

canadian adventist

october 2014

essenger

New Horizons

The promise of a better future

PLUS Q&A with Mansfield Edwards (p. 16)
Almost Vegan—Veggie Broth (p. 22)
From Cripple to Champion (p. 28)

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“Rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went to a desolate place, and there He prayed.”

—Mark 1:35, ESV



Personal Training

A friend recently mentioned to me that having a personal trainer made a big difference to her exercise program. It got me thinking about personal trainers, what they do, and why we hire them. Then it hit me—what about a personal trainer for my spiritual walk? And who better for my personal spiritual trainer than Jesus?

Lately I've been looking at the Gospels for training ideas from Christ. It is really remarkable how much there is about building spiritual strength when you go looking for it. So think with me for a few moments about one of the spiritual strength builders that Jesus mentions: prayer.

“Rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35, ESV).

Clearly, Jesus had a habit of praying. It was His first priority. Getting up before sunrise isn't something that many people do willingly. And Jesus prayed before all the things that crowded into His days. Jesus did amazing things all day long: dead people came back to life, sick people were healed, the blind had their sight restored. None of that was wrong, but even good things could have crowded out prayer time for Jesus, so He did not let that happen.

The second prayer tip from Jesus is that Jesus not only prayed early but also avoided distraction. The Bible says that He “went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.” Nothing was going to distract Him from the time He spent in prayer. Don't you suppose we need that focus today? Surrounded as we are by mobile phones, text messages, computers, and more, we need to rediscover that desolate place where, without interruption, we may talk with God.

Please take time to explore the prayers of Jesus. See how He prayed, what He prayed about, when He prayed, and what happened as a result. Study the Lord's Prayer and see how Jesus taught His disciples to pray. And then practise staying connected to heaven through prayer.

I like this thought: “We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun.”¹ May that be the experience of each one of us. ■

Mark Johnson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

¹ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1956), p. 100.



October 2014 Vol. 83 No. 10

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The Canadian Adventist Messenger—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$20. Printed by Maracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



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Deadlines

November issue	September 2
December issue	October 1
January issue	November 3

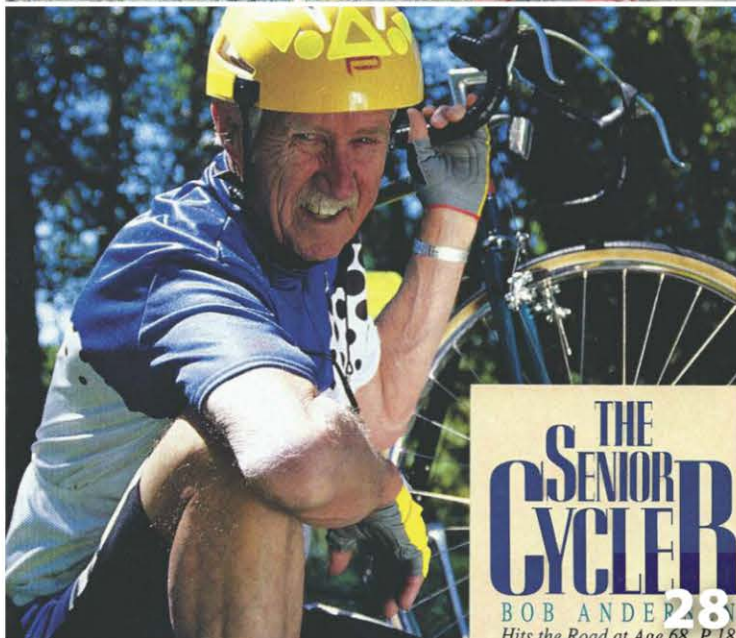
>> View this issue online at www.adventist.ca/messenger

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

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.

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He is worthy!

"Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" —Rev. 5:13, NKJV

There was no doubt about her sincerity; she was also very passionate as she engaged me in conversation about worship.

I was visiting her church, and she took the opportunity to speak with me. She shared her disappointment as she described an experience at a church worship service whilst visiting another country. She then asked the question, "How could they call that worship?"

Having agreed with her opinion regarding some aspects of what she described, we engaged in further dialogue. She challenged me to ensure that our churches' worship here in Ontario would not be allowed to "deteriorate" to the level she experienced abroad.

When I asked her to share with me her understanding of what worship is, she paused for a few moments and, with a half smile on her face, said, "It's harder to explain than I thought, but you know what I mean? It is singing and praying and reading the Scripture."

I am happy she felt comfortable sharing; obviously, she rightly desires the highest quality of worship in her church. However, I suspect that the challenge she had in defining worship is not unique to her. The purpose of this article is to reflect on the matter of worship.

How significant is an understanding of this subject? What exactly is worship?

A cursory look at the three angels' messages (Rev. 14:6-12) will reflect the multiple occurrence of the word worship. In God's last message, He intentionally emphasized its importance. Ellen White warns, "An enemy is at work to destroy our faith in the sacredness of Christian worship."¹

Franklin M. Segler, a former professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in his text *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*,

says, "When we worship, we are declaring God's worth."

Nathan Bierma, in his study on worship and its profound meaning, discovered it to mean "worshipful service," "noble employment," or "honourable work" in Middle English. This spoke to the appropriate treatment of someone of worth.

So worthiness is a key concept when it comes to worship. It is an act of affirming God's worth; worship is our declaration that God is worthy.

This is what the angels, the elders, and the living creatures around the throne of God in Revelation model for us as they sing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessings!" (Rev. 5:12, KJV).

Worship is the only appropriate response to the One who is infinitely worthy. It is no wonder that the very next verse points us to the response, "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying; Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! Then the four living creatures said, 'Amen'" (Rev. 5:13, NKJV).

As I consider this example of heavenly praise, I cannot help but conclude that God must feel insulted by our mediocre worship. What worth do we ascribe to God by the oftentimes unfocussed, insincere worship we offer? We must be determined to restore the focus on the worthiness of God during our worship services.

It seems to me that we have allowed a misconception to creep into our congregational gatherings. Increasingly, I have observed that congregants perceive themselves as the audience and those on the platform the ones who are to perform to their satisfaction. This is contrary to

continued on p. 23

¹ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1948), 5:496.

teen talk

Q: What sort of Bible passages talk about mourning?

A: There are quite a few verses in the Bible that can cheer you up in pretty much every situation imaginable. Just a simple search on Google for “promises” or “what the Bible says about mourning” will render a huge list. Among those passages, there are two that have helped me the most during the darkest times in my life.

The first one has to do with the ultimate solution: the return of Christ at the end of this world as we know it. “I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: ‘Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They’re his people, he’s their God. He’ll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone!’” (Rev. 21:3,4, The Message).

The second passage brings me peace in knowing that even if sometimes I can’t feel God in the midst of a crisis, He’s not far from me: “I live in the high and holy places, but also with the low-spirited, the spirit-crushed, and what I do is put new spirit in them” (Isa. 57:15, The Message).

Lastly, mourning is a process. It takes time to heal. Don’t rush it! ■



Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.

creation corner for kids

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.—Proverbs 25:21, 22, NIV

coal

Some years ago Joshua reminded his Uncle Dave that his sixth birthday was coming up. "What will you get me for my birthday?" he asked.

"A lump of coal," laughed Uncle Dave.

Many times after that, Uncle Dave joked about "a lump of coal." But Joshua never got a lump of coal from his uncle. Instead, on a trip, Joshua found a lump of coal lying by a coal seam and presented it, nicely wrapped, for Uncle Dave's birthday.

Coal deposits formed all around the world when the flood (see Gen. 7) buried huge quantities of plants under layers of sand and gravel. Heat from volcanic ash and pressure created by earthquakes changed the plants into coal.

Think about it.

Heat and pressure can change plants into coal, limestone into marble, and graphite into diamonds. Have you ever felt the heat of embarrassment that comes from realizing you'd done something wrong? Or the pressure of regret when the Holy Spirit convinced you that you should have treated someone better than you did? When you are kind to those who are unkind to you, you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in placing coals of fire upon their heads.



Do it!

Take it a step further: Love your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you. God wants to change them (and you) into gems for His kingdom. To learn more about coal, 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.

Benton the Friendly Giant



Benton Lowe soaking up the surroundings in Iqaluit.

THIS PAST SPRING BENTON LOWE graduated from Canadian University College with his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. But unlike the future of some graduates, his had no uncertainty. Early in his time at CUC, he had given his career to God, and even before he had written his last exam, he had been called—he was going north!

For the past few months, Benton has been getting settled in his new life and job as a Bible worker for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference working in the territory of Nunavut.

In the summer of 2013, a year prior to his graduation, Benton had already started thinking of what he might do upon completing his degree. He prayed about his future, and something popped into his head: North. He continued to pray about his future, but he never forgot about the idea of the North. He finally contacted Pastor Jeff Potts, executive secretary of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, to find out more information about the work in Nunavut. Benton's talks with Pastor Potts continued to excite him about the work up north, and eventually in November of 2013 he was extended an official call from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. Almost six months before graduation, he had not only a job but also a mission and purpose!

Even before the call to work in Nunavut, Benton wasn't worried about life after graduation. While many of his fellow classmates worried about getting a particular job, he knew that if he put his trust in God, he would be in whatever place he needed to be.

"For me, ministry is not defined by getting hired by a conference or not. Not getting a job would not stop me from serving God and sharing Jesus with others. That is the simple task that humanity has been given—to share the love and gospel of Jesus to this world. I do not need a job to do so. God did, however, bless me with a job to serve him in Nunavut. I am happy that He chose me, and I think that God is just happy that I answered His call to go," says Benton.

After his call to serve in Nunavut, Benton began trying to learn as much as possible about the people and land he was going to serve. He immersed himself in understanding the way of life of the communities he would serve. With the help of Pastor Potts and church members in Nunavut, he has started to understand the immensity of the work before him.

"I am looking forward to just immersing myself in the culture and understanding the way of life of the Inuit people as well as the other citizens of these Arctic communities. I am so interested in seeing how God will use me. I am a Christian, so above all else I want to please Jesus by being His ambassador and sharing His love and character with people," stresses Benton.

Benton is currently over 2,800 kilometres from CUC in the Nunavut capital of Iqaluit. He will be living in Iqaluit until the end of the year when he will move to his permanent position in Rankin Inlet. For the next few months he will be learning from church members Bill and Lisa Neish and the rest of the Iqaluit church community. From the high food prices to the 21 hours of daylight, the first few weeks have been an adventure. He has been received with welcome by the community and has even received a nickname, "the friendly giant." Measuring in at over six feet and three inches, Benton towers over many of the people he meets, and on more than one occasion, he hears the word "Inukpak," Inuktitut for "giant."

But this gentle giant uses his towering presence as an opening to meet the people around him. During his short time in Iqaluit, he has worked hard to meet many people in the community and to make himself useful in any way possible. "I study Jesus' ministry in the four Gospels quite frequently with people here



Benton receiving his degree from Dr. Mark Haynal, CUC president, at this past spring's graduation.

and how to have a relationship with Jesus, because, essentially, that is what truly matters. I am simply trying to build relationships with people and share the hope that is found in knowing and having a relationship with Jesus," says Benton.

His visits to the hospitals, prison, and the homeless shelters have opened up new avenues for his ministry. Equipped with his hymnal and Bible, Benton offers a song and prayer to those who desire it. "I'm not a professional singer, but the people really enjoy when I sing to them songs from the hymnal or even songs that I remember from CUC's praise and worship services. ... I am just trying to be used by God for His glory," says Benton.

In the New Year, 2015, Benton will leave Iqaluit and venture on his own to Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. With no Seventh-day Adventist presence in Rankin Inlet, Benton will start building relationships with the local community in hopes of establishing a foundation for church growth. A few months removed from CUC, Benton recalls the fellowship and environment on the hilltop as an important aspect of what he misses the most about university. "I really miss Friday night vespers and Sabbaths... Because of Sabbaths at CUC, we as friends, fellow classmates, and faculty mingled with the community and shared each other's experiences and grew together as a big Christian family," recalls Benton. These memories of community are what drive Benton as he strives to build the same sense of togetherness through God that he felt at CUC in whatever space he is called to do so. ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College.

Where Are They Now



Marvin and Lois Suiter

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

Interview by J.D. Victor Fitch, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: Tell me about your childhood.

Marvin Suite: I was born in 1922 in a little white house surrounded by pine trees, still standing, in Cawston, B.C. I had one older and one younger sister. Shortly after my birth, we moved to a small acreage at Sterling Creek, B.C. My family was very poor. My first schooling was by correspondence, until my dad received \$300 from the government to build a community school constructed on a neighbour's property. I attended Canadian Junior College, now Canadian University College, in 1940-1941 and in 1946-1947 for Grades 10 and 11, but that was the end of my formal schooling. My mother was a sixth generation Adventist; my dad was not an Adventist—but before his death in 1943, he did become a member and died rejoicing in the Lord.

M: In what specific areas did you serve the church?

Marvin: At age 18 I began canvassing part-time for six years before becoming a full-time colporteur until 1954, when the BC Conference invited me to be the publishing department secretary. I then served as the Book and Bible House manager and assistant treasurer of the conference. In 1967 the Alberta

Conference asked me to be the assistant treasurer, and I learned accounting from the treasurer Harvey C. T. Johnson. Later I became the secretary treasurer for Alberta, then the Ontario Conference, followed by the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference until my retirement in 1987.

M: What were the two most important guiding principles that directed you in your work as a conference treasurer?

Marvin: That is easy! First, I was determined to be kind, which included treating everyone fairly. My door was always open, and I willingly took time to meet and discuss the needs of those in the conference. Just one example: There was a pastor in one conference who kept getting speeding tickets, and this severely impacted his car insurance rate. He came to my office on several occasions distraught, sometimes in tears, at his predicament. I realized he needed help, so I told him the conference would pay for him to take a course to address his problem. I had no authority to do this, but I knew he needed help, and I wanted to provide it. It solved the situation. Second, I determined I would be completely honest in every aspect of my work. My financial statements always accurately reflected the conference financial position.

M: You spent many years in literature ministry and saw how this work helped many students earn their educational expenses, and a number who bought books joined the church. How did you feel when this ministry virtually ceased in Canada?

Marvin: I do not want to criticize those who took actions that closed this ministry. I recognize that the cost of books and the program costs grew tremendously and something needed to be done.

M: As you look back on your years of service, what stands out in your mind?

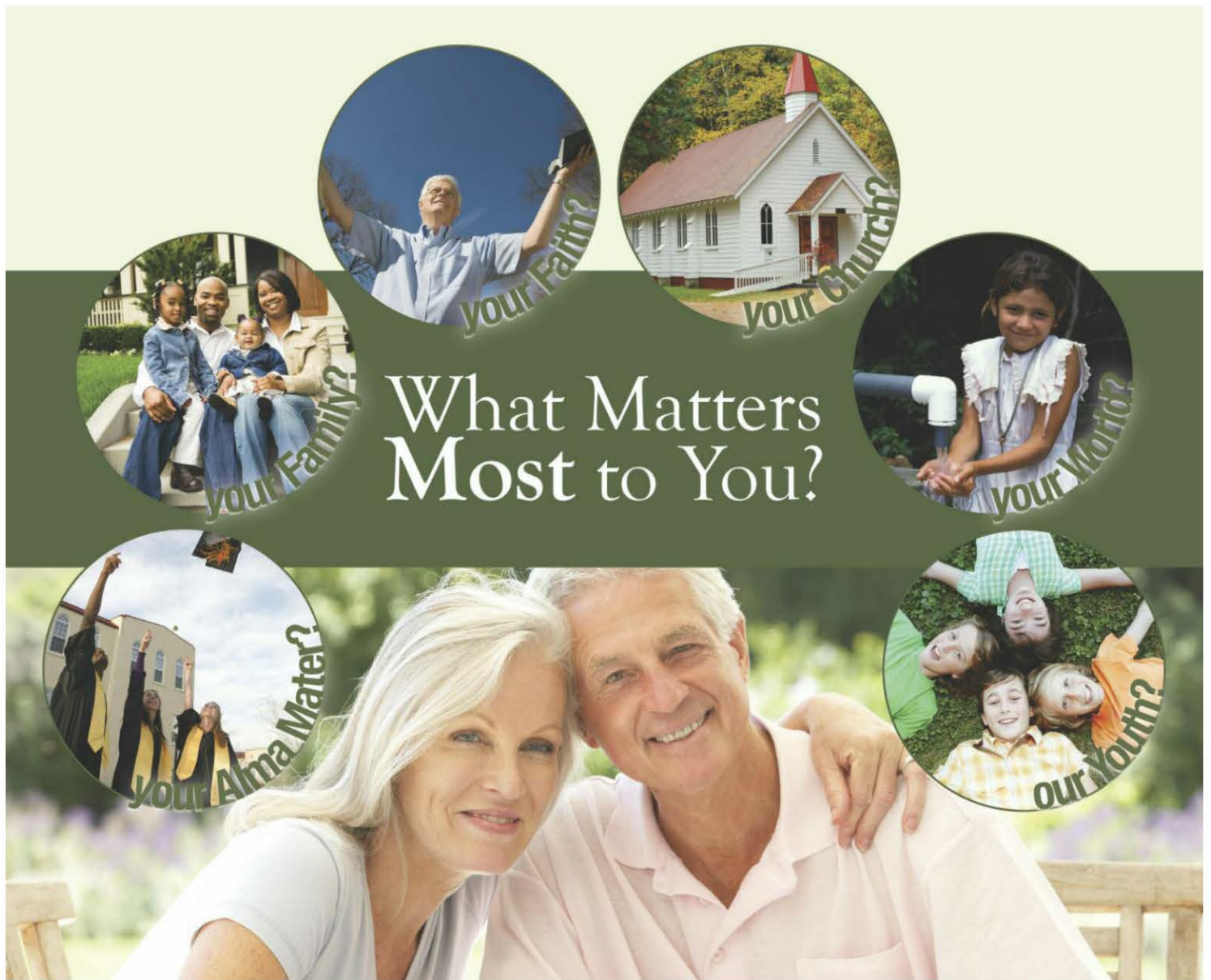
Marvin: I praise the Lord that He was able to use me, a man with little formal education. I was never discouraged or disappointed by actions with which I did not agree. I love the church and believe it is God-inspired. Sure, it is not perfect, but it is the best we have.

M: Tell me about your family.

Marvin: I married Lois Maxwell in 1946. She passed to her rest in 2009 after 62 years of marriage. We have two daughters and three grandchildren.

M: Where are you now?

Marvin: I live on my own in an apartment in Vernon, B.C.



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"I think it is important to help people become less dependent on aid, especially food aid."

Giant Pests

Agricultural challenges in the Masai Mara



Rob Saik and a Kenyan teacher

Sometimes it takes a trip far away from Canada to discover just how big crop pests can be. Just ask Rob Saik.

The founder and CEO of Agri-Trend group of companies, which offers agronomic advice to farmers and is based in Red Deer, Alta., toured with A Better World Canada in late fall 2013. Saik learned how A Better World is achieving agricultural successes with its various partners in Kenya, but it also has several challenges in a country where the landscape and weather can be harsh and the resources typically few.

During his trip with the international development organization based in Lacombe, Alta., Saik learned how tough it can be to grow a vegetable garden in the Masai Mara. Leaders of Irbaan Primary School were busy one day repairing a tall fence that had been damaged by elephants. The elephants had torn up the garden, except for the peppers, which they don't like to eat.

Irbaan Primary School also has dry weather to contend with. As one school leader pointed out in an online video produced by Saik, the stream for irrigating the garden dries up when the dry season arrives. The school doesn't know the exact pH level of the soil, so everything is planted by trial and error. That means that not all crops are well suited for the area, so they will not grow.

Challenges exist elsewhere around Kenya. The soil may be too acidic. Overgrazing of pasture land occurs. Conventional methods for growing crops are commonly used, such as at one

orphanage where maize is being grown.

"We use John Deere combines to do the threshing of the corn; [here] they pick it, and they thresh it here [in a room]," said Saik.

Saik produced four videos after viewing different agricultural projects in several regions of Kenya, from the desolate outreaches in the north to the vast tea country in the centre and the Masai Mara in the south. The videos can be found online at www.realagriculture.com.

As he pointed out in one video, seeing various hardships isn't always so easy. Saik visited one village where a small group of families, including a woman who recently became widowed,

live in wooden shacks. One of the husbands had left earlier that day to sell some wood so food could be purchased and eaten that night.

Saik noticed improvements as well, thanks to the efforts of A Better World. The 100 percent volunteer-run organization, set up and governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, is working with schools and other organizations at developing agricultural sustainability. Eric Rajah, who co-founded A Better World in 1990, said it's only been in the last two years that they have made some progress in the agricultural projects.

One of his organization's goals is to create an agricultural program at each school. That way, each school has a feeding program for its students who may walk a great distance each day to class.

"We want to ensure that people can grow their own food," said Rajah. "I think it is important to help people become less dependent on aid, especially food aid."

Rajah anticipates that Saik's videos will help generate more public awareness and thereby bring more agricultural experts on board to help. And that will undoubtedly make for greater achievements in a country where long-term food sustainability is important. ■

Laura Tester travels with A Better World and is a freelance writer for newspapers.

Engaging Your Neighbours

How can your congregation connect with the community around you? It can be difficult to build relations with your neighbours, for many reasons. Everybody in the neighbourhood can clearly see the church building as they drive by it; however, they don't know what is going on inside those walls. Here are some practical ways to connect with your neighbours.

Start a community garden: It can be relatively small in size. In May we pulled out some bushes in front of our church and planted a small garden. The plants included tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, and some herbs. A professional sign was erected that read, "We Grow, You Pick." As people took evening walks around the neighbourhood, they saw the growing garden and were impressed. "Did you really plant this garden for us?" one

member from the community asked me. This small garden has generated many conversations and goodwill between the community and church.

Deliver prayer request cards: While many people may not go to church, they do believe in prayer. In fact, many secular people believe in the power of prayer. In August, members in our congregation placed door handle cards on 500 doors surrounding the church. The card read: "Do you need prayer? We want to pray for you. Write your request on the other side of the card, and leave it on your door next Saturday. We will come by next Saturday between 1 and 3 p.m. to pick it up."

Host a block party: Imagine having a huge party in front of your church doors just to say "thanks for being our neighbours." In September we closed

down one city block in front of our church on a Sunday and held a massive End of Summer Bash. There were moon bounces, food trucks, fair games, and more. Everybody in the neighbourhood was invited to this free event, just to build goodwill. One mom asked a volunteer, "Is this put on by the church?"

"Yes, by Oakridge Adventist Church," the volunteer replied.

"I thought Adventists were very conservative, but this is fun!"

What are you doing to connect with your community? I'd like to hear your story. ■

Kumar Dixit is the lead pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.





Grow Roots



Words by God —Hebrews 12:1-3, NCV

We've all been through hard times, those moments when you can't seem to get out from under the rain cloud and you wonder where all the sunshine has gone. It is in those moments of trials and despair that it becomes even more important to look for joy. Sometimes that means dusting off your headlamp and searching for joy as someone would for buried treasure (maybe that's what it feels like at first.) But as you discover the small things in life God has blessed you with, it becomes easier to see this treasure.

I know the journey may be hard, and some give up trying; however, I believe God has given us many reasons to smile and press on, even in the most difficult situations of our lives. God is still there shining His light in those dark places, giving us a way to have hope in troubled times.

Recently, I've gone through some situations that have left me searching for joy and hope in the midst of problems I never expected to experience. This summer my health issues increased, and I ended up in a wheelchair. It has all been quite an adjustment. Lots of praying and waiting for doctors and solutions. There have been times when it seemed like all the joy has been siphoned out, but that's not true. I still have lots of reasons to praise God for all the many blessings in my life, including you, readers.

God has blessed each one of us with a love that will never fade away and hope of forever with Him. He has given us reasons to smile and people to smile with and share in both the joys and the pains of life. God has also given us such a "great cloud of witnesses" to spread His love and joy with those around us, even in life's challenges. It is in these moments when love and joy is truly put into practice. "So let us run

the race that is before us and never give up. ... Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne. Think about Jesus' example. ... So do not get tired and stop trying" (Heb. 12:1-3, NCV).

I think true joy doesn't mean everything is wonderful and easy, but rather joy is put into practice and grows in strength when it is tested. That is when we discover what Paul was talking about in Philippians 4 when he said, "I have learned what it means to be content in any and all circumstances." He knew what it meant to go through hard times. In fact, Paul was imprisoned, shackled, and beaten, and yet it says he still sang praises to God in that jail cell! How would you respond in his situation? I know it would be hard for me to be singing and rejoicing. However, this joy that we talk and sing about is not based on circumstances; it comes directly from God. No, we may not always feel it, but I believe it goes beyond what we can see and feel. This joy is rooted and founded in Christ, and because our God does not fade or waver or lose heart, we can take courage in Him.

If you are having trouble finding joy, I encourage you to pursue it. Find reasons to smile today—whether it's because someone opened the door for you, it was a beautiful day outside, or someone was kind—look for reasons to say thank you. They may be small and seem insignificant at first, but the more you practice joy, the deeper its roots will grow in your heart.

Be blessed.

Tia Lawrence is 19 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island.



Watch the "I Smile/There's Hope" cover by Jamie Grace on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/UIXDSE>



Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com





review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App:

SDA Finder

In Brief:

SDA Finder is a relatively quick and easy way to find Adventist churches in your area. It finds where you are and displays a map with any churches highlighted. Tap on the pin for a church, and it will show the church's details, including address, service times, website, and contact information. If you are going somewhere and you want to know where the nearest church is, you can search by name or browse by province or state. You can create bookmarks to easily find churches again, or browse your search history. One last feature to highlight is the ability to also use the app to find schools and other Adventist institutions in the area.

Wow Factor:

Quick way to find an Adventist church in your area.

Meh Factor:

A little buggy, and the pins are not always accurate.

Developed for:

North American Division

Price:

Free

Works on:

Android, iOS

Link: <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



To suggest an app for review,
email messenger@adventist.ca.

prayer life

A Barrier to Prayer

Cynicism. "It protects you from crushing disappointment, but it paralyzes you from doing anything."

Come by cynicism very honestly. It is taught in our schools, our culture embraces it, and it is held up as an ideal to where it seems more real than the truth of Scripture. It is easier to feel skepticism than to feel deep passion. If I am not careful, I can end up always observing, critiquing, but never engaged, loving, or hoping. My own cynicism can be a barrier to effective prayer. Questioning the active goodness of God in my own mind is a result of cynicism and, if left unchallenged, results in bigger doubt.

Yoani Sanchez, a 32-year-old Cuban blogger and leading spokesperson for her generation, wrote, "Unlike our parents, we never believed in anything. Our defining characteristic is cynicism. But that's a double-edged sword. It protects you from crushing disappointment, but it paralyzes you from doing anything."

To be cynical is to be distant. While offering a false intimacy of being "in the know," cynicism actually

destroys intimacy and leads to a creeping bitterness that can deaden and even destroy the spirit.

A praying life is just the opposite. It engages evil. It doesn't take no for an answer. The psalmist was in God's face, hoping, dreaming, and asking. Prayer is feisty. Cynicism, on the other hand, merely critiques. It is passive, cocooning itself from the passions of the great cosmic battle we are engaged in. It is without hope.

Genuine faith comes from knowing my heavenly Father loves, enjoys, and cares for me. Knowing that the Good Shepherd is watching and protecting me gives me courage to go through the valley of the shadow of death. Even in the presence of my enemies, I can enjoy a rich feast because God is with me. Faith in God leads to can-do boldness and daring action.¹ ■

Warren Kay is Prayer and Revival Ministries coordinator and an interim pastor for the Alberta Conference.

¹This article is based on my gleanings from Paul Miller, *A Praying Life: Connecting With God in a Distracting World* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2009).



Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

It is a little-known fact that there are only three conferences in the Adventist world church that have a Worship Director, and the Ontario Conference is one. Worship changes people, and when churches change worship some people struggle. This month I speak with Dr. Mansfield Edwards, president of the Ontario Conference, about the challenges and importance of worship—both in a congregational and family setting.

“It is significant that we have hundreds of books about the day of worship and hardly any on the way we worship.”



Dr. Mansfield Edwards

If you are interested in obtaining your own copy of *Worship Matters*, email Mansfield Edwards at medwards@adventistontario.org.

EDITOR: *You have recently written a book entitled Worship Matters. What motivated you to write this book?*

EDWARDS: I have reflected on the fact that worship, which is the highest activity in which we may be engaged to the glory of God, has become the most divisive subject to discuss in the church. I am convinced that we do not spend enough time discussing the quality of the worship we offer to God. Ellen White declares that “We do not obtain a hundredth part of the blessings we should obtain, from assembling together to worship God.”

EDITOR: *What challenge confronts the Adventist Church in the area of worship?*

EDWARDS: We are grateful for the fact that we welcome approximately 1 million new members into our world church each year. We celebrate this evangelistic achievement, as we should. The fact is that these new members come from all persuasions, each with his or her concept of what represents true worship. The challenge is that we do not intentionally help them understand what is the Adventist philosophy of worship. It is no wonder that worship, which is to be our most important activity, has become one of the most divisive subjects to discuss in our church.

EDITOR: *Do you think that we need to teach our new members more about what Sabbath worship should be?*

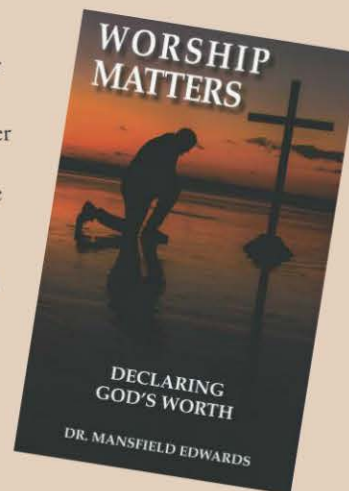
EDWARDS: It is significant that we have hundreds of books about the day of worship and hardly any on the way of worship. Genesis 4 presents two brothers, two worshipers, two who brought their offerings to God, and yet God accepted one and rejected the other. Ellen White states that Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world until the close of time. All members should be taught what acceptable worship is.

EDITOR: *When you talk about your concerns about worship, is it strictly congregational worship?*

EDWARDS: Not at all. I believe that the deteriorating worship quality in the congregational setting is reflective of an increasing challenge in Adventist homes. After all,

a congregation is made up of families.

Dr. David Trim, researcher and archivist at the General Conference, spearheaded the most extensive research among Adventists to date in 2011 to 2013. This reflected some 41,000 interviews; among the many findings was a troubling decline among family worship. Only 22 percent have worship once per week, while 16 percent never had family worship.



EDITOR: *So are you suggesting that our world church has missed this all these years?*

EDWARDS: Not at all! In fact, in 1989 an International Worship Conference was held in Portland, Ore., planned with the intention of launching a new emphasis on the importance of measuring worship. Four years later, in 1993, there was a second worship conference in Riverside, Calif. Somehow, nothing much has been done since. We urgently need to revisit this vital subject.

EDITOR: *What do you desire to see happening in our churches?*

EDWARDS: I desire to see the type of worship described in the Seventh-day Adventist *Ministers' Handbook*, a personal interaction between the Creator and the created, an encounter with God. This is what results in transformation that will actually make us the powerful body of Christ He wants us to be.

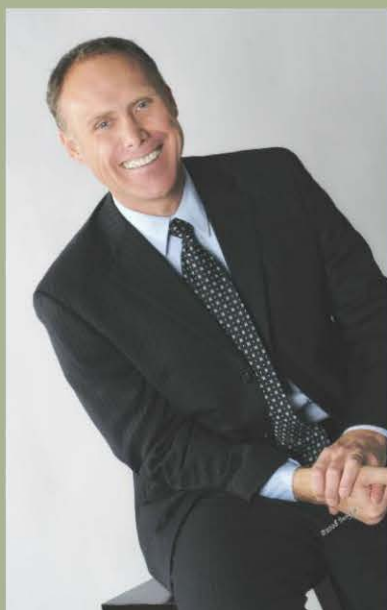
The *Ministers' Handbook* says, “Worship should not be a routine or ceremony.”

Ellen White said that unless we worship God in Spirit and in truth, our coming together will be of no avail.¹ ■

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

¹ *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1901), 362.3.

² *Prophets and Kings* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1917), 50.



barry's blog

"Religious freedom is more than beliefs; it demands a response ..."

A referendum on religious freedom

What is the point of enshrining religious freedom in the Canadian Charter of Rights if you can call a referendum to take it away? It would appear that the British Columbia Law Society—its benchers and membership—no longer see that irony in their animus against Trinity Western University's law school.

In their displeasure of Christian morality as enshrined in the TWU Community Covenant, the law society is more interested in being politically in tune with legal academia, the media, and popular opinion against religion than following the rule of law and protecting religious freedom of a minority university community.

The BC Law Society's mandate, as with all such bodies across the country, is to protect the "public interest." That interest appears to include the demand that there be no religious belief in and practise of traditional marriage as between one man and one woman for life.

For a long time, we have been socially constructed to view traditional marriage as anachronistic, sexist, and patriarchal. Since 1968 Canada has been a world leader in reforming its law to allow for the easy dissolution of marriage, and in 2004/2005 redefined marriage for civil purposes to be "any two persons." Our media is rampant with anecdotes, drama, music, and the like that has belittled and derided those who continue to advocate

traditional marriage. Traditional marriage within religious institutions now appears to be in the crosshairs of our intellectual elite who, in their Orwellian doublespeak, claim to be fighting discrimination when they demand religious institutions follow their lead in implementing the "public" understanding of marriage.

Given that the law society's decisions in Nova Scotia and Ontario to deny accreditation to TWU law school are already before the court, it was not necessary for the BC Law Society to force a referendum on its membership. However, listening to the BC benchers articulate their positions, I found it evident that part of the motivation of implementing this referendum was to send a message to the Supreme Court of Canada. I take it that that part of the message to be sent to the supreme court of our country is this: "When it comes to the religious belief and practise of traditional marriage in Canada—that religious belief and practise must yield to equality rights."

Not only is the Supreme Court of Canada hearing that message, but so too is the religious community. We understand that when it comes to religious freedom, the legal profession—in some jurisdictions, at least—does not "have our back." They speak as if to support religious freedom; however, what they really mean is that we have the freedom to "believe" in traditional marriage but not the freedom to "act" on that belief.

The BC Law Society benchers are not the only ones with that message. Consider the following argument of J. René Gallant, president of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society. He argues that the requirement to sign the "Community Covenant" in keeping with TWU religious beliefs is a step too far. While TWU has the right to

... hold those beliefs. They have the right to talk about those beliefs. They have a right to explain those beliefs and to be around people like themselves that [sic] believe in those principles and those values, but where we say it stops, and we think the law will support this, is that when you are going to require other people to sign a document that says that they will also follow those beliefs, as a condition of coming into the law school, we think that is wrong. And in particular, not only do they have to sign the document but if they are violating those beliefs while they are at law school, they can actually be disciplined, including being expelled from the law school. So it's taking those beliefs and taking them into action the way they have done; that's the real problem. But what we said is you can have those beliefs, we can balance religious freedom, just don't make the law students sign the document, and then you will be fine and we will accept them here in Nova Scotia.¹

The argument that Gallant and others are making is that the requirement to sign the covenant is in fact the "act" that justifies the law societies' rejection of TWU law school. That argument fails to acknowledge the similarity between the current requirement to sign the Community Covenant and the requirement to sign the "Community Standards" document that the Supreme Court of Canada had to deal with in 2001.² In 2001 while the Court said, "the proper place to draw the line in cases like the one at bar is generally between belief and conduct. The freedom to hold beliefs is broader than the freedom to act on them," it did not make any reference to the "act" in signing the Community Standards as being an unacceptable act.

Indeed, one would suspect that the Court will say today that the "act" is not the requirement to sign the covenant but whether the TWU graduates discriminate against the LGBTQ clients when they practise law. Given that there are no TWU law graduates until at least 2019, such evidence will be hard to come by.

Further, the argument belittles the promise of religious freedom as enunciated by Chief Justice Dickson: "The essence of the concept of freedom of religion is the right to entertain such religious beliefs as a person chooses, the right to declare religious beliefs openly and without fear of hindrance or reprisal, and the right to manifest religious belief by worship and practice or by teaching and dissemination. But the concept means more than that."³

Religious freedom is more than beliefs; it demands a response, a carrying out of its precepts and principles in one's daily life, or "practice," as Dickson rightly noted. The Community Covenant is an outward expression and practice of the belief of marriage, by a religious institution that is private, whose students voluntarily apply to attend. It is not a context where students are caught in an oppressive environment where they are forced to attend. They do not have to be there. As the Court noted in 2001:

TWU is not for everybody; it is designed to address the needs of people who share a number of religious convictions. That said, the admissions policy of TWU alone is not in itself sufficient to establish discrimination as it is understood in our s. 15 jurisprudence. It is important to note that this is a private institution that is exempted, in part, from the British Columbia human rights legislation and to which the Charter does not apply. To state that the voluntary adoption of a code of conduct based on a person's own religious beliefs, in a private institution, is sufficient to engage s. 15 would be inconsistent with freedom of conscience and religion, which co-exist with the right to equality.⁴

What appears to be driving this debate is the underlying uncomfortable and, dare I say, disgust the opposition feels toward TWU's religious position on marriage. Law professor Richard Moon exemplifies this sentiment when he says that public commitment to sexual orientation equality (in public schools) "will involve nothing less than a repudiation of the religious view that homosexuality is sinful."⁵

This attitudinal bias against religion is overshadowing any commonsensical understanding of the right of a religious institution to maintain its beliefs and practices regarding religion, even though it is Charter protected. With respect to marriage, the opposition prefers religious freedom that is in form or theory only—without any substance.

As University of Victoria Law School professor Mary Anne Waldron recently noted that the opposition against TWU is motivated by "a desire to exclude and repress those who disagree ... If you will not approve a wide range of sexual conduct as equally moral, then you must not receive accreditation to teach law. ... The rights of those who adhere to a traditional religious vision are excluded from the conversation and, indeed, from full participation in society."⁶ ■

Barry W. Bussey is vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. You can read his blog at www.lawandreligion.ca.

¹ Rachel Ward, "Insights," Accessible Media Inc. (April 30, 2014), online: http://wpc.2269.edgecastcdn.net/002269/mps/Accessible_Media_Inc._VMS/622/139/INSIGHTS_-_Wednesday_April_30_20141398807729280.mp3

² *Trinity Western University v. College of Teachers*, [2001] 1 S.C.R. 772, at para. 36.

³ *R. v. Big M Drug Mart Ltd.*, [1985] 1 S.C.R. 295, at para. 94.

⁴ *Trinity Western University v. College of Teachers*, [2001] 1 S.C.R. 772, at para. 25.

⁵ Richard Moon, "The Supreme Court of Canada's Attempt to Reconcile Freedom of Religion and Sexual Orientation in the Public Schools," in David Rayside and Clyde Wilcox, eds., *Faith, Politics, and Sexual Diversity in Canada and the United States* (Vancouver, B.C.: UBC Press, 2011), 321 at 338.

⁶ Mary Anne Waldron, "Sacred and Secular Belief: Can We Have Peace?" *Comment* (Fall 2014) (Hamilton: Cardus, 2014), pp. 21-27 at para. 26.



Until God Helps

GOD SEES THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTH SUDAN.



Mary Athiens, right, and her family escaped with only the clothes on their backs.

THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE

shattered the silence of the still night air. Startled from her sleep, Mary rose, alert, listening. The event she had dreaded was finally happening: the rebels had come to her village. Through the darkness Mary saw her mother, Deborah hurrying, to wake her little sister. There was no time to pack. No time to bring food. No time to bring clothes. The latest victims of the violence that is sweeping through South Sudan and began in December of 2013, Mary and her family fled their home with only the clothes on their backs, leaving their town of Bor in Jonglei behind.

Mary Athiens, a 15-year-old South Sudanese Dinka, grew up with big dreams. Ambitious to make the most of her life, she had, unlike many women in her country, attended school regularly with the dream of becoming an agriculturalist.

But her education was interrupted by the violence that was flooding her country. Now she stood at the bank of a river, unsure of what would happen next and what her future would hold.

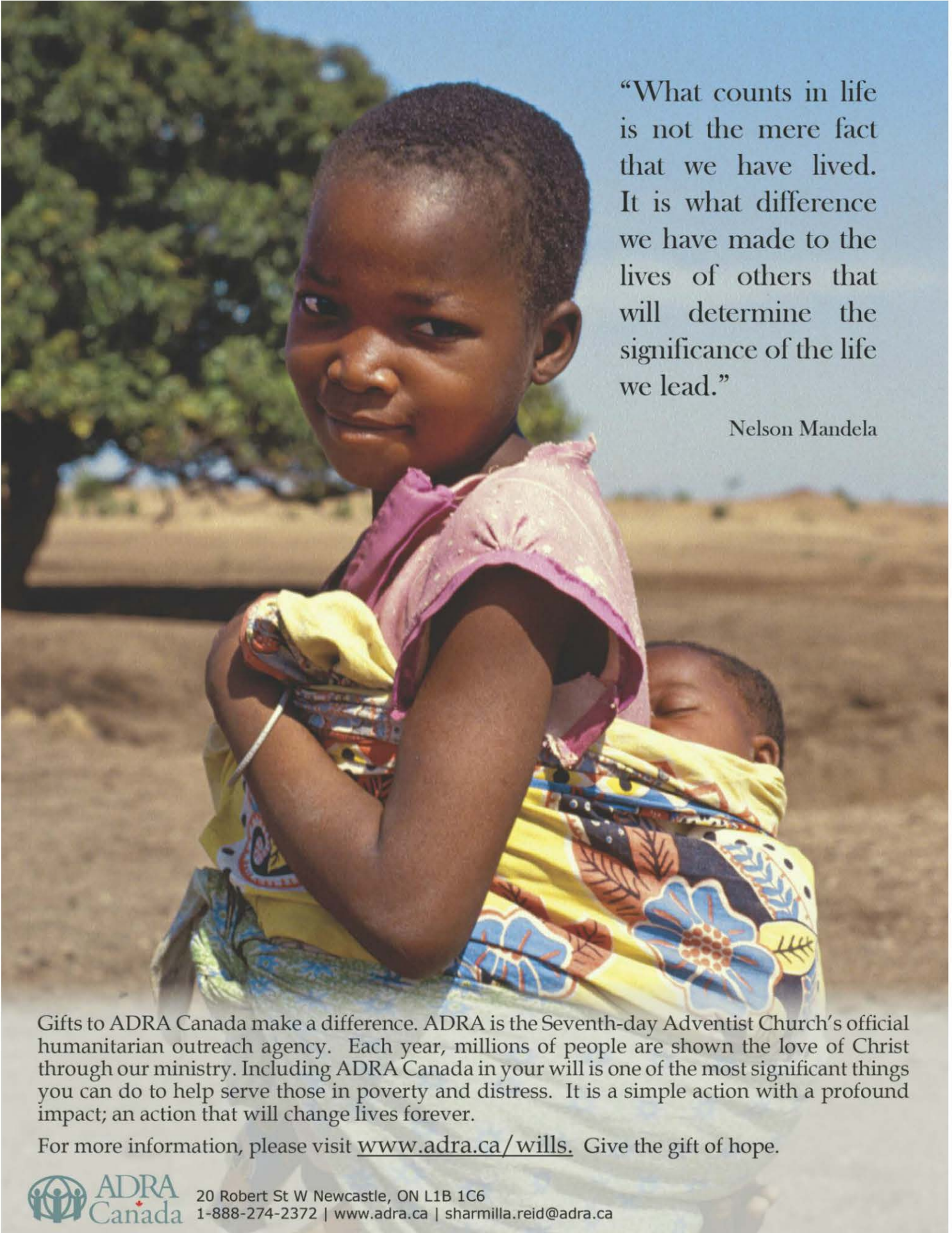
The family managed to get on a boat and set sail for Juba, the capital city of the Republic of South Sudan. The journey was treacherous, and the family was forced to endure the hot sun with no food and only dirty water from the river to drink. After two days, they arrived in Juba, but even here, they did not feel safe. So Mary and her family left the city on foot and walked for days until they arrived in Budi County, an area of South Sudan that had not yet been disturbed by violence and conflict. There, in the marketplace, they overheard someone speaking Dinka, their own language. This sound was to them the sound of familiarity and trust in this

strange new place, and approaching the individual who had spoken, Deborah asked, "Can my family stay with you until God helps me?"

Today Mary and her family earn what they can by sweeping, washing clothes, and cooking. In leaving Bor, they left behind their family, friends, and their property, including a herd of cattle and fields of sorghum and maize. Their circumstances are difficult. They are now among the 4.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance because of the crisis. But there is hope. ADRA Canada, together with the support of Presbyterian World Service and Development, the United Church, the Mennonite Central Committee, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is providing beans, maize flour, and salt to Mary's family and many others, addressing a pressing need for food in this growing population of people who are hungry because of this ongoing conflict.

The experience through which Mary and her family are passing are difficult reminders of the pain of war. But the statement Deborah made is a call to reflection—and action. God sees the suffering of the people in South Sudan. He hears the cries for help uttered by the helpless in that war-torn country. And He is anxious to help, to extend His hand to the suffering. But He extends the hand of help, not by the miracle of multiplying loaves but by the miracle of compassion—the miracle of a heart touched by the needs of the suffering and moved to give. Through you, God answers. Through you, He provides. So thank you for giving and continuing to give. Because of you, Mary, her family, and many others are able to affirm that God has, indeed, helped. ■

Story by Afia Donkor, with field notes from Amanda Thorsteinsson of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Nelson Mandela

Gifts to ADRA Canada make a difference. ADRA is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's official humanitarian outreach agency. Each year, millions of people are shown the love of Christ through our ministry. Including ADRA Canada in your will is one of the most significant things you can do to help serve those in poverty and distress. It is a simple action with a profound impact; an action that will change lives forever.

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almost vegan

Almost vegan

*T*aste this! It tastes like chicken broth, doesn't it?" With that, I thrust a spoonful of golden liquid towards a Parisian friend new to the world of vegetarian foods. He took the spoon, eyed the liquid, and took a small sip. With baited breath, I awaited the verdict.

"It does!" he said, a slight look of surprise on his face.

Flushed with triumph, I rejoiced to think that once again simple plants could produce wonderful results. And it was thanks, in part, to a small piece of fatherly advice.

A few years ago, I was in the kitchen with my dad when he, while stirring a pot of stew, said to me, "Maame, onions mean flavour." I took that advice and ran with it, and when I set out to make broth that would rival the meat-based variety, I piled on the onions. I experimented with different flavours and new ingredients, then got out my blender and tried something a little unconventional: blending everything together. With that, this vegan vegetable broth was born. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

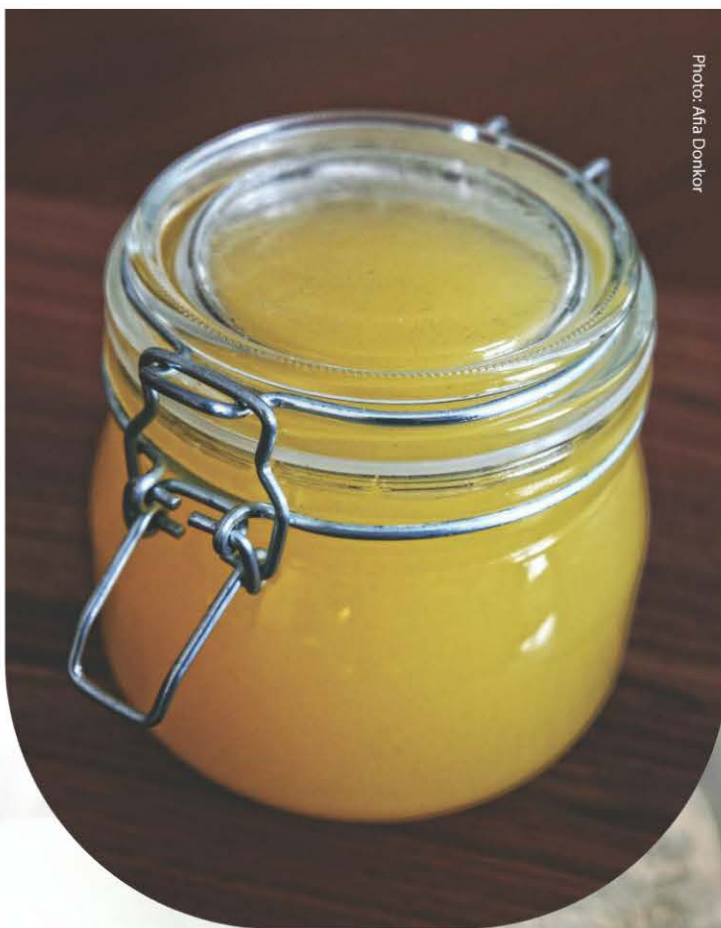


Photo: Afia Donkor

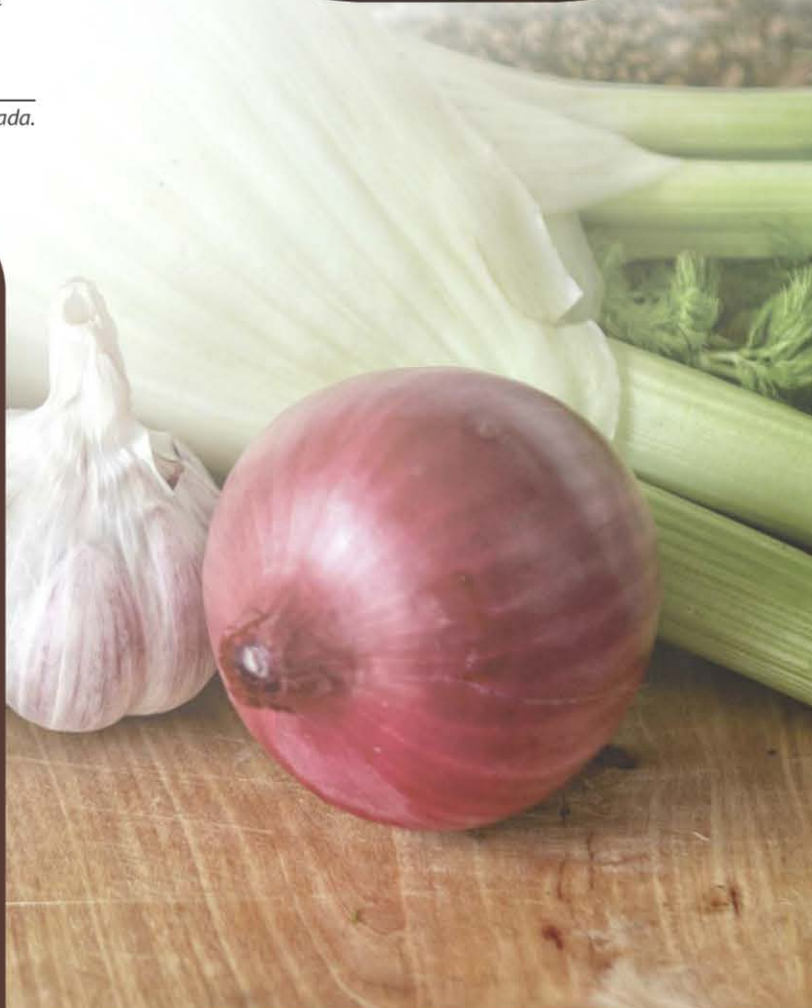
VEGGIE BROTH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 fennel bulb, fronds removed
- 1 sweet potato
- 1 baking potato
- 1 parsnip
- 5 medium yellow onions
- 1 head garlic, cloves peeled
- 4 litres water
- 16 teaspoons salt

INSTRUCTIONS

- Clean and roughly chop vegetables, and place them in a large stock pot with water.
- Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and simmer for 30 to 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add salt and simmer another 5 minutes, stirring well.
- In batches, blend vegetables and cooking water until everything is blended and you have a thick, soupy mixture. This is a concentrated broth.
- Cool in refrigerator, then portion the mixture in 1- or 2-cup portions. Freeze portions for later use.
- To make broth, simply dilute 1 cup of concentrated broth in 4 cups of water. You may strain the broth if you wish.
- Makes 20 to 24 cups of concentrated broth.



the worship described in Revelation. In the Bible passages above, God is the only audience. As creatures, we are to be worshippers, in essence, declaring what He is worth to us.

The deeper question is why do we attend congregational gatherings weekly? I pray that it is more than the preservation of tradition. Ellen White cautioned, "A mere form of Christianity is not of the least value. It is destitute of saving power, having in it no reformatory energy. A religion which is confined to Sabbath worship emits no rays of light to others."²

It is critical that we take a careful look at what we offer to God as worship today. It is clear that a proper understanding and expression of worship is vital to whether God accepts our worship or not. There is such a thing as unacceptable worship, as is clarified by the stirring statement of Jesus, "But in vain they do worship Me ..." (Matt. 15:9, KJV).

Jesus, describing true worshippers says, "They ... worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24, KJV). Worship "in the Spirit" actually means that true worship is internal. This is in the heart or the spirit of the worshipper. This is the kind of worship that, in truth, admits that God is worthy, and, in spirit, is determined to return God to His rightful place in our lives.

² White, 5:339.

In the first book of the Bible, Adam and Eve made an attempt to be the ones who were worthy, attempting to take God's place by yielding to Satan's invitation to make them "as gods." In the last book of the Bible, the angels and elders say to God, "You are worthy." God is in His rightful place, and we are in ours. This is a part of the theology of restoration. We submit to God's rightful place on our lives.

Kathleen Smith, in her book *Stilling the Storm*, describes congregational worship as our "weekly practice at not being God." David prayed, "Teach me your way, O LORD and I will walk in your truth: Give me an undivided heart, that I may worship your name" (Ps. 86:11).

I believe God would be excited to hear this kind of prayer more often. He knows that a divided heart is not able to worship Him sincerely. ■

Mansfield Edwards is president
of the Ontario Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH Becky

*If the Lord came for supper to your place tonight,
what one thing would you ask Him for?*

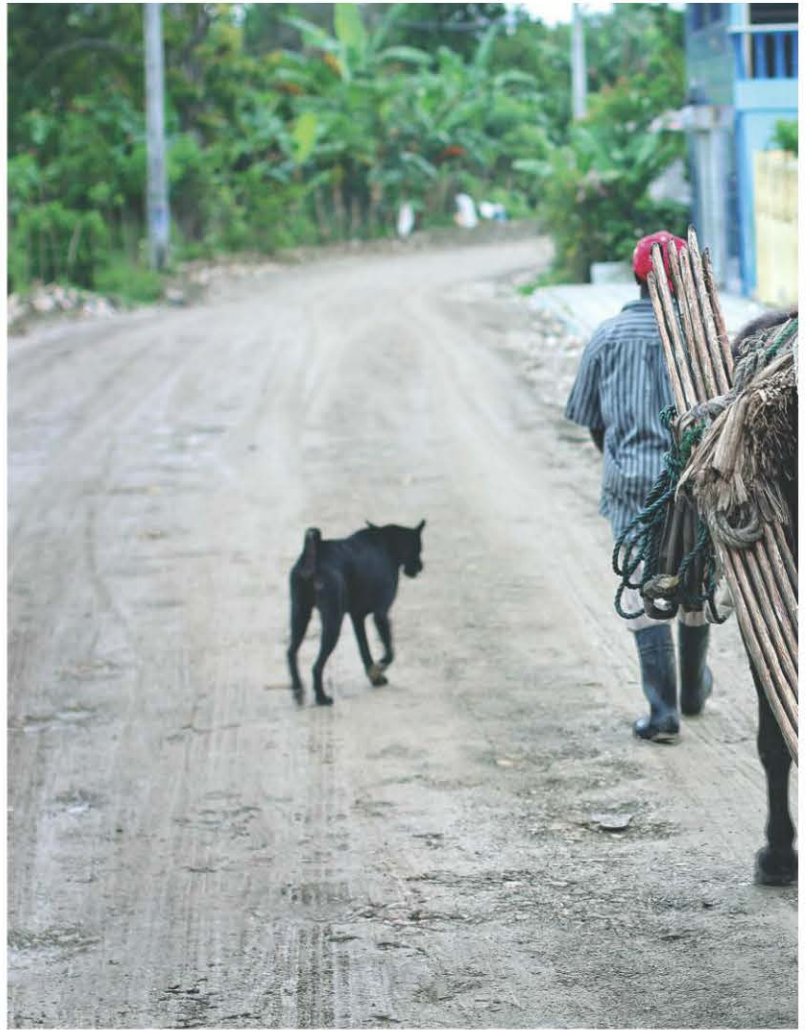
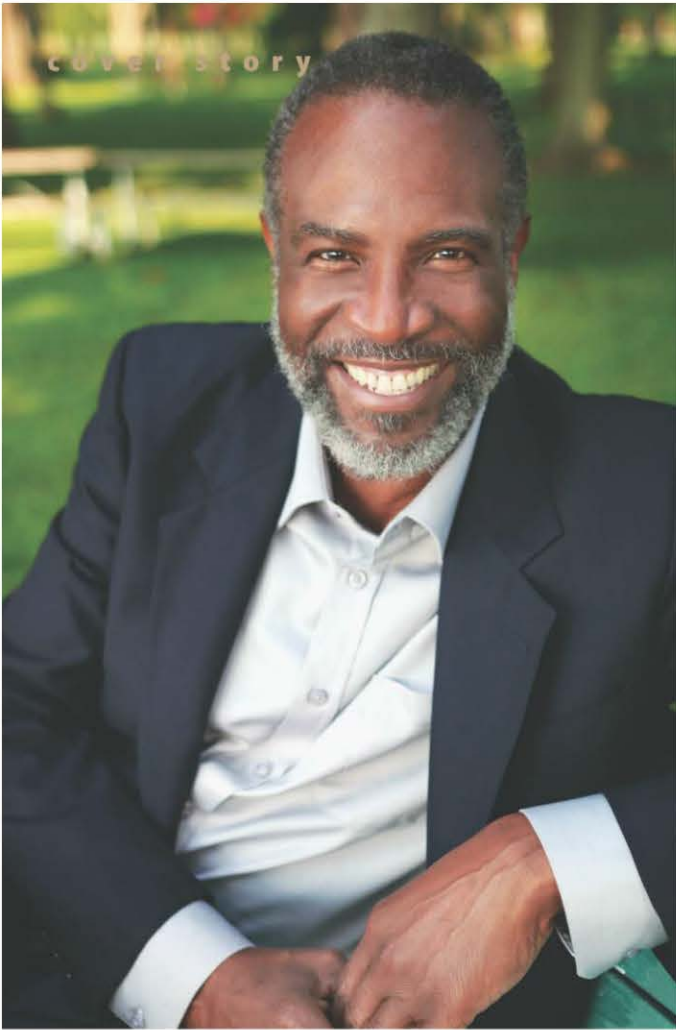
AT THE RED DEER AND COLLEGE HEIGHTS
CHURCHES IN ALBERTA AND THE ZEALAND
CHURCH IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Irma Hartley: To make me like Him.

Kendra Hill: I would ask Him to give me guidance for the big decisions in my life. I would discuss my life with Him and ask Him what I should do.

Heather Furrow: Patience.

Zoe Brewer: For more people to come to camp and give their lives to the Lord.



New Horizons

The Promise of a Better Future

The New Horizon School gives the children growing up in this community the precious gift of a Christian education and the promise of a better future that it brings.

The school is my heart and my joy, but for most of my life I knew little about the country or the people and the challenges they faced. That changed in February 2008.



The Partnership

I noticed him kneeling, head down, against a wall in a classroom—a young man once again facing punishment for misbehaving in school. This latest incident marked a trend. He often acted out and was punished for it, and I sensed that behind the behaviour was a troubled life. Looking at him, I thought, “Dear God, I need to reach this young man.” Then, not quite knowing what I was doing, I went to him and knelt down. He said nothing and did not look my way. He continued to kneel, silent, head down, and I knelt silently beside him.

We remained in this position for some time, and as I knelt, I pleaded with God for wisdom. Finally I said, “I’d like to form a partnership with you.” He didn’t look up. He didn’t acknowledge me. I repeated my statement, but he remained silent, head down. Continuing, I said, “Promise me that you will never be punished by another teacher ever again, and that when you come to school, your only goal will be to learn as much as you can.” He remained silent. Struggling with myself about whether I was doing the right thing, I repeated my words, then extended my hand to him. For some time he didn’t move, didn’t say a

word, and the seconds seemed like an eternity. Then, slowly, he extended his own hand and shook mine.

Since that encounter, I have had many opportunities to observe that young man. I have seen other students challenge him and provoke him to get into fights, and every time he has backed down. On one occasion, I approached him and, in fun, tried to play fight with him. Looking at me, he said, “I don’t do that kind of thing anymore.” Having entered into partnership with me, he had decided to keep the promise he had made.

Encounter With a Stranger

My name is Paul Jones, and I am the founder and director of 2nd Chance, International, a Canadian registered charity organized to provide education to children and adults living in communities where access to education is restricted, whether because of socioeconomic, language, societal, or political barriers. The charity is operating The New Horizon School in the Haitian community of Munoz in the Dominican Republic. The school was set up to meet a pressing need; Haitian immigrants face serious barriers to educating their children in traditional



Dominican schools because of their legal status. The New Horizon School gives the children growing up in this community the precious gift of a Christian education and the promise of a better future that it brings.

The school is my heart and my joy, but for most of my life I knew little about the country or the people and the challenges they faced. That changed in February 2008.

My wife and I were married on a leap year. As a result, our anniversary comes around every four years. For our 32nd anniversary (or 8th, if you count by leap years), I planned a special trip to a resort in the Caribbean to celebrate. But after doing some research, my wife found another resort in the Dominican Republic, and we chose it as the destination of our anniversary trip. When we arrived at the resort, it was not quite what I had expected. But as I stood outside the entrance to the hotel, I felt impressed that we had not come here by chance. Looking up, I prayed, "Lord, I know you have brought me here for a reason. Please show me what it is."

I remained outside the hotel, and about 40 minutes later, a man approached me. We struck up a conversation, and he asked me where I was from and what I was doing in the Dominican Republic. Then, 10 minutes into our conversation, he asked, "Would you like to sponsor a school?"

I looked at him with suspicion and told him I was not interested, but he persisted. Again and again he brought up the school until, finally, I agreed to at least go and take a look at it. A few days later, my wife and I

visited the school. It was about the size of a double car garage, and the walls and ceiling were covered with mould. Crammed inside and sitting on lawn chairs were about 20 students. There were no books and no supplies. As I observed this scene, my heart went out to the children. The school desperately needed basic supplies, so, with the help of a guide, my wife and I went to some nearby stores and bought a stove, books, pencils, plates, cups, and some groceries. Soon our visit came to an end, and we went back to the resort to enjoy the rest of our vacation.

We returned to Canada a week later, but I could not erase from my mind the memory of what I had seen. Those students, sitting in those lawn chairs, brought to mind my own childhood and the difficulties I had growing up. I was once considered a child without promise, and for most of my early years, I lacked motivation and support. But in my teens, two individuals took an interest in me and encouraged me to go back to school. My life today is very different because of their encouragement and the encouragement and support of many other people. But as for the kids I had met in that tiny little school, who would encourage them? Who would give them the support they needed? Consumed by these thoughts, I returned to the Dominican Republic and to the school three months later.

This past February marked the sixth anniversary of the encounter with that stranger in the Dominican Republic. I have since returned repeatedly to a school that has become dear to my heart.



Retirement: An Opportunity for Service

Earlier this year, I celebrated my 65th birthday and my retirement after 35 years of service to an organization I loved. But retirement was not for me an end; rather, it was a new beginning and an opportunity to throw my whole heart and soul into the new work God had given me. For years since I was first introduced to the school, I returned to visit about once a quarter for a week or two at a time, doing what I could in the limited time I had to provide support, encouragement, and necessary supplies and equipment. It was, therefore, with excitement and even a little impatience that I awaited the prospect of retirement. Retirement meant an opportunity to devote more time and energy to the cause I loved. My week-long visits could now be extended to two or three months, giving me the opportunity to provide necessary administrative support and management to ensure the school operated at the highest standard.

Besides the time spent visiting on-site was the time needed to properly manage the charity, bring awareness to the cause, deal with financial issues, liaise with Canadian professionals interested in donating time to assist in training and education, and manage day-to-day issues. Retirement gave me the time I needed to give proper attention to these issues, and the impact on the improvement of the school has been tremendous.

Retirement also brought with it another gift: the chance to make use of the wisdom garnered from years of challenges, trials, successes, and failures that mark the experience of those older in years. Job 12:12 says, "Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding" (NASB). Men and women of older years possess the wisdom of experience, wisdom that cannot be had by other generations. We, therefore, have something precious and unique to offer, a talent God has given us and calls us to invest for His kingdom and His glory.

When God chose Jeremiah as His messenger to His people, Jeremiah responded, "Behold, I do not know how to speak, because I am a youth." God responded,

"Do not say, 'I am a youth,' because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak" (Jer. 1:6, 7, NASB). Hundreds of years earlier, God chose another man and laid on him the responsibility of a great mission. That man also pleaded the excuse of not being able to speak, and, at 80 years of age, he could have told God he was too old to have anything to offer. But when God called Moses, He said, "I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt" (Exod. 3:10, NASB).

I will send you. Now. At this age. That was God's message to Moses. It was not when Moses was young, ambitious, and ready to take the world by storm that God chose him. It was when Moses had aged, having passed through a time in which His trust and love for God had more fully developed, that God looked at him and said, "I choose you." The message is simple. Age means little to God. When God calls us, He also empowers us, whatever our age and circumstances, and I am living the joys of His empowerment. His call and His work shine through the eyes of the students at New Horizon, who are studying and thriving in a supportive environment and learning more about a loving God who sends people to come to the help of His children.

God needs only one thing: people who are willing and surrendered to Him. He takes care of the rest. And God has a heart for we who are older, He has a special place in His work for us. He chooses us, as we can bring wisdom, experience, and time. To us He says, "Do not say, 'I am too old,' because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak." To us, He extends His hand and asks us to enter into a partnership with Him, willingly bringing our gifts, and a willing heart, in service to a cause He loves. ■

Paul Jones is the founder of 2nd Chance International. For more information, contact Paul at 2ndchanceintl@gmail.com or visit, www.2ndchanceinternational.com.

Remembering Robert Anderson

From Cripple to Champion

"Everywhere I went, a shadow of a box—seven feet long, and three feet wide—was following me. With my angina, arthritis, high blood pressure and those extra pounds, I knew that it couldn't be long before I would be in that box," said Robert Anderson. Hopelessness seized him as he drove to his mailbox to pick up his mail, 200 feet from his house. Once a proud builder, Anderson, now subject to shortness of breath and chest pains, was a confirmed invalid.

As per his physician's strong recommendations, 67-year-old Robert Anderson joined the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). He began to follow a simple plant-based diet of whole foods, committed to a progressive walking program, and left his Marlboro cigarettes, daily martinis, and caffeine behind. And within weeks, his turnaround began: his angina diminished, his arthritis improved, his weight and blood pressure came down, and his physician had to lower his medications.

To celebrate his new freedom, Robert got himself a 21-gear Titanium bicycle and began training for the ride of his life—from his hometown of Creston, B.C., on Canada's west coast, to Ottawa, Canada's capital on the east coast. And then, at the age of 69, the man once plagued with serious health issues commenced his ride across Canada on a bicycle! At the starting line was his physician, Dr. Sid Kettner, who also served as a lay pastor for the Adventist church in Creston, and with him were his church members. He said, "Robert, on this ride there will be moments of charley horses, of pain and discouragement. And you may wonder if you can go on. But we want you to know that we will be rooting and praying for you every day. And to remind you of our commitment to you, we want to give you this small box. Inside, you will find 60 love notes from my church members, one for every day of your trip."

Sixty days later, after covering 2,600 miles on his bike, this man once crippled with angina and arthritis, shortness of breath, and many extra pounds, rode into Ottawa as a champion! How did he do it? What made the difference?

Anderson said, "CHIP taught me four basic principles:

1. Follow a simple plant-based diet of whole foods simply prepared.
2. Burn holes into the soles of your shoes and not into the tires of your car: exercise and move consistently.
3. Avoid harmful substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and caffeine.
4. Develop an attitude of gratitude. God didn't make a nobody. He engineered us for success!"

Robert Anderson became a new man. A stronger man. He even got involved in building again, this time supervising the crew that built the house for his physician friend, Dr. Kettner. He became a softer man. He said, "With so much love showered upon me—all those love notes on my ride across Canada—how could I forget this? It softened my heart. And I unreservedly turned my life over to God." Robert Anderson was now living life to the fullest.

Just before Robert passed away some five years ago, he turned to his wife, saying, "Just think: CHIP gave us another 20 years. And for me, 18 of these years were good years. I am so grateful." And then he said, "I'll see you—in the morning." ■

Dr. Hans Diehl is founder of CHIP and Lifestyle Medicine Institute.



QUESTION: *My confusion started like this—personally, I like chocolate. However, during a potluck gathering I was told that this is not good. In addition, as I shared my passion for travelling, a sister from my church explained to me that it is better to reduce my travel expenses and to give more toward those in need. After several encounters with my new brothers and sisters, I came to the conclusion that the Christian life is about eliminating all earthly pleasures. Am I right?*

A New Adventist Asks

ANSWER: No, you are not right. There is no doubt that after our encounter with Jesus, many things in our lives undergo change. However, it is false to conclude that God wants us to live without desires, without attachments, without pleasures. This is why I have enormous problems with those who present a new life with God as a long list of restrictions and a renouncement of everything that can be called good, attractive, and enjoyable.

Jesus declared to the Pharisees, to those who were strongly attached to rules and restrictions, "I have come that they [those who believe in my name] may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly" (John 10:10, NKJV).

The following are integral to the character of God: to create things full of beauty; to design breathtaking sceneries; to cause Adam to fall into a deep sleep in order to prepare him for an exceptional awakening

If you're a new member and have a question you would like answered, please email newmember@adventist.ca. We would love to hear from you.

and to connect him with the most beautiful creature, better than one he could have imagined in his most extraordinary dreams; to create a wonderful atmosphere in all circumstances, the day full of brightness, the evenings ornamented by the moonlight; to sing with gladness about human beings (see Zeph. 3); to prepare the most tasteful wine in Cana (see John 2). In summary, our God does not promote restrictions, we do. He is the author of gladness, of perfect joy, and we know that He is preparing for us an eternity with unlimited pleasures.

Does the concept of God promoting pleasures contradict His message about self-denial? Not at all. Heaven is willing to help us renounce our desire to control everything in our lives. In fact, God is preparing us to grant our Lord Jesus Christ ultimate authority in our lives. This is the true fight of faith that we need to strive for every day. This is what Jesus proclaims in Matthew 16:24: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (NKJV). Obviously, this is the question of leadership, of ultimate authority, and not a question of the elimination of pleasures.

I would like to make a suggestion to you, with the desire to avoid making the same mistake as those who came to you with restrictive recommendations at the beginning of your walk with Christ, by quoting Jean-Luc Marion from France. He said, "Christians do not have to worry for the church, but for Christ. The reforms of the ecclesiastical institutions have in themselves no value (other than for religious observers, religion sociologists, ecclesiastical bureaucrats), if not, although negative but real, to reduce the manifestation of institutional barriers and to diffuse the love of Christ. The Christians should primarily have an interest in knowing Christ, since the non-Christians primarily have an interest in knowing the church."¹

I like his comments and consider that Jesus Christ should become the main focus of our church life. When we focus on evaluating people, we lose our contact with "the author and finisher of our faith." Therefore, when you meet someone who is new in the church, please help him or her develop a strong attachment to Jesus. Support the individual in all circumstances and contribute with all your efforts to the creation of solid bonds with their Saviour. All other things will follow. Even the question of travel expenses or the spontaneous moments of pleasure with your chocolate. But things will be completely different when someone knows Jesus. At His feet they will understand that by merely eliminating things from their lives they are just creating emptiness. Instead, by filling their lives with meaningful things learned in God's presence, He makes things that at first seem unattractive and useless, interesting.

Therefore, stay strong and enjoy the abundance of life in Jesus. May this text help you understand that your God is preparing wonderful things for you: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Ps. 16:11). ■

Daniel Stojanovic is the vice-president of administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

From the Philippines to Canada for the sake of Christian Education



Franz, Adams, Ada, Fidel, and Fritz Babida.

THERE ARE MANY NOTABLE STORIES OF PARENTS WHO HAVE MADE SACRIFICES in order to provide Christian education for their children. Recently, one of my co-workers, Ada Babida, shared such a story with me.

"When I lived in the Philippines, I worked for a bank for 14 years, until the economy started to collapse and the bank was forced to close down. Not knowing where to turn, I took my dilemma to God, who provided me the opportunity to work with my husband in literature evangelism. This lasted for almost two years. We have so many amazing stories from our time in the mission field. God's miracles in people's lives, His goodness, deliverance, and friendship that we gained during our service with Him are undeniable.

During this time, we wanted our sons to continue with their Christian education, but because of economic turmoil in the Philippines, we were not able to provide the means. With much apprehension and prayer, I decided to take a job in Canada working as a live-in caregiver for my brother and sister-in-law. It was not an easy decision to leave my family behind. For three and a half years, I lived in Canada, far away from my husband and my sons, having gone back to visit only once during that whole time we were apart. But God is good, and He provided, encouraged, comforted, and guided us every step of the way. Even now when I look back, I am in awe of His provision and do not feel worthy of His goodness. God is amazing. He made it possible for my boys to continue with their Adventist

Christian education here in Canada, at Kingsway College and Canadian University College where my oldest son graduated in 2013."

As Ada reflected upon her journey and the sacrifices she and her husband Fidel made to ensure their children received an Adventist Christian education, she shared with me the following thought: "It is indeed a blessing for [my boys] to have attended an Adventist school. They were given opportunities to be involved in many ways, such as offering up a simple prayer, preaching, serving, singing, and participating in other missionary activities. These are the experiences that I believe will continue to encourage them to move forward with a mission in mind. They also experienced the love and support of the staff and learned more about the love of Jesus. I am hoping and praying that they will continue to depend on God and be vessels of His love wherever they go."

I asked Ada what motivates her to come to work each day. She responded by saying, "I want to be part of God's mission. That motivates me to come to work every day. I firmly believe that Kingsway College is another mission field where God's purpose is to spread His love, teach young people to reflect His character, and prepare His children for service. I enjoy working with all the staff who have the same mission in mind, in spite of the busyness of this place. Praying for our students and staff every day gives me the confirmation that God can look after all the details of the lives of His children. He responds whenever we call Him."

Finally, I asked Ada to share a Bible passage that is meaningful to her.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths' (Prov. 3:5, 6, NKJV) is my favourite passage. God's faithfulness is beyond comprehension, and trusting Him in every detail of my life will always be my goal." ■

Remy Guenin is director of enrolment and development at Kingsway College. Ada Babida is administrative assistant to the president of Kingsway College.

The Children Have Heard the Joyful Sounds Jesus Saves



Sioux Lookout Adventist Group

Lac Seul is located approximately 38 kilometres northwest of Sioux Lookout in Ontario. The reserve is made up of three communities: Kejick Bay, Whitefish Bay, and Frenchman's Head.

The Sioux Lookout Adventist Group, in partnership with Lac Seul First Nation leadership, made plans to hold two VBS programs within the Lac Seul reserve by a group from Toronto and another led by Thunder Bay church members.

Our group, led by Pastor Jakov (Jacob) Bibulovic and volunteers from Toronto West, Malton, and Toronto Yugoslavian churches, were willing to step out of their comfort zone in order to make a difference in the lives of children in the First Nations communities of Kejick Bay and Whitefish Bay.

We used a simple concept to teach the children: Jesus saves, Jesus protects, Jesus provides, Jesus prepares, Jesus prays, and Jesus is coming back for us.

At the beginning of the week, some children were shy and timid, while others were curious and cautious, but they were all beautiful and eager to find out what we were all about. Many

children could only pay attention for a short period of time. Snack time was fun, and the children looked forward to eating the watermelon. Watermelons and bananas were the fruits of choice, since many of the children were not able to chew other harder fruits because they had lost most of their permanent teeth as a result of poor nutrition.

The children loved the swimming techniques taught during VBS. We found that they were calmed down by swimming in the lake. The children in aboriginal communities spend many hours in the lake unsupervised, and they do not have proper swimming skills. Therefore, unfortunately, many incidents of drowning occur.

During our stay, we were engaged in other activities. One day we planted and fertilized a vegetable garden, and another day we dismantled collapsed greenhouses and helped move them to different location. We also attended a funeral of a young member of the community, to support the family. First Nations cultures appreciate people's presence during difficult times such as death.

At the end of the VBS, we felt that God used us to make a difference in the lives of the children of Kejick Bay. It took prayer, patience, perseverance, and a great amount of faith, and most of all, we allowed the Holy Spirit to lead. The seeds were planted and we wait for the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

As we drove to the airport, we could see the mountain land formation in the distance known as "The Sleeping Giant." This land formation name reminds me that the gigantic message of salvation is about to awaken in Lac Seul and Sioux Lookout. We left Sioux Lookout to go back to our homes and churches bursting with knowledge and experience to share with our pastors and congregations. Sioux Lookout will soon be known as the hub for evangelism in northwest Ontario, by the grace of God.

Jesus bids us to "go ... therefore and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19). ■



Children attending Vacation Bible School in Lac Seul, Ontario.

Karen Kennedy is a member of Malton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Parkview Profiles

"God has blessed me with lots of unexpected opportunities but I've learned you have to be willing to follow through on what He provides."



Donald Matthew MacDonald (right) in class.

Donald Matthew MacDonald the 28th, as he likes to introduce himself, comes from a long line of Scotsmen, though he is the first in his family to attend Parkview Adventist Academy. Matt comes to Lacombe from Port Hardy, B.C., and brings an attitude of selfless achievement and positive enthusiasm to the campus. About coming to PAA, Matt says, "There's no point in going somewhere special unless you're looking for something special," and in looking at PAA, Matt saw a place God was calling him to serve.

Following his graduation from Avalon Academy in Grade 10, Matt moved to Alberta because he wanted to continue his Adventist education: "I wanted to find good scholastics, as well as a nurturing environment," he says. As a dorm resident at PAA, Matt has succeeded in his academics and is also significantly involved in school service opportunities. Despite his success, Matt's road has not been easy.

He shares, "God has led in my life and created a way for me to be here. When I applied to PAA, I didn't have the funds." Matt prayed about his concerns, believing that if God wanted him to go to school, He would make a way. "God has blessed me with lots of unexpected opportunities," Matt says, "but I've learned you have to be willing to follow through on what He provides."

Matt sought employment on campus, and after agreeing to work three different jobs, he was approved for admission. One of his placements was at Plant Services, tending the campus and shoveling snow from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. throughout the winter. Some high school students would struggle to find a positive perspective at that time of day, but Matt enjoys it: "It's nice to have time to wake up and spend with God when everything is quiet."

Attending classes at Parkview Adventist Academy was everything Matt wanted it to be, but he was losing weight and health because he could not afford the campus meal plan. The parents of one of his classmates

noticed his need and began buying him groceries to help him get by. He is grateful for the care and help of those who are near to him: "It's not like I've moved out on my own, by any means. There's such a support network here on campus."

Matt has become an integral part of that support for other students and programs at PAA. Volunteering to be a guide for PAA Days' Open House program allowed him to serve and share his own experiences as a student. Matt also toured to schools and churches in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference with Dauntless, PAA's student ministry team, providing vocals and vital tech support while leading several of the team's drama presentations.

On the spring 2014 trip, Matt also developed his testimony and delivered it for a Friday night vespers program in Winnipeg. He talked about choosing to see the good in things, illustrating the lesson with heartfelt examples from his own life: "You can easily lose sight of what is good and enjoyable, but when you choose to focus on the positive, you see that it is there." Inspired by Matt's story and message, an anonymous donor made a gift toward Matt's school expenses. Now well into his Grade 12 year, Matt is encouraged as God continues to provide.

Voted as "Male Student of the Year" in 2013/2014, the soon-to-be-graduating senior sees his life's mission and meaning growing clearer. Matt believes, "You don't have to be a pastor to minister, you don't have to be a teacher to help, and you don't have to be a counsellor to listen." Rather, God can use you right where you are. In choosing to be at PAA, Matt is allowing God's light to shine through his life and write the rest of his story.

"I can follow Him anywhere," Matt says, "and I'm glad He wants me here." ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.



Sidney Lakusta-Wong and her beautiful, blue, helium balloon.



(Back row l-r) Daniel Dobroskay, Kevin Choi, Adam Bussey, Luke Edgson;
(Front row l-r) Faith Calaminos, Keldie Brown, Joy Launio, Sidney Lakusta-Wong.

Balloons and Blessings

The air buzzed with excitement. Antsy children sat in rows, anticipation keeping them from focusing on the drone of the speaker. A brand new playground—red, blue, and yellow—lay before the crowd. Colourful balloons bobbed in the breeze, beckoning the children. It was the dedication ceremony for College Heights Christian School's new playground. Finally, the moment came that the crowd had been waiting for: the sound of scissors snipping the ribbon.

Children burst through the ribbon toward the playground; I was among them. I wanted one of those balloons. But my short little legs could only do so much, and I soon found myself at the end of the pack. By the time I arrived, the beautiful bouquets of helium balloons were all gone, harvested by older children who could run much faster. My disappointment must have been noticed, for the next thing I remember was an older child turning to me and asking if I wanted a balloon. I vigorously nodded my head yes and was handed a beautiful blue helium balloon. I clutched that balloon tightly and paraded my treasure around all day long. In my shining five-year-old eyes, I had been given the world, a blessing, a gift undeserved.

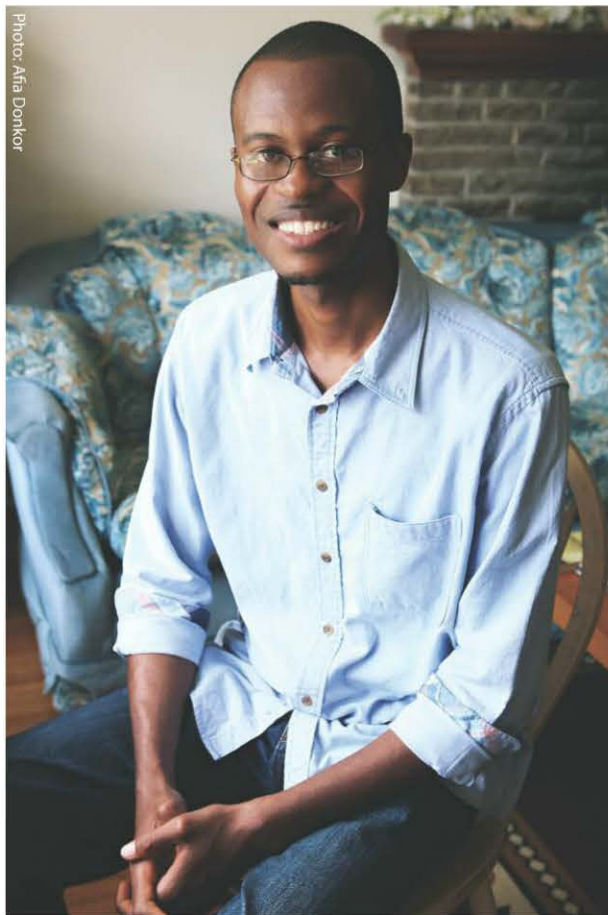
Much has occurred on the hilltop in the almost 17 years since I was given that balloon. I have changed, and I have seen change. As I have transitioned from College Heights Christian School to Parkview Adventist Academy and, finally, to Canadian University College, I have witnessed golden canola fields sprout into housing subdivisions, seen major gym renovations, and survived the science building fire. Those years spent receiving an Adventist education have truly been a privilege. I have been blessed with the opportunity to grow spiritually in good soil (see Matt. 13). The small school atmosphere has provided incredible opportunities for academic growth, leadership, and extracurricular involvement. Various outreach programs taught me how to foster a servantlike attitude. While any small school might boast similar

assets, I have found Adventist education to be distinctive, set apart by the faculty and staff who are dedicated to the spiritual and personal growth of each student. Adventist education has allowed me to stretch and develop in ways I would never have known possible.

As a means of equipping myself to give as I have been given, I have chosen to continue my education at Loma Linda University's School of Medicine. Though I know it will be a difficult and expensive educational endeavor, I am confident that Adventist education will continue to provide me with opportunities that cannot be measured financially. I am thrilled to be starting this medical school adventure with seven of my CUC classmates. I am so proud to be an alumnus of Canada's one and only Adventist university, and I pray that CUC's legacy will continue to grow.

Reflecting on my time in Adventist education, I can't help but feel abundantly blessed. As I bid farewell to our hilltop campus, I now grasp not one balloon, but a handful that I can hardly contain. These balloons represent the blessings I have received: my family who sacrificed everything for me, my teachers who went the extra mile, the support staff who helped me through, the pastors who mentored me, and the friends who empowered me. Their encouragement, support, and mentorship have brought me to where I am now. They have shared with me gifts I could not have received on my own anywhere else. As I embark on this new journey, I know that I am ready. Adventist education and the ongoing support of my Adventist family not only prepared me but also continue to keep me afloat as I seek to follow God's plan for my life. ■

Sidney Lakusta-Wong is a recent biology and music graduate of Canadian University College. She began her first year of medical school at Loma Linda University in August.



Dale Baker

Take the Risk

Many years ago, a friend handed me a pocket-sized pamphlet about the Sabbath. It was Saturday night, I was heading out for the evening, and Christianity, faith, and the Sabbath were not on my mind. Still, I took the tract, stuck it in my back pocket, and went on my way.

I grew up in a home where spirituality was not highly valued. My parents sent me to church as a kid, but they themselves did not go, and when I got older, I stopped going altogether. For a time in my teens, I experienced a sudden desire to read the Bible, and, not knowing where to start, I started from the beginning. As I read, conviction seized me about a number of issues, but after a while, my interest waned and I stopped reading.

A few weeks after receiving the first tract, I was in a taxi when an Adventist woman gave me two more, one on baptism and another on the state of humanity in death. These tracts, along with the one on the Sabbath, ended up on the coffee table in my house and were soon forgotten. But as time passed, I once again felt a strong impression to read the Bible. So I began. From Genesis to Leviticus and on, the Scriptures filled me with interest and revived conviction, but they also left me with many questions.

My readings made it clear that the Bible identified the seventh day as the Sabbath, but I wondered if the day of worship really made any difference. Suddenly, I remembered the tracts on the coffee table. I retrieved the one on the Sabbath and read it eagerly. It answered every question I had, and I soon began to keep the Sabbath.

Eventually, I came to the topic of baptism, and here I faced a real struggle. Was baptism really necessary for salvation? What about the thief on the cross? Again, my mind returned to the tracts on the coffee table. I read the one on baptism and was impressed that it was important and that I needed to be baptized. Sometime afterwards, during an evangelistic meeting, an appeal was made to come forward and make a commitment through baptism. I felt urged by the Spirit to go, but Satan was at hand to discourage. I stood paralyzed, physically unable to move, and finally, in desperation, I prayed, "Lord, if I'm going to move, You are going to have to help me make the first step." Suddenly, I felt my left foot move forward and my right foot cooperate. Sweat poured from my body, but steadily, one foot in front of the other, I made my way to the altar. The next day I was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Reflecting on my experience, I realize something very important: my life is different not because of a taxi, a coffee table, or even a few tracts. Alone, these objects had no power to tell a story or change a life. I have a story because two individuals took a risk. Before them was the threat of rejection from a young man who showed little interest or concern for spiritual things. But stepping out in faith, they chose to share the truths that they held dear. And today, thanks in part to them, I am a literature evangelist with the iHeal¹ program, working to share God's love with others. God is looking for risk takers. He is looking for individuals who will brave the world because of love for Him and for those He died to save. Will you take the risk? ■

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES) is a charity, organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry across the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. (LifestyleCanada.org)



Revive Us Again

Eastern Canada Youth for Christ Holds Sixth Annual Conference

Two months ago, Ariben “AB” Aguinaldo could not have imagined attending the Eastern Canada Youth for Christ (ECYC) conference. Yet, for the first time, Aguinaldo stands on stage for the Saturday evening session and shares his testimony from outreach with childlike enthusiasm.

“This has been a summer of firsts,” he says. It was the first time he attended ECYC, went door-to-door, and even sang in public. (He was a tenor in the ECYC choir.) It was also the first time, since his baptism at the age of 12, that he was truly converted. “It was the first time I actually realized that [Jesus] loved me and the first time [that] I made the choice for Him.”

Aguinaldo was one of about 70 people who attended the sixth annual ECYC conference. The conference was held from August 21 to 24 at the McIntosh Country Inn in Morrisburg, Ont. The theme for the weekend was “Revive Us Again.”

Some of the speakers for the weekend included Jonathan Zita, director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service; Seth Amankwah, vice-president of Africans Living In View of Eternity (ALIVE); Thando Amankwah, vice-president of missions at Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC); Robert Blais, communication director at UNIT ministry; and Grace Mackintosh, legal counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC).

The Sabbath program included a panel discussion on the mission field in Canada, with Wayne Atwood, president of *Mieux Vivre* (Better Living); Ken Corkum, president of the Newfoundland Conference; and Dragan (Daniel) Stojanovic, vice-president of administration at the SDACC.

In the afternoon, attendees participated in outreach, where they conducted health surveys in the community.

Also, this was the first year that the conference was recorded on video by the *Mieux Vivre* ministry.

In the evenings there were prayer sessions, when attendees

were given the opportunity to engage in united prayer. For Omar Ramus, this turned out to be quite a significant experience. “It was so moving to see young people pouring out their hearts, confessing, and pleading with God to revive us again. It was an upper-room experience,” Ramus said.

Included in the program was a medical evangelism networking session with Dr. Pekka Määttä, research fellow at the SickKids Foundation.

George Cho, president of ECYC, said that this session grew out of an urgent need to recognize the place that medical evangelism has in the work of the gospel. “We truly believe that medical evangelism will finish the gospel. Canada has lost the vision. We are trying to resurrect it.”

Despite the challenges the ECYC executive committee had in planning for the event (the main evening speaker cancelled, requiring them to look for another one promptly), it appears that many were blessed.

Cree Rillo was especially happy to fellowship with like-minded youth at the conference this year. “It’s always special when I am surrounded by youth of the same faith who are on fire for God. It’s very inspiring,” she said.

Aguinaldo says since coming to ECYC, he has reached a new level spiritually in his walk with God. “For me, all the [questions I had in my mind] were answered,” he said. “If you are a Christian, it is essential that you attend ECYC.”

At the age of 18, Ramus has no other desire than to serve God with his life. He is currently the vice-president of ECYC. His decision to become involved with ECYC grew out of this same desire. “It was the vision and mission of ECYC that attracted me the most,” he said. “This is a movement to revolutionize Canada and I want to be a part of that revolution.” ■

Alexandra Yeboah is a freelance writer and regular blogger in Toronto.

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British Columbia



Pathfinder Camporee 2014: Forever Faithful

Oshkosh. The event that only happens once every five years. Some Pathfinders would go as far as calling it the event of a lifetime. My name is Aaron. I've been a part of the Vancouver Mountain Lions from the beginning, five years ago. Being in a Pathfinder group has been one of those experiences that you know you have benefited from and will not regret in the future.

This trip to Oshkosh proved that God was and is always there for us; He is forever faithful. From August 12 to 17, I met many new faces, learned new things, and, most importantly, left with a new sense of commitment to Christ. During our time there, we camped among 47,000 other Pathfinders. Though I couldn't meet them all, I still felt like part of a community.

During the daytime, there was a multitude of honours to earn. Among others, I completed the Ultimate Disc Honour, which was one of the most fun to accomplish.

At night we would gather in a huge field where everyone would attend the night meetings and sing worship songs, watch a video where the day was reviewed, and lastly, enjoy the drama production of Daniel. Though the activities were great throughout the day, I personally enjoyed the night meetings because I got to trade pins while we waited for them to begin. At first, I'll be honest, I

wasn't looking forward to trading pins; I thought it was a waste of time. I quickly regretted that once my friends started trading and getting amazing pins from various places around the world. That was the moment I began trading and got into the swing of things.

There were many memorable moments during Oshkosh. Some include the time when our club went on a five-kilometre morning jog with 2,000 other Pathfinders; cheering for a member of our own group, Alexander, when he played the violin twice onstage during the night meetings; or even when two of our members, Abby and Jasmine, were baptized in front of 47,000 Pathfinders. All of those memories were great, but the most memorable moment happened during the last night meeting.

That evening, there was talk that the production might be postponed or even cancelled because of the weather, which was getting quite windy and rainy. Luckily, the production started. About 15 minutes before the end, rain started pouring down from above. Many people began leaving and I wasn't sure whether it was worth staying to watch how it all ended. After all, I knew what was going to happen. I thought to myself, "Why is this so important?" In that exact moment, Iltani, a character in the drama, whose life is devoted to refusing the help of an all-powerful being, started realizing her need for a Saviour. That's when I realized that I was going to finish what all 47,000 of us Pathfinders had invested in. The drama came to a close with Daniel singing, "And I will always serve you, faithfully."

With rain falling from above and wind howling, you would think that we would be miserable. It was quite the opposite, as the night concluded with an impressive fireworks show with many cheering and yelling, thanking God for the amazing time that we had had. Looking back, I remember feeling extremely grateful and honoured to be a Pathfinder in a community that spans the globe.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of the Oakridge Adventist Church, who gladly gave what they had to help our club make it to Oshkosh. As well, the club directors, parents, and organizers of this event all over the world should be collectively proud for what was accomplished during the six days at Oshkosh. I think us Pathfinders can all agree that God is forever faithful, until the end. And I am so grateful for that.

See more at: <http://goo.gl/3Vzpno>. ■

— Aaron Guillen, Vancouver Mountain Lions Pathfinder Club, Oakridge Adventist Church

Silver Hills Guest House: Celebrating 30 years of “Hope and Healing, Nature’s Way”

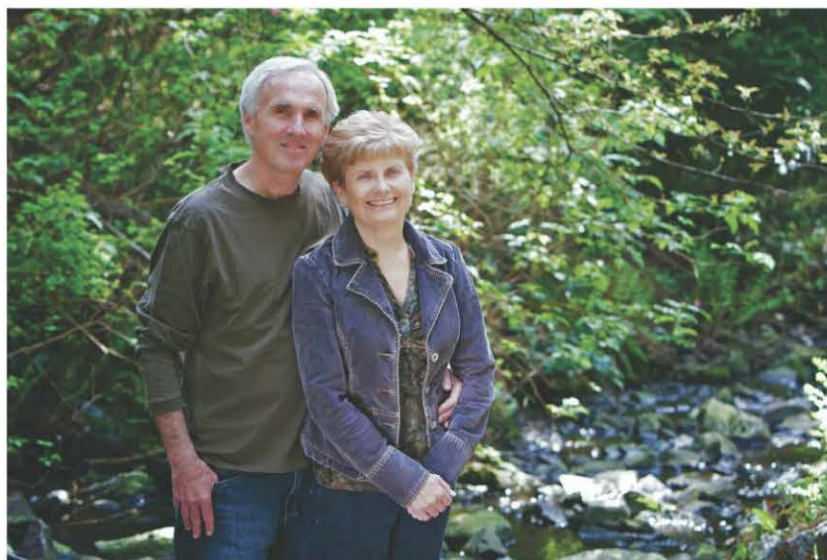
Nestled in 90 acres of gentle sloping hillside in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Silver Hills Guest House has been bringing “hope and healing, nature’s way” to thousands of people for the last 30 years.

From the very beginning of pouring the eight-foot-high foundation wall, when the form broke open causing a gushing of fresh cement to come surging out, challenges and trials have been a continual reminder that this ministry stands dependent on God for wisdom and help to work through the daily obstacles.

Yet above the daily grind of life, is the driving passion of Phil and Eileen Brewer over the last 30 years to create a warm and welcoming place for weary, tired, hurting, and sick individuals to find a place to recover their health. Most guests are not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the Silver Hills Guest House believes in making a positive, uplifting impression on any guest the moment they walk through the door.

Built on the premise that Jesus spent more time healing than preaching, Silver Hills Guest House seeks to continue the loving and caring spirit of Jesus. The friendly and loving staff, the cheery atmosphere, the soft and gentle music, beautiful scenes of nature, and gourmet vegetarian food—all these express in a quiet, silent way the healing spirit of Jesus that brings rest for the broken heart and release from the built-up burdens that modern life can often imperceptibly pile on us.

Each evening Phil Brewer, founder and director of Silver Hills, shares an inspiring health talk on one of the



Phil and Eileen Brewer

essential principles of good health. With a long and deep history of seeing how these health principles work in the recovery of health, Phil's good humour and passion inspires others to incorporate the simple laws of good health into ones daily routine.

The year 2014 marks 30 years of ministry of this supportive and essential ministry to the service of suffering

humanity with hope and healing. We rejoice for God's blessing in sustaining this ministry and ask for your continued prayer. For more information or to contact Silver Hills, go to www.silverhills.ca. ■

— Greg Wellman, pastor,
Penticton and Cawston/
Keremeos district;
secretary of the Lifestyle
Advantage Institute board

Maritimes

Occupying Until the Lord Comes!



Construction begins on the new Pugwash Adventist church.

Committed to “occupying until the Lord comes,” the members of the Pugwash church are presently engaged in erecting a new and better house of prayer and worship.

Organized in 1984, our church has been very active in outreach and is central to the spiritual life of members throughout northern Nova Scotia. However, our existing church—the only Adventist

church in northern Nova Scotia—has simply become too small.

Our new church is being built in a prominent location along Gulf Shore Road and will be the first building visitors see as they enter Camp Pugwash. It’s been designed to meet the needs of people of all ages. The new church (Phase 1) will include a sanctuary with seating for 85, a baptistry, a parents’ room, a small pastor’s

study/office, and barrier-free washroom facilities. The existing church, attached to the back of the new building, will be renovated to provide two classrooms for children, as well as a fellowship hall and kitchen. Everything has been designed to easily accessible by those who are older or physically handicapped.

We have “counted the cost” and know that we have at least enough funds to winterize the new church building. We are committed to building our church debt-free and will proceed only as far as we can with the funds we have available.

Construction began in August 2014. God has blessed us with a very generous donor who will match, dollar for dollar, all donations made before Dec. 31, 2014, up to a total of \$50,000. We could in this way raise an additional \$100,000 by year’s end! We are hoping that enough funds will come in that will allow us to complete both phases by the spring of 2015.

It is our vision that with Christ’s blessing the Pugwash church will become a prominent centre of spiritual influence and evangelism in the Maritime Conference. We solicit your prayers that men and women, young and old, will find the Lord here, in this place.

To see reports on further progress, please visit our website, at www.pugwashsdachurch.org. ■

Ontario

Scarborough Flames Participate in CYSA Track and Field Meet

Who said church was no fun? On Sunday, July 27, the 16th annual Christian Youth Sports Academy (CYSA) Track and Field event was held at the Terry Fox Stadium in Brampton, Ont.

There were about 10 to 12 Adventist churches involved. The Scarborough Track Team (Scarborough Flames) participated and came out strong in numbers of approximately 50 team

players from ages four and up. The Scarborough Flames received second place in the “B” division as a result of their perseverance and great sportsmanship! They had incredible participants

and winners representing each age group and relay categories in receiving gold, bronze, and silver medals. Everyone brought their enthusiasm, team spirit, and their gift of fellowship and took advantage of the track and field event as an outlet to demonstrate love and support amongst the young and young at heart! ■

—Julieann Bullock,
communications team,
Scarborough Seventh-day
Adventist Church



Scarborough Flames track team displaying their medals.

SLA Outreach Project— Dress a Girl Around the World



Ashley Boehner eager to join in the Dress a Girl Around the World project.

Ashley Boehner, a Grade 8 student, is the spiritual vice-president at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA) this year. “I ran for this position because I wanted people to grow closer to God this year. And I figured, why not be the person who helps people grow closer to Him?” she explains. “In keeping with Sandy Lake Academy’s motto, Service Above Self, I wanted our school to do something to help others understand God’s love.”

When Ashley heard about Dress a Girl Around the World, she felt this would be a great outreach project in which SLA could participate. Dress a Girl Around the World is a campaign under Hope 4 Women, bringing dignity to women around the world since 2006. They dream of a world in which every girl has at least one dress and knows she is worthy of love and respect. They have created a simple dress pattern to convert pillowcases into pretty dresses. It is such an easy way to provide a dress for a girl who may never have owned one before.

Ashley contacted Jenna Borg, a representative from the Canadian Dress a Girl Around the World, to arrange for SLA to

team up with this organization. “I wanted to make a difference, and this was an easy and interesting way to do it. I want to make the world a better place,” Ashley shares.

Ashley began asking for donations of pillowcases and sewing supplies for this project. Invitations to the sewing party were given out. And on Sunday, May 4, Sandy Lake Academy was a flurry of activity with over 50 volunteers participating in the sewing party, helping to cut, iron, and sew pillowcase dresses for girls all around the world, particularly those in developing countries.

Borg flew in from Ontario at her own expense to support this project and to shift the sewing party into high gear. She shared how easy it is to positively affect girls around the world by simply creating these life-changing dresses out of pillowcases. The Dress a Girl Around the World logo is ironed on to the hem of each dress. This is an indication to would-be predators that these girls are being cared for by an organization and is a deterrent against those who prey on young girls.

The seamstresses (who had the hardest job) were able to complete 83 of the dresses in less than three hours. Many of the volunteers took home pillowcases to complete the remainder of the dresses. More than 215 pillowcases were donated for this project, and to date, 141 dresses have been completed! These dresses will be distributed next March when a group from Sandy Lake Academy will participate in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Ashley is very pleased with how well the community came together, with so many people wanting to help. She elaborates, “I’m glad we came together! These girls will know they are appreciated and loved. They will know someone is thinking about them. It is a small way to give back.” ■

—Heather D. Harrington,
Sandy Lake Academy Marketing/Alumni

Quebec

New Executive Secretary for Quebec Conference



Lucian Stefanescu

The Board of Directors of the Quebec Conference at its meeting on Sept. 14, 2014, voted to elect Pastor Lucian Stefanescu as the new executive secretary of the Quebec Conference, effective immediately. He replaces Emile Maxi, who became the conference president on Aug. 20, 2014.

Stefanescu has been pastoring since 2003 and served as the pastor of the Montreal Romanian and St. Hubert churches before his appointment. He brings to the role broad experience in evangelism, church administration,

program development, counselling, media, and speaks multiple languages. Stefanescu is executive secretary of the North American Division Romanian Advisory Board.

"My [utmost] desire and most ardent prayer is that, as I continue to share Christ's message of hope and wholeness, the people I am connected to in various circumstances may one day praise God for having witnessed Jesus' love, God's wisdom, and the power of the Holy Spirit in my life." ■

SDA Church in Canada

Another Successful Year for VOAR's Fun Day

VOAR held its second Fun Day this year at Camp Woody Acres for underprivileged kids. This year we opened with a water balloon toss, followed by tubing, wall climbing, zip lining, swimming, canoeing, boating, and family fun. Over 50 kids participated.

The real story was what happened afterwards. Toward the end of Fun Day, an announcement for junior camp was made. The kids were excited and begged their parents to let them go. As a result, 18 new kids attended junior camp at Woody Acres this summer, yielding a total of 51 kids. These are children who had never heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church before, children who came from many different back-



grounds, including Buddhist, Muslim, and Catholic. The kids just fit right in at Woody Acres; they loved everything about the camp. By the end of the week, kids who knew very little about Jesus were now singing, worshipping, and praising the Lord. Each and every child had a wonderful time; they all made new friends and developed a closer relationship with God.

I truly think that next year each and every child will return to Camp Woody Acres. The VOAR Fun Day was such a success that next year we may have to install extra bunks to accommodate all our new junior campers.

—Tina Taylor, VOAR Communications director

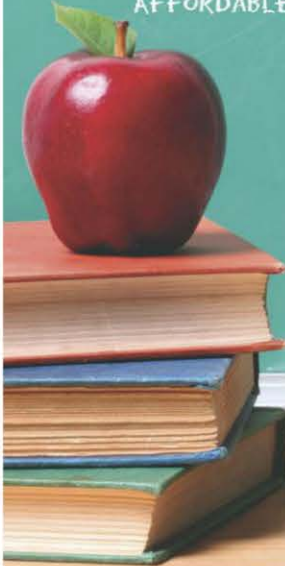
>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of August 31, 2014, there were 438 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,012,907. There were 81 loans with a value of \$22,400,836.


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

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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@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 submittable) 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'.

■ Missing Members

The Surrey church is looking for the following missing members:

Melanie Ellison, Faye Gebauer, Arlene Geniebla, Joel Jackman, Moses Makier, Winona Makier Williams, Anna Nowoszewski, Amanul Rukundo, Richard Smith, Joe Zavaglia. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Gudrun Jacobsen at 604/584-9594 or gudrunjac@shaw.ca.

■ New Members

ONTARIO

Andine Taylor was baptized in Kingston, Ont., on April 5, 2014, by Daviceto Swaby. She is now a member of the Kingston church.

■ Births

Amber Rain Dubyna Kettner was born on May 21, 2014, to Brad and Amanda Kettner of Red Deer, Alta.

■ Anniversaries

Milo and Liz Card of Costa Rica celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 25, 2014. They



were married in Jasper, Alta., later making their home in Edmonton, Alta., and Sicamous, B.C., before making their home in Jaco, Costa Rica, for the past 12 years. The Cards have one daughter, Roxene, and two grandchildren.

Albert and Edith Kiehlbauch of Edmonton, Alta., celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on May 15,



2014. They were married and have made their home in Edmonton, Alta. The Kiehlbauchs have two children, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Christina (née Elmhirst) Brucks

was born on May 5, 1916, in Carberry, Man., and died on July 16, 2014, in Saskatoon, Sask. Her service to the church included leading out in the children's and youth divisions, Sabbath school, community services, and serving as press secretary and church treasurer. Christina is predeceased by her husband, William Brucks; parents, Wallace and Ada Elmhirst; brothers, Bill (Betty) Elmhirst of Calgary, Alta., Norman (Frances) Elmhirst of Lacombe, Alta., Phillip Elmhirst of Carberry, and Percy Elmhirst of Carberry; and sisters, Jean (Stan) Purdy of Portage la Prairie, Man., and Addie (Robb) Ramsay of Brandon, Man. Surviving: son, Allen (Susan) Brucks of Saskatoon; daughter, Janet Marcoux of Saskatoon; and two grandchildren.

Lucille (née Duruisseau) Corbel

was born on Oct. 20, 1947, in St. Rose du Lac, Man., and died on March 26, 2014, in St. Rose du Lac. Lucille spent 32 years in her church and community in Medicine Hat, Alta., owning a business and holding many church positions. She will be remembered for her loving Christian attitude, generosity, and hospitality. Lucille is predeceased by her parents, Elie and Cecile Duruisseau. Surviving: husband, Marcel Corbel; sons, Michael (Janelle) Corbel of Spruce Grove, Alta., and Darrell Corbel of Virden, Man.; brothers, Ronald (Kathy) Duruisseau of Laurier, Man., Lionel (Melodie) Duruisseau of Grand Marais, Man., and Noel (Terri) Duruisseau of Calgary, Alta.; sisters, Aline Piercy of Winnipeg, Man., Eliane (Barry) Talpash of St. Rose du Lac, Valerie (Alden) Rank of St. Rose du Lac, and Della (Maurice) Desjardins of Grand Forks, B.C.

Elfriede (née Saenger) Hiob

was born on April 9, 1922, in Mannichswalde, Germany, and died on Feb. 10, 2014, in Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. A faithful member of Edmonton Central's German class for 60 years, Elfriede loved and trusted her Lord completely. Quiet and humble, she joyfully shared her garden produce, homemade jam, and freshly baked bread, and, when needed, even led the lesson study. Elfriede was the legal guardian for her husband's youngest brother, Eberhard. Elfriede is predeceased by her husband, Karl Hiob. Surviving: son, Uwe Heinz (Lorraine) Hiob of Markham, Ont.; daughter, Patricia (Mark) Hiob of Langley, B.C.; brother-in-law, Eberhard (Celia) Hiob of Okanagan Falls, B.C.; brother, Dietmar (Siegrun) Herold of Mannichswalde, Germany; sister, Ester (Morris) Lutz of Smoky Lake, Alta.; and two grandchildren.

Evelyn "Effie" (née Landry) Powell

was born on Dec. 6, 1915, in Tanktown, N.B., and died on May 29, 2014, in Oshawa, Ont. Evelyn was a steadfast Christian whose favourite hymn was "Face to Face." She looked forward to that wonderful day when Jesus will come again. Evelyn is predeceased by her husband, Wesley Powell; parents, Alexander and Mary Landry; son, Dennis Powell; and all of her siblings. Surviving: son, Larry (Phyllis) Powell of Moncton, N.B.; three grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Madella (née Gimbel) Toop was born on Dec. 7, 1927, in Bentley, Alta., and died on July 12, 2014, in Almonte, Ont. Madella was a registered nurse, and taught and served as school nurse at CUC from 1954 to 1956. She was active in the Carleton Place church

and had a gift of hospitality. Madella is predeceased by her parents, John and Theresia Gimbel; and brother, Lee Gimbel. Surviving: husband, Aylmer Toop; son, Charles (Loralee) Toop of Sherwood Park, Alta.; daughter, Jo-Ann (George Gref) Toop of Martintown, Ont.; brother, Lloyd (Linda) Gimbel of Stetler, Alta.; and four grandchildren.

Catherine Eleanor (née Holman) Wheatley

was born on Feb. 15, 1930, in Vancouver, B.C., and died on June 30, 2014, in Vancouver. Catherine worked with her husband, Peter Wheatley travelling for the British Columbia Conference from 1980 to 1991. In the 1970s Catherine worked to establish an Adventist church in North Vancouver, B.C. Catherine is predeceased by her husband, Peter Wheatley; parents, Percival William and Catherine Holman; sister, Jean Phillips of Vancouver; and step-sister, Betty Jewkes of Victoria, B.C. Surviving: sons, Henry Phillips of Los Angeles, Calif., and William Phillips of Tulum, Mexico; stepsons, David (Leslie) Wheatley of Maple Ridge, B.C., and Colin Wheatley, of Calgary, Alta.; stepdaughter, Anne Chartier of St. Jerome, Que.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth (née Fehr) Wolfe

Embleton was born on June 1, 1920, in Clarkboro, Sask., and died on July 15, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Elizabeth was a true "mother in Israel" and was always helpful. She is predeceased by her first husband, Peter Wolfe; son, Ronald Chester Wolfe; and daughter, Martha Shirley Davis. Surviving: husband, Urban Embleton; stepson, Curtis Embleton; daughters, Violet Elizabeth Reiter, Diedre Dawn August, and Betty Anne Wolfe; stepdaughters, Sandy Kozak and Teresa Cort; nine grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

■ Tributes

Happy 80th Birthday to M. John Tataryn



With much love from Patricia; Debbie, Marlon and Jessica; Holly, Ned, Kai and Kalani.

John Jay Wells
July 18, 1928 – July 20, 2014



John Jay Wells, born in Halifax, N.S., passed away peacefully at the age of 86 at the hospital in Lacombe, Alta. John was very active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for much of his life.

Shortly after becoming a Seventh-day Adventist in 1958 in Toronto, he and his family moved to Alberta so he could attend Canadian Union College. While in school, he started working as a colporteur, his travels often taking him up into northern Canada. In 1961 he moved with his family to Ontario and continued colportering for a short time. He held church services and Bible studies in some of the small towns in Ontario where no Seventh-day Adventist churches existed at the time. He also became involved in self-supporting work for a few years residing at Oak Haven, Mich., and also at Lytton, B.C., to start the Earls Court work, which later became Fountainview Academy in Lillooet, B.C.

He moved to Lacombe in 1970, where, for the most part, he has since resided and where he taught the Sabbath school lesson in church for a few years. Those who know him well know that his driving goal was to see the gospel advanced, giving his time and means toward this cause.

John was always honest with people and was the first to acknowledge that he was human and not perfect but in need of God's grace. John Wells loved the Lord and was a deep student of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

John Wells was predeceased by his grandson Logan Dobroskay; his brothers, Hume Wells and Peter Wells; and one nephew, Bobby Wells. He is survived by his wife, Jean Wells; his daughters, Sharon Hall (Eddy) and Rebecca Dobroskay (Darren); his grandchildren Daniel Hall, Carina Hall, Brandi Ellithorpe (Curtis), and Danielle Dobroskay; his great-granddaughter, Eden Ellithorpe; his sister, Susan Sambasiwan (Sam); and many nieces and nephews.

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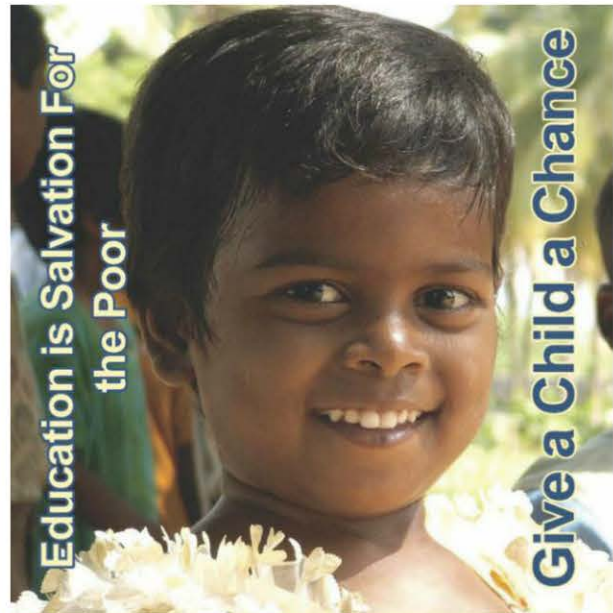
In loving memory of Adela Pearl (Best) Werner



Adela was born on Dec. 3, 1943, in Pouce Coupe, B.C., to Ada and Keith Best. She was a caring big sister, devoted wife, and mother to seven daughters, doting grandmother to 11. Her creative talents are evident in her paintings, sewing, and crocheting. Even with major health problems, she maintained the home, lawn, and large veggie and flower gardens. It has been a sad year since her death in a vehicle collision on Sept. 21, 2013. She's much loved and missed by her siblings, Larry, Percy and Daton Best, Bonnie Hobbs, and Mazel Holm. We're looking forward to our family reunion in heaven!

■ Advertisements

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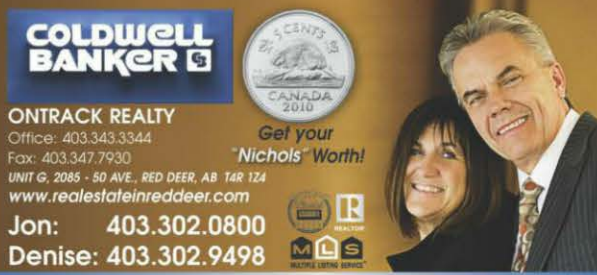
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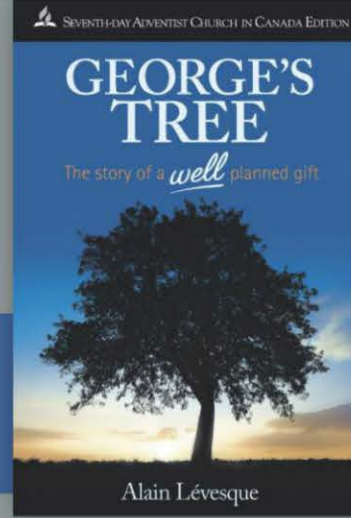
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from the editor

on retirement and making a difference

Aging is a most interesting experience. Little did I know as a teen that as we age we only *look* older but feel very much the same inside, except with a lot more experience. I want to chat about retirement—not mine, not yet—but the retirement of friends I have made over the years.

Our cover story is about the ministry that Paul Jones has started in his retirement, 2nd Chance International (www.2ndchanceinternational.com). What a difference he is making in so many young lives in the Dominican Republic. I personally support this ministry every month. Want to get involved? Email Paul at 2ndchanceintl@gmail.com.

This summer I met with a few retirement-aged members who are working with Gospel Outreach Canada (<http://goaim.org>), such as Dwight Rose, Ken Fox, and David Crook. This amazing supporting ministry is raising funds and sponsoring scores of indigenous missionaries in Ethiopia. Want to get involved? Email them at canada@goaim.org.

My good friend Gordon Gray retired a few years ago, but you would never know it. Gordon also served with Gospel Outreach and is now at Adventist Mission (www.adventistmission.org) providing help all over the world. He may even travel more now than he did as a division treasurer. His life of service has not slowed down. Want to get involved? Email them at questions@adventistmission.org.

Finally, I recently spent time with Glen Striemer, who shared well over \$1 million worth of Adventist literature in his years as a colporteur in Canada. Now at retirement age he has found other exciting gospel ventures. He spent the last few years helping to build a Christian radio station, and now he is starting one online that is geared as outreach to the non-Adventist community. His online radio station is Loud Cry Radio (<http://loudcryradio.com>), and there are apps for almost every smartphone on the market. Want to get involved? Email Glen at glen@loudcryradio.com. ■

*Praise the Lord from the earth, . . .
Both young men and maidens; old men and children:
Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent;
his glory is above the earth and heaven.—Psalm 148:7, 12, 13, NKJV*

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

P.S. Are you actively retired and have a story to share, or know someone who is?
Please let me know, I would love to share it on our Facebook page.

TO SOME, RETIREMENT MAY MEAN THE END: the end of a long career, the end of "working for the Man," and the end of stressful days. However, for many, retirement represents a new beginning. It presents the opportunity to pursue hobbies and interests that one may not have had the time or money for in earlier years. As the subject of our cover story, Paul Jones, can attest, retirement is a time of renewed vigour.

Active Retired Minister

On February 12 Pastor S. G. White celebrated his 80th birthday. Retired and living in Victoria, British Columbia, he enjoys gardening, and collecting and finishing driftwood, but counts those hours precious when he is in his book-lined study. His wide experience is appreciated by his Sabbath School class and is shown in his duties as first elder.

He gives Bible studies to a neighbour, visits a regular route for literature distribution besides conducting occasional Sabbath and prayer meeting services.

During the recent School of Lay Evangelism he taught the class in Denominational History when he told of hearing Mrs. E. G. White preach, and spoke of "Joe" Bates as he would a close friend.

An "old-hand" at bread making, Pastor White demonstrated this art to 200 persons attending a Cooking School just completed.

Pastor White was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and upon his baptism he became a charter member of that church. He entered the organized work in 1907 as a Book and Bible House clerk in Mountain View, California. China called him five years later where he worked for nearly seven years.

After a furlough in Victoria he was called to pastoral-evangelistic work in the British Columbia Conference and in Ottawa, Ontario. Until his retirement in Victoria "the beautiful", he was president of the Newfoundland Mission, Maritime and Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conferences.



Elder S. G. White, though retired, still enjoys a life of active service in the Victoria Church.

Says Pastor White, "... the golden years of retirement, backed by the experiences of earlier life, offer through the Word and the Spirit the ripened fruitage God has reserved for those who unite with Him."

Mrs. DOROTHY SPENST, Press Sec.
Victoria Church

Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 34, no. 9, p. 12

Faithful Church Member Honoured

FLOYD L. COOLEN, PR Secretary, Halifax SDA Church

Outstanding service to church and community received recognition during a social occasion to which friends came in honour of Miss Mildred M. Mosher. Tangible expressions of appreciation were presented in the form of a beautiful hand-crafted Bible stand from the church and a set of bookends from her students.

A native of Halifax, Sister Mosher received high school education at Maritime Academy and Oshawa Missionary College, and normal training at Atlantic Union College. After teaching in Canada at Memramcook, Moncton, Halifax and London, she entered the federal civil service as a secretary in 1941. Transferring to the Naval Educational Department in 1953, she taught junior matric subjects to naval personnel at HCMS Stadacona until her retirement in 1968.

Responding to a need in the Halifax church school, Miss Mosher taught Home Economics and assisted with other subjects on a voluntary basis during 1968-69. During the past school year she was a full-time teacher in Grades 8-10.

A long-time pillar in the Halifax Church, Mildred has held almost every lay office excepting, of course, those of Deacon and Elder! Notable among her



Miss Mosher is joined in looking over her scrapbook by two of her students, Marilyn MacBourne (left) and Deborah Boltz.

terms of service were seventeen years as Cradle Roll Leader and twenty-seven as Church Treasurer. Sister Mosher holds the distinction of being the first person ever invested as a Master Comrade (now Master Guide) in Canada.

A host of friends from sea to sea will join us in wishing this willing worker many more years of active service in the cause of God.

Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 39, no. 15, p. 6

A. S. Maxwell (Uncle Arthur) Retires

Arthur S. Maxwell, editor of *Signs of the Times* for 33 years, has announced he will retire June 30 after 55 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The beloved editor, known to thousands as "Uncle Arthur" for his *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*, announced his retirement before Pacific Press employees and board members and General Conference officers assembled for the quadrennial constituency meeting of the publishing house. *Signs of the Times*, one of the oldest religious journals in the United States, is published by Pacific Press.

Elder Maxwell, a native of Great Britain, began editorial work at the Stanborough Press in England in 1915. He served for 17 years as editor-in-chief of the publishing house and for several years also doubled as General Manager.

In 1936 he came to the United States to become editor of *Signs of the Times*.

In addition to his work as editor, Elder Maxwell is well-known as an author of religious books. He has written 109 books to date, the best-known being the popular 10-volume *Bible Story*, which presents the Bible in story form for children. *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*, which now fill 20 volumes, have been translated into over 20 languages and have sold over 30 million copies.

His adult books include *Your Bible and You*, *This is the End!*, and the soon-to-be-published, *Man the World Needs Most*. The prolific writer has already begun planning several books which he expects to complete after retirement from his editorial responsibilities.

Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 39, no. 7, p. 4



Brother Buckle with one of his 109 quilts.

Warming 100 People a Year

This is the story of Mr. C. Buckle of Victoria. He is retired, but is doing a great work for God. Brother Buckle is 84 years of age. To date he has made 455 quilts for the needy. Last year he made 100 quilts, to date this year (November 15) he has made 109.

Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 40, no. 24, p. 6
(You can read the full story at
<http://goo.gl/kHbAuZ>)

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