speech that really captured the audience's attention. The temperance oration was held on April 10 on the Atlantic Union College campus.

FIRST ADVENTIST REVIEW RALLY IN CANADA

PRESENTATIONS BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND EDITORIAL TEAM



William G. Johnson,
Editor



Roy Adams,
Associate Editor



Myron Widner,
Associate Editor



Carlos Medley,
News Editor



Jackie O. Smith,
Editorial Assistant

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Friday, June 4, 1993, 7:30 p.m.
Sabbath School, June 5, 1993, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, June 5, 1993, 10:50 a.m.
Sabbath Afternoon, June 5, 1993, 3:00 p.m.

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Roy Adams, listed here as the associate editor for the *Adventist Review*, was signed on to be one of the presenters for the first *Adventist Review* rally in Canada, in 1993.



Adams is a former editor of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. In the June 1988 issue of the *Messenger*, he writes an editorial entitled "Of One Blood All Nations." (1988)



Left to right: Pastor E. R. Bacchus, Mayor True Davidson, R. Evans and Pastor Roy Adams.

Roy Adams is seen at the East Toronto opening celebrations (now known as Toronto East church), one of the churches he pastored in Canada. He gave the vesper sermon to close off the evening. (1972)

Roy Adams is also featured in this month's "Where Are They Now" column. You can read the interview on p. 10.



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