

Messenger

december 2013



Love your Neighbour ...

PLUS An Attitude of Gratitude (p. 5)
Music Spotlight—Her Brothers (p. 26)
A Christmas to Remember (p. 38)

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“I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

—Luke 22:32, ESV



Resetting

Not long ago many of us changed our clocks at the end of daylight savings time. Some things, like my cell phone, iPad and computer, took care of themselves. Others like the clocks, microwave and the car needed to be reset manually.

Changing the clocks can be a reminder of the need to be in harmony with God's will and His way of living. Just before the crucifixion, Jesus had to tell Peter, “I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:32, ESV). As a close friend of Jesus, Peter may have thought that all was well, but to be an effective disciple, what he needed was resetting.

At the end of the year, we take stock and lay plans for what lies ahead. I'm already thinking about the resetting that I need in order to stay closely connected with Christ.

First, I want to live in 2014 as one who is focused on the Word and on witness. So once again I'm planning to read through my Bible in the first months of the New Year.

Then, changed by God's Word spoken to me, I want to be a witness to others of His power in my life. Thus, even when I'm pressed for time, I want to treat people with the kindness that Jesus would. Can you imagine Christ being annoyed with those around Him? I can't. I know the story about the cleaning of the temple, but that was a completely different issue. Let's not use that as an excuse for personal bad behavior.

Third, I want to find ways to witness for Christ without creating barriers. What that means is that in our current culture, I need to find ways of sharing my faith experience that doesn't cause those around me to tune Christ out as either irrelevant or unfriendly. Reading about how Christ worked in both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy provides excellent material for thoughts on how best to share faith.

How about you? As we come to the end of December, what would you do differently in the year ahead? How would you reset your life to be in harmony with Christ?

Shall we do this together? ■

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CANADIAN ADVENTIST MESSENGER

ISRAEL TOUR

HEAR JAIME JORGE PERFORM THE VIA DOLOROSA AT THE VIA DOLOROSA.

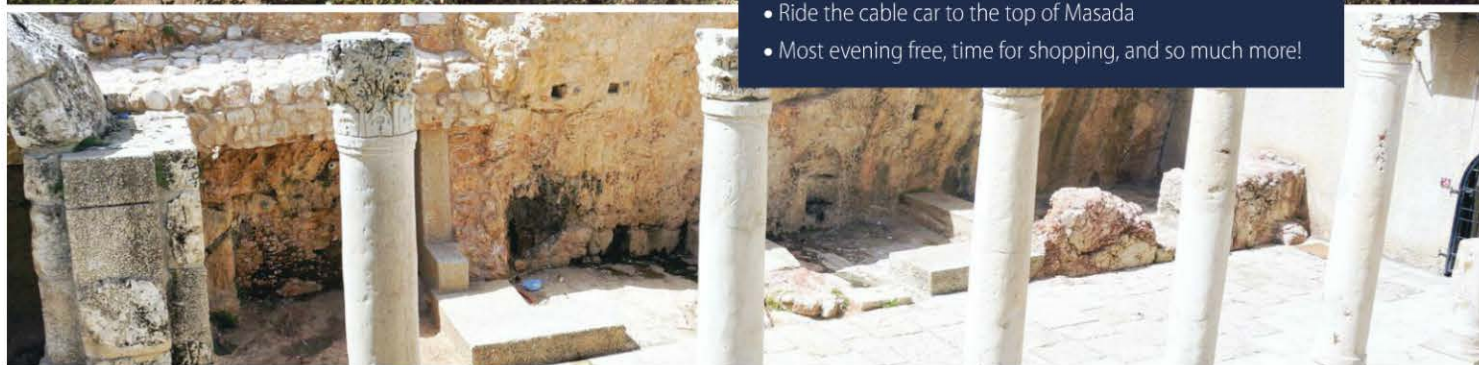
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with Messenger Editor Stan Jensen, VP for Administration (SDACC) Daniel Stojanovic
providing Bible commentary on stops, and Jaime Jorge, Adventist musician.



MARCH 19-MARCH 31, 2014
40 SEAT LIMIT

- Attend Sabbath service at Jerusalem Adventist Church.
- Participate in a communion service at the Garden Tomb.
- Visit Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus; Bethlehem and the shepherds' field; the site of the Dead Sea scrolls discovery; the pool of Bethesda; Mount Carmel and the Mount of Olives.
- Plant a tree in Israel.
- Pray at the Western Wall (Wailing Wall).
- Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
- Be baptized in the Jordan River. *(optional)*
- Swim in the Dead Sea.
- Stand on top of the synagogue where Jesus preached.
- Ride the cable car to the top of Masada
- Most evening free, time for shopping, and so much more!



Included: Guided sightseeing tour of Israel in deluxe air-conditioned bus; hotel accommodations and service charges; breakfast and dinner; admission fees. Also available an optional 4-5 day extension to tour Jordan *(if 10 people sign up)*

Rate per person: Toronto departure, CAD \$2900 + taxes; Calgary departure, CAD \$3260 + taxes

Contact Stan Jensen (jensen.stan@adventist.ca) for trip details.

Attitude of Gratitude

"A rejoicing heart doth good to the body."

One of the things I enjoy most as president of Canadian University College is sharing with students research that demonstrates that when we do what God asks us to do, we are the ones who benefit. I believe one of the purposes of an Adventist university is to bring students to the intersection of faith and learning so they can more fully appreciate the wisdom and love of our Creator.

In her book *The How of Happiness: A New Approach to Getting the Life You Want*,¹ researcher Sonja Lyubomirsky estimates that 40 percent of how happy we are is determined by how much we engage in "evidence-based happiness-increasing strategies whose practice is supported by scientific research." Number one on that list: regularly expressing gratitude.

Dr. Lyubomirsky cites a simple study in which one group of people made a list once a week for 10 weeks—a list of five things they were thankful for. Individuals in another group made a weekly list of "five major events in my life." Another group made weekly lists of "five hassles I recently experienced." At the end of the study researchers surveyed everybody who had participated. The men and women in the "thankful" group felt more happiness, excitement, and joy than those in other groups. They even reported better physical health!

In another study Dr. Lyubomirsky found individuals who made what she calls a "gratitude visit"—writing and delivering a letter to someone who was kind to you but whom you had never thanked—caused people's happiness to spike for a full month afterward.

Almost 100 years before Dr. Lyubomirsky did her research, Ellen G. White wrote, "Nothing tends to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 251). Perhaps this is what Solomon meant when he wrote, "A rejoicing heart doth good to the body" (Prov. 17:22, YLT).

In their book *Happy Money: The Science of Smarter Spending*,² Elizabeth Dunn, who teaches at the University of British Columbia, and Michael Norton, a professor at the Harvard School of Business, describe a fascinating study that involved 14 sales teams at a large pharmaceutical company in Belgium.

Several members in every eight-person team were given 15 Euros and instructions on how to spend the money. Half of those who were given money were instructed to spend the money on themselves; the rest were told they had to spend the money on other members of their team.

While sales performance remained flat for the teams whose members spent the money on themselves, sales shot up on teams where members spent their 15 Euros doing something nice for someone else. In fact, after carefully calculating sales revenue, researchers determined that every 15 Euros spent doing something nice for someone else on your team resulted in 78 Euros in increased sales by that team!

A similar study was done using, of all things, teams in an adult dodgeball league. Yes, you guessed it: the teams that had people using their money to do nice things for other teammates had better win-loss records than the teams for which the instructions had been "Spend the money on yourself."

Long before psychologists Dunn and Norton published their research, Jesus, the master psychologist said, "Give, and it will be given to you" (Luke 6:38, NIV). Research clearly shows, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35, NIV).

So, go ahead, review the research. Or, as the Bible puts it, "Taste and see ..." You too will discover that when we do the things God asks us to do, we are the ones who benefit. ■

Mark Haynal is president of Canadian University College.



¹ New York: Penguin, 2008.

² New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

Good enough

T33nTa1k

I never feel good enough. How good is good enough for God?

With Christmas soon upon us, this is a great question. The apostle Paul was pretty blunt: "No one is good enough, not even one. In fact all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). James would say if you have broken one commandment, you have broken them all. God said, "All you like sheep have gone astray" (see Isa. 53:6). So first of all, congratulations for realizing what some haven't figured out yet about themselves: you are indeed "not good enough." Consider these points:

- (1) Heaven will be a wonderful place. There will be no fear, no worry, no lying, no impure acts or even impure thoughts of any kind. If you were to go as you are, you would ruin heaven. So would I.
- (2) All the religions of the world teach essentially the same thing: We need to do better.

Christianity is drastically different, although many Christians do not know it. First, Christianity says we need to be better. There is a great difference between being better and simply doing better. I may get angry and want revenge without carrying it out or acting on it; by not acting on my anger, I would be doing the right thing. However, if I was right on the inside, I would never have desired revenge in the first place. Christianity promises change from the inside out. When we are restored, our desires will be cured.

Second, Christianity doesn't demand that we become better; it promises we will become better. Abraham was promised a son, but he didn't get it—he didn't understand at first. He interpreted the promise as a task for him to complete. He thought, I must produce a son. His efforts to do that created nothing but trouble.

Many Christians feel they must produce a good character. They fail to realize they are attempting the impossible. The Bible asks a straightforward question: "Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard his spots?" The obvious answer is no. Then God asks: "Then can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil?" (Jer. 13:23).

John 6:29 is the short answer to your question. Trust the promises of God. Trust what Jesus has done and is doing for you. Trust that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day He comes. Each day admit your faults and ask for the strength to do whatever He gives you to do for that day. The journey we call life is the very canvas God is using to create the masterpiece He has promised you will become.

Why is Christmas a good time for this question? Because your lack is the very reason God sent His Son, the Greatest Gift we have ever received. ■

creation corner for kids

"Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"—1 Peter 5:5, NKJV

Rooster

When our children were small, we moved to an old farm that had a broken down barn, fences with holes in them and a lot of rusty old vehicles piled up in the woods. The only thing that didn't need a lot of work was the chicken coop. We painted it and got some old hens and a rooster from a lady who wanted to get rid of them.

The children loved watching the chickens scratch for seeds and chase grasshoppers. But one day, when Emily looked into the chicken coop, the rooster flew off the roost right towards her. She turned and started running away. The rooster stuck his feet out and landed on her back. Poor Emily! She was so scared! After that, the mean rooster chased her whenever he saw her. He'd drop his wings, do a little dance, then run at her and jump at her knees.

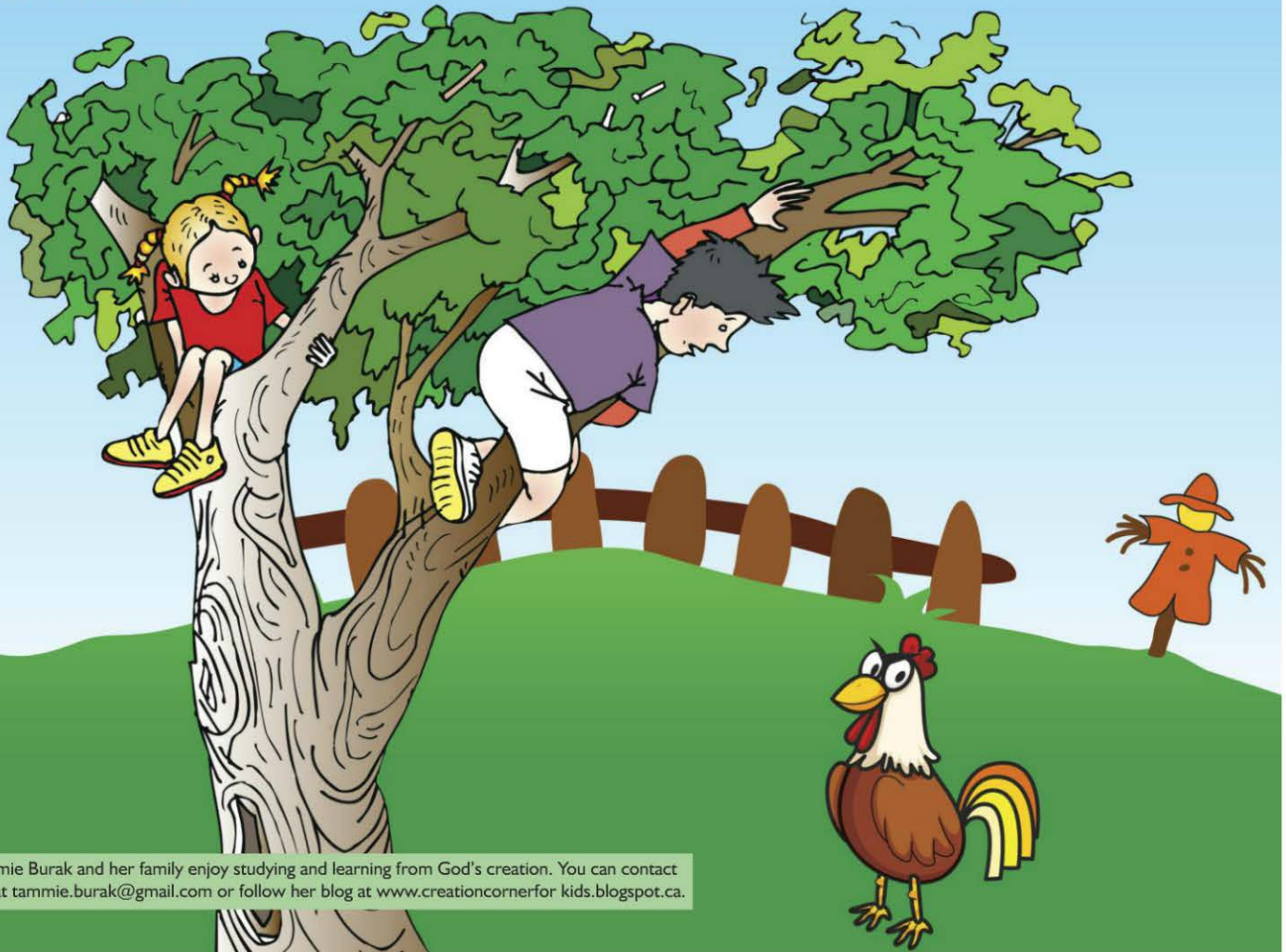
Think about it.

Mean roosters are really proud. They want to scare everyone in the barnyard so they can strut around acting like they own the place. Satan and his followers are like that too. But Jesus set a different example for us to follow. We must be humble. If we let Jesus be in control of us, we can be humble as He was.

Do it!

Next time the Holy Spirit shows you that you've acted like a proud, mean rooster, don't wait! Tell Jesus you're sorry. Apologize to the person you've hurt. If they're Christian, ask them to pray for you.

Learn more about roosters at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.



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.

Canadian University College Scholars



L-R: Sasha Hamilton, Taylor Lakusta-Wong, Dr. Bruce Buttler (Dean of Science), Maison Leitch (blue shirt), Jordan Southcott (red shirt), Tyanna Dixon, Angela Barritt, Kirsten Gerlywich, Dr. John McDowell (Dean of Arts), Candice Anderson. Not Pictured: Sandra Dick, Jennica Santomin, Cheyanne Welch, Kaitlynn Winsor.

*“It is hard work learning
how to think; it is also
exciting and exhilarating!”*

SAPIENTIA, FIDES, MINISTERIUM is the motto of Canadian University College's new CUC Scholars program; translated, it means "Discernment, Belief, Service."

The CUC Scholars program is in its first year, and 12 students have been selected to form the first-ever cohort for the program. The motto was carefully chosen to reflect CUC's mission, "To think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment and to act with confidence, compassion and competence."

Over the summer Dr. John McDowell, CUC Scholars program director and dean of the Division of Arts, pored over student applications that were designed to gauge the suitability of the applicant for the Scholars program. The process took into account the students' high school grade averages and their writing skills. This school year 12 students met all expectations and were granted entry into the limited-space program. These CUC scholars are students who will excel in discussion-based learning and who are intellectually curious. The program will feed their questions and their desire for a different approach to the usual delivery and content of a university course.

The program runs in conjunction with a student's declared major. As part of the general class core at university, students take other course in religious studies, English, history, science and other general disciplines. This is designed so that students gain exposure to a broad range of disciplines outside of their declared major.

For students in the CUC Scholars program, the approach is quite different. Instead of taking general classes in a few disciplines (religious studies, English, science, etc.), the scholars take a seminar course each semester that integrates ideas from a variety of disciplines: religion, literature, history, art, science and others.

Classes are taught in teams of two, with professors from different disciplines teaching the same class. The learning process is then integrative, giving the students the opportunity to see how things are related as a whole. "Each seminar is not just about mastering content, but also intentionally designed to teach students how to hold up and examine ideas, how to recognize assumptions, bias, and prejudice: in essence, how to think so that indeed they do not become merely good reflectors of other [people's] thoughts.' It is hard work learning how to think; it is also exciting and exhilarating!" says McDowell.

Candice Anderson, a first-year business major, was initially attracted to the program by the chance to travel abroad to Italy and Greece. But as she delved more into the structure of the program, she found herself enjoying learning in a different manner. "As I looked more into it, I realized how valuable the program could be to my personal knowledge. The class is discussion-based and structured differently than the normal English or history class. As students we are free to express our opinions and questions about the various texts we have read. I joined the Scholars program because I value being exposed to different concepts and ideas and thinking. The structure of the class is very different—there are no tests or quizzes but essays and grading based on discussion instead—and it has been a little bit of an adjustment. I find that this class is more for my personal enjoyment and growth rather than just a required class to graduate," says Anderson.

As the program progresses from first year to fourth year, the students will continue to take these same seminar classes, travel abroad and continue to grow together as they discover and learn new ideas.

For McDowell the goal of the program is to graduate students who are curious, who wish to be engaged with ideas and the ways ideas allow for deeper connections with others and the divine. McDowell stresses, "We want students to mature into Christians with abilities to think clearly and keenly and based on a clear-eyed view of themselves and the world and to be able to act as a positive source for good—whatever their occupation: that their lights may shine brightly. Or to put it another way, a graduate from CUC who completes the Scholars program will be particularly well-suited to avoid the temptations of instant, ready-mixed 'truths'; political, social, and parochial biases; as well as the current, convenient cant of media messages. Students will develop the power to think and do and thus be equipped to champion the good in a sin-scarred world." ■

*JR Ferrer is the communication director
for Canadian University College*

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: Where were you born and raised?

Reo Ganson: I was born in Lacombe, Alta. Much of my childhood was spent on a farm just north of Lacombe.

Messenger: What were you like as a child?

Reo: My twin brother, Leo, and I spent a lot of time playing together. As children we tended to be somewhat shy. We had a “twin” language that we would use to solve our then big problems. Even our parents did not understand this special language. Today Leo and I have no recollection of the language.

Messenger: Tell us about your family.

Reo: I have the best family in the world. Leona and I were married in 1963. She has been my strength and support. We have three married children, one daughter and two sons who have given us four grandchildren. We all live in Alberta having the privilege of regularly visiting together. Leo and his wife live just a few kilometres north of us. Two of our older brothers live in B.C., while the third also lives in Lacombe. Our parents are both deceased now.

Messenger: You served as president

of Canadian University College (CUC) for some time. What was it like for you, serving twice in this leadership position?

Reo: Serving as president of CUC was indeed a major highlight of my career. Serving twice never seemed strange or different to me. Both appointments were great experiences, and I enjoyed the challenges, opportunities and accomplishments of both terms as president. Today I often think of them as a continuation of service.

Messenger: Can you share the vision you had in mind for Adventist education?

Reo: My vision for Adventist education was clearly formulated by my parents and their vision for their sons. My dad's sister had joined the Church and was teaching at the CUC elementary school. She wrote to my parents and invited them to move from Saskatchewan to Lacombe, wanting to introduce them to the truth and our church's doctrines. They responded positively, moving to Alberta nearly 80 years ago, joining the Church and focusing their lives around Adventist education. Adventist education is the primary function of the Church in sharing the message of salvation with the children and youth.

Messenger: You have retired more than once. What keeps calling you back to the work environment?

Reo: Today I am working for the Alberta Conference as principal of College Heights Christian School (CHCS). What keeps

me coming back? Perhaps three reasons: (1) God has given me good health, (2) I love children and (3) I believe that when God calls, we need to answer yes.

Messenger: What positions have you held in Canada?

Reo: My life in Canada includes teaching from Grade 1 through graduate school (on the campus of CUC for La Sierra University). I have served in school administration from principal, division chair, academic dean, to CUC president. One of the leadership roles was sharing nearly four years as president of the B.C. Conference. I have also served as a board member of numerous school boards, ADRA Canada, Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Canada, It Is Written (IIW) Canada, Christian Record Services (CRS) Canada, the K-12 education board and the SDACC. Leona and I also worked for the General Conference for five and a half years. There I served as associate director of Education for the world church.

Messenger: Where are you now?

Reo: Today I am the administrative principal of CHCS. This is an ECS to Grade 9 Adventist school with approximately 120 students. I am in my second year of service. God has been very good to my family, and I give Him the glory for what He has done through my humble service. ■

Aunty's Cool Tax Credit



"Aunty," Danny said one evening when he was at his aunt's house. "How much do you usually spend on my Christmas present?" Aunty gave Danny a surprised look.

"Why do you want to know?" she asked.

"I am looking at this ADRA Canada gift catalogue¹ and would like to buy some of these presents to help the poor. Will you buy one of these instead of buying something for me?"

Aunty smiled at Danny, her heart swelling with love. "Certainly," she said. "What a great idea!"

Together they had fun looking at the ADRA gift items. Danny, a typical boy, chose the \$25 Chicken and Worm Farm, while Aunty, a nurse, decided on a \$30 gift of two fruit trees.

Aunty gave Danny a proud squeeze. "You're a good boy," she said, "and our presents will give me a small tax credit. Want to see how that works?"

"Sure," Danny replied.

Aunty sat down at the computer and said, "First, I go to www.cra.gc.ca/donors;² then I click on Claiming Charitable Tax Credits; and then I click on the Tax Credit Calculator. Next, I plug in our province and the donation amount of \$55 into the calculator." Aunty grinned.

"The tax credit is \$13.75. Very cool!"

"I use this website all the time to understand my donations," Aunty said.

"Let's pretend it was a \$1,000 gift," Danny suggested. Aunty put in the new amount.

"Wow!" she said, "that would be a \$450 tax credit!"

"This is fun!" Danny, a budding executive, exclaimed. ■

¹View ADRA Canada's "Really Useful Gift Catalogue" at <https://www.adra.ca/>.

²Government of Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, "Giving to Charities: Information for Donors," <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/donors/>.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

*What is your favourite
Bible story, and why?*

AT THE RICHLANDS, VICTORIA, AND
WILLIAMS LAKE CHURCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Linda Rothenberger: My favourite is the story of Jonathan and David, as it typifies the love we are to have for one another. I believe it is an example of God's love, one we all must attain if we are to go to heaven.

Nadine Combs: The story of Joseph is my favourite Bible story. While living in Egypt, Joseph was humble and made wise decisions.

Andrea (child): The stories of Paul. They are exciting.

"The annual visits have allowed volunteer dentists to make significant gains in controlling the bacterial disease that causes tooth loss and morbidity in this group of young people."

Local dentist provides opportunities for CUC students. Practical Experience



Left: Carol Brouwer spent time at the Casita Copan children's centre in May.

Over the past decade a number of dental health professionals from Alberta have participated in a dental project for the remote community of Valley of Peace (VOP) in Belize. Valley of Peace was originally established as a refugee community and historically has been a relatively poor and underserved area. The community was identified by members of the Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Conference Men's Ministry team. The primary project was the construction of a high school (now VOP Seventh-day Adventist Academy) to supplement the elementary education that was available in the community.

The dental component began in 2003 with a screening mission, during which the significant need for dental services was determined. It has developed over the years into a part-time dental clinic that operates for a week each spring with four dental chairs and three portable delivery units. The primary focus has been to improve and maintain the dental health of the students at the VOP Adventist Academy.

Working in collaboration with the school, students each year receive screening exams, cleanings, and much-needed dental care. In the early years, treatment was limited to the removal of non-restorable teeth, but the incorporation of dental delivery units has allowed the team to move beyond that to providing fillings and preventative procedures. The annual visits have allowed the volunteer dentists to make significant gains in controlling the bacterial disease that causes tooth loss and morbidity in this group of young people.

There has been a steady decline in the number of teeth that need to be removed or filled, as well as an increase in preventive procedures performed, such as sealants and preventive resins. The annual dental outreach has also allowed for rapport and relationships to be created within the local community.

While continued care is being provided for students at VOP Adventist Academy, greater focus will be paid in the future on the dental needs of the community at large.

Since A Better World established its EDGE youth division a few years ago, the Belize dental project has become a venue for pre-professional students to participate in mission work under the mentorship of volunteer dentists. Dr. Kelvin Hill has been leading these teams. In the last five years, 11 pre-dental students, primarily from Lacombe's Canadian University College, have travelled to VOP to serve as chair-side assistants as well as gain experience in delivering dental care in a developing country. This trip also provides valuable volunteer opportunities for the students, thereby strengthening their future application into dental school. ■

Laura Tester is a journalist and volunteers for A Better World in communications.



Communicating Your Financial Needs—PART 2

*Did you know worship is an act of giving?
As you read the Bible, you may notice that in
almost all accounts of worship, giving an offering
was a fundamental part of the worship experience.*

Many churches feel too shy to ask their members to be faithful givers. Some people say this is a private issue and that it may come across as being too pushy. But let us remember that giving is a spiritual discipline. It must be taught and encouraged. Just as you would teach someone to pray; giving must be taught as well.

Last month I shared a few practical ideas on how to increase the giving in your church. Here are a few more ways to encourage your members to be faithful stewards.

GIVE THE MEMBERS A LARGE PROJECT TO SUPPORT YOUR MISSION.

People are often inspired to give toward a big project. They feel motivated to give toward something that has a greater purpose. This month my church is raising \$60,000 for online streaming equipment. This is a huge faith commitment for my church. My members are being asked to give above and beyond their regular giving amount. Many people have expressed their excitement to give toward an evangelistic project, one in which they can invite their unchurched friends and family to begin watching the worship service. Do you have a project that will galvanize your members?

PROVIDE CREDIT CARD GIVING AT CHURCH.

The Adventist Church has a convenient online giving plan. However, this requires the giver to take the initiative at home and log on to the website. Most people no longer carry cash or cheques. How can the church be proactive in their giving plan? There are several online apps that will allow you to provide giving opportunities at church. For example, the Square App hooks up

directly into the audio port of your smartphone, and the user can swipe his or her credit card and make a contribution immediately. I would suggest having this available at your welcome centre.

COLLECT A CHILDREN'S OFFERING EVERY WEEK.

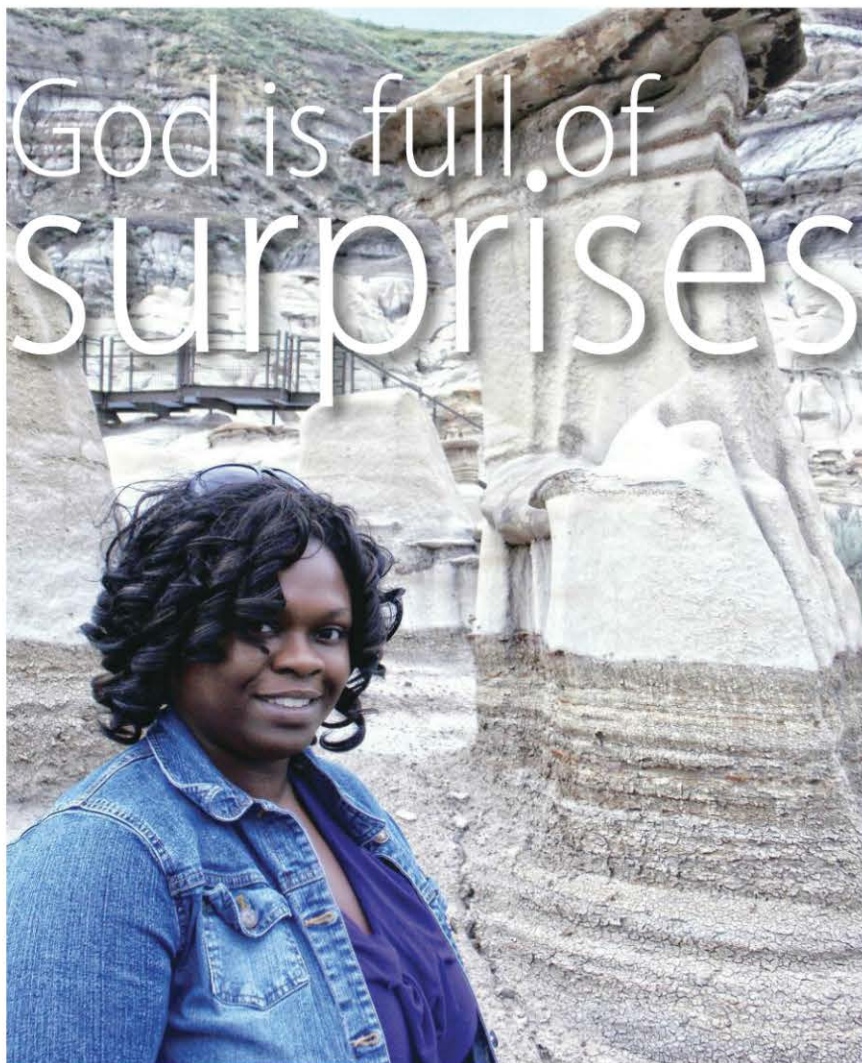
The loose offering children pick up is money that would have never gone into the offering basket. If you are looking for a way to fund your children's ministry, this makes a good subsidy. My former church collected almost \$20,000 annually simply from children's offering.

TEACH YOUR CONGREGATION TO BUDGET THEIR PERSONAL FINANCES.

Money is one of the most important tools and resources an individual has. Unfortunately, most people will admit they don't have a clue on how to save money, pay down debt, or balance their chequebook. Invite a finance expert to hold a seminar in your church on learning how to budget. If your members can learn the skill and discipline, they will have the freedom to give even more of their income because they no longer will be crippled with debt and bad decision making.

This month I am in the middle of a sermon series called "Money Myths." It is designed to teach people what the Bible says about finances. I invite you to log on to our website at www.oakridgeadventist.ca to listen. ■

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



Sophia Parkes

One of Sophia's life testimonies goes back to when she was in college. Post-secondary education is rather costly, and it was difficult to have faith that God would provide. She remembers asking God for a sign.

One day she was talking to God while taking a shower; more specifically, she was asking God for shampoo! She had noticed that she was nearly out of shampoo and could barely afford another bottle. She said to God, "God, if this [school] is where You want my life to be right now, please, please, just give me a sign."

The next day someone—a lady Sophia did not know—knocked on her door and asked, "Are you Sophia?"

"Yes, that's me," Sophia replied.

The lady then walked away, leaving Sophia puzzled in her doorway. The lady returned shortly thereafter, placed a box of items in front of her and said, "Here, this is for you." Sophia, still in shock, thanked the lady and brought the box inside. As she took items out, she noticed something at the bottom of the box: there was not only shampoo but conditioner too! Truly, God is a God of surprises.

Sophia Parkes, a teacher in the English department at Kingsway College, will reach her five-year-mark this coming January. Having grown up in downtown Toronto with her mother and three siblings, she enjoys spending quality time with people. Her hobbies include cooking, baking, being out in nature,

rollerskating and reading.

An optimistic person, Sophia embraced the door to Kingsway College that God had opened for her. She says, "Throughout my life, it seemed that every door of opportunity opened because God opened them for me."

For Sophia "Christian Education means sharing one's faith on a daily basis, not only by words but also by the literal embodiment of one's life." Sophia says, "Sharing one's faith does not happen right away, neither does it hit one over the head like a bookshelf of books. Rather, it slowly manifests itself. It's in the quiet moments when you realize that God is speaking to you."

Sophia's shower testimony allowed her to realize that "Hey, I'm walking in the darkness, and I need Someone to turn the light on." Sometimes we get melancholy with God and forget how big He actually is. You need to have a relationship with Him first, be brave enough to walk through the door in faith, and commit to God's will."

A love for teaching and working with the students motivates Sophia to come to school each day. She believes that our youth can make a difference by honouring who they are and, more importantly, Whom they belong to. As human beings, we are all on a perpetual quest to discover who we really are. This seems to be a common trend among high school students because of questions such as Who am I supposed to be? Whose am I? Whom do I belong to? What is my purpose?" Since Sophia is a big fan of the "aha" moments, she says that one of her biggest life lessons is having the ability to teach and have students learn despite the fact that they do not necessarily see eye-to-eye. Most importantly, she says, we should always remember that the God of the Universe is open to us 24/7.

One of Sophia's favourite quotations is "More things are wrought through prayer than this world dreams of."

—Alfred Lord Tennyson, *Morte D'Arthur* ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.

*Correction from Kingsway College's "The Hurdles That Lead to Successful Ministry", Canadian Adventist Messenger, October 2013. "they worked very hard to keep my siblings and me in the Adventist..."



review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App: Hope Channel

In Brief:

Hope Channel is the official television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is available in many languages broadcasting the good news to the world. Since being reviewed in the December 2012 Messenger, this app has seen an overhaul, bringing more features and languages.

As before, you can watch Hope Channel live and browse the TV schedule, but you now also have access to a library of archived programs (including French language shows). The free version of the app gives you access to the live broadcast, the TV schedule and one episode from each show, while the full version gives access to all available episodes from each show and removes the advertising from the launch screen. Watch shows such as Adventist News Network, Beginnings, Go Healthy ... For Good!, storyLine and many others.

Wow Factor: Hope Channel live broadcast available in several languages.

Meh Factor: Free version limited to one episode from each show in the media library

Developed for: Hope Channel

Price: Free/\$0.99

Works On: Android, iOS **Link:** <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



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

prayer life

An Hour a Day in Prayer

*"We really do not understand the power of prayer,
and as such we live lives that are much too shallow."*

With a very concerning look on her face, someone with whom I work closely remarked, "We really do not understand the power of prayer, and as such we live lives that are much too shallow."

How many of us would not agree with such a statement of admission? But what is it that leads to this lack of understanding regarding something so very vital to the growth and empowerment of the Christian believer? Is it a lack of biblical, praying role models? Is it a lack of seeing the results of answered prayers? Or could it be our reluctance to engage God more copiously through prayer?

The Gospel writers furnish us with vignettes regarding the way Jesus immersed Himself in prayer (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12) and thus established a ministry that led people to be "astonished beyond measure" (Mark 7:37, NKJV).

On one occasion the leaders in the early church spent 10 days in prayer, which led to a sequence of incalculable works—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, speaking in other languages,

the preaching of a 15-minute sermon (Peter) and the baptism of 3,000 souls (Acts 2).

I believe that similar divine energy and fruitfulness is available to any believer but that it can only be truly understood from an experiential standpoint. Becky Tirabassi, author of *Let Prayer Change Your Life*, shares her experience of being changed from a boring, lackluster believer to a vibrant, joy-filled and productive woman for God.¹ The difference was in the commitment to spend an hour per day with God in prayer. At the time of publishing her book in 1992, she had spent the last 11 years doing just that. In those private moments with God, she said, "God was giving me ideas to change the world, my home, my church, and my life."²

God wants to do even more through you! ■

Eustace Williams is the director of personal ministries, School of Evangelism, and Bibleinfo.com at the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

¹ Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992.

² Ibid., p. 13.



Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

One of the first people in Oshawa I connected with when I was hired by the Western Canada Adventist Book Center (ABC) were Bob and Marg Juriansz. When I came to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Canada (SDACC), I was privileged to connect with their daughter, Betty. Betty has as much passion for Adventist education as her parents did for the distribution of Adventist literature. They would be so proud of her if they were still with us.



Betty Bayer with her son Jonathan and husband Peter.

EDITOR: How long have you been working at the SDACC, and what all are your functions?

BETTY: I was hired as the associate director of Education for the SDACC in September 2007. My responsibilities include elementary education, teacher certification, distance learning and early childhood education. I also serve on various North American Division (NAD) committees, including the commission on accreditation, K-12 curriculum and advisory, ECEC advisory, professional development, and evaluation documents. I've been learning so much and keeping so busy that I can't believe it's been six years already.

EDITOR: Have you worked at other denominational entities?

BETTY: Before coming to the SDACC, I worked at Kingsway College for 27 years, first as a teacher, then as VP for academics. Kingsway will always have a big place in my heart. I not only began my teaching career there but also graduated from Kingsway, met my husband at Kingsway and became a mother at Kingsway. I will always be grateful to Dr. Leroy Kuhn for taking a chance on me as a brand-new teacher, to Glenda-mae Greene and Peter Cheeseman, who mentored me through those early years, and to Mr. Ralph Janes for encouraging me to enter school administration.

EDITOR: How does this differ?

BETTY: I loved working at Kingsway. I had the privilege of working with so many dedicated teachers and getting to know so many talented and interesting students. It's always exciting to meet those students now and to see how God has led them since graduation. I continue to be impressed and blessed by their successes. Several of them are now working at Kingsway or have had children attend Kingsway.

At the union office I don't have the same opportunity to get to know students, and I miss that. But I do have the opportunity here to meet more teachers and to see Adventist education through a much wider lens, which has been good. I have really enjoyed learning more about education across Canada and the NAD and being a Canadian voice on various NAD committees.

EDITOR: Tell us about your family.

BETTY: Peter and I met at Kingsway and began dating in our Grade 12 year. (Actually, we first met at a Grade 8 Pathfinder camporee, but we didn't know then that God was making wedding plans!) We dated through our years at Andrews University and were married just four weeks after Andrews' graduation. That was over 33 years ago now! Our son Jonathan was born in 1991 and just graduated from Walla Walla University last year. He is looking forward to pursuing a graduate degree specializing in colonial Canadian history, and we're so proud of him and excited to see what God has in store for him.

EDITOR: Have you always been an Adventist?

BETTY: Yes. My parents became Adventists with their families during their young adult years. Both of them worked for the church for most of their lives, initially both as teachers and later in the colporteur and publishing ministry. My twin brother and I began school at a public school in Ottawa, but halfway through our Grade 1 year, my parents moved our family to Toronto so that we could attend an Adventist school. We attended Toronto Junior Academy (now Crawford Adventist Academy) from Grades 1 to 4 before moving to Oshawa, where we attended College Park Elementary and then Kingsway College.

EDITOR: What, in your opinion, is the overall reason for the success of Adventist schools around the world?

BETTY: At the recent North American Division yearend meetings, our NAD president, Dan Jackson, made reference to the importance of Adventist education and how we

should consider making it the 29th fundamental belief. I agree with him! Adventist education is a fundamental ministry of the church. Relationships are the key to the success of Adventist schools . . . relationships with teachers who care about their students' lives, not just their grades; relationships with pastors who regularly involve themselves in the life of their school; and, most importantly, schools, homes and churches working together to introduce students to a relationship with Jesus.

EDITOR: What is your dream for Adventist schools across Canada?

BETTY: My dream is that every Adventist school will have the resources and support it needs to fulfill its mission to educating children and youth for time and eternity. My dream is that every Adventist church and member will become the "global village" that partners with their Adventist schools to disciple the church's children for Jesus. My dream is that every Adventist student will have access to a quality, affordable, Christ-centred Adventist education, either face-to-face or through distance learning. My dream is that the children in our Adventist schools today will lead this earthly church to finish spreading the gospel so that Jesus will come in their lifetime.

EDITOR: What would you say to the high school student who is considering becoming a teacher?

BETTY: Teaching is not for the faint of heart! A teacher's work is truly never done—there is always something more to do and something you want to do better. Teaching is not a job but a way of life, so full commitment is a prerequisite. But it is the most rewarding of all careers. Teachers truly can make a difference in children's lives. It's an awesome responsibility and privilege. If God calls you, He will equip you. But don't try it alone.

EDITOR: Do you have a favourite Bible text?

BETTY: Several, actually. One of my most recent favourites is Isaiah 26:3 because it reminds me that I have no need to worry or stress about anything: "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is centered on you and who puts his trust in you" (Isa. 26:3, Clear Word) ■

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



Chelsea Lamming

I BELONG

Why did I attend CUC?
What did CUC offer that
I couldn't find elsewhere?

When I was a student, people would ask me, "Why are you attending CUC, when you could attend a secular college and pay a lot less money?" And the reality is, they were correct; I could do as they suggested and be in a better financial position.

Knowing I had to fund my way through post-secondary, a cheaper alternative was tempting. Currently, as a graduate, I ask myself the question, Why did I attend Canadian University College? My response to this self-reflection is not "Because it's Seventh-day Adventist," as one might expect. I truly believe that no matter where you are, you can find what you're looking for. If you attend a secular college and are looking for trouble, you can (and will) find it, and if you are looking for people with the same morals and beliefs, you will find that also. The same is true for a Christian college, and Canadian University College is no exception. So, then, the question I asked myself still begs my attention: Why did I attend CUC? What did CUC offer that I couldn't find elsewhere?

Having the ability to look back on my experience, I have come to realize it's not so much what Canadian University College had to offer but rather what CUC is and what it stands for. Although the school strives for excellence academically, this was also not the primary reason for my being there. There was something more, and I knew it.

After my first year at CUC, I had made plans to attend a secular college the following year—yet I returned to eventually complete all four years. I kept returning each year because CUC is more than just a school—it is a family. A family of believers and unbelievers in a way that no matter who they are, where they came from or where they are going—they belong. This family has loving and caring parents (administration, deans, teachers, pastors/chaplains) who are always ready to support, encourage, and love and, where necessary, provide correction. This family has many children (students) who compete with one another and sometimes quarrel, but ultimately care and support each other. Extended family members (College Heights church and Lacombe Community church) are always present to spoil the family and support it through both joyous times and difficult times. Most importantly, this family is led by God and strives to live with Him as its center.

I attended Canadian University College because students matter at the school. Students are more than an identification number and a body to fill an empty seat in class. Students are greeted and treated with respect, with genuine interest and are not just forgotten when they leave.

If I could go back in time to answer the question I was asked ("Why are you attending CUC instead of a secular college?"), I think a simple "Why would I not? It is my family; I am loved and I belong here" would suffice. ■

Chelsea Lamming graduated from CUC with a Bachelor of Education degree. She is now a first-year teacher at Parkview Adventist Academy.

Spotlight

Her Brothers

music ministry



"I love music because it is the universal language that has the ability to bring people together in a way that nothing else can."

They grew up in a musical family, homeschooled and close-knit with their parents. But Gabriel, now 21, Joshua, 19, and Levi, 14, had no interest in becoming musicians, songwriters or singers like their parents until their dad, who worked professionally as a music producer for 18 years, retired from the business. Perhaps it was the age-old fight for independence and uniqueness that many children seem to go through, wishing to forge a path separate from their mom and dad's.

But for Gabriel it didn't take long! He was 13 years old the first time he picked up the guitar, deciding it was a lot less risky than playing hockey. And soon after, his brother Joshua had an interest to learn the bass. Together they formed a band with one of their friends who played drums.

Levi, being only six years old at the time and seemingly too young to be in the band, watched from the sidelines. No one could have guessed he held a special talent of his own, until one day he hopped on the drums (which had become unoccupied during a bathroom break) and flawlessly drummed a piece of music the boys had been practicing all afternoon. It was settled. The three brothers were meant to be in a band together.

Today, living in Aldergrove, B.C., they go by the band name Her Brothers. The name came about after Gabriel returned home from a trip to South East Asia, where he had witnessed poor treatment of women and girls, which angered and saddened him, especially as he thought about how protective he felt toward his young sister.

The band's message is love. After all, God is love. Their goal is to share that love through their music to an audience that may not know they are loved or know that there is a God who loves them.

"I love music because it is this universal language that has the ability to bring people together in a way that nothing else can. And you can talk about things that you otherwise might not be

able to," Gabriel expressed.

One of their latest songs, "Glorious (We Will See)," inspired by Scripture, says, "Could You strengthen my weary hands, steady my trembling knees, remove my fear and confusion, save me from my enemies. Restore my eyes to see, my ears so I can hear, open my mouth so I can speak, of Your glory that is near."

They believe in excellence through their music ministry, which to them means striving to be the best they can be, equal to what others might find on non-Christian media outlets, through their artistry, playing, songwriting and talent level—because as Christians we should aim for excellence, to shine in whatever form of work we do. After all, we have been given the greatest gift of all, and it should show.

Her Brothers are sticking close to the wisdom, help and guidance of their parents as they move forward, with Mom picking up the phone to book shows and Dad helping to write and produce songs for the band, in the hope that one day the three brothers will gain enough momentum to make it a full-time career. It's not hard to sense a real camaraderie within the family unit when you meet and speak with them.

Her Brothers hopes to go on the road to visit high schools in the area, performing and inspiring young people and to grow as a band from there. They currently can be found on Facebook and continue to write and record new songs to share with the public in the near future. From what I have seen and heard, I believe this won't be the last time we hear of these three wholesome brothers making music to inspire others. With a little support and encouragement, they have the potential to go all the way. ■

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

Christmastime at the New Life Neighbourhood Centre

Love your neighbour



"You feed them," Jesus said—Luke 9:13, Message

It is a crisp November morning, and we continue to organize for the busiest time of the year. Despite the ongoing renovations to our kitchen, we forge ahead with plans to make sure that everyone who depends on the New Life Neighbourhood Centre will have a merry Christmas.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THIS CHRISTMAS?

For many years the centre has provided a number of services at Christmastime to people in our community who are less fortunate. This year is no exception. We are planning our Community Christmas Dinner, which will take place on December 15. Registrations are currently underway for the event that promises a menu of turkey, rice, veggies, cranberry sauce, stuffing, dessert, juice and much more for our community guests and congregation in the fellowship hall.

Much still needs to be arranged. During the week leading up to the dinner, the centre will be buzzing with activity as volunteers prepare the food hampers (with turkeys or chicken), hygiene packages, toys and Christmas stockings. These items will be distributed to our community guests. Some of the hygiene bags, Christmas stockings and toys will go to the AIDS Committee of Durham Region for families suffering from the effects of AIDS. Other items will be given to shelters such as Denise House, Y's Wish Shelter and Cornerstone Men's Hostel.

Each year God has provided donors who supply most of the items that are needed at this time. Once again these donors have stepped up to the challenge. We thank them for their generous donation of goods and services that will go a long way to helping the families in need:

- 150 turkeys and other items for the Christmas hampers (Keller Williams Energy Real Estate Brokerage)
- 60 chickens and other items for the Christmas hampers (Linda and John Mash, Coldwell Banker R.M.R. real estate agents)
- Food hampers (Feed the Need Durham)

- Toys and gifts for children under 16 (Linda and John Mash and Andrew and Melanie Brown)
- Christmas stockings (Sharon MacCrimmon and Misty Roberts)
- Items for hygiene packages (Scarborough Sharks Midget AA and Scarborough Sharks Bantam A Girls' Hockey Teams, and Trafalgar Castle School in Whitby)
- 10 cooked turkeys for the Christmas dinner (KCC Gourmet and Catering of Bowmanville)
- Monetary contributions from regular donors

WHO ARE WE?

The Neighbourhood Centre was established in 2001 as a ministry of the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church to help people who are in need. This is part of our strategy of blessing everyone around us with no strings attached while recognizing opportunities to share Christ's unconditional love for them.

Over the past 12 years, the centre has operated as a non-profit community service and a registered food bank serving the people in need of food and other services in the Oshawa area. Many are homeless, stuck in a cycle of poverty and addictions, or are families who have suffered the effects of the economy. Our aim is to follow Christ's example to help people in our community experience a better life.

In an average month, the centre makes connections with approximately 250 individuals and families by providing

- an emergency meal box,
- a hot pancake breakfast on the third Sunday of each month or
- a hygiene bag.

Annually we host a Summer Community BBQ, Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner. During the winter we also hand out blankets and hot drinks to homeless persons.

The centre is staffed by volunteers from our church and community alike. This includes those who have been blessed and want to give back to help others. The centre has become a safe place for many who just don't have the means to make ends meet or are just going through a difficult patch in their lives.

RENOVATIONS

This year God has blessed us with the opportunity to start renovations on the church kitchen where the meals that are served to the community are prepared. It has been a long time coming, and with the infusion of a grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation, we are hoping to have the renovations completed in time for our annual Community Christmas dinner.

The renovation includes the installation of a chair lift, wheelchair entrance ramp, automatic door openers and accessible washroom facilities to enable the centre to better serve the needs of the community. We can't wait to serve from the new kitchen.

WHOM DO WE HELP?

The people we help are real people with real needs. The young mother who had to leave her home and live in a shelter to get away from physical abuse. The older gentleman who hasn't got a penny to his name after his sibling took over his bank account because he suffers from mental illness. Newcomers to Canada without Canadian experience who are struggling to find a job to make ends meet.

Many come in tears, embarrassed that they are in this situation of need and having to rely on help from an agency. We try to reassure them that we are here to help as much as we can.

The responses have been overwhelming. A young lady while hugging me said, "Thank you so much. You have made Christmas for me." Another one said, "I was told to contact you for help because your food bank is the most caring and you are willing to help."

A family, whose life has been touched by AIDS expressed their appreciation in these words: "Your program is a lifesaver, as my wife and I can't afford to make Christmas special for our daughters. Your program alleviates a lot of stress in our family."

A young man who was so overwhelmed with gratitude after being fed at one of our Christmas dinners said, "What can I do to help? You have done so much for us here; I just want to help in return. I can mop the floor or do anything that you need."

WHY DO WE DO IT?

When the disciples came to Jesus and suggested he send the hungry people away to find their own food, Jesus replied to them saying, "You feed them." Their immediate response was to state how little they had and that it was impossible to do what Jesus was asking them to do with what was available. They gave Jesus the five loaves and two fish, and after blessing it all, He gave it back to them to distribute. As they gave it away, it multiplied until there was more at the end than when they started.

As in the case of the disciples, we are faced with a similar situation of hungry people in downtown Oshawa and the surrounding areas. It is so easy to say, "Let some other agency take care of these people, as we have so few resources and we are only a small inner city church." Or "let them learn to help themselves; after all, our purpose is to win people for Christ, not feed them. Why should this be our concern?"

Well, why not? These are the people God has brought to us. We may not be able to fix all their circumstances, but we can bring a little joy into their lives



1. Setting up for food hamper distribution.
2. Kitchen preparations for the Christmas meal.
3. Tables decorated for community Christmas dinner.

TO LEARN MORE

about the Neighbourhood Centre:
visit us on Facebook; drop by the
centre at 33 Olive Avenue,
Oshawa; or contact Ann Thompson,
director, at 905/404-2004, email
anntompson0613@gmail.com.



4. Community fellowship

5. Local dignitaries showing their support.

6. Community summer BBQ.

even just for one day. By doing so, we are passing on the blessings of God to someone who could use something positive happening in their life. In addition, we are also showing them that we care about their everyday needs just as God does. We have been so blessed in our own lives. As followers of Christ we can't help but have compassion on those who are in need and share those blessings with them. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40, NIV). We want to do good for him.

What's the point of saying "Merry Christmas" to someone in need if we contribute nothing to their wellbeing? It's meaningless. The lesson we have learned is that the more we do what Christ ask us to do, the greater the blessing that He pours out on our efforts.

HERE IS THE PROOF

- the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to assist with the renovations and increase accessibility
- increased numbers of volunteers offering to take on more projects
- donations that ensure the funds remain the same or increase no matter how much we spend to help others
- offers of help and resources from other agencies and businesses

We have many plans for 2014, one of which will be a continental breakfast on Sabbath mornings after which everyone will be invited to join us in worship. In our hearts we want to love people into the kingdom of God. It is our hope that by filling someone's temporal need, they will be receptive also to being filled eternally by the Bread of Life—Jesus. ■

*Ann Thompson is the director
of the New Life Neighbourhood
Centre in Oshawa, Ontario.*



Parkview Profiles



Taylor Lakusta Wong and Brittany Lessard

At 17, Brittany Lessard is more interested in being on the ice playing hockey at an alumni tournament than fixing her makeup.

Brittany is a senior in high school at Parkview Adventist Academy and tries out for all of the sports teams. While she is a great basketball player, her love is the big PAA/CUC Alumni hockey tournament held every November. She says with a laugh that she really isn't that good but that she's the only girl who ever plays on the PAA team and so her teammates are very forgiving whenever she misses the puck or messes up. They especially cheer her on when she "accidentally" takes an opponent out at the knees.

While Brittany enjoys the adrenaline rush of a game, she also loves school. She's not easy to miss, because she has a fantastic smile and is involved in lots of extracurricular activities.

For two years she has served as president of her class, and last year she joined the school's mission trip to Belize. Being on the mission trip helped her to grow spiritually. The morning devotions had been optional, and she decided to attend them every day; she said they really blessed her.

According to Brittany, friends are the greatest asset at PAA. Previously, she had attended a junior high where her classmates were very cliquey, and she didn't want to worry about being part of an "in-group." When she started to attend PAA, she found that she was readily

According to Brittany, friends are the greatest asset at PAA.



Brittany Lessard sharing hugs in Belize during last year's mission trip.

accepted—like everyone else. "Even though the students came from many different backgrounds, everyone would eat together in the cafeteria in one long row. It didn't matter who you were; everyone was friends together," says Brittany.

One friend who graduated this past spring really helped mentor her spiritually. One day Taylor Lakusta Wong asked Brittany if she'd like to get together and pray every day. Brittany, who had never before been asked to make a commitment like that, was touched. And while it didn't work out every day, it was enough that both young ladies felt a connection with Christ and each other. Coming from a home where Mom is Adventist and Dad has no religious affiliation, Brittany was really moved by this simple request. While Taylor has moved on to college, Brittany hopes to mentor another young lady this year the way Taylor did for her. She'd like to make that same positive difference in the life of another friend. ■

*Pattie Reasor, Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*

Thanks/Merci for your present!

In this season of giving, ADRA Canada says thank you for the gifts you gave in 2013.



Think back, for just a moment, to the best gift you ever gave someone. That's right, the gift you thought long and hard about, the one you kept secret for so long, or the one you had to really sacrifice to give. It was perfect. The loved one you gave it to was so pleased, that you felt elated, and even now looking back, you probably feel a little glow about it! Well, we want to make sure you feel that same elation about the gifts you gave to ADRA Canada this year.

Have a look at the little girl in this picture. She's just finished eating a meal that, but for your gift, she might not otherwise have been able to eat. She's from Cambodia. She doesn't speak English or French and may be too shy to speak at all, but she has "merci" and "thank you" written all over her face. This little girl is giving you her thanks. Just think: she is only one of more than 842,500 people you helped through ADRA Canada last year. Wow! Thank you! We have been downright thrilled to see the huge things that you did with us to lift people from poverty and crises this year.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The happiness and thankful spirit that we bring to others when we give them gifts is infectious—it makes us happy and thankful too! This spirit of thankfulness often leads to further generosity, which in turn increases happiness. What a virtuous cycle!

Jesus, the ultimate Gift and Gift Giver, said, "Whatever you did for the least of these ... you did for me" (Matt. 25:45). You have His thanks too. ■

Ryan Wallace is the communication specialist at ADRA Canada.

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Ontario

Eastern Ontario Youth Unite at Retreat



The third annual Adventist Christian Fellowship Retreat, held from September 13-15, saw the event's biggest turnout yet, with about 80 young people from Ottawa and across Eastern Ontario participating in what was an unforgettable weekend.

This year the retreat was held at Camp Iawah in Godfrey, Ont., a picturesque and peaceful setting that immediately set the tone for the blessings the weekend would bring. Retreat participant Stephen Muzamhindo said of the location, "It brought us closer in contact with God's creations and reminded us that He is the Creator." Besides free time exploring the beautiful scenery, the weekend itinerary was filled with team building activities, games, praise and worship, seminars and workshops.

Guest speaker David Burt spoke throughout the weekend on the central theme—being dependent on God—while the workshops and seminars, led by Jay Hamelin and Gerry Grant, covered topics ranging from friendship to managing finances as a student. The messages delivered invited participants to re-evaluate their spiritual walk and to rely more deeply on God, providing useful advice for the youth in attendance. Theo Frank said, "The speakers' messages were applicable to students, and a lot of practical steps were provided to help cope with various challenges." Organizers of the retreat did an amazing job at filling the weekend with spiritually uplifting, educational and fun activities that engaged all the participants.

One of the greatest things that continuously come out of these retreats is new friendships, and this year was no different. Over games of volleyball, walks on the dock or laughter over discussions on the struggle of living on a student budget, close bonds were formed. Participants were able to connect with

others facing the same challenges of balancing the stress of school and work while keeping God at the centre of it all. This was especially valuable to youth new to the area.

Kay-On Stephenson said, "The retreat was a great welcome into the Seventh-day Adventist community here in Ottawa for those who just arrived for school. It was also a wonderful way to make new Adventist friends and new trustworthy bonds so far from home to keep us grounded in our Christian faith!" The retreat provided an environment that fostered the creation of new friendships, allowing participants to make friends who will be their support network for years to come.

These connections strengthen not only individuals but also the youth ministry in general. The retreat brought together Adventist youth from across Eastern Ontario. As Mark Venditti put it, "The retreat was a start to a change in the landscape of the youth ministry in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario."

Full of laughter, informative discussions and uplifting messages, the retreat was truly an unforgettable experience. Kofi Amoah from the Ottawa-Benjamin church summarized the event perfectly: "As one of the people who has been around since the beginning of this retreat, I have been praying to see the day that it moved from being a 'West church' retreat to truly being an Eastern Ontario retreat. It was truly an answered prayer to see youth from all our churches not just attend and interact but also work together to plan and execute this wonderful and spirit-filled retreat." ■

—Hannah Wondmeneh, second-year journalism student, Carleton University; member, Willowdale church, Toronto.

Crawford Students' Free Car Wash Community Outreach



Crawford Adventist Academy students mixing fun with work at the free car wash held in front of their school.

On Friday, June 1, 2013, Crawford Academy's Grade 10 and 11 classes reached out to the surrounding community by running a free car wash.

When I initially heard about the plan, I thought to myself, "What a great way this is to get out of class!" I take back that attitude and response now.

The car wash, held in the school parking lot, was an enriching experience, both spiritually and physically. At first we stood around waiting for the cars to come in, but there was only one. I began to think that we'd have to resort to wash-

ing the teachers' cars. Then, one by one, cars came driving in until there was a constant flow. We soaped, rinsed, soaped again, rinsed and dried the cars.

As I was rinsing/washing a young woman's car, she looked at me and raised her hand telling me to stop. I thought I had done something wrong. I was scared of what she had to say. She wound down her window and said to me, "Sorry, but why are you guys doing this? Is this a fundraiser?" I told her that we wanted to help out the community and just do something nice for them. She stared at

me in amazement. All she could say was "Wow!" and asked if we were fundraising for our athletics team or something of that sort. Again I told her we were just doing it as a gesture toward our community, and that it was totally free. She replied that I had made her day and that what we were doing was amazing. She asked if I attended the school. I confidently replied, "Yes, we all attend this school." She followed by asking if the school is an Adventist school, and I told her that we are. I realized we had done something amazing for this lady. I had just seen God work a miracle. She again told me that she was grateful for the gesture and that it was really nice, before rolling up her window.

I was beaming after that encounter. I felt so good inside that I had helped this lady in some way. I may never see her again, but I'm glad to know that I witnessed to her by showing her a nice, small gesture. Who knows? She may bring her child to Crawford now because of that one car wash. She may even become a Seventh-day Adventist, God willing. All I know is God used me that day. ■

—Damaris Morris, Grade 11 student, Crawford Adventist Academy

Television Program Leads to Baptism



L-R: Nathan Wheeler, Pastor Rob Putt, Larissa Wheeler, Jane Donato.

If Jane Donato noticed how cool the water of Moira Lake was on July 13, 2013, it did not trouble her. She was about to be baptized by Pastor Robert Putt. Her baptism sealed her heart's desire and signalled her satisfaction at discovering spiritual truth.

Previously, Donato had joined the Catholic Church to be a good wife to her husband, but she soon felt spiritually unfulfilled. She found herself longing for more. She began attending the United Church to take her aged mother but still remained unfulfilled.

That's when she turned on the TV and came across Doug Batchelor's *Amazing Facts*. She listened and heard Batchelor say that if he found a church that was closer to the Bible teachings than what he

already found, he'd join it. Since he had not, he would remain in the one that is the closest to the teachings of the Bible—the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Her curiosity piqued, she determined to find a Seventh-day Adventist church.

Members of Madoc Company were astonished and very happy when, upon her first visit to their church, she declared, "This is my church from now on."

Robert Putt led her through a thorough

series of Bible studies and prepared her for baptism. Jane was one of three baptized in the lake situated just south of Madoc. The others are Larissa Wheeler and her teenage son, Nathan.

For some time, Larissa had felt the need for rebaptism. In her younger days she had strayed from God, and, having returned, she wanted to be baptized. For his part, Nathan said that he wanted to do God's will in his life.

After the baptism, members of Madoc Company showered the newly baptized individuals with loving hugs, gifts and flowers.

With God's blessing of three new members, Madoc Company is certainly growing and has applied to become a church. ■

—Phyllis Vallieres,
personal ministries
and communications

Toronto Pilipino's Mission Trip Baptizes 31, Builds Church



Two weeks after completing a church building and mission project in Aritao, Nueva Viscaya, in the Philippines, the team from Toronto Pilipino Adventist Church happily witnessed the baptism of 31 people on April 6, 2013.

A year earlier Toronto Pilipino Adventist Church agreed to raise funds for an evangelistic effort and building project in the Nueva Viscaya province of the Philippines, about eight hours north of Manila. The church diligently went about raising funds because the demand for the gospel was great in Aritao.

About the same time, in Aritao, the Lord touched the heart of a former Methodist pastor who, after studying with an Adventist man, was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Led by the Lord, she donated land for the purpose of building an Adventist church. When the Toronto Pilipino congregation learned of this, they were convinced that God had called them to pursue the mission project.

The funds gathered in Canada were used to buy medical supplies, construction materials and for hiring workers. It also

financed three laypeople who led Bible studies in preparation for the evangelistic meetings.

The small team from the Canadian congregation included an engineer who led the church's construction, a head nurse who oversaw the medical mission and a lay preacher who led the evangelistic series. The team was accompanied by Joseph Batiancila, pastor of Toronto Pilipino at the time.

Pastor Batiancila and the team were joined by a number of the locals who willingly joined the construction efforts, fed the workers and participated in the evangelistic programs to make the new church a reality. Even before the team arrived, the walls of the church had been erected, evangelistic meetings were promoted, signs were made, and the new congregation was ready to be set up as a company.

By the time the evangelistic series was completed, 31 people were ready to be baptized, and the building was ready for worship. Pastor Batiancila joined the president of the local mission in baptizing the converts in a nearby river. ■

Hispanic Churches March for Jesus



On Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, over 200 members from five Hispanic churches took to the streets of Toronto for the annual Christian Testification March.

Led by uniformed Pathfinders and Adventurers, the marchers set out from the corner of Jane and Finch in the north of Toronto to their destination at Culford Avenue, by Amesbury Park.

It was the fourth consecutive year that

children, youth and adults from five Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches in Toronto, Brampton and Mississauga have marched along the streets of Toronto as a witness to Jesus.

“Our purpose was twofold,” said Rodrigo Alvarez, one of the organisers. “Firstly, we set out to promote good physical, mental, moral and emotional health to Canadian society. Secondly, we want people to know about Christ as the

true spiritual leader.”

The weather was perfect for the march, and the spirit of the marchers made it an enjoyable time for everyone. The route took them south on Jane to Lawrence Avenue before terminating under the welcome shade of some large trees in Amesbury Park. ■

—Rodrigo Alvarez

Alberta

Team from CUC hold a VBS in Yellowknife

In the bush northeast of Rimbey, Alta., the grey streaks of dawn were met by bright headlights and cheery voices as the VBS team van rolled into the long driveway of the Spratts’ acreage to have breakfast and pick up the last member of their team, Bob Spratt.

About 150 kilometres into their trip to Yellowknife, the group took a rest stop, after which all attempts to start the van were futile. They called the Alberta Motor Association (AMA) but cancelled the request for assistance when, after many more tries, the engine fired up (the starter was rattling and made a horrible racket).

Several hours later the team rolled into Peace River to fuel up. That completed, everyone was loaded up for the next leg

of the trip. But once again the engine would not start. After many more attempts, it was obvious that the engine wasn’t going to start. The starter was toast. They sat there contemplating their situation. It was a holiday, and all the automotive parts stores and garages were closed until Tuesday morning, except for Canadian Tire, which did not have the part in stock. They were scheduled to start the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program Monday at 2 p.m. and were to finish by Friday. Many prayers ascended to our heavenly Father—to whom this VBS program belonged.

A pickup truck pulled up to get gas. Judging by the things in the back of the pickup, Craig Edwards thought the driver may be some sort of contractor, so Craig

went over and talked to the man, explaining their plight. He said he couldn’t help. Craig thanked him and started to return to the van, when the man called him back. He told Craig that he had a friend who owned a Napa Auto Parts store. He would try and get a hold of him. The man was successful, so he photographed the VIN number of the van with a smartphone and emailed it to his friend. The Napa Auto Parts owner happened to have the part in stock and was willing to bring it to the service station.

While they were waiting for the part to arrive, Bob was visiting with the driver of the pickup. During the course of the conversation, Bob told him what each young person on the team was studying

for and that they were giving their summer to the Lord by taking His VBS ministry to children in different parts of Canada. The driver of the pickup then told Bob that he had a son who would have been about the same age as the VBS team members had he not committed suicide two years ago. The boy had become a drug addict.

The part arrived, but no mechanics were available to install it because of the holiday; however, the filling station had a large floor jack they were willing to let them use, and the Good Samaritan who had obtained the much-needed part was willing to let them use his tools.

Since none of the young people knew how to do this kind of work and no mechanics were available, 80-year-old Bob jacked up the van, crawled under it and got busy. The young members of the VBS team did not just sit around waiting for the work to be done. They got out

their instruments and played and sang to cheer Bob as he worked. Not many mechanics have delightful “live” music while they work! From the time they arrived at the stop until the time they left, five hours elapsed—instead of having to wait until Tuesday. Not bad, wouldn’t you say?

The father of the suicide victim had Napa bill his business account for the new part, which cost at least \$180. Bob had tried to pay the man, but the man refused.

Originally the VBS group had expected to arrive in Yellowknife by about midnight but instead got there at approximately 4:30 or 5:00 a.m. Monday morning. There was still time to get a little rest and to set up and start right on time Monday afternoon.

Each day at VBS there were about 40 children in attendance, until Thursday,

when a group of about 35 children showed up and joined them. Now there were over 70 kids! This was a community children’s group. They also came on Friday. The leaders of the group told the VBS team that their kids enjoyed the VBS program more than anything else they had done so far that summer.

The team held church services on Sabbath as well. The people of the Yellowknife church were so gracious and caring. They went out of their way to provide excellent food day and night for them. What a blessing!

The grey dawn of Sunday morning found the van all packed. A tired but joyful VBS team headed back to good old Alberta thanking the wonderful Lord they serve for His help and protection as they worked for Him in Yellowknife. ■

—Bob Spratt, Blufton, Alta.

VBS team members: Craig Edwards, CUC graduate; going to Saskatchewan to work on his MA in public health; Cherry Ann Del Mundo, CUC graduate, business management in HR; John Maisas, CUC graduate, ministry; Daphney Bernadotte, biology major, pre-med.; Eldenia Potts, high school student, Mamawi Atosketan Native School; Sharon Bagona, CUC graduate; going on to take civil engineering; Mat Edwards; working on becoming a physical therapist; Janelle Mutya; working on degree in elementary education; Bob Spratt, retired teacher, counsellor, principal and Bible worker.

British Columbia

Adventist Education and Caring Community Citizens

Canadians are becoming alarmingly disconnected from one another. In 2012 research from the Vancouver Foundation, the largest community trust non-profit organization in Canada, showed that Canadians are rapidly isolating themselves and becoming “separated by ethnicity, culture, language, income, age and geography.” In coming years the prestigious foundation will fund millions of dollars in projects that focus on helping Canadians connect and engage with one another in their local communities.

Seventh-day Adventists have for more than a century held the antidote to this 21st century social dilemma: teach children from an early age that life is about so much more than just yourself and what you can acquire. Adventist schools model a system

that respects the balance of mental, physical, spiritual and social development. Adventist education, at its best, endeavors to create a culture where a loving relationship with God—and people—means more than ethnicity, culture, language and social status. Connecting with others and serving them becomes an integral part of everyday life. This kind of education prepares children to become healthy, caring members of society—ones who will never feel disconnected from their responsibility to others, their local community and their world.

Deer Lake School (DLS), since its inception in 1965, has placed significant emphasis on developing a practical love for others. Its highly multicultural and multifaith enrollment has allowed students to practice respectful, tolerant, caring

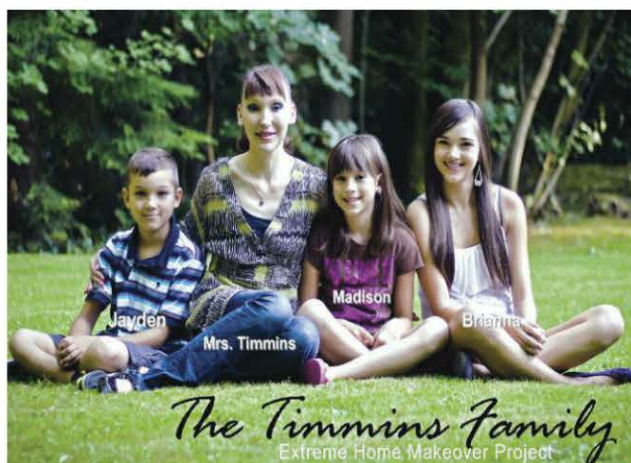
community life every day in the classroom. In the past school year, the entire student body joined together to support numerous service projects that focused on meeting the needs of others.

The Timmins family home makeover project involved high school students volunteering in a four-day home renovation project for a single mom and her three children who were no longer able to live in their home because it was severely affected by mold.

Deer Lake students also joined the We School movement, started by 12-year-old child activist Craig Kielburger, which teaches students that when they work together, they can impact the world for social change. As a result, during the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) tournament in April, sport teams from all

over B.C. joined with DLS to collect more than 7,000 pennies for water wells in developing countries, for the Free the Children movement.

On an international level, Grade 11 and 12 students headed to the Dominican Republic to work in mobile medical clinics and help install water filtration systems in communities struggling with poor health and lack of access to clean water. And in May, 120 DLS band, choir, drama and gymnastics students boarded buses and headed to Port Hardy on Vancouver Island to share



their talent in local performances but, most importantly, to serve others in the town of Port Hardy, doing community gardening, working in the local food

bank and sharing stories and puppetry in the town's large daycare.

Adventist education gives students an opportunity every day to experience practical community living—to develop a sense of responsibility and an understanding of what it means to live a life of service and connection to others. And our communities are obviously in desperate need of just these kinds of caring citizens. ■

— Gaileen Woytko,
director of Marketing and
Community Relations, Deer
Lake School, Burnaby, B.C.

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Manitoba-Saskatchewan Leadership Retreat



Guest speaker, Luke Heimann.

September 27-29 the administration, pastors, principals, teachers, care home directors and staff of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference were brought together at Camp Whitesand for a spiritual retreat. This weekend allowed the participants a full 24 hours to connect with God, pray and find their way to the centre of God's will for them. Luke Heimann, the guest speaker, presented to the group with short presentations that helped to guide the participants in their spiritual retreat time.

The basic structure of the weekend had short presentations after each meal. Once the presentation was complete, each individual would meet with their prayer partner and pray before separating to a quiet and peaceful location. Many commented how difficult it was to return to the group at each meal and for the presentations because of the peaceful connection they had with God while alone in God's nature and the warm prairie sun.

There was a notably positive outcome immediately upon the completion of the weekend. We had spent 24 hours with our God, our Creator and our Saviour. We had asked that He work in our lives, show us our shortcomings and prepare us for change. When the time came for us to prepare to return to our work, we knew that God had talked with us and we were now ready to continue the work He had called us to do. The final challenge to each person was that we take a spiritual retreat once each quarter to reconnect with God and commit ourselves to His will. Many in the Man-Sask Conference have committed to that. Will you? ■

— Man-Sask communication department

SDA Church in Canada

Canadians Recognized at Annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention

Photos: Gerry Chudleigh



Charles Ed II Aguilar receives an award from Kimberly Luste Maran while George Johnson looks on.



Stan Jensen accepting the award on behalf of Pam Lister.

Once a year the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) meet and provide communication directors from various conferences, unions, and Seventh-day Adventist hospitals with professional updates and seminars.

Adventist members in other media organizations, such as university students studying communications, are also encouraged to attend. This year, the SAC convention was held in Salt Lake City, Utah from October 24-26, 2013.

The convention provided a variety of workshops for communicators of all levels and all specialties. Some of the outstanding seminars offered this year were: "Crisis Management Bootcamp workshop"; "Tech Talk"; "Powerfully Aligning Your Organization Behind Your Brand"; "From Print to Pinterest: Engaging the Reader Across Multiple Platforms"; "If Steve Jobs Started a

Church"; "Marketing Your Message—Turning Negatives into Positives"; "Practical Applications of Social Media"; "The Gospel According to Social Media: When High Tech Meets High Touch"; "Advertising 101: Back to the Basics"; and "Public Relations vs. Community Relations".

At the SAC convention, public recognition, based on peer votes, is given to those who have delivered a product or message that is above-and-beyond.

The first award was for a constituency or annual report video, and the award was given to Charles Aguilar, communication director of the British Columbia Conference. Charles was also recognized for the constituency report (print) or special event. To see the winning report and video, visit: <http://goo.gl/ffoWG4>.

JR Ferrer, communication director of Canadian University College (CUC)

was recognized as "Best in Class" for his promotional video.

Pam Lister, manager of the Adventist Book Centre in Oshawa, wrote an inspiring story for the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* and was recognized as the most outstanding devotional class. I expect to see more from Pam in the future.

Those involved in media and communications are invited to join with Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals from all around for training, networking and spiritual renewal. Next year's convention is being held in Jacksonville, Florida, on Oct. 16-18, 2014.

For details, visit www.adventistcommunicator.org. ■

— Stan Jensen,
communication director,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Oct. 31, 2013, there are 448 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,473,877. There are 76 loans with a value of \$20,223,434.

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

Merry Christmas!

*With greetings of "Happy Holidays!" or "Season's Greetings!"
it is easy to miss the Greatest Gift ever given—Christ Jesus.*



L. to R.: Mark Worden, production manager; Tina Taylor, communications director (seated); Sherry Griffin, station manager; and Brian Matthews, chief engineer.

While Jesus wasn't born on the 25th of December, this is the time of year when many celebrate the Christmas season. That Precious Gift was given not so that we can add one gift to our collection but because Jesus wanted to add one more person to His heavenly kingdom—YOU. It's all about people.

VOAR reaches people all year long with that message of hope: in their cars while they're stuck in traffic, in their homes as they go about their activities and in their private existences where their hurt doesn't show. A variety of Christmas radio specials make VOAR the perfect opportunity to gather the family, sit back and relax and experience the joy of a Silent Night.

Let me introduce our people and tell you about some of their gifts! Sherry Griffin is your morning

show host; her "Rush Hour Devotions" can make you laugh and cry. She's been working for VOAR for over 30 years, and even as our station manager she personally answers listener emails. Tina Taylor, communications director, is our "Noon Request" show host, and after 10 years at VOAR, your prayer requests still touch her heart. Mark Worden, production director, has been with VOAR for 10 years as well, and you'd never guess that this tall, quiet gentleman is the voice behind our "Drive Home" show. Even Brian Matthews, our chief engineer, gets air time in addition to handling all things technical.

Our "gift" to you this season is a reminder of God's love for you! ■

—VOAR staff and management





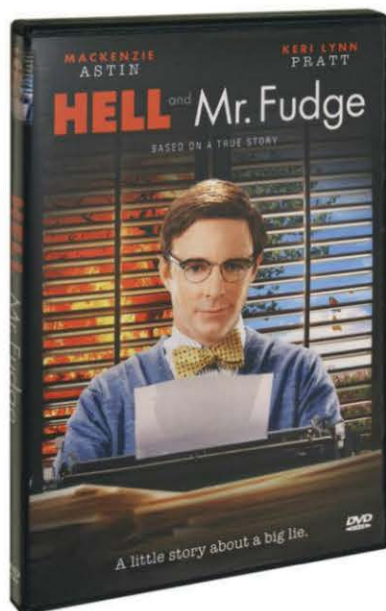
HELL and Mr. Fudge

A little story about a big lie.

"It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment." —ELLEN WHITE

"From start to finish I was fed spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. If you want your spirit to soar get this movie as a gift for yourself and your friends."
—Ern Brake

"This movie is a fantastic tool to table the discussion about whether or not eternal hellfire is a biblical teaching."
—Nicole Beauchesne



"Have you ever wanted to share profound truth with people who won't sit down for a Bible study? 'Hell and Mr Fudge' is a powerful witnessing tool to vindicate the character of God."
—Andrew & Arlene Jurello

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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

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

■ New Members

ALBERTA

Joseph Blaney was baptized in Red Deer River, Alta., on Aug. 24, 2013, by David Streifling. He is now a member of the Lacombe Community church.

■ Births

Ally Dawn Blabey was born on April 17, 2012, to Eric and Charlee Blabey of Seeleys Bay, Ont.

Madison Rose Davis was born on Dec. 15, 2012, to Takoda and Jaymee Davis of Kingston, Ont.

Brock Slevan Dubyna Kettner was born on Aug. 30, 2012, to Brad and Amanda Kettner of Red Deer, Alta.

Jasper Reed Hansen was born on July 15, 2013, to Christopher Skoretz and Shelley Hansen of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

■ Anniversaries

Herb and Marion Arbeau of Port

Wade, N.S., celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on Sept. 1, 2013. The celebration was held at Port Wade, Annapolis County in the same house they now live at a summer home. Family, friends and church members were welcomed. Both are looking forward to and welcoming the soon return of our Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

■ Obituaries

Garry Colburn was born on March 18, 1940, in Regina, Sask., and died Aug. 23, 2013, in Victoria, B.C. Garry is survived by his wife, Beverly; son, Terry; and daughters, JoAnne Thompson, Diane Rayment and Michelle Delucry; two grandchildren.

William Crandall was born on May 9, 1917, in Ponoka, Alta., and died April 30, 2013, in Golden, B.C. William was a charter member of the Golden church and served as a deacon for many years. He is survived by Barbara; son, Duane (Norma) of Golden; and daughter, Charlene Olbort of Golden; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Gottfried Dost was born on Dec. 14, 1923, in Bernsdorf, Germany, and died Sept. 5, 2013, in Kelowna, B.C. Gottfried was an active member of the church. He served many years as a deacon in Kitchener, Ont., Williams Lake, B.C., and a few years in Kelowna. He also helped the elderly or shut-ins as needed. He is predeceased by his brothers, Hans, Herbert, Helmut and Heinz, and his sisters, Kathe Weber, Elsbeth Steffens, Liesbeth Kirchhubel and Ruth. Surviving: wife, Lydia; son, Gary of Ashcroft, B.C.; daughters, Ingrid (Joseph) Polzer of Kelowna and Monika (Stanley) Ratzlaff of Leduc, Alta.; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Dwight Johnson was born on Aug. 30, 1945, in Kelowna, B.C., and died June 20, 2012, in Little Fort, B.C. Dwight loved the Lord and was very active not only in the local church, where he held many positions over the years, but also in his community. He spent six years as a volunteer in the islands of the South Pacific for the Guam Micronesia Mission. He volunteered a year in the Gambia, West Africa, as well. Studying his Bible was one of his greatest joys. His book *Journey Into Time* was written and published in 2007 after his in-depth study of the book of Revelation. He is predeceased by his brothers Harvey and Frances. Surviving: wife, Cheryl; son, Chadwick (Landy) of Cleburne, Tex.; daughter, Ewanah (Rafal) Toczyłowski of Berrien Springs, Mich.; brother Glenn (Karen) of Chase,

B.C.; sisters, Ella Mae (Paul) (Ken) Carley of Lacombe, Alta., and Fern Jardine of Kamloops, B.C.; five grandchildren.

Annie (née Ruhl) Patzer was born on June 27, 1914, in Calgary, Alta., and died Aug. 27, 2013, in Lacombe, Alta. She is predeceased by her husband, Arthur, brothers, Alex, Dan and Jake Ruhl, and sisters Julie Sly, and Katie Potter. Surviving: sons, Don (Marion) and Lloyd (Joane) of Lacombe, Alta.; sister Mary Grover; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Nick Tassoni was born on June 3, 1947, in Montreal, Que., and died Sept. 5, 2013, in Waterloo, Ont. Nick was one of the founding members of the Waterloo church. He has been a head elder and Pathfinder director for 30 years. He conducted health seminars for the public in the Waterloo region. He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Adam of Montreal; daughter, Lora (Kees) of Peterborough, Ont.; sister, Mary of Montreal; and two grandchildren.

■ Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

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

RATES:

Classified advertising—\$30 for 50 words or less; \$5 for each additional 10 words.

For display ads rates, sizes, deadlines, and more, visit: www.adventist.ca/messenger.

■ Advertisements

Sunnyside Adventist Care Centre in Saskatoon, Sask., is seeking a dynamic, conscientious and spiritually minded individual for the position of Administration & Accounting Assistant. The position is a diverse/multifaceted role responsible for providing services to our 97 residents, their families and our 145 staff to

ensure effective and efficient office operations. Our ideal candidate has the following qualifications: admin assist and/or accounting diploma, 3 or more years progressive experience; highly organized; outstanding interpersonal skills; excellent with MS Office; a passion for change; work independently; achievement oriented; comfortable working with the elderly and bring a sense of fun to the workplace. We offer an excellent compensation and benefits package plus a moving allowance. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission of "Caring for our Community as Christ would," please send your resume to Curtis.vornbrock@saskatoonhealthregion.ca by Dec. 31, 2013. (2/14)

Piano for Sale: Suitable for churches or private enjoyment. Roland KR-103 digital intelligent piano with bench and headphones for quiet playing. Hardly used. Change the tone list from piano to organ, guitar bass, strings, sax brass or drums. Includes music and practice books, plus a legacy learning course lesson book and CDs. Purchased new for \$2,695. Asking \$1,500 or best offer. Telephone: 905/623-5229, Bowmanville, Ont. To see pictures, email dshirleya@gmail.com. (12/13)

50th anniversary celebration of Adventists in Mesa, Ariz., coming the weekend of March 1, 2014. Mesa Palms Adventist church will host the celebration. Former members, pastors and friends are all invited to join us in celebrating 50 years of presence in Mesa. The King's Heralds will be in concert Sabbath afternoon at 5 p.m. For more information on special rates at a hotel, call 480/985-3140; or Facebook: Mesa Palms SDA Church; or website: mesapalmschurch.com. (12/13)

Union College invites applicants for a faculty position teaching accounting. Qualified applicants will have a CPA and MBA or a master's in accounting, and should be a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A doctorate is preferred. Find more information at www.uccollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Barry Forbes at bforbes@uccollege.edu. (12/13)

Physician Assistant program at Union College seeks Clinical Director. This faculty appointment includes teaching/advising opportunities, developing clinical sites, working with clinical preceptors, tracking students, and evaluating student rotations. Master's degree and three years' PA clinical experience required. Contact Michelle Buller, PA program director, mibuller@uccollege.edu, 402/486-2527. (12/13)

Big Island, Hawaii—Hilltop Haven. Studio vacation rental in peaceful, scenic Waimea (paradise). Private entrance, kitchen, washer/dryer, DISH & Glorystar. Very affordable, see vacationrentals.com #67406 for more details. Contact us for special rates through the website or by calling us direct, Patsy and Dale 808/885-6467. Say you saw this in the *Messenger*. (2/14)

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Looking for authors who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800/367-1844. (7/14)

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Save a life: Kidney donor urgently needed. Our sister has kidney failure and is in need of a kidney urgently. We are hoping and praying God will bless our sister with a donor. Please contact Beryl Nicol at Kidneydonor 2012@yahoo.ca, or 604/946-1174. (12/13)

For Sale: Country property—two parcels (160 acres each). Beautiful, pristine, forested and cultivated land. Abundant wildlife. Perfect for wellness centre, recreation, farm or just good, clean country living. Located approximately 4 miles from the majestic Riding Mountain National Park. Three small churches within driving distance. Come discover and evangelize Manitoba (Canada's best-kept secret) \$180,000 per 320-acre parcel. Please call 204/638-9023. (6/14)

If you were a fan of Sam Campbell's nature books, you'll be glad to know that his last and only narrated film: *Come to the North Country* is now available at your local Adventist Book Centre or at samcampbell.com. This film is a beautiful invitation to come out into nature. (12/12)




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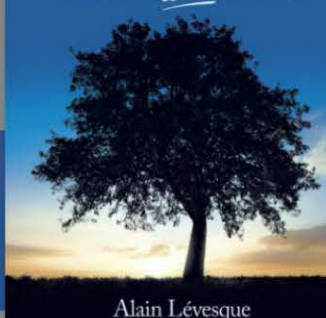
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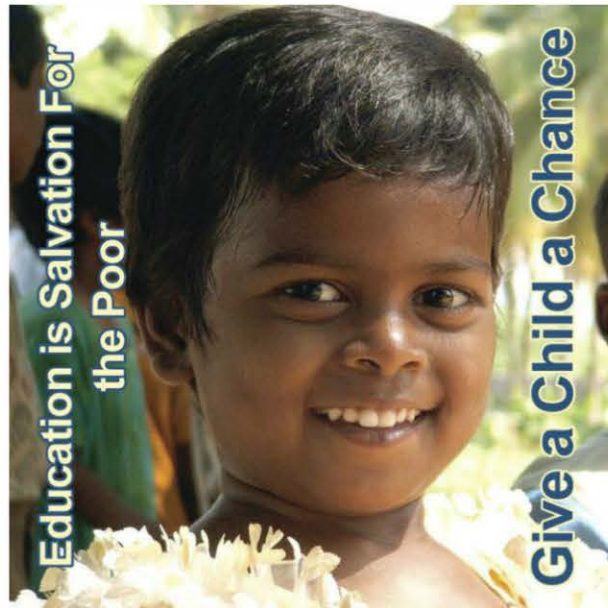
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from the editor

A Christmas to Remember

One of my fondest Christmas memories is of receiving some Whitman Canadian Coin Folders when I was six years old. That started my hunt for pennies from the 1920s. I asked everyone to empty their pockets so I could insert the pennies into the slots provided. While collecting these pennies I learned that during the war some pennies were made out of steel. I learned when kings and queens came and went. I learned the reason some pennies had dots or maple leaves after the date. As I filled up the slots, I kept on looking for better-quality pieces. I was able to get them all from pocket change—except for the 1925 penny. I still do not have that prized treasure, and to add it to my collection I will have to purchase it. The year 1925 was the birth of my father, so that year has always been special to me.

Another special memory I have is of a teenager from the Calgary Pineridge church who ministered to families in need. I do not remember all the details, but I do remember driving some of my Sabbath school students around and dropping off packages of presents to parents so their children could have something to open Christmas morning. There was always something for each child so they could learn more about Christ. Now that was a Christmas to remember!

What this teenager did had such an effect on me that I started to rethink how we need to deal with other people. Since then, for instance, I have met single moms who were thankful that some of the older church members (who have aged with wisdom) dropped by to give them gifts and cash so their children could have a Christmas to remember.

This year I throw out a challenge to you to make a significant difference in the lives of someone who cannot pay you back. Make this a Christmas to remember. This is a powerful way to keep the Christ in Christmas. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

PS: Please make sure all of your family—spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings—have at least one book from our Adventist Book Centres. Need suggestions? Call your local ABC store at 800/765-6955.

TEACHING CAN BE QUITE A NOBLE PROFESSION, but with it comes great responsibility, as I am sure anyone working in this field can testify. There are many occasions in the Bible, where you will find Jesus teaching. In fact, it seemed to play quite a huge role in His ministry. (Matthew 4:23, Matthew 9:35, Mark 1:21). With the truths that have been entrusted to us, we are all called to teach others, in some form or fashion. (Matthew 28:19, 20). May we not take this lightly. In this month's column, we found a special article written by a few, who share a little about why they decided to take an interest in this particular work.

Teachers of

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Mrs. Violet Hall, Normal Instructor, is seen standing at the rear of the room.

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AS A natural outcome of the work of our newly organized Teacher Training Department this year, we have just completed the organization of our first "Teachers of Tomorrow Club" at OMC. A fine group of enthusiastic young people, with Leora Pangburn as president, meet once a month to discuss interesting items connected with their future work as teachers. Many are the activities suitable to such a club, but the high tide of our year's work was the banquet, given us by the local and union educational departments, at the home of Elder and Mrs. Smart. The guests of honour were Professor and Mrs. Casey, for whom the club was named the "Claude and Eva Casey Chapter of the Teachers of Tomorrow." These fine Christian educators outrank by far, any of our educational workers in Canada in point of years of service given, Prof. Casey having taught over thirty years in our schools in Battleford, Canadian Union College, and Oshawa Missionary College, with Mrs. Casey not far behind in years of service. We feel fortunate in having these veteran workers in our midst, to be an inspiration to the young teachers-to-be.

Elder Smart presented the charter to the society, and Elder Wells gave the charge, and assisted in investing the seventeen members with their pins, which they will proudly wear as a reminder that they are indeed the much-needed Teachers of Tomorrow. When asked why they belong to such a club, several of them responded in this manner:

Why I Chose Teaching

God calls upon us to minister gladly, in sympathy and compassion, to those in need of help, and to seek with unselfish earnestness to lighten the woes of suffering humanity. Teaching is one of the ways to answer this call. With God's help, I

want my life to be of service to others through teaching. If you have been impressed to be a teacher, won't you heed the call, and accept the challenge today?

RUTH SOLEY, Ontario

Why Do I Belong?

It is because I hope to become a teacher that I've joined this club. It will help me to become a better teacher and make school life more pleasant for those I teach and also for myself. It will also help me to be better prepared to meet difficulties that arise in school and to know what to do at all times.

EMILY BOUTCHER, Ontario

Why Teach?

Teaching is more than a mere profession. It is a high calling of God to teach young lives how to be good citizens of this world and to prepare them for the life that is to come. I want to train and prepare myself so that I may be a good teacher and may help those children of whom I may some day have charge, to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes.

MARY TWADDLE, Ontario

Why I Joined the Club

There is an art in teaching which is learned only through such a course. It is necessary to learn the methods of working with human minds before we can successfully go and fulfil our divine commission, "Teaching all nations whatsoever I have commanded you." The art of teaching helps immeasurably toward this end, as it helps one better to express one's self. In whatever task one may find himself for a life work, it is more than likely that the demands of teaching will be placed upon him. One may be called to be a Sabbath school teacher, or he may wish to give Bible studies, and this training helps im-

mensely in attaining his desired goal. The need of more church school teachers is pressing. The work is flourishing, but labourers are few; and when God calls, it is our duty to obey. In fulfilling His divine appointing we will also fit ourselves for a place on high where we will "shine as the stars forever." DOUGLAS ROBERTSON, N.B.

Why I Chose to Be a Teacher

When I was asked to write a short article on the topic of "Why I chose to be a teacher" I began to think for specific reasons. However, every reason finally came to the same conclusion. It was no problem for me to decide what profession to choose. The call of teaching rang through my mind during my early junior high school days. I finally went to Canadian Union College where I took my three years of senior high school and graduated in 1951. It seemed like the end of the road. My next step was to take a Normal training course which would train me for teaching our young boys and girls. At the time I was ready for my Normal training, I had no opportunity to take it at Canadian Union College, as such a course was not offered. After counselling with my teachers and praying about it, I finally decided to attend the University of Alberta at Calgary. During the course of time I read an article in the MESSENGER which attracted my attention. Yes! it was the write-up about the Elementary Education course offered at Oshawa Missionary College. I prayed and thought about this course for about a month, and finally plans materialized so that now I am at Oshawa Missionary College taking this wonderful course of Elementary Education. Friends, if you are a high school graduate this year, and plan on being a teacher, come to Oshawa Missionary College.

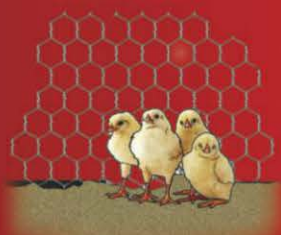
PHYLLIS O'LENNICK, British Columbia

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