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in this issue of *Canadian Adventist Messenger*.

august 2022

Messenger

**“Life is Like
a Canoe Trip
Because...”**

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Seventh-day
Adventist Church

August 2022 Vol. 91 No. 8

Communication Director/Editor Evaldo Vicente
vicente.evaldo@adventist.ca

Administrative Secretary Adrianna Lewis
lewis.adrianna@adventist.ca;
messenger@adventist.ca

Art Director Aimee Perez
perez.aimee@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Miroslavljev
messenger@adventist.ca

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Paul Llewellyn
llewellyn.paul@adventist.ca

VP Finance Paul Musafili
musafili.paul@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5,
phone 403/342-5044

British Columbia Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S
4P5, phone 604/853-5451

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1004 Victoria Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

Maritime 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E
1A6, phone 506/857-8722

Newfoundland and Labrador 1041 Topsail Rd.,
Mount Pearl, NL A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

Ontario 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H
1H8, phone 905/571-1022

Quebec 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H
3M3, phone 450/651-5222

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“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

—Psalm 19:14, KJV

Words and Thoughts

David fascinates me. A shepherd, a soldier, a king—David was also someone who loved God. Life wasn't always easy for David, but whenever he faced trouble, he seemed to turn to God for help and hope. I like that.

There's something significant in these words from Psalm 19. They express David's goal in life. His understanding of a relationship with God. And David should know about that relationship with God. There were times when they were close, and there were times when David realized they had drifted apart.

As I read David's collection of thoughts in the Psalms, I'm struck by how David responds to distance from God. He doesn't like it. It feels wrong. And when David senses it, he longs for healing to take place so that he and God can be right again.

That's what makes these words from Psalm 19 so significant to me as I think about them.

Here's David, saved through the grace of God and by the sacrifice of Jesus just like you or me. So salvation is a free gift, but David—family man, former fugitive, king—understands that God's free grace also works in those who receive it. Those who are accepted, loved, and saved through the merits of Jesus are also transformed through the experience of daily crowding in just as close to God as is possible. And in that closeness, they want to be more like God. Right down all the way to the words they use and the things they are thinking about when their minds are in neutral.

That was David's goal. To be more acceptable to God. To be more like Jesus.

We can be close to God too. You and me. Every day, through the pages of Scripture, I can stand close by God. And that will change a bunch of things about me, even words and thoughts.

I need to pray that prayer of David. How about you? Would you be willing? What would it be like to live close beside God in 2022? ■

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





Making A Better World is About **Getting Children Involved**



Lacombe Upper Elementary School has been raising money for 18 years to support educational projects. They raised money for desks this year.



Children in Sekanani School in Kenya benefited from the children in Lacombe and are using their new desks.

To get your school and children involved, contact us
erajah@abwcanada.ca

Ways to give...



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A Better World Canada
#206-5033 52 Street, Lacombe, AB T4L 2A6 Canada
Office: 403.782.0325 Email: info@abwcanada.ca
www.abwcanada.ca

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS: Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) should contact their local church clerk directly for *Canadian Adventist Messenger* address changes. Contact information for each conference is listed on page 3. If you are a member but are not receiving this magazine, please request it through your local church clerk or conference office. Non-members receiving this magazine in error should contact the *Messenger* office listed below.

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WHAT'S COMING *Who are you?* As an adopted child, Carol Scott's search for her roots led her, not only to her biological family, but to God. Read about her inspiring journey in next month's issue.

Star Power

“When my mother was about 17 years old, she had a ‘charismatic experience’ where she felt she had to become a nun. It was a deeply spiritual moment in her life where she cried, ‘But I don’t want to become a nun!’” says Nwamiko Madden as he shares his back story.

“Years later, when my mother was pregnant with me, she found out she was going to have a boy. And for some reason, it triggered that experience again, ... but she said, ‘I can’t become a nun now; I’m Adventist. ... But what I’m going to do is I’m going to dedicate this child to You.’ So she got down on her knees, put her hands on her abdomen, and said, ‘This child is dedicated to your service, Lord.’”

Nwamiko continues, “I remember, ever since childhood, God was real. I believed in God from the get-go. I never doubted Him and His existence. I felt if I turned around quick enough, I would see God.”

Growing up attending public school, Nwamiko openly expressed his peculiar faith—attending church on Sabbath, refusing to eat pork, declining to celebrate “the devil’s holiday” (Halloween)—but his faith was not received the way he had hoped. “The more I tried to share my faith in my young, pharisaical way at the time, I realized people were not catching on. So [I realized] there was a problem: Adventism needed some ‘star power’—you know how Ronald McDonald is the mascot for McDonald’s and Tom Cruise is a ‘mascot’ for Scientology? I thought, ‘I’m going to be the Adventist Will Smith. That’s what I’m going to do. I’m going to be the first well-known Adventist actor to promote my faith.’ That was my idea.”

Nwamiko attended drama classes in high school and celebrated when he landed his first audition for a TV show. Unfortunately, the audition was scheduled for Friday evening after sunset, during the Sabbath hours. “This was a dilemma. But one night God gave me a view 20 years into the future. It was the Academy Awards: ‘And the best actor goes to Nwamiko Madden!’”

In Nwamiko’s vision, magical music filled the air, and his hand grabbed the golden Oscar. He tapped the microphone and, pointing toward the sky, announced,

“The first person I’d like to thank is ...”

“Stop! Don’t thank Me,” God declared to Nwamiko’s conscience. “Because you broke the Sabbath on your very first step.”

Nwamiko reflects, “It was true: if my very first career step was breaching God’s commandments, how in the world could I expect that it was His success the rest of the way? So I said, ‘I can’t do it. I can’t do it.’”

Nwamiko’s goal to achieve star power seemed to be slipping away before he even had a chance. But then he landed his first role—a Christmas movie with Vanessa Williams. Overnight, Nwamiko’s popularity escalated. He was offered parts without an audition. Nwamiko didn’t have to work on Sabbaths or perform compromising scenes. He was even served vegetarian meals on set.

However, despite all his dreams materializing, he felt as if something was wrong—like the rich young ruler in Mark 10. He sensed God telling him to walk away from his acting career.

How could he possibly give up his dream, and why was God asking him to do this?

To understand how Nwamiko was guided by God, you can watch his entire incredible story on *It Is Written Canada* this month on CTV, 3ABN, Hope



Find out how God led Nwamiko Madden’s quest for ‘star power’ on *It Is Written Canada* this month. Photo credit: M. Dauncey

Channel, Yes-TV, Miracle Channel, or any of the many other networks where *It Is Written Canada* is aired. Or simply go to itiswrittencanada.ca or *It Is Written Canada*’s YouTube channel and click on the programs titled “Star Power—Parts 1 & 2.” ■

Mike Lemon is the speaker/director for It Is Written Canada.



Love Letters From Loyalist



Debbie and Lawrence Letniak farmed in Loyalist, Alta., for more than 40 years.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”—Margaret Mead

When Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) was just getting off the ground—even before its student body chose the name—then principal Linda Calderbank was gathering trusted and talented people to help set the direction and governance of the new school. One of those people was educator Debbie Letniak.

Debbie cared. She cared about children and how their early experience with school could change their lives and foster a love of learning. She knew from her experience in Zimbabwe that learning had to take culture into account. It takes place when children feel safe and have a variety of experiences in addition to textbooks.

Debbie’s career as a teacher and principal in her home farming community of Loyalist, Alta., was cut short by cancer during the Bridge Campaign to build a high school at MANS. Building on earlier gifts that members of the Letniak family gave to the campaign, friends and other family members contributed further in Debbie’s honour—enough to name the library and media room after Debbie’s legacy. It was a happy day when the high school opened in September 2018 with Debbie’s room naming plaque that included a short story that students would read, a testimony they could internalize.

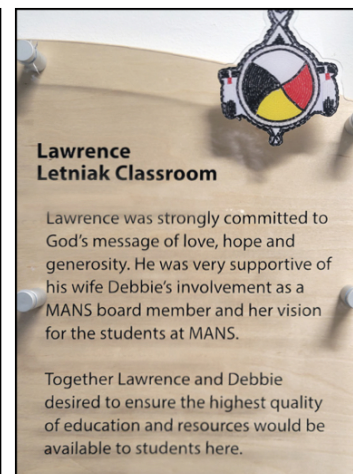
Lawrence was touched by the gesture, glad that Debbie’s talents and caring would be remembered in this way. A few years later, on June 25, 2021, Lawrence also succumbed to cancer. Unbeknownst to the Alberta Conference, Lawrence included a significant gift to MANS in his will, and the executor’s lawyer let the conference know of the gift. The classroom next to Debbie’s library and media room was the only classroom not named during the Bridge Campaign—a fact that seems providential in retrospect. Conference officers agreed with the director

of Planned Giving that Lawrence’s generosity and support should be acknowledged by naming the classroom and offering the remaining family the opportunity to write Lawrence’s story (*see photos below*).

The rest is not just history. It’s an ongoing testimony to lives of service, the blessing that planned giving can be, and the good that everyday people can do now and for eternity—their ability to quietly change their corner of the world.

Lives of gratitude and generosity inspire. The witness of Debbie and Lawrence lives on. ■

Lynn McDowell is director of planned giving/philanthropy for the Alberta Conference.



The stories of Debbie and Lawrence’s love—for the children of Maskwacis, God, and each other—are read by students, an encouraging daily reminder that they are loved.



mans1.ca—Catch the views and feeling inside the Debbie Letniak Library & Media Centre in the video “Being There: Highlights and Interviews from the Grand Opening.”



August 2022



“Life is Like a
Canoe Trip Because...”



Left: Aurora on one of her OALE trips. Right: Aurora wearing her grandmother’s traditional jingle dress and the Miss Wiikwemkoong crown. There is much more to Aurora’s story! Scan the QR Code to read it.

Aurora Ominika-Enosse is a confident, warm-hearted young Anishnaabe woman with a ready smile. Her open demeanour undoubtedly puts at ease the children, youth, and fellow students with whom she works and volunteers. In her fourth year at Carleton University in Ottawa, Aurora has nearly completed her program in social work and feels called to work with Indigenous children and youth.

Aurora didn’t always possess this confidence and sense of calling. “I grew up in Sudbury. I didn’t feel connected to my culture, to being Indigenous. I was ashamed of it. I didn’t take pride in myself, in my identity,” Aurora shares. “I hated my skin colour. I wished to be anything but Indigenous.”

At 13, Aurora moved from Sudbury to Wiikwemkoong, one of the unceded territories of the Anishnaabe on Manitoulin Island, Ont. This move sparked a journey of discovery for Aurora.

While in Wiikwemkoong, Aurora participated in the Outdoor Adventure Leadership Experience (OALE). Through a 10-day canoe trip, the OALE retraces a traditional travel route down the French River. The youth and mentors discuss their history, culture, and identity along the journey. The young people are encouraged to think about their goals and brainstorm practical steps to achieve them. From its inception, the aim of the OALE is to build resiliency in Indigenous youth, support their growth, and enable them to meet life’s challenges.

It’s no secret that Indigenous youth in Canada face significant challenges. Generations of trauma have left deep wounds that often inflict heartbreaking damage to their identity, purpose, and even their sense of worth as a people.

Wiikwemkoong leaders seek to empower their youth, and the OALE is a part of that. The program instills pride in their heritage and identity as Indigenous and builds their

capacity and confidence to achieve their dreams. The program has been a success.

“We’ve seen kids who have gone from having a very poor vision of themselves and a very poor mental health state to flourishing and going on to become role models in the community. They have gone on to achieve the dreams that they talked about,” shares Nimkii Lavell, the trip guide.

ADRA is proud to be among the sponsors of the program since 2017.

Aurora has participated in the OALE three times. “The canoe trip was like dipping a toe in my culture, helping me to reconnect,” Aurora says.

The girl who was once ashamed of her heritage went on to become Miss Wiikwemkoong from 2017 to 2018, a title dependent on knowledge of and pride in Anishnaabe history and culture. Now she seeks to teach culture and instill confidence in Indigenous children and youth while also willingly sharing with interested non-Indigenous people.

“If I hadn’t connected to my culture, I’d probably be really lost today. I don’t know where I’d be right now,” Aurora confides.

Participants in the OALE are posed this metaphor: “Life is like a canoe trip because ...” Each has their own answer, reflecting their deep thought and the impact of the trip. “Life is like a canoe trip because ... you never know what’s around the corner but you keep going anyway,” Aurora shares. ■

Heather Grbic is a writer for ADRA Canada.



Inspiring the Future



August 9 is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. ADRA is proud to work with indigenous people around the world, and right here at home. Through your support of our Canadian projects such as the Outdoor Adventure Leadership Experience, ADRA is inspiring future indigenous leaders, and strengthening their connection to their history and culture.

Help support our Canadian projects by visiting:

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From Haunted House to Holy Hope

“The following day Linda slept the whole night in her home with nothing more than the sweet companionship of holy angels.”

Linda¹ works with elderly people. One of the patients she used to look after lived in the basement suite of her home. The older woman would say that even though she would pass away soon, she would not really depart because her presence would always remain in Linda’s home.

One day the older tenant did die, and Linda started hearing voices in her house. She couldn’t sleep at night because she heard spirits speaking and making noise. She was so scared that she would spend the night sitting at a 24-hour coffee shop whenever she could—anything to avoid spending the night at home in the presence of her “friend.” One day she heard about a person who could cast out evil spirits for \$600. She hired the man to come over and then went to the café for the night. The man spent all night working on the spirits and said he had replaced the bad spirits with good ones! But as far as Linda was concerned, nothing changed, because the voices continued.

In fact, things went from bad to worse. One night when a friend came to spend the night to keep her company, Linda suddenly woke up. Something impressed her to go check on her friend. Linda walked into the guest room just in time to see her friend swallow a handful of pills in an attempt to kill herself. Linda helped induce vomiting for her friend so she could expel the pills and then took her to the hospital. Were the spirits also responsible for this?

Conrad was working as a literature evangelist in the Toronto area. One day someone told Conrad about Linda, and he, along with a church member, went to

pray for her. They claimed promises and agonized with God to cast out the demons. They also encouraged her to throw out anything that had connections to the occult from her home. She then agreed to start Bible studies.

The following day Linda slept the whole night in her home with nothing more than the sweet companionship of holy angels. A few days later, Conrad and a friend came to study the Bible with her. Linda was so happy! No demonic spirits had bothered her since then, and it had not cost her even a penny! As they were about to start the Bible study, Linda’s friend pulled up. She, too, wanted to study about Jesus. If God could do great things for Linda, maybe He could give her hope once again.

Someone once said, “You can live weeks without food, days without water, minutes without air, but only seconds without hope.”

There is power in prayer to rebuke the enemy. There is power in God’s Word to transform lives and inspire people with hope.

Let us learn to earnestly pray and agonize with God for others so they can be freed from demonic forces. Let us learn to share God’s Word with others so that through “the patience and comfort of the Scriptures, [they] might have hope” (Rom. 15:4, NKJV). ■

Conrad Graham shared his story while serving as a literature evangelist with us. Lifestyle Canada is a Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelism ministry.

¹ Name changed to protect privacy.



TAUGHT OF THE LORD

“All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.”—Isaiah 54:13, NIV

My whole life has been meaningfully connected to Christian education. My parents held family worship at home, I went to Sabbath school, and I attended high school at Kingsway College. Years later I enrolled my children in both Kingsway and College Park Elementary school, where I also worked as a teacher. I’m currently helping with the Aerials team, and my wife and I are counsellors in the local Pathfinder club.

The panorama of my life is loaded with impactful experiences in Adventist schools that helped me to grow. I met wonderful people, many of whom are still close friends.

I remember one day, while I was a student at Kingsway, when we were persistently bombarding a teacher with questions about an upcoming test. Seeing his wife at the door, he kindly put us on hold by saying, “Just a moment. She’s more important.” That really got me thinking! It has since helped me balance important and urgent matters in life. It has also reinforced the importance of prioritizing time with my family.

As part of the work-study program at Kingsway, I took my orders from the plant services director. We worked hard and learned lots, especially regarding accountability and autonomy. One day we were tasked with re-grading the paver stones in front of a school building so the water would drain away from the entrance. We were about halfway done when the other worker finished his shift, leaving me on my own to finish up. Right then a teacher exited the building and observed me as I stared at the amount of work remaining and the little time left to complete it.

“This all needs to get done this afternoon,” I told him. He encouraged me and said that I could make the choice to complete

it with a smile and keep doing my best. That day I chose to continue cheerfully and learned the importance of a positive outlook and attitude in life.

Being a dorm student for all four years of high school taught me the richness and beauty of diversity. It has helped me dismantle prejudice and self-centredness as I learned to be considerate since I don’t know the reality others might be experiencing. I’m always impressed when I consider the depth and variety of talents in our schools—it’s such a stimulating environment for growing talents for God’s glory.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

—Jeremiah 29:13, NIV

In my years as a student, teacher, and parent invested in Christian education, I noticed the following exclusive advantages:

- Teachers start their day with Jesus and dedicate themselves to service.
- Each day begins by looking to Jesus, continuing to adjust our gaze toward Him throughout the day, and ending the day worshipping the One who is worthy of our praise.
- Jesus is seen at work in many ways.

Do you want to see Jesus at work? He’s at work in our schools and He’s welcomed there. Look for Him and you will find Him. He knocks at the door of your heart, ready to lead you through more talent and character growth.

“God is exalted in his power. Who is a teacher like him?”—Job 36:22, NIV

I looked for Him at College Park Elementary and at Kingsway College, and I saw Jesus there—in the teachers, in the students, and in the staff, volunteers, and administrators. ■



André (centre) says that even 20 years later, he’s still fond of these strong men of faith who led him closer to Christ at Kingsway College: Jim Ryan, retired men’s dean (left) and Earl Dunhill, retired plant services director (right).

André Bergeron is a teacher in the Oshawa, Ont., area.



Long-time Veterinarian Takes a “Paws” for Those Experiencing Homelessness



In February 2022, a group of walkers, including organizer Cathy Wright (front far right), raised money for the Mustard Seed and Red Deer Soup Kitchen.

Caring for sick dogs and cats is usually up Cathy Wright’s alley. Lately, though, she’s ventured on a different walk.

The long-time veterinarian from Olds, Alta., launched A Better World Canada’s Coldest Week Walk in support of the Mustard Seed, a Christian non-profit organization in Calgary. Wright was keen to fundraise for a cause serving some of central Alberta’s most vulnerable.

As she wrote in a letter to potential donors, “I can’t imagine what it must be like to be homeless and trying to find help in our crazy, cold Alberta winter.”

The two-kilometre walk is held on Feb. 27, described as being the “coldest day of the year,” around the scenic Cranna Lake in Lacombe. Thankfully, the participants had sunny and near zero temperatures since the event started in 2021. As Wright recalls, a few of them walked around the lake twice.

In its inaugural year the fundraising event attracted nine walkers and \$1,570 was collected. A year later the walk had grown to 25 participants and \$7,508 was raised. In addition, the fundraiser has also brought in \$2,430 for the Red Deer Soup Kitchen.

“Support has been amazing, going from \$1,500 the first year to \$7,500 the second,” says Wright. “We even had an anonymous donor who had matched the funds raised.”

Raising money for those in great need is key to ABW’s mission. The international development organization aims to break the cycle of poverty abroad in countries like Kenya and Afghanistan, but also back in Central Alberta.

For Wright, helping individuals experiencing homelessness was a natural fit for her. She started volunteering for the Mustard Seed about six years ago.

“I was going twice a month to assist their clients with doing resumés. I found that people were homeless for so many reasons.”

Wright started with the Coldest Night of the Year walk with her church in Olds and then decided to launch a walk for the Mustard Seed branch in Red Deer. It has become a stopover for meals plus a place to sleep, and it also offers wellness counselling, job-finding assistance, and spiritual support. ABW advertised the event, as well as provided cookies and hot chocolate following the walk. This co-ordinated team effort has led to the walk’s success.

Wright is also a committed supporter and volunteer of ABW. She’s travelled to Kenya four times with ABW to help with medical clinics and teach basic trauma-life support to medical officers.

Wright has also donated to water projects. “After being in Kenya after major droughts, I realized just how crucial clean water is to the people’s health, to the health of their animals, and to food production through gardens, crops, and dairies,” she says.

This married mother of two grown children, Amber and Justin, works at an animal hospital in Red Deer. She also has her own house-call practice and is a sessional instructor at University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine.

Still, she finds the time to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, something she is so happy to do. “We are hoping to make this an annual fundraiser for the Mustard Seed,” says Wright. ■

Laura Tester is a freelance writer who travels with A Better World.

Growing Up

Millennial



The Last One

"Lean on God and listen to Him. Appreciate people for their own journeys. Let's love one another as God loves us."

I have been writing for the *Messenger* since early fall 2017. Right before the second year of my undergraduate degree until now—the conclusion of my graduate degree. A lot has certainly changed in my life, as I'm sure it has in yours.

I've finished two advanced degrees. I watched a pandemic begin (that has yet to end ...). I've watched friends turn into strangers; I've watched strangers turn into friends. I've seen my brother get married; I'm getting married this month. My dog passed away, I've moved back and forth across the United States, I'm working on getting my appropriate visa, and I've both laughed and cried a lot. I've grown in my relationship with God.

Changes are hard. And there have been a lot of changes for me in the past five years, so I want to thank and appreciate all of you who have read these articles, those of you who have reached out, and those of you who have been part of my journey through life as a young millennial (or very old Gen Z, depending on your stance).

I am honoured to have been part of this magazine, to spread God's love, and to appreciate His work through my perspective and interpretations. Life is a continuous journey, and I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to write for you and for your reception. It's been therapeutic for me, especially writing about deep things like having anxiety, dealing with big life events/changes, coping with loss, accepting God's love, and learning to trust Him. I've said it over and over again, but patience has been hard for

me, so I want to thank all of you who have been patient with me and my writing. I hope that you were able to relate at times, and even if you weren't, thank you for the support.

As the younger generations continue to come into the world, I encourage myself and everyone to listen to them. Everyone has valid experiences, and a lot of the changes that are happening in society can be faced with love and acceptance—two things that God has called us to do and be. We can have differing beliefs throughout the world, and not everyone is a Seventh-day Adventist, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't love people for who they are. We have a choice to make going forward, and I believe the choice of love should always prevail. I know I've judged and jumped to conclusions, but that doesn't mean we have to stay one way or another. Lean on God and listen to Him. Appreciate people for their own journeys. Let's love one another as God loves us.

Thank you for reading for all these years. Thank you for appreciating self-care, the power of being different, and how someone of a younger generation has found a place in the world. ■

Jordyn Boonstra is a British Columbian millennial completing a master's degree at Andrews University.

■ Announcement Policies

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Adrianna Lewis (lewis.adrianna@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.

■ Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 19th Regular Meeting of the Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) will be held virtually on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. EDT.

The meeting is called for the purpose of receiving reports for the past six years, the election of officers, the appointing of directors and associate/assistant directors of departments, the election of the Board of Directors, consideration of proposed changes in the bylaws that may be recommended, and the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting at that time.

The 19th Regular Meeting of the Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada will be constituted by regular delegates, as well as the delegates at large. The regular delegates are elected by the member institutions. Each local conference or mission shall be entitled to two (2) delegates without regard to conference membership and one (1) additional delegate for each six hundred (600) church members or major fraction thereof who shall be chosen by their respective conference or mission board. Kingsway College and Burman University shall be entitled to one (1) delegate each,

chosen by their respective boards. In addition, the delegates at large are members of the SDACC Board, the SDACC Bylaws Committee, the representatives of the North American Division, and 12 individuals employed by our church within Canada, appointed by the SDACC Board.

Mark Johnson, President
Paul Llewellyn, VP for Administration

■ Missing Members

The Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Czar Andrei Cruz, Darcy Cruz, Maria Liza Cruz, Philip Cruz, Mila Doo, Elizabeth Duarte, Sophie Folks, Nataliya Kutkin, Vladimir Kutkin, Adeline Madriaga, Edilberta Marifosque, Jeremy Marifosque, Krystle Marifosque, Maribel Marifosque, Ernest Maverzke, Joel Mendoza, Jose Mendoza, Xiomara Mendoza, Pilar Milanello, Dakila Nabong, Genesee Nabong, Lucita Nabong, Stephanie Nabong, Yahira Pinto, Carlos Rivera, and Thais Rocha. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please contact Angie Berto. Phone: 604/338-7194; email: aberto.bberto@gmail.com.

The Vancouver Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church

is looking for the following missing members: Danilo Tarun Acierda, Mimie Agellon, Rogelio Andallo, Joyce Baquiran, Leo Basit, Michael Basit, Georgina Bayangan, Rosita Baybayan, Emerson Bayoneta, Evelyn E. Bayoneta, Edgar Decolongon, Teresa Decolongon, Ellen Ruth Fabella, Amelita Franks, Perry Franks, Jean Gill, Manasseh Gudoy, Edgar Javillo, Zoltan Milkos Kiss, Benjamin Kok, Jonathan Kok, Julian Kok, Paul Kok, Renato Kwan, Eleanor Labrador, Maggie Latta, Freda Lyn Lingbangan, Ricky Looi, Maria Volyn Macuja, Helen Sevillano Marbella, Anthony Riel Mariano, Eden Padilla Olarte-Donasco, Evelyn Ortiz, Reynald Ortiz, Esperanza Jover Patoomrungee, Jungy Perida, Mary Ann Perida, Nerissa Pineda, Christine Rosario, Adriel James Salehi-Parast, Robert San Juan, Esther Sandoval, Nancy Seguia, Frances Eva Ganong Slade, Marilyn Taccaban, Carlo Taguba, Joel David Talento, John Taylor, Adelfa Tolentino, Alfredo Tolentino, Angelina Mendoza Unsay, John Gubalani Unsay, Emerson Valladolid, Rowena Valladolid, and Maria Zamora. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please contact the church clerk, Madelyn Cayetano. Email: info@vancouverfilipinoadventist.ca.

The Toronto East Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the

following missing members: Travis Acheampong, Nazarine Sean Adams, Rod Adams, Jana Alfoe, Brentley Allen, Paulette Allen, Harriette J. Alleyne, Kenrick Oscar Alleyne, Shermine Babbia, Icyline Badwa, Barron Bailey, Pamela Baker, Roy Baptista, Doreen Barrett, Reta Bartraw, Jane M. Belasco, Cynthia Bellamy, Christopher Belnavis, Sandra Bernard, Paulet Biggs, Aprile Bint, Pam Bint, Karen Black, Lloyd Black, Cynthia Bona, John Bond, Wena Bourne, Mark Broderick, Esterita Brown, Gary Brown, Gary Brown, Gerda Brown, Monique Brown, Shirley Brown, Malcolm Buddoo, Deborah Grace Burkas, Radaiah Burrell, Yvonne Butler, Hermalyn Cadogan, Carmella Cain, Tom Cain, Maria Anne Callender, Agatha Campbell, Jenifer Pamela Campbell, Larry Campbell, Veronika Campbell, Sheldon Carnrite, Trevor Carnrite, Gregory Jerome Christie, Joycelyn Christie, Rudy Clarke, Marcellous Cooper, Kenneth Cornwall, Richard Cossi, Natasha Cowie, Allan Cruickshank, Shakura Davis, Jumol Decourcy, Dale Desmonis, Jennifer Dixon-Modeste, Michael Doyle, Adrian Duncan, Radcliffe Duncan, Noel Dyer, Cindy Edwards, Fitz H. Esdelle, Dwayne Evans, Wentworth W. Evans, Aldrin Fernando, July Ann Mari Fleischer, Orvella Flint, Mertle Forest, Luther Forrester, Launa Forskin, Ellen Frances, Ruth Francis, Ethel Fraser, Sima Frederick, Mandu A. Gasennelwe, Rose Marie Gayle, Daniel George, Yolande Gittens, Esther Gonzales, Lambert Grant, Maxine Grant, Serena Ann Graver, M. Greaves, Marion Greco, Christie Green, O'Neil Green, Stewart Green, Winston Green, Avril Gregory, Claudette Griffith, Cynthia Groves, Bridget Gulford, Bernice Gunnings, and Nicole Gutherie. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please contact the church clerk. Email: cclerktorontoeastdsd@gmail.com.

■ Obituaries

Hazel Muriel Heppel was born April 10, 1928, in Vancouver, B.C., and died Feb. 23, 2022, in McBride, B.C. She served the McBride/Lamming Mills area from 1959 to 1964 as a primary grades school teacher and continued her teaching career in Canada, the United States, and the Philippines for nearly 35 years. She was an enthusiastic world traveller and participated in several Maranatha trips as well as travelling to the Holy Land and Egypt where she added to her many friends. She served her local church in various roles and spread joy wherever she

went. Surviving: son, Mark Huber of Vancouver, B.C.; and stepson, Graham Heppel, Jr.

Perry Allen Parks was born Aug. 7, 1934, in Diamond, Wash., and died Feb. 28, 2022, in Medford, Ore. Perry loved his years of service in Canada. His Canadian service included serving as stewardship and youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and as president of the Maritime Conference. Perry was very involved in working with youth, including a camporee in Vail, Colo., and a youth congress in Mexico City. He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Mabel; brother, Duane; and sister, Evelyn Gretencort. Surviving: spouse, Gloria (née Kennedy) Parks; son, Dan (Melissa) of Brandon, Fla.; daughters, Donita (Dan) Jensen of Eagle Point, Ore., and Darlene (Mark) of Redlands, Calif.; brothers, Oris (Ann) of Deary, Idaho, Dennis (Geri) of Eagle, Idaho, and Nick (Lisette) of Bennet, Neb.; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mirion (née Bennett) Pye was born June 27, 1929, in Greens Harbour, N.L., and died Nov. 12, 2021, in Lethbridge, N.L. Mirion, who had played the organ since a teenager, shared this gift with her local church for over 50 years. She also served as a Sabbath school teacher and church treasurer. She loved reading her Bible and inspirational books, as well as listening to religious music. Mirion was predeceased by her spouse, Leonard; parents, Maxwell and Mehetable Bennett; and brothers, Nelson, Gerald, and Howard Bennett. Surviving: sons, Donald (Patricia) Pye of Wardvane, Ont., Clarence (Jean) Pye of Lethbridge, Rayfield Pye of Oshawa, Ont., Neil (Patricia) Pye of Dodsland, Sask., David (Kay) Pye of Musgravetown, N.L., Evan (Glenda) Pye of Chetwynd, B.C., and Lyndon (Sandra) Pye of Calgary, Alta.; daughters, Mona Hodder and Bessie Pye of Lethbridge; brothers, Donald Bennett, Roy (Eva) Bennett, Lloyd (Vera) Bennett, and Graham (Rhoda) Bennett, all of Newfoundland; sister, Alma (George) Vollick; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Allan Robertson was born Sept. 16, 1935, in Fort Frances, Ont., and died March 27, 2022, in Kelowna, B.C. Allan served as a pastor for 33 years and as an instructor in the Religious Studies Department at Canadian Union College (now Burman University) for six years. His passion was preaching and teaching. He was known as a gifted Bible scholar and theologian. As a man who dedicated his talents and creativity to God, he



touched many lives and leaves a rich legacy of deepening people's understanding of the Word of God. He was predeceased by his daughter, Althea. Surviving: spouse, Dorothy; daughter, Joy (Dale) Sismey of Langley, B.C.; and sisters, Norma (Fred) de Jong of Winnipeg, Man., and Phyllis Robertson of Parksville, B.C.

Sarah (née Martens) Simanton was born March 9, 1933, in Hepburn, Sask., and died Dec. 15, 2021, in McBride, B.C. Sarah was a faithful Sabbath school investment leader and worked all year making lovely things for the yearly fall investment sale that she so capably organized. Her warm hospitality in her home and as a Sabbath school greeter as well as her gift of friendship have been treasured by many. She was predeceased by her son, Michael Hryhchuk; parents, Jacob and Mary (née Warkentin); sisters, Mary Hallwas and Rosella Martens. Surviving: spouse, Ron Simanton; son, Willie (Sharon) Hryhchuk of McBride; daughter, Louann (Denis) Poirier; brother, Walter (Esther) Martens of McBride; sister, Annie (Ron) Williams of Williams Lake, B.C.; and two grandchildren.

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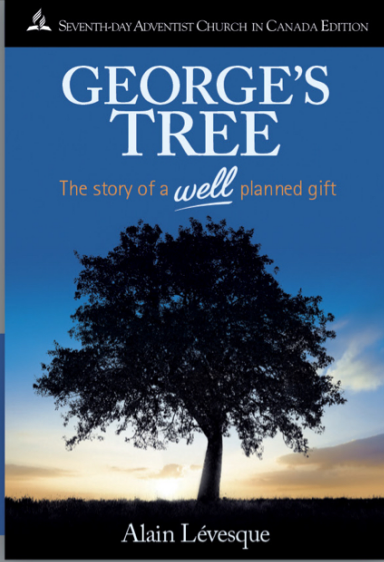
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Cycles

For some reason, I tend to read magazines backwards, from back to front. But if you're not like me, and read magazines the traditional way, you will have already seen the Quinquennial Report that's inserted in this issue. It is being shared with you ahead of the constituency session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada coming up in September, where church delegates from across the country will elect our leadership and vote on important items related to the work of the church in Canada. This is something that usually happens in a five-year cycle.

Speaking of cycles, last month we printed a thank-you note to Pastor Ashia Lennon, our Teen Talk columnist for the past two years. This issue is the last one in which Jordyn Boonstra has written for the Growing Up Millennial column. We will miss both Pastor Ashia's and Jordyn's unique contributions. Their journeys are taking them in new directions, and we wish them nothing but the best. Soon you'll meet our new contributors who will write content for those sections of our magazine.

Life has its cycles and seasons. Moving on to new adventures may come as the next step in someone's life. Some of us may have to relocate, change homes, schools, or search for new jobs, while others may never have to experience that kind of radical change. There is, however, one way each one of us is expected to change.

On a certain occasion in Jesus' day, some visitors who belonged to a different religion went up to the temple in Jerusalem among those who had gone there to worship and celebrate the Passover. These visitors sent a message via Philip that they wanted to see Jesus. When the request finally reached the Lord's ears, His answer was, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24, ESV). On one hand, Jesus was prophetically speaking of the interest in His teachings that would result from the commotion around His own death. The other noticeable message is one of self-denial and altruism. And that's the type of change we're encouraged to experience daily.

There is a need for us to die to self and give way to Jesus. To empty ourselves of our desire to be in control of our lives and give room to the work of the Holy Spirit. When it comes to our relationships with others, there is great need of dying to prejudice and appreciating every human being for who they are—God's creation. By dying to self, we will bear much fruit.

I pray that we'll live the type of Christian life that those who come after us will yearn to imitate. In return, we'll be blessed to see them stand for Jesus and lead the church today and into the future. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evaldo Vicente".

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