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Messenger

september 2014

Chronicles of Cambodia

PLUS

Where Are They Now? (p. 10)

Calling All Gardeners (p. 20)

Education and Character Transformation (p. 31)

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“There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts
out fear.”

—1 John 4:18, ESV



Love or Fear?

Have you ever thought about how we relate to God? Jesus contrasted the experience of many religious people of His time with that of little children. “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3, ESV). How uncomplicated a small child seems in comparison to our complexity as adults!

Perhaps the relationship between many of us today and God can best be described in the words of some Facebook profiles out there that say, “It’s complicated.” It seems rather incredible that adults who should know Him well view God in fear rather than with trust.

Fear is understandable in someone who has spent years avoiding God. But I am puzzled to see it among Christians and even more puzzled to see it among Adventists who pray, study Scripture, and attend church frequently. Within the church you can find (1) individuals who fear conspiracies and (2) still other individuals presenting new views that, they claim, “must” be understood for salvation, and further, (3) individuals who follow thought leaders with specific points of view on issues that fall outside of settled doctrine.

There are, indeed, many causes for concern in society around us. It is vital that we understand that *God is big enough to fight the battles necessary for our salvation*. He doesn’t need our help to do it. Instead, we need to stay within the framework of His protection, His provision, and His truth. The distractions of sensationalism, or special interest topics, tend to lead us away from a solid faith that Jesus describes in children, faith that is trusting and loving.

Within Christ’s body, the church, we must focus on the great teachings of Scripture, carefully reflecting on what they reveal to us both of doctrine and for our daily lives. In our daily worship, in our weekly services, we will benefit as we avoid the sensational and stay focused on what God reveals in Scripture. It is here that we find the path to the faith of which Christ speaks. Trusting faith is built on what we permit God to teach us in Scripture.

Don’t you like the way the apostle John describes our relationship with God?

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love”
(1 John 4:18, ESV). ■

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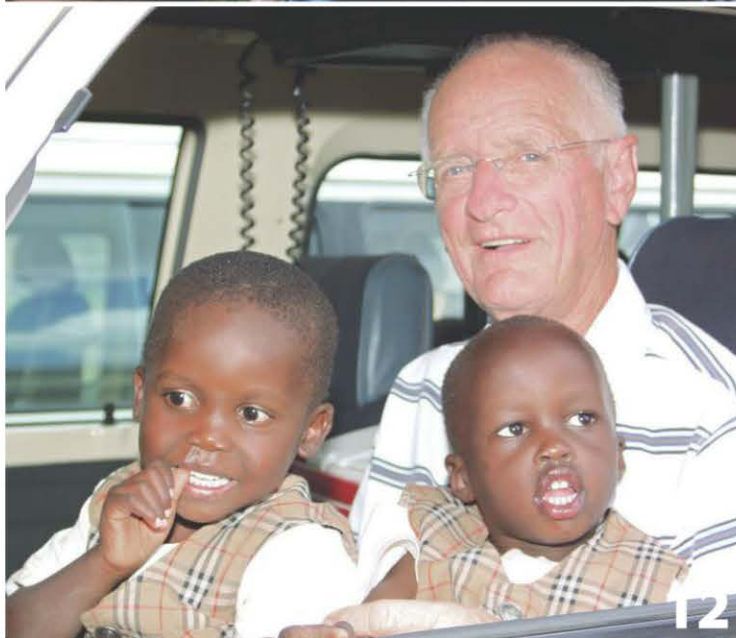
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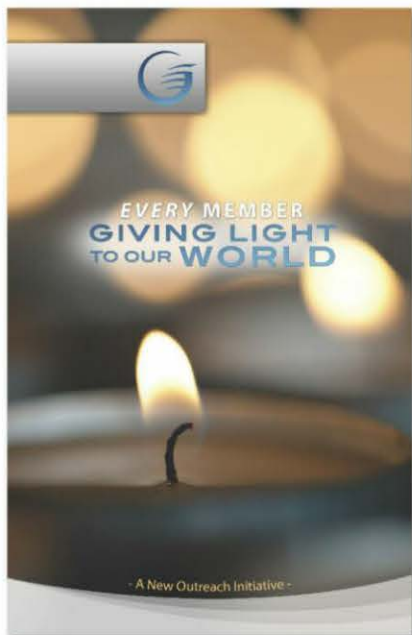
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GLOW, which stands for **G**iving **L**ight to **O**ur **W**orld, is a ministry initiative that has been gaining much attention and participation in Canada and around the world. Featured on the *Hope Channel* and in *Adventist World* magazine, its focus is to help church members experience the joy and blessing of working for God by make literature distribution a part of their lifestyle. The GLOW Canada outreach initiative is specifically designed for all church members from all walks of life. Whether you are shy and prefer to work behind the scenes, or you are comfortable talking to people one on one, GLOW gives you the opportunity to work for God while going about your everyday life.

With close to a million tracts printed and distribution taking place across Canada, our office receives Bible Study requests on a weekly basis. The tracts come in English and French and have a QR code which links smartphones to short 5-minute videos on the topics dealt with in the tract. There is also a toll-free CANADIAN number on the back where people can leave messages in English or French. Voice messages come in an email format and are forwarded to the respective local churches.

GLOW tracts come in packs of 100 per title for a contribution of \$10 per pack. Contributions help to cover basic costs, and free shipping is available for orders of 10 or more packs. For more information about how to get involved, contact us for your **FREE** copy of the booklet ***Every Member Giving Light to our World*** (electronic and hard copy versions available). Please also be sure to visit us at www.glowcanada.ca

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



New Life

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."

—John 10:10, NIV

Suppose one morning you awake and discover that your excruciating hip or knee pain is gone or that the negative thoughts and experiences that made your life miserable over the years have disappeared. Wouldn't you praise God for such a miracle? Would you like to experience new life? God has promised that you can.

Radical Action Required

A radical change must take place in order to experience new life. The biblical account of the healing of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda is instructive (see John 5:3–14). Crippled for 38 years, he sat at the pool hoping to be miraculously healed by jumping into the water first after it was stirred by an angel. But this didn't happen because he was too incapacitated. Then Jesus passed by and asked the lame man if he wished to be healed. When he replied affirmatively, Jesus commanded him to take up his bed and walk. This was a radical action, but the man obeyed and was transformed.

We Have a Choice

We have a choice in determining how we should live. For example, if we have a physical condition that limits our movements, we can choose whether to take action to alleviate the condition. I recently read a story about a man who had suffered much because of his obesity. A friend invited him to attend a series of health lectures. In one of the presentations, he saw before-and-after images of obese men and women and felt compelled to take radical action to change his life. Henceforth he embarked on a journey that would see him reduce his weight from 400 pounds to 190 pounds. He made a choice that changed his life.

The Support of Others

It is almost impossible to have life-transforming change without the support of significant others. A few years ago I went with a team of educators to evaluate a school in New York. We interviewed students to get

a sense of how they viewed their school, and Jackie, a Grade 12 student, spoke of her experience. She said that a friend of the family encouraged her mother to enroll her in the Adventist school because of her bad experiences in the public school. Being a non-Adventist at the time, she attended reluctantly, despising everything that was Adventist.

With the support and encouragement of teachers and fellow students, Jackie eventually settled down, got baptized, and experienced a drastic change in her attitude and behaviour. In her third year at the school she was leading out in worship, making good grades, and making plans to become a missionary doctor.

Change Comes With Sacrifice

No real change takes place without sacrifice. Old forms must be discarded to make room for the new. Jesus made several statements to illustrate this concept. For example, in Luke 5:37, Jesus says, "And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins" (NIV).

The greatest change that we can experience is a change of heart, which is possible only through the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. By accepting Jesus as our Saviour, we choose to live a holy life exemplifying the fruit of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22–23). It is only when our hearts are transformed by the power of the blood of Jesus that we can truly experience new life. Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10, NIV). The gift is ours to receive. ■

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



teen talk

Q: How do you become a man?

A: By using Old Spice body wash!

Well, that's what Isaiah Mustafa (the Old Spice guy) wants you to believe. In their own words: "We're not saying this body wash will make your man smell like a romantic millionaire jet fighter pilot, but we are insinuating it." Fine, this is quite a tongue-in-cheek statement, but the reality is that our Western society portrays the ideal man as a guy with muscles, money, and success with women.

But those are males, and you asked about becoming a man, right?

One of my favourite authors said once that this world desperately needs "men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."¹

Try this: go totally media-free for a couple of weeks and read the Gospels daily. Let your mind dwell on what Jesus teaches. After a few days, you'll gradually detox from the violence and sensuality that flood your screens and start appreciating the purity and innocence from the Bible.

You see, the key is to transition from being a male (by the world's standards) to being a man of God (by the Bible's standards). You can achieve that by applying self-discipline and surrendering yourself to God. As a matter of fact, that's exactly what Jesus did! ■



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

Yellow Jackets

What's your favourite season? If it's fall, I can understand why. The leaves are turning red and orange and yellow. Most days, the sky is that matchless shade of blue and filled with the sound of migrating geese. And the gardens and orchards are just bursting with colourful vegetables and juicy, luscious fruits.

And that's the problem. All those tasty overripe tomatoes and appetizing apples are irresistible to yellow jackets. If they'd stay in the garden and away from the house, it wouldn't be so bad. But sometimes it seems as if I can't even step outside without having those wasps zooming around my head, checking to see if I'm carrying a glass of juice or a piece of watermelon or looking to see if I've got a bit of jam on my chin from breakfast.

Think about it.

Do you ever feel harassed by the enemy? Like everything and everyone is against you and everything is going wrong? Trust in God. Jesus said, "In your patience possess ye your souls" (Luke 21:19). God has promised to fight the enemy for you. When things are going badly, call out to your heavenly Father. Then quietly wait for Him to send help. He will.

Do it!

Read the story of Elisha at Dothan in 2 Kings 6:8-17.

Draw or paint a picture of the scene and print verse 16 on your picture. When you're feeling overwhelmed, look at your picture and thank God for His help.

Learn more about yellow jackets at 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.

CUC Study
Tour to

Tropical Paradise

the Amazon and the
Galápagos Islands



Posing with a giant tortoise on a tortoise ranch in the Galápagos. Left to right: Rebecca Hall (wearing purple), Joanna Jakovac, Kelly-Ann Melnychenko, Joshua Perkins, Jennifer Laan, Tyler Hetland, Spencer Gibbs, Dustin Bruce, Maisen Leitch, Taylor Lakusta-Wong, Edmund Suryadharma, and Kaitlyn Brown.

TWELVE CUC STUDENTS and a faculty member had the opportunity earlier this year to visit the tropical land of Ecuador for 17 days. This nation takes first spot in terms of biological diversity from a global perspective. The bright equatorial sun, warm temperatures, a staggering variety of animal and plant lives, and friendly people welcomed us. Our goals were to observe and discuss the richness of the tropical ecosystem along one of the Amazon tributary rivers, namely the Cuyabeno River. The study continued about 1,000

kilometres west to a group of “Enchanted Islands” in the Pacific Ocean, otherwise known as the Galápagos Islands.

A visit to the equatorial line that divides the Earth into two hemispheres, *La mitad del mundo*, near Quito was truly an exhilarating learning experience. A green leaf in water turned clockwise or counterclockwise, depending on which side of the equatorial line the sink was placed in. A successful placement of a chicken egg vertically on a nail head, and less energetic human response while standing on the equatorial line are some feats that amazed everyone who witnessed them. The cities Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca portrayed the rich Spanish culture by the grandeur edifices such as cathedrals, churches, and government buildings alongside central parks designed to attract people to spend leisurely time.


The trees, shrubs, monkeys, birds, baby anacondas, and others delighted us as we were passing through the river and the lagoon by boat. The sky was filled with flying macaws, parrots, toucans, hoatzins, and blue morph butterflies. Our guide took us on a jungle walk and showed the medicinal values of a number of trees, and we were able to observe parasitic fungus, bullet ants, and the walking tree, a solitary tree that kills the nearby plants by its poison-oozing roots. On a night walk in the jungle and boat ride under the starry sky, nocturnal creatures such as the wolf spider, tarantula, banana spider, boa constrictors, and bats, to name a few, were seen as active and visually arresting as diurnal organisms. The list of amazing biological lessons we received was endless.

Extremely impressive was the village life. We learned that a woman ready to marry must know how to make cassava bread from the freshly harvested yamlike tuber. Erika, a 16-year-old girl from the village of Bolivar on the banks of a river, demonstrated how to make the bread, with some assistance from our students. Our journey to the village continued further to visit with the shaman, the medicine man. His decorative, feather-filled headgear and colourful attire was as captivating as his knowledge of herbal medicine and his hunting skill in using a blowpipe with a curare-soaked poison dart.


After visiting the beautiful colonial city of Cuenca, we flew to the Galápagos Islands, where, in our four-day sojourn, we encountered the famous tortoises, land iguanas, marine iguanas, finches, and sea lions seen at ease and unafraid of our presence. The same could be said for the penguins and the blue-footed boobies in their nesting sites. We marveled at the tree species such as *Opuntia* and *Scalesia*. These islands, a natural park and therefore protected, are marked by a number of endemic organisms found only here and nowhere else in the world. Swimming with sea lion babies, turtles, and penguins was especially delightful. Our knowledge and admiration for these unique creatures thus enhanced our resolve to protect them in their natural habitats. ■

Paul S. Ramalingam is a professor of biology at Canadian University College.

Student Reaction



IN ECUADOR much of my faith became sight. You can learn about Ecuador in any classroom. However, only on study tours can you canoe with caiman, swim with sea turtles, pet iguanas, explore Ecuador's poverty-stricken cities, sleep beneath a tree of banana spiders, wake up to the song of the cicada, walk past walking trees, and get caught in Amazonian downpours. Through such experiences, this tour reaffirmed my faith in the world of beauty and biodiversity, as well as my faith that urges me to help the world in need. —Taylor Wong, first-year biology major



THE STUDY TOUR of the Amazon Rainforest and the Galápagos Islands has been the highlight of my time at CUC so far. I learned so many things about nature and God's creation. I especially enjoyed seeing over 40 different kinds of birds in the Amazon Rainforest. It was amazing to be able to have such a hands-on learning experience. To be able to see, smell, taste, and touch all the things many of us have read about was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime treat. Study tours like this are important because they take us to a whole new level beyond our textbooks. —Rebecca Hall, first-year psychology major

Where Are They Now



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

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

Messenger: Tell me about your childhood.

Levern Krenzler: I was born as an only child in 1924 in Leola, South Dakota. My family decided to come to Alberta in 1928 because they wanted an improved farming operation. We moved near the town of Granger, which is close to Beiseker, where the Gimbels and Leiskes farmed. We had a beautiful farm with a two-storey home including a basement, a hip-roof barn, and a garage. Since there was no church school, I attended public school until Grade 12. After I retired, I visited Leola, and as we entered the town, the sign said, "Welcome to Leola, Rhubarb Capital of the World."

M: What career path did you eventually choose?

Levern: I went to Canadian Union College, now Canadian University College, to study pre-med. After my marriage to Ruth Schafer, one of 13 siblings, we moved to La Sierra College in California to continue my preparation for entrance to medical school. Ruth was going to finish her nursing degree, since she had completed pre-nursing at CUC. In the middle of the year, I decided medicine was not for me, and we returned to the farm. I felt called to the ministry; I returned to CUC,

graduating with a degree in theology in 1950.

M: Where did you serve during your career?

Levern: I pastored in Alberta and British Columbia. Soon after I completed my master's degree in 1962 in religious studies at Andrews University, I moved into conference administration: first at the Ontario Conference in Sabbath school and then to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. This involved giving workshops to assist Sabbath school leaders. My responsibilities at the union also included Communications and *It Is Written*. I served the church for 36 years.

M: What did you do following retirement?

Levern: We moved to Kelowna to be near my mother. She loved to cook and had the gift of hospitality. Many workers enjoyed a meal at her table. She wanted to live in her own home, and the Lord answered her prayer; she passed away at home in her sleep.

M: What hobbies did you enjoy?

Levern: I always enjoyed photography, and this was a real asset in my work in communication. I had my own darkroom, spending many hours developing my pictures. How different the work process is today with digital photograph when you can see the quality of your picture

immediately. Ruth and I also enjoyed travel, especially RV-ing.

M: What is your favourite Bible text, and why?

Levern: I have many of them but the one that comes to mind quickly is John 3:16 because it gives the full account of salvation.

M: You will be 90 years of age this fall and have lived a successful and satisfying life. What advice would you like to share with young people as they decide on their careers?

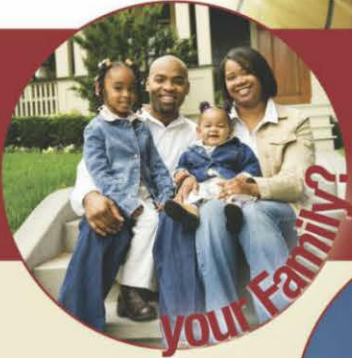
Levern: Keep going to school. Get all the education you can. It is what's between your ears that counts.

M: Tell me about your family.

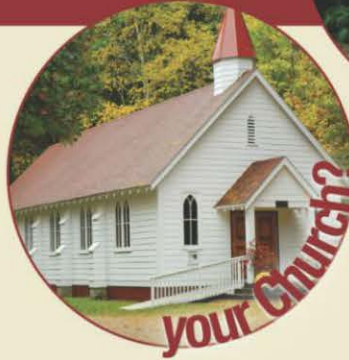
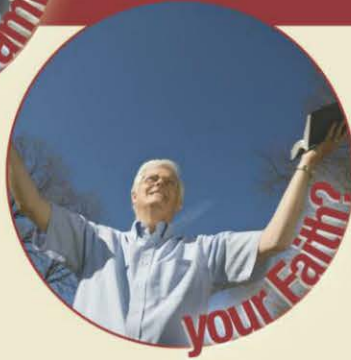
Levern: Ruth and I have been married 67 years. We have always had a happy home—discussing issues rather than arguing. She worked as a registered nurse assistant. We have three daughters, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

M: Where are you now?

Levern: I am confined to a wheelchair and live in Newport Harbour Care Centre, and Ruth resides in an adjoining building Chartwell Harbours Retirement Residence in Calgary, Alta. This arrangement allows us to be together every day. ■



What Matters Most to You?



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Charles Spurgeon

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"... not everybody was called to preach at the pulpit, but everyone was called to serve."

Teachers and students

reunite after 35 years for a good cause



Brian Leavitt, Jim Ryan, Eric Rajah, and Warren Trenchard.

It took more than 35 years for a group of former Canadian University College buddies to go on their first trip together. The wait was well worth it for Eric Rajah, Jim Ryan, Brian Leavitt, and Warren Trenchard.

In November 2013 the long-time friends went to Kenya to monitor and evaluate projects set up by A Better World Canada. Rajah, president of a corporate computer and networking company, and Leavitt, former vice-president of Canadian University College, founded the Central Alberta-based international development organization in 1990.

Rajah was keen to take Ryan, a retired dormitory dean from Oshawa, Ont., and former classmate, and Trenchard, a professor from La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. He wanted them to see firsthand what A Better World was doing in Kenya, the country where it all began.

The four men met at the Lacombe university in the mid-to late 1980s. Trenchard was teaching religious studies when he met three students who would become his friends.

Rajah, Leavitt, and Ryan graduated with bachelor's degrees in religious studies. At one time, all wanted to become pastors. Leavitt was a chaplain for some time at CUC.

"I felt I wanted to become a pastor, but I didn't get a job," said Rajah. "I was talking to Warren [one day], and he said that not everybody was called to preach at the pulpit, but everyone was called to serve."

Ryan could tell early on that Rajah had a servant's heart. "There was this guy with long hair and a beard who had a guitar he wanted to sell. Eric didn't want a guitar any more than a man on the moon [would want one], but Eric purchased it just so he could give him [this guy] some money."

As the years went on, the four kept in touch, some more than others, depending on where they lived. Trenchard stayed with Rajah's family while visiting his mother in Lacombe. Rajah visited with Ryan while attending meetings at the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Oshawa.

Leavitt and Rajah continued to build A Better World Canada to where, 24 years later, it now serves in 16 countries.

Then last year Rajah decided it was time to hold another trip where he could gain valuable perspective on a range of

projects, from school improvements to water and sanitation. He wanted a more in-depth look at the impact on communities. Trenchard's insight was key. After all, he handles United States donations for A Better World. He also teaches business, plus he's taken students on humanitarian trips.

"His wife had recently died and she had left some money to do a project," said Rajah. "We thought he could come and pick a project."

Ryan has strong ties within the Adventist community, so it was good for him to see what was happening on the ground and report back. Leavitt had been to Kenya twice before and is the project director for Kenya. He was able to show Trenchard and Ryan some of the challenges that A Better World Canada is facing, along with its successes.

"I've always had an interest in reaching out," said Leavitt. Ryan and Trenchard were both impressed by what their friends, with the help of countless volunteers, had accomplished. Ryan wants to support projects in two communities; Trenchard remains committed to what he calls a great model of community development and empowerment. As for Rajah, he was glad they came along, first for their expertise as well as for having the chance to reconnect. ■

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

Empowering Young Leadership



During the summer I volunteered to serve as the camp pastor for junior camp at Mountain View Summer Camp, in Hope, B.C. I had ulterior motives. Two of my children, aged 10 and 9, would be campers for the first time, and I wanted to keep a watchful eye on them and see how the camp staff would measure up.

Mountain View Summer Camp is surrounded by pristine mountains; British Columbia is indeed God's country. The camp is ideally situated along the Fraser River, home of the world famous salmon runs, bears, and the occasional cougar. My friend and colleague, youth director Brian Wahl has been running this camp for over a decade. He has a reputation for hiring world-class staff to run the day-to-day activities and fostering an environment where kids can experience God's grace. I wanted to see if all this was really true.

I arrived to camp one hour early. I wanted to observe the last-minute hustle, the countdown to when parents show up. How do staff and counsellors really act before the customers arrive? As I stood in the registration line with my children, my heart sank. *Am I getting old, or do these counsellors look too young to be caring for my kids?* I wondered. I learned later that all but two hired staff members are

college aged, many of whom attend Canadian University College. During my youth I had spent seven years working at summer camp in the United States. I was interested to see how these young people would compare.

During my week at camp, I observed the young-adult staff members with a watchful eye. I watched how they interacted with children, especially after a long 12-hour day. What I observed was God's graciousness and patience displayed each day. I was privy to private conversations that took place in the confines of the staff lounge. These young adults supported one another by writing notes of encouragement and playing youthful pranks to keep each person's spirits motivated. I saw them volunteer to pray for one another and meet every morning and evening for devotions, making Jesus the priority in their life.

These faithful young-adult Seventh-day Adventist Christians worked tirelessly to ensure every child had a fun-filled day. These young people are leaders. They oversaw the administration, activities, and worship planning, and mentoring on a daily basis.

I began to wonder, *Who are these young adults in the local church context?* Are these same young people being given the opportunity to minister on the front

lines in the local church? Do their pastors and elders know them by name and recognize the leadership they already possess?

We've been praying for many years for a generation to be raised up. They are here! Our prayers have been answered! I believe this generation of young adults are capable leaders who can take our church to new heights.

We don't need to wait for them to mature any longer. Let's give them the keys to leadership and mentor them *while* they are in positions of influence.

King Saul spent his life trying to block God's anointed leader, David, from taking his inevitable place on the throne.

It is time for the young people in our church to lead us now. Let us not wear them down, by throwing spears and hunting them down so they hide in the crevices and caves of our church as King Saul did with the youthful David. Rather, let us be the first to welcome them as our leaders and provide them with opportunities to serve now. ■

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



I See You



Words by God —Luke 10:25-37, NIV

Many of us have heard the story of the Good Samaritan, the story about the man who was walking along a road, got beaten up, and was left for dead. He lay there helpless, and no one would stop or even give him a second look. In fact, some even crossed to the other side of the road to avoid him! You would think that someone would lend a helping hand, get him cleaned up, and help him see a doctor, but everyone had a reason as to why it wouldn't be them.

We can throw out the idea that these people didn't know God and that's why they passed him by, but that just wasn't the case. The story says that one man walking by was a Christian leader in the church. Out of everybody, surely he would be the one to stop and help this hurting man, no?

I wonder how often we do the same thing. When we see someone who is going through a rough time and pass them by saying, "I'm just too busy; maybe if I had more time," or "Someone else will take care of it." I think our focus becomes internal instead of eternal—meaning that we focus on all the things that seem so important and urgent in our lives right now instead of staying tuned for what God may be trying to show us.

For instance, if someone is hungry or in need of warm clothes and we just brush them off by saying, "I hope you get some good food and find a nice jacket for the winter," but we have a few good coats at home that are collecting dust, and possibly some money in our pockets that could go for a sandwich, but don't do anything, what good are our words? "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17, NIV).

Let's take it even closer to home than that. What about the person who sits down the pew from you? Or a neighbour who you know has been struggling with their health? We often pass by the obvious—maybe because we're too busy, don't want to intrude, or think someone else will be the one to help. But what if we are that someone whom God has strategically placed in their lives to not only recognize the situation but also to respond? Is He calling us to be the hands and feet of Christ to our fellow believers in hard times, not only to the homeless and the lost? "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18, NIV). ■

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 19 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



refresh with Tia



Watch "The Last Jesus" by Kirk Franklin on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/GUIBd8>





review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App: Bronte Vegetarian Cookbook

In Brief: The members of the Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church have compiled a small recipe book of vegetarian recipes and released it as an app. There are several categories of recipes, with a variety of recipes to match different tastes. The navigation in the app is easy to use, although sometimes it will glitch and not react on the first try. The recipes are well laid out and easy to read, and there is a Bible verse to accompany each recipe. The church plans to continue adding and building the content in the app, so the recipe selection should improve over time.

Wow Factor: A nice collection of vegetarian recipes, with the promise of more to come.

Meh Factor: The navigation could stand a little refinement.

Developed for: Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church

Price: Free

Works on: Android, iOS

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



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

prayer life

Distraction Laws and Christian Living

Jesus knew the importance of quiet and solitude ...

The Province of Alberta has the reputation of having some of the toughest distracted driving laws in North America. The average citizen is so attached to all the gadgets of our advancing technology that it seems he or she cannot do without them even while driving. Law enforcement has issued rules that govern our use of potentially distracting activities and devices while we drive.

Similarly, on the highway of life, our Lord gives guidance on the use of potential distractions. Through the apostle John, He warns against "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). He longs to have our hearts and minds focused on Him so He is magnified through us.

Jesus modelled the example when it comes to life's distractions. The Gospel of Mark records how Jesus, after a busy day, went out early in the morning to a "solitary place" and prayed (1:35). Jesus knew the importance of quiet and solitude in order to hear the voice of His Heavenly Father clearly.

I find the example of Jesus to be powerful for today's world. I like to have devotions early in the morning. However, sometimes the curiosity about an email or some other news attraction steals

first place. I find that when I get to my devotions after the distraction, it is hard to get back to a clear mind to worship God.

How do we navigate through the clutter of life and keep our hearts and minds focused on God?

One thing that has helped me each day is to take an audit of my experience from the previous day. The prayer of Psalms 139:23, 24 is helpful: "Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." God answers that prayer to help us keep Him as Lord and Master of our lives and not be slaves to the distractions and intrigue that the world provides. Anything that is diminishing our spiritual life needs to be submitted to Him for His superintendence.

Yes, Jesus has His warnings and counsel regarding distractions on the highway of life. We want to stay safe in Jesus. Let's endeavor to keep our attraction and affections focused on Him. ■

Donald Corkum is prayer ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.



September 2014

15

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

My soon-to- retire friend Pastor Brian Hawes has left a significant mark on so many people's lives. Here is a story of how he made an impression on Colleen Page and her husband, Cam, who in turn have impacted a multitude of others. Colleen's office is just down the hall from mine, and she has one of the greatest spirit-filled attitudes I've ever met. Now you can meet her as well.



Cam, Colleen, Dani and Spencer Page

EDITOR: *Where did you grow up?*

COLLEEN: I was born in Simcoe, Ont., but grew up in Prince Albert, Sask.

EDITOR: *What did you take in school, and where else have you worked?*

COLLEEN: I received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Saskatchewan and worked for two years at Mamawi Atosketan Native School in Alberta. I

later worked as the production scheduler and shipper for a furniture factory.

EDITOR: *How did you become an Adventist?*

COLLEEN: My husband, Cam, was having an ongoing debate with his friends from work about the Bible. Some of these discussions would go on late into the night, and none of the guys really knew what they were talking about.

During this time, my father-in-law had surgery and was in the hospital. As I was visiting with him, an Adventist

pastor came in to see how he was doing. I was so impressed with how “normal” this pastor was. I was very comfortable with him. We talked and laughed and just had an enjoyable visit. I felt he would not judge me even if he knew me better. After this meeting, I suggested to Cam that this pastor would be the right person to study the Bible with. That way, Cam could get more knowledge in order to beat his friends in their debates. Little did we realize that those studies would completely change the direction of our lives and that Pastor Brian Hawes would become a lifelong friend and colleague. About 18 months after we were baptized, we moved to Lacombe, Alta., where Cam started a religious studies degree at CUC.

EDITOR: *As a pastoral team, where did you and your husband serve?*

COLLEEN: We started our ministry in the Hudson Bay, Sask., and Swan River, Man., churches. Andrews University was our next stop, and we spent two years there while Cam completed his M.Div. We then moved to Brandon, Man., where we pastored the Brandon and Erickson churches. We received a call to the New Life church in Oshawa, Ont., in 2003, and we served there for nine and a half years. Our next move was to Florida, where we pastored the Apopka church for about 16 months.

At that point, Cam was feeling very impressed that it was time to make some changes. He was personally challenged by his doctoral work to spend more time ministering to those outside the church who need to feel Christ’s love in their lives. He decided to take a break from pastoral ministry, and we moved back to Canada. We were uncertain as to what the next steps would be, but we trusted that God would show us in His time. It was a difficult decision, but we knew it was the right one.

EDITOR: *What is your husband doing now?*

COLLEEN: Cam is working as a chaplain in a health care facility where he has the opportunity to minister to people from all faiths, backgrounds, and walks of life. At the same time, he is taking Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) classes so he can get his chaplaincy certification.

EDITOR: *What advice would you offer a family who is thinking about making a major change in their path?*

COLLEEN: Hold on to God and to one another. Talk about your doubts and fears and keep bringing them to the Lord. Support and encourage and love one another always. Changes can be very difficult and painful but can

also open the door to unexpected blessings.

EDITOR: *Tell me about your kids.*

COLLEEN: Our son, Spencer, is 16 and going into his senior year of high school at Kingsway College. Our daughter, Dani, is 14 and going into Grade 10, also at Kingsway. Both Spencer and Dani are creative types—intelligent, funny, and slightly eccentric at times. Spencer is very outgoing and is an amazing writer and artist. Dani is a free spirit with an excellent eye for fashion and design. They are people of good character, and we are very proud of them.

EDITOR: *How long have you been at the SDACC and in what role?*

COLLEEN: I work in the building of the SDACC, but I am actually employed by General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS). I was hired about 10 years ago when we first came to Oshawa. GCAS provides (excellent!) audit services to Adventist entities worldwide, but our office serves the entities within Canada. I am the administrative assistant to the auditors.

EDITOR: *What do you enjoy most about your job?*

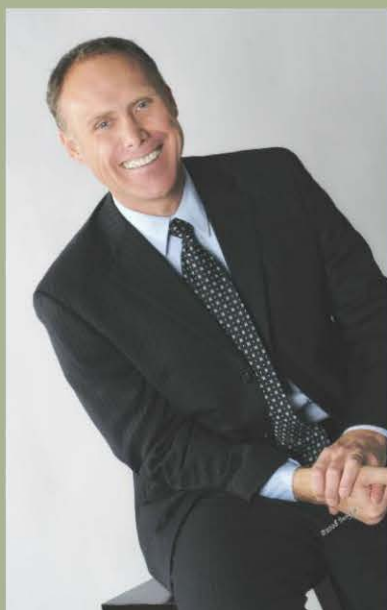
COLLEEN: I am always learning, which is important to me, and I love the people I work with, both colleagues and clients. Plus, I get immense satisfaction from producing a good-looking, error-free financial statement. Yeah, I’m kind of geeky like that.

EDITOR: *Do you have a favourite Bible verse that you would like to share with Messenger readers?*

COLLEEN: Proverbs 3:5, 6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” (NIV).

I really love this text because it reminds me that I don’t have to see the end of the path. I don’t have to understand everything I encounter along the path. I need to trust. When I meditate on these words, I feel a weight lifted off my shoulders because I remember that it is the God of the universe who is in control and He’s got this. ■

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



barry's blog

"...a condemnatory method doesn't work. It does not win friends or influence people; rather, it repels them."

The "Tiggy" Effect

My wife and I were coming back from our morning walk when we saw that one of our two cats was about to walk onto the road in order to meet us. A car was approaching at a high rate of speed. Playing the role as hero, I immediately lunged for the cat. Tiggy, being a feline, characteristically did the opposite of what I wanted: he bolted away and landed in the middle of the road. By now the car was closing in on us.

"Let's just stay calm," I whispered, recognizing that my first bombastic approach did not work. With the roar of the car in the background, I got down on one knee and gently called, "Here, Tiggy. Come, Tiggy, come on, boy." Tiggy, so named because our children thought that his stripes made him look like a tiger—albeit about 1/100th of the size, responded to the new approach and made his way to my embrace. As I lifted him up and turned to walk away, the car sped by. Tiggy was oblivious to the danger that he had just escaped.

It occurred to me that often the approaches we, as religiously motivated people, use to "save people from

hellfire" are not all that much different from the way I initially approached Tiggy. We are anxious about the salvation of our loved ones—or even of the stranger. Our desire is that they be saved when Jesus comes again. Metaphorically speaking, we lunge for them. However, such earnest appeals are often met with disgust and revulsion. The prospective converts prefer to be left alone in their own space free from what they perceive to be the obnoxious behaviour of the religious zealots trying to save them.

Those of us who have worked in the field of religious freedom for the Adventist Church have seen firsthand the effects of aggressive evangelistic practices. The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department (PARL), of which I was once a part, is what I call the "diplomatic corps" of the church. I see its role as ensuring that there are cordial relations between the church and the civic and government officials. Such relations are crucial if the work of the church is to go forward in any given area.

That said, you can imagine the struggle for the PARL team when an evangelist or other preacher comes to town with an earnest message that condemns those outside of the church who have not accepted the light as the preacher understands it. Unfortunately, in many cases the preacher will overtly identify names of religious communities in his exhortation. The evangelist expects members of those identified communities who are sitting in the audience to be aroused to the rightness of the message and “come out of Babylon!” Suddenly, they are told not only that their entire way of living and beliefs are wrong but also that they are going to face hellfire if they do not follow the “truth” (now that they have been told the “truth”).

Such preachers often justify this manner of spiritual abuse as follows: “Some people say my message is harsh and that I have to show more love. But friends, think about that, we could love people right into hellfire!”

We know that such a stance does not properly represent our message. However, our enemies will point to the offbeat messenger who preaches condemnation rather than to our message of hope and love. We have to accept the reality that there are those who set up the Adventist straw man to suit their purpose of knocking it down and thereby discrediting the church. The argument goes, “See, this is who they are and what they stand for! If they are wrong here on this point, then why would I bother to give them any attention for the other matters they claim are important.”

This is not only an Adventist phenomenon; it is common in all kinds of faith and non-religious communities. Other evangelical communities, for example, have suffered the same fate. Secularists create the straw man labels of the “holy rollers” or “religious extremists” to belittle or condemn an entire religious community for their unpopular beliefs. What is the net effect? Conversation stops. It creates further distance between people and increases the chances for misunderstanding. If the struggles in our world tell us anything, it is that we need more talking with and amongst one another rather than against one another.

It was my privilege to meet Pastor Randy Roberts at the Newfoundland campmeeting this summer. He informed me that the Loma Linda University Church, where he is the pastor, has a very strict policy, namely, that under no circumstances does any preacher in his pulpit speak a disparaging word against another religious group. It seems to me that all of us ought to follow this example and develop a culture of respect toward those

who disagree with our religious understandings.

Throughout my career I have met many different religious leaders—Roman Catholic archbishops; Latter-day Saints representatives; Salvation Army officers of various ranks, including territorial commanders; Anglican bishops; Mennonite bishops; Hindu priests; Zoroastrian leaders; Muslim imams; Ahmadiyya (Islamic) leaders; Bahá’í leaders; and the list goes on. Throughout my engagements with them, despite the theological differences, we were able to meet and discuss areas of mutual concern. At times the meetings may have gotten heated, but they were respectful, and conversations continue—they don’t stop.

The problem with condemning another person’s religious view may be summed up as follows:

First, as a follower of Christ I understand Christ’s method not to condemn. The woman at the well in John 4 is but one example. In that example, Christ was able to minister to her entire village because of His loving approach;

Second, a condemnatory method doesn’t work. It does not win friends or influence people; rather, it repels them;

Third, it destroys the goodwill of fellow religious communities and leads to unnecessary prejudice.

Fourth, it makes it difficult to work with government officials, policy makers, and opinion leaders in a given community.

All of this does not mean that we are to compromise our religious truth in any way. We have been called by God to proclaim the “Elijah message” for our time. It is our burden as a faith community. However, we must preach that message in the spirit of Christ’s approach to attract and invite others, not to repel them. As the saying goes, “It is not so much what I am served; it is how I am served.” A harsh condemning spirit, even if done as a means of “helping” people, will drive the receiver in the “road” to on-coming traffic. Being humble, reaching out with a loving and gentle spirit, will be more persuasive and effective. We attract bees with honey, not vinegar. ■

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

Calling All Gardeners

A nomadic herdsman learns a new skill



Byambadulam was raised as a traditional Mongolian, with an emphasis on herding. Her nomadic lifestyle revolved around her family's cattle, sheep, and goats, and they moved with the herds each spring and winter. Sadly, her family's fortunes were erased in a severe dzud, or harsh winter, that killed off most of their livestock. With no food or income to rely on, she was forced to leave the steppes and move to the city.

With no permanent location and Mongolia's cold northern climate, Byambadulam had never learned how to grow and tend a garden. However, given her plight, she tried to learn some gardening skills. At first, her efforts were unsuccessful, but when ADRA came to her neighbourhood, her green thumb really began to grow!

Now, Byambadulam works as a reference gardener for ADRA Mongolia and is in charge of 10 households. A reference gardener is someone who has been trained in gardening and who can show others how to grow vegetables. The reference gardener is also responsible for distributing tender vegetable seedlings to ADRA program participants. The seedling must be sheltered in a greenhouse through the first frigid month and a half of springtime in Mongolia. In June the seedlings are transplanted into other greenhouses and gardens and eventually bear a full and delicious crop of vegetables to feed families or be sold at the market.

Byambadulam has asthma and diabetes, but she loves working in her garden. Although her illness prevents her from taking regular work outside her home, she is more than able to move about her garden at her own pace, tenderly caring for her plants. She enjoys the healthy air, the feel of the dirt in her hands, and the sense of growing prosperity in her backyard.

Even though she is a volunteer, she takes her responsibility seriously. Each reference gardener in the MEAL project is paid \$3 per month to cover their communication costs. Communication is key to the success of the MEAL project: participants and trainers hold regular meetings and often form close friendships.

Byambadulam has applied her ADRA gardening skills to her own private garden and now earns a meager income by selling some of her own seedlings in local markets. She also supplies lettuce and spinach to a local restaurant, thanks to the ADRA greenhouse she has built.

Byambadulam is no slacker—before ADRA came along, she had tried to build her own greenhouse. Although her efforts weren't successful, she was happy to apply her experience to the MEAL project. On her own, she doubled the growing space in the greenhouse by adding simple shelving. "My ADRA greenhouse works," she beams. "Now, I have extended the growing season by one and a half months!"

"I'm happy that ADRA has taught me how to use my hasha [plot of land] and that they are educating the people. Already, many of my neighbours want to come and register in this program!"

Thanks to your support of ADRA Canada, Byambadulam and her family are no longer so vulnerable to the severe winters of Mongolia. Because of you, their lives are better! Thank you for your continued support of the MEAL project and ADRA's work around the world. For more information, or to donate, please visit www.adra.ca/projects/meal. ■

Ryan Wallace is a communications specialist at ADRA Canada.



When God Speaks



MAKE MONEY. BUY A CAR. These were the two main reasons why I found myself in the province of Alberta, with the prospect of many weeks of door-knocking ahead of me. I was brand new to the world of literature evangelism, and I doubted I would be very successful at it. Still, my purpose kept me motivated, and on May 16, I arrived in Calgary.

When I first set foot in Alberta, I reflected on my reasons for coming, and a new idea came to me. "Maybe, God has brought me here for a specific purpose," I thought and, for the first time since I had made my plans, decided to get on my knees and pray. I asked God to show me what He wanted me to do, and to reveal to me His purpose for bringing me here.

Around this time I had been thinking about what direction to take in terms of a career, and, to my surprise, the idea of theology came to me. I wasn't sure what to make of this idea, so I spoke with a good friend of mine about it. "Pray about it," he said, and right then, I took his advice. Kneeling down, I asked God to show me if this was the direction He wanted me to take.

The next day I went out to knock on doors, and almost from the very beginning, it was rough. Normally on difficult days, I move between doors as quickly as possible, ringing doorbells once, listening for just a few seconds for footsteps, and quickly proceeding to the next door if I hear nothing.

I approached one specific door and rang the bell. I heard nothing but was impressed to ring again, so I did. Still nothing. After a few seconds, I began to go to the next house, when a man came to the door. I turned around, saw him, and laughed saying, "Oh, I'm sorry,

sir. I thought you were sleeping or that you were not home. How are you?" With that, I launched into my presentation.

In the middle of my speech, the man interrupted me and began to ask me question after question.

"What do you believe? ... Who do you believe God is? ... Do you believe in angels?"

I answered every question truthfully, and at the end, the man told me he was a pastor. To that I said, "Well, you know, sir, I just prayed about becoming a pastor last night." He replied, "Do it. Become a pastor. We need more young men today to tell people what they believe and why." He then invited me inside. I had five books in my hand, and he decided to buy them all, so he went and got his cheque book and returned with two cheques. One of the cheques had the amount for the five books. The other was for \$250, and on it he had written my name, Lorenzo Rolle. At the bottom of the cheque, he wrote, "Study Theology."

I cried as I took the two cheques. Never had I heard God speak so clearly in directing my path. That event marked the beginning of a wonderful summer and a life of ministry in which I allowed God to lead and take control. Through that experience I learned something very important. When we surrender our hearts and our lives to God, and determine to serve Him, He shows us the path He desires for us to take and guides us every step of the way. ■

Lorenzo Rolle is a Canada Youth Challenge missionary in Alberta.



Photo: Afia Donkor

Almost Vegan

In late 2011 I became a volunteer for the newest chapter of the Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) program, held at our church. I didn't hold babies or entertain toddlers. Instead, I rolled up my sleeves, entered the kitchen, and emerged week after week with freshly baked vegan muffins. Banana nut, pumpkin spice, pineapple coconut, zucchini walnut—all were made to treat the moms as they laughed, learned, and shared the joys and struggles of motherhood together for two hours every two weeks. Now, a MOPS favourite: blueberry muffins. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ cup oil
- ½ cup non-dairy milk
- ¾ cups brown sugar, packed
- 2 small- to medium-sized sweet apples (not tart)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups blueberries (fresh or frozen)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Combine flours and baking powder in a large bowl, mix well, and add blueberries.
- Remove apple cores and place in a blender, skin and all. To the blender, add oil, milk, sugar, salt, and vanilla. Blend until smooth.
- Line a muffin tin with paper liners and spray liners with oil. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Pour blended mixture into bowl of flour and blueberries and gently mix just until no white flour remains. Do not overmix.
- Scoop ¼ cup of mixture into each muffin liner and bake muffins for 25 to 30 minutes or until tops of muffins are golden-brown and a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.
- Makes about 15 muffins.



Viviendo La Esperanza

18 al 25 de Octubre del 2014



Con Pastor Robert Costa

Para mayor informacion relacionado a la campaña, visite www.viviendolaesperanza.com



“Esta Escrito” con el Pastor Robert Costa
Sabados 10:30 am
TLN canales 28,35,780 y Canal Bell Satellite
Repeticion a la 1:30 pm por Cable Rogers canal 783

“Esta Escrito” y “Temas de Reflexion”
Domingos 1:00 pm
TLN canal 780





Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH Becky

*If someone gave you a million dollars,
what would you do with it?*

AT THE FREDERICTON AND ZEALAND
CHURCHES IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Bonnie Estey: Help a lot of people. I would have a lot of fun helping as many as I could.
This would give me opportunities to share Jesus so much.

Ann McGiverty: Build a drop-in centre for kids with life skills/teachable materials.

Betty Brewer: Make my church larger, build a church school, and hire my son-in-law
as the teacher.



CHRONICLES of CAMBODIA

"This is real!" I remember my very first comment to Pastor Brian Wahl upon deplaning at Phnom Penh International Airport, peering through the windows of the tunnel leading from the aircraft to the terminal. The experience was simply surreal. I had now arrived in the country that was so familiar to me yet so incredibly foreign. Although I had never been here before, the significant role that the culture, traditions, and history of this place had played in shaping who I was did not escape me. This would be the beginning of a memorable adventure: my first mission trip.

The BC Conference youth department announced this mission trip in the Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church bulletin, and they could not have done so at a more ideal time. I was just months removed from graduating and envisioned myself travelling to Cambodia sometime within the next three years, though I hadn't decided with whom I would be going and what my purpose would be. Fortunately, those questions were swiftly answered for me as the opportunity arose to help serve ADRA Cambodia over the Christmas break.

My parents were born and grew up in Cambodia during perhaps the worst possible time historically. They endured incredible, unimaginable hardship in a span of just four years. I often say that it was definitely a full lifetime's worth of challenges and a true test of emotional, physical, and spiritual resilience. As far as I am concerned, anyone who has to go through something like that deserves to be waited on hand and foot for the rest of his or her life as recompense. They were thrust into dire circumstances as teenagers and forced to adapt; as a result, they were forced to grow up far too fast. Under the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979, currency, property, religion, literacy, and learning were abolished, leaving behind a deplorable long-term legacy. Those who broke rules or threatened the regime were tortured and killed, giving rise to the term *Killing Fields*. Two million people, namely, one-third of the population of the country, died from execution, exhaustion, starvation, or illness. Most were educated intellectuals—or were *suspected* to be; even wearing glasses was taken as incriminating evidence.

Young Cambodians who survived that period have commonly reported that they were driven from their urban homes into forced labour on communal farms. This occurred on an unprecedented, massive scale; for example, the capital city of Phnom Penh was evacuated and rendered an absolute ghost town. Once in the rural countryside, they were assigned to cultivating rice and digging to construct dikes. They worked before sunrise and into the darkness beyond sunset and kept going if there was enough moonlight that evening. Their work was also non-stop, meaning no breaks and no days off—ever. They were rationed a quarter cup of steamed rice with a small amount of soup as a meal, just twice a day. They were not allowed to forage for their own food, not even picking up fruit that may have already fallen to the ground. They could wear only black clothes, and there was to be no talking, no display of emotion (including sympathy for the plight of others), and no family ties.

Without a doubt, I would absolutely have fallen into that category of people whom the regime would have considered to be a threat. Given my life experience and personality traits, I feel I may have had a chance to blend in and be spared, but I do not have complete confidence in that. Whatever the case, thinking about the atrocities and intense hopelessness so many common, innocent people experienced during that period is rather distressing and unfathomable.

One of the first concepts that we had to wrap our minds around almost immediately upon arrival in Cambodia was what Pastor Brian liked to refer to as “man’s inhumanity to man.” Scheduled into our first day were visits to Tuol Sleng (the former torture prison that is now the Cambodian Genocide Museum) and Choeung Ek (the mass gravesite called “the Killing Fields”). We were given time to reflect and resolve for ourselves how all of this could possibly have happened. The theme I ended up fixated on was love or, more precisely, the lack of love. Having researched both of these notorious sites and their accompanying stories rather extensively while growing up, I was eager to finally get the chance to explore them myself. Likely due to the vast difference in the state of preservation of each site, I found that I did not really feel the strength of emotional connection at Choeung Ek that I did at Tuol Sleng. Regardless, it was astounding to survey the horrid aftermath of that period and quite incomprehensible trying to understand how the light of love could dim into such deep darkness.



1. Mission team and worshippers gathering for Sabbath services.
2. Pam Wahl and students playing games with local children.
3. Young children happily displaying their gifts from Canada.
4. David Ngan building rebar lattice work.
5. Valerian Rabello bonding with local youth.
6. Becky Blixrud, right, working with Cambodian staff at the Discovery Centre.

Given the opportunity to lead in a worship thought, I challenged all members of our group to consider how they could demonstrate or share love with the people whom we had come to serve during this mission trip. There was certainly no shortage of ways to accomplish this. We spent the majority of our time during this mission trip in Preah Vihear, a rural northern province, where we had the dual purposes of contributing manual labour to help upgrade an ADRA outdoor adventure training facility and conducting a children's village outreach ministry offsite. I am deeply grateful to my group members for the chance to have participated just about equally in both of these activities, allowing me to fully experience firsthand some of my ancestral culture as well as the physical work required in an ambitious short-term construction project.

The general framework for our village outreach program featured a sing-along, a puppet show focusing on health principles, group games and sports, and the distribution of donated toys, school supplies, and toiletries that we brought with us from Canada. I found a charming quality about these remote rural villages that we visited. For the most part untouched and uninfluenced by modern technology and popular culture, the people exuded a sense of unadulterated joy and simplicity of life. It was obvious that the children did not have much, but it was also evident that they felt they had enough and seemed content in their way of life. The greatest impact we made more likely came from the time we spent with them and the caring

we showed rather than what we gave them or even exactly what we did with them. For them, knowing that friends from a faraway place had come just to visit them was a joy and delight in and of itself.

Our worksite and humble living quarters were both located within the expansive Jombok Hoas Adventure Learning Center, which is essentially an outdoor high ropes course located in the midst of a jungle forest canopy. There we slept on the floors of treehouses and made do without the conveniences of running water or electricity on demand. What this meant in practical terms was that we bathed and hand-washed clothes using water that had been pumped into cisterns, and we had access to lighting and electrical outlets only during a specific window of time while the generator was running for a few hours each evening. The exception to this would be when power tools were needed for our work in the daytime, such as for planing the extremely dense wood or operating mechanical saws. Besides those power tools and a gas-powered cement mixer, the rest of the equipment and hand tools at our disposal were basic and necessitated more ingenuity and planning than may have been required if we had access to state-of-the-art equipment.

Our project was to construct a new multipurpose building on-site named the Discovery Center. Within our group, there was apparent joy both in serving and in creating something that would continue to serve the community once we left. The demanding physical labour ranged from assembling heavy logs and planks for the structure to mixing cement, transporting it



uphill, and then pouring it. In sickness and in health, I was proud to see each of our group members giving their all, putting forth a maximum effort as we worked alongside the staff of Jombok Hoas. Like many adult Cambodians, each staff member had been impacted by the Khmer Rouge directly or indirectly and had his or her own story to tell. It was an honour to be able to work with such courageous and determined individuals.

The final night at Jombok Hoas, I was able to have a deeply stirring moment of reflection. I sat on a bench alone in the middle of the night under the moonlight, flashlights off and cicadas in full, shrill chorus. I had come a long way from the panicked throwing of my headlamp to the ground in the washroom on one of the first nights. (Write me if you would like to hear that off-the-record story!) It was not a full moon, but as my eyes quickly adjusted to the darkness, I found that there was definitely enough moonlight available to easily make out the forest surroundings. I tried very hard to imagine what it might have been like just over 35 years ago to be forced to work so late through complete exhaustion and then go to bed in wet clothes with no assurance that I would survive for another 24 hours. Why would one be willing to endure such hardship and misery? The simple and seemingly obvious answer might be fear: a fear of death and a fear of the limitless hate of your oppressive captors. Surely for many, the circumstances were so dire and the outlook so bleak that the fear of death must have waned and suicide became a sincere consideration. However, I am confident that for some it was also faith and hope

that fueled the defiance to keep going: a relentless dedication to the belief that somehow and someday the situation could improve for them. For others, it must have been love: love of the life and times past or love of family and friends that might still have been alive.

I would like to propose that the absence of love was responsible for those atrocities committed against fellow human beings. I learned during this first mission trip that we are very much a product of time and place. I found it terribly heartrending that, more than three decades later, many people born into these decrepit circumstances and having nothing to do with that period are still picking up the pieces. We were able to go serve in Cambodia because we were fortunate to be born into exceptional conditions and an embarrassing amount of riches and blessings. It very easily could have been the other way around. During the Khmer Rouge rule of Cambodia, the mandate to love was lost through violent coercion and neglect. It would be shameful if Cambodians continued to forget how to love under our watch. Christ has shown us how to love one another, and we have a tremendous opportunity to pay it forward through involvement in and support of short-term missions and long-term development activities. Let's fulfill our mandate. ■

David Ngan is a biomedical scientist at the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation and a committee member of the Bellingham Human Rights Film Festival.

Closer together closer to God



Christina Lister

"Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see Him."

—C.S. Lewis

"OUR YOUTH HAVE THE POWER TO BE WHATEVER THEY CAN IMAGINE.

If they are positively encouraged on a daily basis, they will have no reservation in reaching their ultimate potential." Growing up with a support system is one of the things Christina Lister, development coordinator at Kingsway College, believes is an important aspect of the days of our youth.

Christina grew up in Ottawa, Ont., as an only child with her strongest support system, her mother. For most of grade school she had attended Crawford Adventist Academy, graduating in 2004. Following high school, she studied at Andrews University and Durham College, where she completed her business diploma in accounting. For eight years Christina held many roles at Camp Frenda as part of the kitchen staff, the swim dock, and program director. Through the years, her experience at camp helped her determine

what her true passion is: working with youth.

Even though Christina was so immersed in working with young people, she had a stable office job after college and had no intention of leaving her work. "It was God working through some staff that led me to Kingsway College, 100 percent!" At first, Christina says she was hesitant to consider working as the development coordinator. Like many of us who underestimate our abilities, she believed she did not meet the job qualifications Kingsway was looking for. However, in light of the fact that God can make the impossible possible, moments after her interview, she says, "I knew Kingsway was where God wanted me to be."

With courage and excitement, Christina said goodbye to her old job and was ready to start anew at Kingsway. Starting fresh always comes with change

and new beginnings. Christina had the privilege to be a sponsor for Campus Ministries, Aerials, and the senior class. The role of a sponsor is to be present, available, and supportive to the club and students. As a matter of fact, one of Christina's most memorable experiences was during spring break tour with the Aerials. The tour was a fantastic one overall, but the best part, according to Christina, was the tradition of "I See Jesus" on the last night of tour. The way the tradition works is that one team member shares his or her appreciation of another team member, who would then do the same for another member, and so on. When a student mentioned Christina's name, she says that she nearly cried because she was so touched by the student's words.

The tour was a highlight for Christina during her first year at Kingsway. As well, she was involved in other extracurricular activities. Getting to know students on a personal level allowed her to fulfill her passion. Her enjoyment of working closely with youth does not stop there. "It's simply saying hi or sharing a smile that could make someone's day," she says. Christina loves having her office open for students to just come in and talk. Sometimes she is the one who needs an encouraging word, and simple gestures like a smile or "How are you?" is all she needs to brighten her day.

Having grown up in Christian education, she appreciated the support that the faculty and staff had given her as a student. She says, "Giving students a strong foundation in academics, providing spiritual guidance, and building the power to think for themselves is what Christian education is all about." Being part of the Kingsway family has made it possible for her to return the support she saw in her teachers. Christina is very excited to see what this upcoming school year will be like. ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College



A Hidden Treasure in My Church's Backyard!

IMAGINE

Imagine that you are digging a hole in your backyard and all of a sudden you hit something hard. It is neither a rock nor a piece of metal. As you slowly and carefully begin to remove the dirt around it, you realize it's an old wooden box. Your muscles seem to purposefully overlook the fact that you have been working hard for almost three hours. You are already tired and sweaty. In fact, you had almost decided to forget about the project altogether. Now curiosity and excitement have provided an inexplicable source of strength and vigour.

What's inside? you ask yourself mentally as you continue to carefully clear the area around the box. All you need, all you want, is enough energy and dirt removed to be able to take it out. Right now this has become "the" project. Finally, it's out. *Should I open it?* you wonder. You timidly move your hand towards the box. Your fingers increase the pressure until a crack is open. As you slowly lift the lid, you can't believe what your eyes behold: a wooden chest full of golden coins and precious stones! Wow!

MY DISCOVERY

I have been an Adventist all my life. I have been in full time pastoral ministry for almost 15 years, but it wasn't until last year, when I became the youth director in Ontario, that I discovered a "treasure" in my church's backyard. This treasure is called Adventist Christian Fellowship ACF (formerly AMiCUS), or generally known by most as Campus Ministries. Of course, I had heard about Campus Ministries before, but I had never realized its incredible value, its paramount importance, and its unique strategic potential! *"What's so big and special about ACF that you call it a treasure?"* some may ask.

Consider the following trends/facts of the church in North America.

First, *a great number of our youth and young adults are leaving the church.* Period. You and I can argue about the reasons, whether they are methodological, or theological, or systemic, or whatever other category we may add to the list. The sad reality is that many of our youth and young adults are leaving the church (and God altogether).

Second, *in recent years we have been struggling as a church to fulfill the Great Commission in North America.* Simply put, we are not growing as fast as we would like or should. In fact, some have argued that if all the ethnic churches and members were removed from North America, the church's picture would be very gloomy.

Third, *many of our youth and young adults are not enrolled in our Adventist educational institutions.* For various reasons (financial, career of choice, etc.), thousands of Adventist young adults are choosing to attend public colleges and universities. This means that many of our young adults are shaping their values and making key lifelong decisions surrounded by a secular (and in many cases hostile-to-Christianity) environment.

"What does that have to do with anything?" Well, I suggest that in light of the three trends and facts shared above, it is time for us to seriously consider reaching into the "treasure" in our backyard. Though ACF may not be the panacea for all of our North American challenges, I think it is a great start.

IMAGINE AGAIN

What would happen if we had an ACF chapter in every secular campus attended by Adventist young adults? What if each of those chapters became a safe and relevant place for our young adults to (1) experience God, (2) grow spiritually, (3) enjoy meaningful Christian fellowship, and

(4) reach out to their surrounding community? What if we planted churches associated with ACF chapters, close to secular campuses, to intentionally serve and reach out to those college/university contexts? I am convinced that the three trends shared before would notice a significant difference for the better.

ACF IN CANADA

There are several ACF chapters across our nation.* In Ontario alone there are eight active chapters, and we hope to start more in the future. Each of these chapters involves several young adults who meet regularly for Bible studies and to plan various "in-reach" and outreach events and activities throughout the school year.

In closing: What can you and I do?

- Pray for the ACF ministry and especially for our young adults.
- Promote ACF in your church.
- Share the name of a student or students from your church planning to attend or already attending a secular college or university with the corresponding conference Youth/ACF director.
- If there is an ACF chapter in your area, talk to your pastor/church board and explore how you can partner with them.
- If there is a secular university in your area and you know of Adventist students attending, encourage them to start an ACF chapter.

Now you cannot say that no one told you about it. There is a treasure in our church's backyard! Celebrate it! Enjoy it! Promote it! ■

Gerardo Oudri is Youth/Young Adult / ACF director for the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Carlye Smedley

Parkview Profiles

"Every school focuses on social life or academics, but here at PAA you can have both."



Carlye Smedley, right.

For Carlye Smedley, life is a lot like her recent volleyball season with the Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) Panthers: things are rough, and then they get good.

"Before the Walla Walla trip, we lost every season game," she remembers. "But then travelling on the bus together down to the tournament gave us a chance to become better friends, which helped us with our communication, and then our game got better, too." As their confidence increased, so did their skills, and as Carlye's experience brought her to PAA, she began to see how fulfilling an abundant life could really be.

Watching the smiling girl with the bouncing curls from Coal Harbour, B.C., one would never imagine that in her young, teenaged life she has been tested for three kinds of cancer and sleeps in a brace. At the age of eight, Carlye was diagnosed with scoliosis and kept up with regular doctors' appointments in Calgary every time she grew. Staying active was the only way to stay strong, which explains why she is rarely seen sitting down at PAA.

Carlye came to PAA for Grade 10 after completing the first nine years of her schooling at the Adventist school in Port Hardy, B.C. Of church school, she says, "My parents wouldn't let me go anywhere else." Compared to Avalon Academy, PAA felt big. "There are more than 10 kids in my class," Carlye shares, "but I never expected to make as many friends as I did."

Friendships were formed over lifts and routines when Carlye tried out for the PAA/CUC Acros. Being a part of the exclusive gymnastics club helped Carlye meet people outside of PAA. Because of her time on the team, she proudly says, "I now have a campus family!"

Carlye also became very close with the other girls who played on PAA's volleyball team. Between drills and spikes, they shared stories and laughter with their volunteer father-figure and coach, Luke Heimann. "He helped us understand that teams are about more than just competition. They're about the relationships and spiritual growth." These two admirable aspects of school on the Hilltop have characterized Carlye's first year at PAA.

"Sports and athletic teams here have such a positive environment, but they are just one of the reasons PAA is good for students," Carlye says. "I've really seen God working through all of the worship we have here on campus." Back home on Vancouver Island, Carlye was one of the only young people to participate in praise and worship. Here, she is one of many who contribute to the variety of extracurricular music ministries. "Music has such a special way of connecting people to God," she says, and being part of the campus teams, whether for music or for sports, has helped Carlye grow.

She heard about PAA in her Grade 9 year at the Flag Football Tournament in British Columbia with the Federation of Christian Athletes. PAA brought a team to the games, but they were short a few players and needed to borrow teammates from other schools. Carlye volunteered and ended up winning alongside her future classmates.

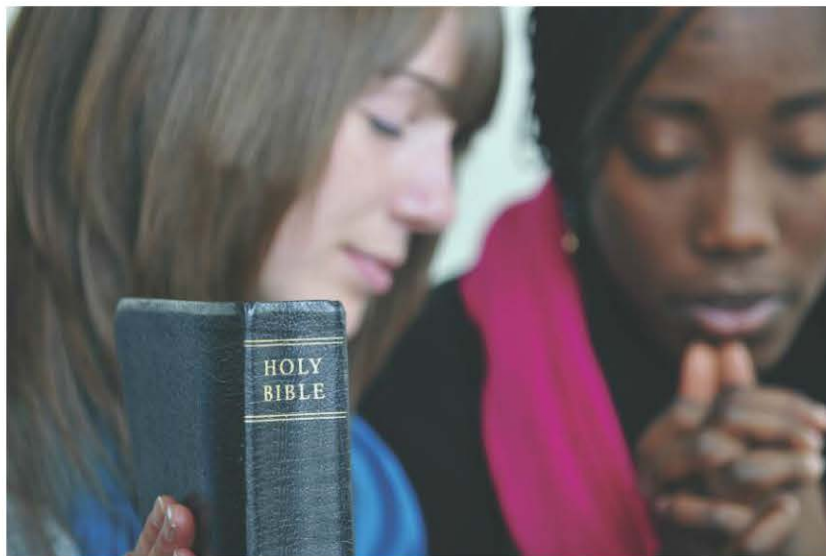
"Every school focuses on social life or academics, but here at PAA you can have both," Carlye shares. She has worked hard for good grades, even though she still travels to Calgary for medical attention every six months. Between course work and check-ups, Carlye has had to balance being independent of her family. "Figuring out schedules and everything was a little tough, but I made lots of friends who helped keep me on track."

Whether a student comes from a large community or a smaller environment, PAA's programs are designed to create opportunities for success. Carlye's experience is a testament to the tangible and spiritual benefits of Adventist education at PAA. Her year filled up with "cool teams, woodworking, praise bands, art, and friends who share the same interests—I mean, friends you can actually spend the day with" (and with whom you can look forward to spending eternity together!).

As Carlye says, "You can get a diploma anywhere, but at PAA you can make friendships for life and get to know God. That is worth it." ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the communications assistant at Parkview Adventist Academy.

Education and Character Transformation



Dictionary.com defines *education* as “the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.” This definition describes education in intellectual terms only. But Adventists have a more comprehensive view of education.

We see education not simply as the development of the mind for successful living in society but as a holistic process involving the mind, body, and spirit. This process is captured beautifully by Ellen White, the founder of our educational system, in her classic definition of education as “the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers.”¹ Furthermore, she views the work of education as a transformational process specifically aimed at the development of character, the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.

Character development is primarily

influenced by spiritual values; hence, much attention is spent on the spiritual development of our children. The more the character is refined, the more it reflects the image and character of Christ. Individuals with transformed characters demonstrate their love for Jesus without fear or embarrassment. The following story provides evidence that spiritual and character development are at the heart of our educational system and that our students are influenced by what we teach and model.

It was 8:10 on a Monday morning in May 2012 when two teenagers approached me in the hallway of a Seventh-day Adventist academy in the southern United States. When they saw me looking curiously at the display of pictures in the hallway, the younger of the two girls interrupted me by saying, “Excuse me, but are you visiting our school for the first time?” I responded in the affirmative. She then said, “Well,

how can we help you? Whom do you wish to see?”

I told her that I was there to participate in the evaluation of their school and that I was awaiting other members of the Visiting Committee.

“Where did you come from?” she asked.

“Canada,” I replied.

“Canada!” they exclaimed in unison, surprised that someone would come from a country outside of the United States to evaluate their school. Then the unexpected happened. The older of the two girls said to me very politely, “Do you mind if we pray with you?”

I was caught by surprise. It was not the nature of the question that surprised me. I knew that character and spiritual development are germane to the educational development of our children. What surprised me was the calm confidence and pleasant demeanor of the two student ambassadors who were not ashamed to witness for Jesus.

My heart melted with satisfaction as I listened to the prayer that was offered in the busy hallway of the school. At the conclusion of the prayer, the students shook my hand, wished me a good day, and hurried off to their classroom.

I shared my experience with members of the evaluation team before settling down for business. They were impressed, and we agreed to give the school administration and faculty a special commendation for creating a school environment that was truly transformational in nature.

Concerning character development, Ellen White states, “Character building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now.”²

This statement is particularly relevant to the times in which we live. Our schools must be known not only for their intellectual achievements but also for being agents of transformation, where students’ characters are developed and refined and where they can find hope and experience a growing relationship with Jesus. ■

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

1 Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1952), 9.
2 Ibid., 225.

3 STEPS TO FIGHT HUNGER

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

A New Adventist Asks

QUESTION: Before my Seventh-day Adventist experience, I attended another Protestant church that focused essentially on Christ, grace, faith, and the Bible as central aspects of salvation. I can affirm that somehow I was happy, joyful, and had a very positive attitude in life. However, after my discovery of the Sabbath truth, I joined the Adventist Church. It seems to me that, even though we have similar views on salvation, I hear, especially during Sabbath school discussions, that danger is everywhere. I see the influence of the enemy in all aspects of life (e.g., Masonic symbols, architectural elements, the mark of the beast, religious leaders manipulating the world, etc.), and as a result, in some way I have lost my peace. I'm still very attached to my new identity, but is the Seventh-day Adventist perspective compatible with quietness, tranquility, and peace of mind? What is the advantage of knowing so many things and at the same time losing my peace? Is Paul wrong when he underlines that when we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

new member

THANK YOU FOR THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION. First, congratulations on your decision and for the courage to follow God's will after you learned of the Sabbath truth.

What you have described—the discussions that arise in your Sabbath school class—is not characteristic of the Seventh-day Adventist identity in particular. The topics you mentioned relate to various conspiracy theories held by many people (from across different denominations and faiths) who fixate on end-time events and, unfortunately, by some Adventists who have lost sight of the main message proclaimed by our church as described in the three angels' messages.

Through the beautiful text of Revelation 14, we promote hope and wholeness to the entire world, the end of suffering (i.e., "the hour of judgment has come"), the elimination of evil, the patience of the saints, righteousness by faith, the insufficiency of human solutions (the fall of Babylon), the great controversy between good and evil, authentic worship, the right vision of God as Creator, etc. But we don't advertise fear. Fear is not the right channel to promote who God is. Our heavenly Father is love, and perfect love casts out fear from our lives.

Those who disseminate conspiracy theories and want to make them compatible with our message forget that knowledge of Masonic symbols has nothing to do with the message of salvation. There is no conspiracy strong enough to defeat those who are attached to God. Think about Daniel and his friends. King Nebuchadnezzar did everything possible to create favourable conditions for the citizens of his kingdom to force them to bow down in front of his statue. The idol was very impressive, made of gold; the ceremony was organized with care without neglecting any detail; the music was specifically chosen to influence the worshippers to venerate the new deity; punishment was prepared in advance to show people that the matter was very serious. In the narrative of Daniel 3, you can find all the elements of a remarkable conspiracy. But when someone is attached to his God, when someone knows how powerful his God is, the conspiracy is ineffective. This is why Daniel's friends declared with authority, "God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace" (Dan. 3:17, NKJV).

Our advice to you is to stay strongly attached to all aspects of our 28 fundamental beliefs. They underline a beautiful harmony of the biblical truth that will encourage you during your journey. Of course, difficult times can come. But in all circumstances we know that "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7, NKJV).

As you know God's plan for this planet and for your life, we are sure that you will add to the quietness, joy, and happiness that you mentioned in your question, some other essential elements in order to live a fulfilled life. You will add hope and everything described in Galatians 5:22, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (NKJV).

We wish that all of your days be filled with the fruit of the Spirit as you live in anticipation for Jesus' soon return. ■

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



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

British Columbia

Ordination at Campmeeting in Hope, B.C.

On the Sabbath of July 26, at the annual British Columbia Campmeeting in Hope, Robert Rud, Josue Molina, and Stevan Mirkovich were ordained to the gospel ministry.

Robert Rud (Jacquelyn)



Robert and Jacquelyn Rud with Mark Finley.

In 1991, both Robert and his wife, Jacquelyn, accepted the Lord. Robert now lives in Nanaimo, and he pastors the Nanaimo and Port Alberni churches along with the Parksville and Harbourview companies. Robert is a 1999 graduate from CUC and was mentored by Pastor Ken Schander. Robert's mission is to communicate a clear picture of God's character so that others will come to love our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Josue Molina (Tammy)

Josue's pastoral experience began in the year 2000 (as student pastor), and he graduated at the Central America Adventist University in Costa Rica (2004). In 2011, Josue and Tammy moved to British Columbia and currently serve in the Cranbrook and Creston churches. He was mentored by Pastor Wesley Torres, and his mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and His soon return and to equip church members to fulfill the great commission.



Josue and Tammy Molina with Mark Finley.

Stevan Mirkovich (Vesna)



Stevan and Vesna Mirkovich with Mark Finley.

Stevan started his ministry in 2005, after graduating from Canadian University College. In 2008, Stevan and Vesna moved to British Columbia and currently serve the Cornerstone church, located in Coquitlam. Steven was mentored by the late Pastor Manuel Silva and Pastor Ken Schander, and his mission is that everyone would come to know our self-sacrificing King and His peaceable Kingdom. ■



It's All About Jesus

Do you want to move beyond religious theory into a deeper walk with Jesus? Just like Nicodemus of the Bible wanted to know God, the All About Jesus seminars helped members of the Vernon church understand that a personal relationship with Jesus is the very substance of the Christian life.

Presenters Lee and Marji Venden kept the audience (adults and children alike) captivated on how to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and how to become a contagious Christian.

We were given very tangible, practical suggestions on how we could develop a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus. Long-time members of the church were particularly excited as they caught fresh glimpses of Jesus ■.

—Jill Rhynard, communication secretary,
Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church

Alberta

Perspectives



Pastors Lyle Notice, Terrence Horrell,
and Roberson Dorelus.

The newly minted youth pastor Roberson Dorelus hails from Haiti by way of Florida. After graduating from Canadian University College last year he has settled in Edmonton as the youth pastor of the West Edmonton church.

The first encounter I had with Dorelus was during his senior year at CUC in the physical education centre. He was respectful yet jovial and had a big smile

that could brighten up the world. I specifically remember a conversation in which he mentioned that when he was living in Florida, he would organize and plan large-scale events for youth; and he shared his big ideas and colourful vision for youth ministry here in Alberta.

It was only several months later that Dorelus would turn his ideas into reality. “Perspectives” is what he chose to call this creative initiative, which ran for an entire week and concluded on Sabbath. The week included presentations focused on topics for young men, such as How to Dress Like a Gentleman, How to Take Care of Your Hair, Table Manners and Etiquette, Personal Fitness, How to Achieve Dreams and Goals, Self-esteem /Self-worth, How to Love the Skin You’re In, and Career Perspectives. Representatives from Canadian University College, Walla Walla University, Oakwood University, and Andrews University came out to share information about options in Adventist higher education.

Sitting in on a personal fitness presentation, Desiree, a personal trainer, spoke to the group of over 20 young men and stated, “If you don’t have self-worth, self-esteem, and self-confidence, you won’t get too far in life, but once you develop a healthy dose, you will be more successful in life.”

One evening as Dorelus and the young men sat around discussing the challenge of absentee fathers, Kirk Thomas gave an empowering and heartfelt speech about why the church is so important to the lives of young men at this point. Thomas is a successful young adult who survived the struggles of a challenging neighbourhood and has attended West Edmonton church since childhood.

That week there was much fellowship, much food, and much basketball. Hoops were set up in the parking lot of the church; at one point local youth from the community came to join us. After attending the youth week at West Edmonton church, I started looking at evangelism differently, from a new perspective. Jesus says that He came to give life—and life more abundantly. Part of the gospel is that Jesus is our Lord and personal Saviour, but the other part is the good news that Christ came to give us a better life now, not only in eternity.

“Perspectives” was all about seeing the gospel from different points of view. From my perspective, it’s *be the change you wish to see in the world*. ■

—Lyle M. Notice, associate
youth director,
Alberta Conference

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

Reaching Out with CHIP: Changing Our lives, Changing the Lives of Others

Every second two people die. That's a staggering 172,800 people per day worldwide. Many die never knowing Jesus, and many die from self-inflicted lifestyle related diseases. Is there something we can do?

The community of Yorkton was inspired on July 3, 2014, when Complete Health Improvement Project's (CHIP) founder, Dr. Hans Diehl, presented a two-hour presentation at the Sacred Heart Theatre on Rational and Successful Weight Management: Eat More, Weigh Less! This event was very well attended—mostly by people not affiliated with Seventh-day Adventists. One gentleman drove two hours one way taking the long way around because of many flooded and closed roads that day just to attend this free community health event.

Diehl also conducted a Ministers' Health Retreat for the conference staff, ministers, their spouses, and Bible workers. The retreat included individual appraisal looking at blood chemistry, blood pressure, and lifestyle evaluation. He also presented a seven-hour health seminar entitled *Living the Mission Boldly*.

Our conference president, Ron Nelson, described the retreat as "informative and very beneficial." He said, "It was a much-



Ron Nelson and Hans Diehl

needed intervention and life-changing." He himself has made some changes and feels more energy. He notices other workers getting out and exercising and making changes. One young fourth-year theology student did a complete turn-around.

Interested in body building, he let go of his high-protein, high-cholesterol meat-heavy diet and traded it for whole

plant foods in their more natural form. President Nelson feels this retreat did exactly what he hoped it would.

Campmeeting attendees were blessed by Diehl's 10 hours of presentations entitled *Living and Using the Entering Wedge Boldly*. Topics included Health Evangelism, Forks Over Knives: Weapons of Mass Destruction or Instruments of Health and Healing, The Proven New Approach to Reversing Type II Diabetes, and Reversing Coronary Heart Disease: The Role of Diet.

CHIP facilitator training for 29 people from various Adventist churches took place at the Yorkton Seventh-day Adventist Church on July 11 and 13. One CHIP trainee recently reported that by adopting the dietary principles she learned at campmeeting and further educating herself with the CHIP textbook, she was able to lose 17 pounds. CHIP does change lives. In order to teach the world about health, however, we ourselves must live it! Just think what an infectious testimony it would be! As we step up to the plate ourselves, just imagine what a work we could all do. ■

— Glenda Nischuk,
health director,
Yorkton Adventist Church

Ontario

Bronte Church Celebrates 25th Anniversary

On Oct. 4, 2014, Bronte Seventh-Day Adventist Church will be celebrating 25 years of experiencing God's richest blessings. To help celebrate this special event, a conference representative, His Honourable Rob Burton, mayor of Oakville; other local dignitaries and

public officials; along with former pastors of Bronte Church will be in attendance.

Bronte started off as a small community of worshippers renting space within the United Church on Lakeshore Road. Over the years, Bronte church has grown considerably and currently has a member-

ship of about 200. Bronte church has been blessed with seven pastors, including our current, Daniel Saugh. There are many ministries, programs, and accomplishments that shape the face of Bronte and its family, including Prayer Ministry, Health and Temperance Ministry, Community Services

Ministry, Women's Ministry, our "Bronte's Biggest Loser" challenge event, and our newest Pathfinders and Adventurers for our younger members.

As part of our mission at Bronte, we "recognize that many of our members do not live in the area of the church, so we accept the responsibility that goes beyond church boundaries to represent the gospel wherever we work and live and play." We have, therefore, over the years, organized many events to involve the community, including annual

vegetarian/vegan food fairs that demonstrate and encourage healthy living; charity golf tournaments that allocate proceeds to local charities; the Kerr Street Ministries Program, in which Bronte's volunteers prepare and serve dinner to the less fortunate; weekly small prayer groups from Hamilton to Mississauga that many neighbours have been participating in; and our monthly visit to Sunrise Senior Living Retirement Home, a program that provides an opportunity to spend time with the

residents and share God's word through praise, song, or conversations.

Bronte church was honoured to have hosted the Young Adult Conference (YAC) in 2013 and the *It Is Written* Outreach Seminar in 2012.

Bronte church is excited to be celebrating 25 years in the beautiful Town of Oakville. ■

—Shireen Chambers,
communication secretary,
Bronte Adventist Church

Lily of the Valley Makes Impact in Ottawa

How can a small company of Adventists that must rent a meeting place from another denomination for Sabbath services make an impression on the people in the community? Very little, most would assume. Nonetheless the members of the Lily of the Valley Company in Ottawa are determined to serve the public and win souls for the Lord.

Undaunted by what many consider a rather limiting situation, laypeople with an interest in healthful living determined to share their knowledge and God's blessings with people yearning for a more abundant life. Using the church

parking lot on Victoria Day, the congregation's second annual health fair entitled Your Health, Your Choice encouraged local residents to take control of their well-being. From blood checks to nutritious, inspiring food samples, the fair served close to 70 people and helped them discover where and how to make positive lifestyle changes.

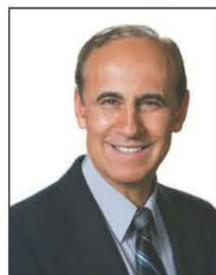
The Ontario Conference loaned graphic material that helped volunteers explain health principles clearly. Invitees from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the St. John Ambulance

Brigade lent credibility. A rented bouncing castle attracted children and gave church members an opportunity to explain the purpose of our health message to the parents while their little ones had fun playing.

The health ministry is a comparatively easy form of evangelism. Motivated people come to us, ready to learn; we do not have to search for interested folk. We recommend every church to give it a try. ■

—Roger Matthews,
Lily of the Valley
Adventist Company

"Living Hope" to Hispanic Population in Toronto



Robert Costa, speaker/
director of *Escrito Está*

Hispanic churches in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) are reaching out to over 200,000 Hispanics living in the GTA. The special project was launched on April 26, 2014 when conference president, Mansfield Edwards challenged five Hispanic congregations led by pastors Efrain Sanchez and Daniel Sanchez to unite their efforts to reach one of the fastest growing demographics in the GTA. Using Christ's method the churches have accepted the challenge and began reaching out to people. An evangelistic series is being planned for October 18-25, 2014 as one of the "Mission to the Cities" initiatives of the Ontario Conference leadership.

On June 14 members met for a special rally with Pastor Robert Costa, speaker/director of *Escrito Está* (*It Is Written's* Spanish program) and GC evangelism and church growth director. Pastor Costa will be the main speaker/evangelist for the reaping evangelistic series. Leaders of the Hispanic congregations are praying that every child, youth, and adult among the Hispanic community may hear the Word of God, feel His conviction, and accept His salvation.

If you have a family member, relative, business partner, or friend who lives in GTA we pray that you will be moved by the Holy Spirit to forward the information about these meetings. The opening night program entitled, "Countdown to Eternity" will be held on October 18 at 7:30 pm at the Kingsview Village church, 70 Kingsview Boulevard, Etobicoke. ■

Carleton Place Outreach

Carleton Place is a city of 9,500, west of Ottawa, Ont., featuring beautiful parks, sparkling fresh waterways, and abundant tourism.

On Aug. 2, 2014, the Carleton Place Seventh-day Adventist Community Outreach participated in the 9th BIA Annual Bridge Street Bazaar. Volunteers Lida Koronewskij, Carolyn and Albert Waterhouse, Ted Darragh, and Lorena Chamberlain engaged with visitors by checking blood pressure, distributing health literature, and handing out free bottles of water. Many participated in our blood pressure checks.

We had 30 people who submitted their names for a special draw of three prizes: two *Healthy Choices* cookbooks and the Dr. Diehl kitchen knife. Overall, about 200 people came through our booth. It proved to be an exhilarating event, and we look forward to meeting new people in our community once more. ■

—Lida Koronewskij, clerk,
Carleton Place Adventist Church



Outreach volunteers Lida Koronewskij (far left) and Carolyn Waterhouse (far right) with prize winners Heather Darragh and Ruth McDermid

Quebec

Quebec Conference Elects New President



Émile Maxi, president of the Quebec Conference

The Board of Directors of the Quebec Conference voted on Aug. 10, 2014, to elect Émile Maxi as president of the Quebec Conference, effective Aug. 20, 2014.

Elder Maxi has been serving in the Quebec Conference since 2001. He has served as director of Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, Children's Ministries, Stewardship, Communication, Education Superintendent, and also as church pastor.

He served the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference as Personal Ministries /Sabbath School and Church Development director for two years: 2006-2008. He was elected executive secretary of the Quebec Conference in 2008 and

has been serving in this position until his appointment as president.

"Elder Maxi will preside over approximately one-fourth of the population of Canada," stated Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. He went on to add, "There is enormous potential for growth of the Adventist Church in this region."

Elder Maxi, who is multilingual and has proven leadership experience in all levels of denominational organization, is an excellent candidate for this leadership position.

The transition will take place on Aug. 20, 2014, when Daniel Latchman returns to his homeland. ■

New Treasurer/VP for Finance for the Quebec Conference



Anderson Antenor, treasurer/VP for Finance, Quebec Conference

With the departure of Mr. Paul Musafili, who served the Quebec Conference for over 10 years as treasurer/VP for Finance, who now has accepted a call to serve as Under-Treasurer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) as of Aug. 1, 2014, the office of the Treasurer became vacant.

After reviewing a number of resumes, the Quebec Conference Board of Directors, at its meeting of June 29, 2014, voted to elect Anderson Antenor as the new treasurer/VP for Finance, effective Sept. 1, 2014.

Antenor comes to us fully qualified with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the banking sector. He received his academic training in Haiti, France, and Canada. He has also worked in these same countries. Currently, he works as assistant director for one of the leading banks in Montreal.

Antenor is married to Nadège, and they are blessed with three children: Anne-Pascale, Anissa, and Samuel André. We welcome Anderson Antenor to the Quebec Conference workforce. ■

SDA Church in Canada



Paul Musafili, under-treasurer, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

SDACC Elects New Under-Treasurer

On May 14, 2014, the Board of Trustees voted to elect Paul Musafili as under-treasurer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC). He assumed his new role on Aug. 1, 2014, filling the position vacated by Joyce Jones.

Musafili comes to the SDACC from the Quebec Conference, where he served since the summer of 1999, as auditor, senior accountant, and more recently as treasurer. Prior to that he was student finance director and assistant business manager at the University of Central Africa in Rwanda, his country of origin.

He gained a Bachelor of Science in accounting while in Rwanda, and served at Adventist University of Central Africa. After arriving in Canada, he completed a Master of Science in small- to medium-scale organizational management from Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

Paul is married to Christine and they have two sons: Nicholas, 16, and Stephen, 7. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of July 31, 2014, there were 439 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,140,428. There were 79 loans with a value of \$22,330,568.

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

North American Division

Gordon Pifher Appointed Vice-President for Adventist Media in North America



Gordon Pifher

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD) announced it has elected Gordon Pifher as the vice-president for media to be based at its Silver Spring, Md., headquarters.

As vice-president for media, Pifher will be primarily responsible for developing and implementing a media ministry strategy for all of the church's media ministries across a territory that includes the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Guam, and Micronesia.

"We are excited about Gordon joining our leadership team," said Daniel J. Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. "I've known Gordon for many years, and I know that his strengths in leadership and knowledge of media, along with his passion for sharing God's love and compassion, will only strengthen the mission of the church."

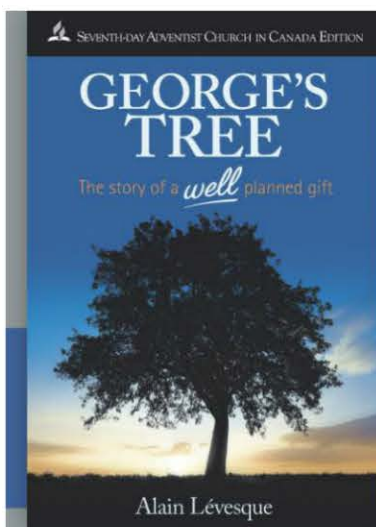
Pifher will also work closely with the Adventist Church's Hope Channel to develop new, regionally contextualized

programming. He will also coordinate the seven original media ministries in North America to develop new approaches for urban centre outreach programming.

"I am honoured to be given this opportunity to serve the church in this vital role," said Pifher. "I look forward to working in partnership with all the media ministries in our territory to explore new ways in which we can further the ministry of the church to serve."

Pifher is currently serving as director of Stewardship, Leadership, and Creative Ministries for the regional headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North Pacific. Previously, he served as president of the British Columbia Conference. He began his pastoral ministry in Canada with the Maritime Conference, also serving administratively in Ontario. ■


—Adapted from
<http://goo.gl/wbPw17>



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Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
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Announcements

The Edmonton Central church is looking for the following missing members: Sylvia Jo Neuman, Karen K. Nielsen, Heidi Northon, Jennifer Opoku, Brenda Postma, Carmela Saltoc, Milagros Saltoc, Joyce Samograd, Ruby Simus, Ethel May Jean Smith, Mary Smith, Kabola-Bin Stanislaas, Col Tear, Neema Tembele, Bot Luk Tung, Cindy Van De Weghe, David Van De Weghe, Kevin Zahara, Rodney Zelles. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Debbie Tirayoh at 780/420-0215 or office@ecsdac.org.

New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Wayne Miller was baptized in Creston, B.C., on May 24, 2014, by Josue Molina. Wayne was searching for God when he received a flyer invitation in the mail for an Amazing Facts evangelistic series with David Steward. He agreed with the presentations but had further questions.

These were answered gradually, and he made a decision to be baptized during the Revelation of Hope seminar. Wayne is now a member of the Creston church.

Duncan and Elaine Simpson were baptized in Creston, B.C., on May 24, 2014, by Justis St. Hilaire. Duncan and Elaine were befriended by Al and Ruth Graca upon moving to Creston. After attending several potlucks, CHIP with Sid Kettner, and finally, the Revelation of Hope seminar, they have found their true home in Christ. They are now members of the Creston church.

Obituaries

Mary (née Mayden) Babiuk was born on July 4, 1923, in Hazel Dell, Sask., and died on Aug. 26, 2012, in Kelowna, B.C. Mary worked at Sunnyside Care Home in Saskatoon for over 25 years before retiring. She was active in the church as deaconess, greeter, and hostess. Mary is predeceased by her parents, Steve and Pearl Mayden; brother, William Mayden; and sisters, Lena Josaj and Stella Tataryn. Surviving: husband, Paul Babiuk; son, Lorne (Betty Lou) of Edmonton, Alta.; daughter, Juliana (Lloyd) Thiessen of Port Coquitlam, B.C.; brothers, John (Dorothy) Mayden of Ashcroft, B.C., and Harry (Joyce) Mayden of Hagerstown, Md.; sisters, Nettie Paziuk, Francis (Will) Kennedy, and Victoria Kobza all of Kelowna; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Paul Babiuk was born on July 3, 1915, in Swan Plain, Sask., and died on May 3, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Paul worked at Sunnyside Care Home in Saskatoon until retirement. He also served as treasurer and deacon in several churches. He is predeceased by his wife, Mary (née Mayden) Babiuk; parents, Jacob and Paulette; brother, Pete; sisters, Minnie Dwornik and Mary Klamut. Surviving: son, Lorne (Betty Lou) Babiuk of Edmonton, Alta.; daughter, Juliana (Lloyd) Thiessen of Port Coquitlam, B.C.; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Bruce Cleveland was born on Sept. 13, 1926, in Blandford, N.S., and died on Feb. 13, 2014, in Tobermory, Ont. Bruce was a long-time member of the Owen Sound church. Living in Tobermory, he enjoyed his career as chief engineer of the Chi Cheemaun Ferry. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; their three children; two brothers; two sisters; five stepchildren; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Henry Justeson was born on Nov. 7, 1926, in Thisted, Denmark, and died on Oct. 21, 2013, in Kelowna, B.C. Henry was deeply involved serving his lifetime in the post-secondary educational program in British Columbia, particularly in the area of vocational training. Henry is predeceased by his parents, Edward and Clara Justeson. Surviving: wife, Gerda; son, Larry (Norma); stepson, Geoffrey (Bernadette) Irvine; daughters, Linda (Bill) Chambers and Lila (Ken) Conarroe; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Darren Marlow Littman was born on Jan. 12, 1962, in Nelson, B.C., and died on June 11, 2013, in Oshawa, Ont. Darren was a member of the Durham Adventist Choir. Surviving: son, Bradley of Oshawa; daughter, Brianna of Oshawa; parents, Elmer and Marlene; brother, Brent (Kelly) of Bowmanville, Ont.; sisters, Raelene Taliaferro of Lacombe, Alta., and Sharna (David) Keith of Sterling, Mass.

Theresia (née Függer) Obenaus was born on Aug. 5, 1922, in Austria and died May 25, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. Theresia was a member of Wildwood church. She is predeceased by her husband, Josef. Surviving: son, John; two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Vel Oliva was born on Oct. 24, 1931, in Pasay, Philippines, and died on May 4, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nev. Vel worked at Branson Hospital. Surviving: wife, Dory; sons, Ronald (Karen) of Paradise, Calif., and Ian of Las Vegas; daughter, Yvonne (Donald) Dawkins of Las Vegas; and six grandchildren.

Stanley Douglas Rogers was born Nov. 29, 1948, in Armstrong, B.C., and died on April 16, 2014, in Chilliwack, B.C. Stan was a businessman who was heavily involved in political and community boards all his life. He helped build the Vernon school and church and served on the CUC Board of Directors, where he assisted in the development of various campus buildings and land development. Stanley is predeceased by parents, Alfred and Pauline. Surviving: brother, David (Peggy) of Maple Ridge, B.C.; sister, Carol (Herb) Domke of Victoria, B.C.; first wife, Lois (née Bergey) Spangler of Abbotsford, B.C.; second wife, Anita; sons, Cameron (Jackie) and Collin (Elsie) both of Chilliwack; stepson, Corbin of Chilliwack; daughter, Gina Briller of Atlanta, Ga.; and six grandchildren.

Tributes

Leland Ray McMiller, born Dec. 5, 1918, in Stanley, Wis., moved to Canada as a toddler. Lola Elizabeth Collins was born Mar. 13, 1925, in Eston, Sask. The two grew up two



miles apart, in grain farming families of South Saskatchewan's Tyner District, home for 56 of their 68 years of marriage, which began in 1943. In 1998 they moved to Swift Current for 12 years, then able to join an Adventist congregation for the first time since joining the Adventist faith in 1955 when children, Carolyn and Frank were preteens.

Early on in their lives in Tyner District, Lee and Lola were best known for playing duet saxophones for dances, and for Lee's 25 years of driving the school bus. Life changed radically when the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry—with messages by HMS Richards and music by the King's Heralds Quartet and Del Delker—captured their hearts. Lee and Lola were baptized by Pastor Lewis Shipowick. Fifty-six years later Shipowick helped Frank conduct his dad's funeral.

It was a joy for Lee and Lola to see Frank attend and graduate from CUC and serve the church they so loved. They enjoyed over half a century of recording and performing sacred music and maintaining meticulously groomed properties and massive gardens. Lee's genius to build a one-of-a-kind garden tractor made gardening a quarter the work. Lola was an accomplished seamstress, musician, gardener, and historian in her community. Both helped organize and publish a 400-page work on Tyner District's history.

In frail health they moved to British Columbia in October 2010, where a month later, on Nov. 12, 2010, severe pneumonia claimed Lee's life. Three more years Lola resided in Abbotsford near family until her quiet death on Feb. 21, 2014, with son, Frank, by her side. Lee and Lola much loved the Lord, family, relatives, neighbours, and fellow believers. Their faith in Jesus' saving grace and promises of eternal life was unflinching.

They were predeceased by daughter, Carolyn, Lee's two sisters, Marguerite and June, Lola's two sisters and husbands, Doris (Lyle) Armstrong, Helen (Don) McNab, and her three brothers and wives, Bob (Irene), Harold (Eleanor), and Clarence. They are survived by Carolyn's husband, John Booth of Saskatoon; Clarence's wife, Verna of Elrose, Sask.; son, Frank (Maria) of Abbotsford; eight grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. They rest side by side in Mission, B.C.'s Hatzic cemetery, awaiting the Saviour's call.

Advertisements

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cation, expertise in assigned teaching areas, effective teaching and student evaluation skills, a scholarly agenda, a record of professional and community service, and eligibility for PT licensure in Florida. For more information, email DPTinfo@adu.edu, visit www.adu.edu/pt, or go to www.floridahospitalcareers.com and search job number: 182527. (11/14)

Andrews University seeks an HVAC technician to maintain, repair, and install HVAC and refrigeration equipment in campus housing and university buildings. Qualified person should have an associate's degree (A.A.) or equivalent from two-year college or technical school; or at least two years' related experience and/or training. For more information and to apply, visit www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly (9/14)

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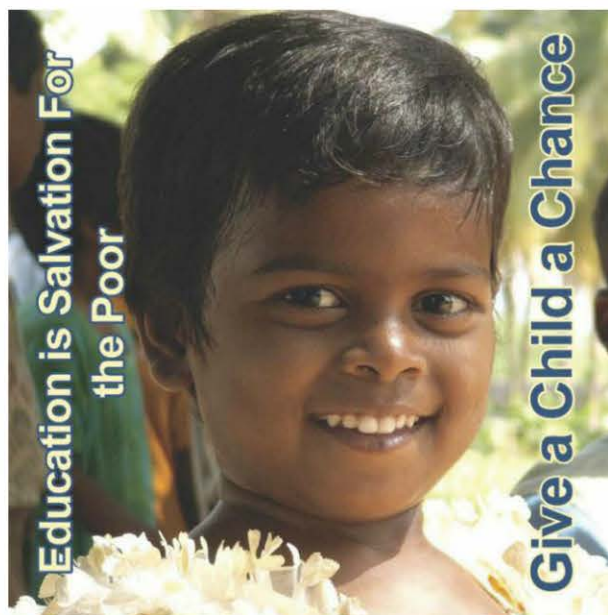
Adventist Education Online Survey

All of our children deserve to have a quality Adventist education to equip them for faithful service to God and humanity. In an effort to improve the quality of Adventist education for all our children, the SDACC is holding an Education Summit from November 23-26, 2014. We value your input in this process, and therefore solicit your participation in this survey.

- If your child *IS* attending an Adventist school, take the survey to let us know about your child's school experience.
- If your child *IS NOT* attending an Adventist school, take the survey to let us know the reason(s) for not attending so that we can address your concerns.

The online survey runs from September 15 to October 3, 2014. It will take about 15 minutes of your time. Your input is critical. On **September 15**, please go to <http://catnet.adventist.ca>, click **SURVEY**, and enter **ADVENTIST** as the password to begin.





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from the editor

When People Go Running

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada is an amazing ministry. They run toward places most people would run away from.

Years ago I had a conversation with my hairdresser. As usual, it was mostly small talk, until she brought up her experience of coming to Canada from West Africa. She told me about the hardships and hunger she endured in order to be safe before migrating to Canada, the country of her choosing. She told me there was an aid organization that provided food and shelter for her and her family even after all other organizations had vacated. When I asked which entity, she replied ADRA. That was definitely one of those *I really feel good about my church* moments.

Years later, while attending my first workshop for editors of religious publications in Canada (a workshop not affiliated with our church), I overheard people talking about ADRA Canada and how they provided photos and video clips at a very reasonable rate. They were talking about our church's humanitarian organization!

This is not the first time people have told me about the unconditional love and support they received from ADRA and how it saved their family. The memory of Rwanda in 1994 is still fresh in my mind. A young man came running up to me, and I initially thought I was about to become a victim that my family would read about in the local newspaper. However, it turns out that he spotted my ADRA Canada T-shirt, and, while embracing me, he tearfully told me the story of how Carl Wilkins from ADRA Rwanda saved the lives of his children.

Recently the trauma and drama of the Ukraine has flooded the news. I do not know who is in the right or who is in the wrong. All I know is that there are people, like us, in need of security, safety, and support. They are desperate for food, water, and medical attention. I also know this: the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD) has asked ADRA Canada for their immediate help to bring assistance to a volatile situation. They also asked for an urgent proposal so that the Canadian government can fund a multimillion dollar aid project. Those who have been involved with DFATD know this is not the norm. Normally, you have to find projects, pay staff for weeks to draft proposals—all the while knowing there is a good chance your proposal will be turned down. So how did this happen? ADRA Canada has a highly esteemed reputation, and DFATD knows that ADRA already has boots on the ground in this troubled area.

Every month when I look at my credit card statement showing the funds I have donated to ADRA Canada, I feel good. ■

A stylized signature of Stan Jensen in blue ink.

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

P.S. How would you like to change lives and relieve suffering around the world? I did it when I signed up at adra.ca/donate. I challenge everyone to sacrifice a few lattes, joy rides, or perhaps even a few restaurant meals, to make a tangible difference.

ON A HILL CALLED CALVARY, Jesus paid the price for our eternal salvation. On another hill far away, Hollywood serves as a symbol for worldly pleasure. While these two hills seem diametrically opposed, they do sometimes intersect to bring attention to the work being done to advance the gospel.

This month, we take a look at times when the God of Calvary used Hollywood to shine a spotlight on Adventists who changed their world.

NBC TV Film to Feature Efforts of Adventist Hospital in Saigon

Richard Crenna right stars as Dan Hood, left—a Pan Am pilot who travels to Vietnam at great personal risk to help in an unofficial evacuation of American and Vietnamese civilians only hours before the fall of Saigon, in “AT&T presents Last Flight Out.”

The Adventist Hospital in Saigon, and the heroic efforts of its staff, are featured prominently in an NBC television movie which will air May 20th at 9:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

The fact-based drama, “AT&T presents Last Flight Out,” stars actor Richard Crenna in the role of Pan Am flight engineer Dan Hood, a graduate of Thunderbird Academy, who in April 1975 went to Saigon on his own time to help his schoolmate Dr. Jim Simpson work with orphans at the Adventist Hospital. The movie also features James Earl Jones as Allan Topping, Pan Am’s Station Manager, who coordinated the last commercial flight from Saigon before the fall of the South Vietnamese capital just a few days later.



Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 59, no. 5, p. 5. Brave actions by Adventists around the world who have risked their own lives to help others not only make us proud but also provide great inspiration for movies, such as this one presented by NBC based on the evacuation of Saigon in 1975.



Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 59, no. 2, p. 12. Listen magazine featured actors like Kirk Cameron (pictured) and Malcolm Jamal-Warner, as well as musicians and bands such as New Kids on the Block in an effort to bring attention to drug awareness and education to youth of the day.

A Letter from Johnny Cash . . .

Santa Fe, N.M.
June 11, 1970

Dear Chaplain Lave:

I just want to report that this is my 19th day without a cigarette, and I'm making it just fine. Thanks so much to you, Dr. Maynard, Dr. Burkes, Billy Burkes and everyone for showing me that you cared.

I would like to tell you an experience I had that might be a point you could add to the Five-day Plan. The lesson you could learn from my experience is this: "You never know when you might need an extra breath of air."

Last week I did some very exhausting fight scenes in the movie I'm making with Kirk Douglas. The altitude here is over 7,000 feet, and of course, the air is very thin at that altitude compared to Nashville.

Because of close-ups and different angles, the fight scene had to be done a total of 17 times that day. If my lung capacity had been one thimble-full less, I couldn't have done those scenes. Kirk and I were, of course, totally exhausted at the end of the day, but the scenes were done. I could not have

Submitted by G. F. Williams, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

done those scenes, and consequently could not have done this movie had I been smoking.

Kirk Douglas quit smoking two years ago, and says the same thing; that he couldn't have done this movie had he been smoking.

Well, I'm sure most of the people you talk with won't be making movies, but the lesson is still there: "You never know when you'll need an extra breath of air."

Well, I guess by now you can tell that I'm pretty proud of myself. I am.

Quitting smoking was a tough fight for me. That strong urge still comes just about every day, but every day it gets easier, and I still choose not to smoke.

My cigarette cough is completely gone, and my voice is clear and strong for the first time in months.

Thanks again to all you good people for helping me fight tobacco. We're winning!

Sincerely,
Johnny Cash

P.S. If you can use anything I've said here to help anyone else, you're welcome to.

Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 40, no. 5, page 1. This letter is from musician and actor Johnny Cash, thanking the presenters of a stop smoking program for their role in helping him complete a physically grueling filming schedule.



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