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Messenger

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Another Reformation?

*The difference between "doing"
church and "being" the church*



Staying In Touch

Every few minutes throughout the day, my iPhone beeps or buzzes to let me know that I have another email or text message. While traveling recently, I met a woman who told me that she connects via video-chat every day with her grandchildren in Australia. A friend of mine is studying the Bible with several people in a foreign country halfway around the world. It has never been so easy to stay in touch with family, friends or work. And as I travel, it is reassuring to know that I can reach out and connect with my wife, Becky, and with our children no matter where I am.

This has made me think more and more about how I stay in touch with God. If you and I are alike, it isn't terribly hard to become distracted or perhaps so focused on a project that time slips by, and hours have disappeared without us reconnecting with Heaven.

I've come to realize that I need to connect more frequently with God. Morning and evening and at the beginning of meetings is just not enough to keep me on target through the day.

Lately, I've set my iPhone to remind me at the beginning of each hour to read a passage from Scripture, and to talk with God about those things that worry me, the next hour's tasks or a person who is on my mind. The harp ringtone discreetly reminds me that the help I need is available now. I've discovered that in the remaining 55 minutes of the hour, unlimited peace and strength can be mine.

God doesn't screen calls. He's always available. He invites us to connect. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him," (James 1:5, ESV).

Why not join me in staying in touch with God throughout the day? What do you suppose our church would be like if each of us prayed our way through the day?

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“More than four million Somalis are living in famine zones, according to the United Nations, and 750,000 are at risk of starving to death in the next few months.”¹

Left: In Mogadishu, Somalia, “Frederick,” his mother, and younger brother warmly welcome ADRA staff to view their eight-by-eight-foot temporary shelter in the middle of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp.

Somalis share “Last Meal” with ADRA Staff

It’s unimaginable that in this century, a family would have to dwell in a “home” made of sticks strapped together in an eight-by-eight-foot dome structure with plastic tarps, bits of wood, fabric and cardboard as the only protection from the elements. Yet, for nearly 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia, that is the reality of life.

Why is this happening? For the pastoral people of Somalia the devastating effects of failed rains have destroyed pasture lands and dried up water points, resulting in the deaths of most, if not all, of the small herds of animals kept by families. With the loss of the family’s livestock, farmers are left with no means of income, no meat and no milk. They are left completely desolate. Government support programs like Employment Insurance don’t exist, and insurance on belongings or animals is unheard of in these remote communities. There is no income to be had as a result of the loss of livestock. As a result, desperate families have no choice but to travel to regions where temporary communities called IDP camps are established to assist those who have no other means of survival.

Some have travelled on foot, the equivalent of walking from Quebec City to Toronto, carrying small children and a few belongings with them to the IDP camps in hopes of finding help for

themselves and their children. Upon arrival, refugees register, and those healthy enough to do so proceed to seek a space within the confines of the IDP camp to erect a temporary shelter. Able-bodied family members scour the camp and surrounding landscape for anything that can be used in the construction of their temporary home and, once the homes are constructed, go about the business of obtaining food, water and other essentials.

Children roam the outlying area of the camp searching for anything that might be traded for food or much-needed household items and search scrap heaps for anything that might be edible. If they are lucky enough to find something to eat, they proceed “home” quickly to share the treasured find with younger siblings too small or too weak to search for themselves. Mothers sit in the stifling heat of the makeshift homes trying to care for their small children, suffering from dehydration and malnutrition, continuously fanning the flies off.

The landscape is littered with the rotting remains of livestock, discarded household items that refugees no longer had the energy to carry, and waste. Yet in the middle of all of this, any number of families (as seen in the picture), happily pull aside the small scrap of fabric that suffices as a door and welcome ADRA staff into their home. And even though

their food rations are dangerously low, and the family does not know if they will receive more or how they might earn the money to purchase much-needed rations, they offer to share their meal. What a humbling experience for the volunteers and staff of ADRA. How can these people who appear to have nothing still smile so warmly and offer to share what meagre food they have? They recognize the value of humanity over things and have come to appreciate the importance and strength of the human spirit. They gladly share with those who have assisted them and extend their thanks to the staff, volunteers and the ADRA supporters who have made their situation, and that of their neighbours, more tolerable. The generous support of those who give to ADRA is making a difference in Mogadishu and similar communities around the developing world.

ADRA continues to provide assistance in East Africa. Volunteers and staff work in high security risk areas to ensure that the most vulnerable continue to receive much-needed assistance. Your support ensures that essentials like food, water and household items are provided to at-risk individuals during their time of need. ■

Alicia Sawyers works for ADRA Canada in donor relations.



“God wants the home to be the happiest place on earth, the very symbol of the home in heaven.”

Family Friendship

Perhaps the sweetest words a spouse can hear are, “You are my best friend!” A close second is to hear a son or daughter say, “My mom/dad is my best friend!” Those words have deep implications and from a human perspective, that type of relationship doesn’t get much better.

We may conjecture what that phrase means, and certainly it may have different implications for different families, yet the words of Jesus in John 15 can give us some ideas. Jesus Himself craves our friendship and defines what that means.

Verse 4 opens with a call to an exceptional relationship: “Abide in Me and I in you,” He says. “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me” (NKJV). In verses 13 and 14, He says, “You are My friends.” With that invitation He identifies at least four aspects true friendship implies.

Friendship implies joy (v. 11). Friends enjoy each other’s company. They feel comfortable and secure in each other’s presence and look forward to being together. It is safe to express innermost feelings, with no fear of retribution or judgment. True friends understand each other’s hopes and dreams and comfort each other in disappointment. Herein is their joy. Regarding family friendship, “God wants the home to be the happiest place on earth, the very symbol of the home in heaven.”¹

Friendship implies love (v. 11). Best friends love each other as defined in 1 Corinthians 13. Yet so often spouses become competitors, arguing and disputing, vying for the upper hand rather than attempting to out-give each other in kindness and tenderness. “Every home should be a place of love, a place where the angels of God abide, working with softening, subduing influence upon the hearts of parents and children.”²

Friendship implies partnership (v. 20). When God created Eve, He created her from Adam’s side, symbolic that the two are partners, rather than for one to dominate the other. Jesus contrasts friendship with servanthood. True friendship is walking as partners, in unison, toward the same destination.

Friendship implies ambassadorship (v. 27). Family

friendships present each other in the best of light to the outside. Like ambassadors in a foreign country, they speak fondly about each other in the presence of others, devoid of ridicule and sarcasm.

Jesus presents the ideal friendship model and that same model can be transferred to family friendship. True friendship, according to William Barclay, was understood clearly in the days of the Roman Empire. Emperors and kings had a select group known as friends of the emperor, or friends of the king. They had access to the king at all times, even the right to his bedchamber at the beginning of the day. He talked to them before he talked to his generals or statesmen. They were friends and had the most intimate connection with him.

Could this have been Jesus’ picture when He said, “You are My friends?” Is it possible this is the best-friend relationship Jesus wants with us? Could we apply these same best-friend principles to our family relationships, and if we did, might there not be less quarreling, less violence, less divorce, less abuse, fewer police calls, but more encouragement, more joy and more happiness?

Ellen White wrote extensively regarding family relationships, but two statements are classics. Regarding the husband-wife relationship, she says: “In every way encourage each other in fighting the battles of life. Study to advance the happiness of each other. Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance. Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love. The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven.”³

“The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. . . . The home in which members are polite, courteous Christians exerts a far-reaching influence for good.”⁴

Of course Jesus is our first very best friend. But after that why not make your spouse, your son, your daughter, your mom, your dad your best friend? ■

Ken Wiebe is president of the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1952), 102.

² *Ibid.*, 18, 19.

³ *Ibid.*, 106

⁴ *Ibid.*, 31.

no, and yes ...

T33nTalk

I have made some bad choices in the past. Is a fresh start possible?

In this life the answer is no, and yes. One of the most glaring bad choices recorded in the Bible was David's affair with Bathsheba, which ultimately led to the murder of Uriah. Hopefully, no one reading this will ever make such devastating choices. Was a new start possible for David? Yes and no. It is true that God forgave him—He even said of David that he was a man after His own heart (1 Sam. 13:14)! Forgiveness is a guarantee with God and restoration is assured in the long run, however (and it's a huge however!), there is no such thing as a completely fresh start in this life. The scars and effects of bad choices linger on. Like a chronic illness, they can flare up and cause us sleepless nights years after the sin is over, dealt with and forgiven. It is no accident that the Bible calls Satan the "accuser of the brethren" (Rev. 12:10). His main reason for luring us into sin is so that he can then hang that sin over our heads and put us in agony.

If you go back and read about King David's life after his sequence of really bad choices, it is not pretty. The influence those choices had on his children and his reputation was devastating. Forgiven yes, but the scars and the consequences never went away.

Now, before you get completely depressed, let me assure you that in Jesus we are forgiven if we ask, and when God looks at us He does not see our sin or our scars. He only sees Jesus, and when Jesus comes all our scars will be forever healed.

If you have made mistakes, do not despair. God forgives and heals, but please do not think that you can give into the temptations of life and simply seek forgiveness and go on without consequences. It is a great testimony to experience the forgiveness and healing of the grace of God. It is a better testimony to seek the power of God and avoid the scars completely.

So if you need a fresh start, make it this. Resolve not to make resolutions. Resolve never to make promises. Resolve never to trust yourself at all. Resolve instead that from now on you will seek God and live His way no matter the cost, and if you stumble, get up again and reclaim the promise that He will carry the work He has begun in you to its glorious completion! ■



This month's contributor is Dan Wilson, pastor of the Halifax and Fox Point churches in Nova Scotia. If you have a question for him or any of our Teen Talk writers, email us at messenger@adventist.ca.

Creation Corner for Kids

“Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:19, KJV



Sperm Whales

Imagine walking quickly for 2.5 kilometres (about 1.6 miles). It would take you about 26 minutes. Sperm whales dive at a fast walking speed and have been recorded 2.5 kilometres below the surface, where the ocean is black and cold. The weight of water pressing on the whale causes the whale's rib cage to fold up, makes its lungs collapse like a deflated balloon and squeezes the air in the whale's body down to less than one percent of the space it normally takes up. Then the sperm whale goes looking for a giant squid to fight with.

If you squeeze a partly inflated balloon in your fist, the balloon bulges around your hand as the air looks for spaces to fill. That's what should happen to the sperm whale, but it doesn't. Scientists can't understand how a sperm whale can dive to such depths and resurface many times each day without harm. It shouldn't be possible. But with God it is.

Think about it.

God designed the sperm whale with the amazing ability to make very deep dives. But even sperm whales cannot dive to the deepest part of the ocean, the Challenger Deep. It's over 10 kilometres below the surface. When we are sorry for our sins, God removes them far from us—figuratively speaking, to the depths of the ocean. Imagine your sins sinking into the black abyss of Challenger Deep, being completely crushed and destroyed. In other words, once God has forgiven our sins, we can just forget about them.

Do it!

When you are sorry for your sins, tell God and do what you can to make things right if you've hurt someone. Then accept God's forgiveness and forget about it. Want to see a sperm whale dive? Check this out: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_z2Lfxpi710&noredirect=1



By Lynn McDowell

BIG CHANGES

in the lives of students at
Canada's Adventist university

"The experience I've received at CUC is more than I could have experienced anywhere else."

—Robeson Dorelus, Palm Beach, Fla.
Religious Studies major, Class of 2013

If music is the language of angels, Robeson "Robby" Dorelus brought a new and heavenly dialect to CUC. His first language, growing up in Palm Beach's Bethel French SDA Church, is Creole French, but in middle school, Robby added steel drums to his communication skills. He joined the Florida Conference Drum Line, from which he still receives all his drum line music, and quickly became a leader there.

Though he was planning to follow his sister to another Adventist college, it just didn't seem quite right. He heard about CUC, made a phone call to Nicole Sydenham, CUC's admissions officer, and knew it was the place for him. ("Canadians are the nicest people in the world," he says. "You're just so nice!") Once on campus, he wanted to give as well as take, and what better gift could he offer than his passion for drum line and all the joy, discipline and power for community outreach that he'd experienced?

Robby wrote proposals, talked to CUC administrators who supported the idea, raised funds and interest, and CUC's Drum Line was born.

Less than two months after their first off-campus performance, the invitations began coming in—including a role in the Calgary Stampede parade. But it is the potential for ministry that he saw when the group visited the Hobbema Reserve school that truly excites Robby.

"You can control those kids with drums," he says, recalling the 15-minute performance and individual drum demonstration at the reserve. The children loved the performance and were thrilled by the chance to try the instruments. "It's not about drumming," explains Robby of his vision for Drum Line's ministry. "It's a way to discipline through drums."

Robby's vision for his personal ministry as a pastor and for CUC's Drum Line is long-range. "I'm training leaders like Odessa [Simon, captain]," he says, "so that this isn't a one-shot deal. God has truly blessed this drum corps. It has some amazing people, like Seth Bussey and Matthew Edwards. Before I leave, I want to start a steel drum group within the Drum Line that they can continue." ■

NEW BEGINNINGS

CUC Welcomes New Staff and Student Initiative

New Faculty and Staff Bring New Gifts to Campus

Sara Chavez, Chemistry & Physics Lab Assistant—Sara's seven years at the University of Toronto, Mississauga campus, included experience as lab assistant in the Cell and Molecular Research Lab, being a lab instructor, and bringing science to the masses as coordinator of UTM's "Let's Talk Science" program. Her international education (M.Sc., Calif.; B.Sc., Peru) is an asset as she trains student lab assistants and assists student research projects. "I am passionate about making the students discover the Great Mind behind creation," says Sara. "This is a vibrant campus, and a great place to learn and grow, spiritually speaking."

Massiel Davila, Assistant Pastor (Nurture)—Massiel joined the church pastoral staff in January after completing her Master's degree at the Andrews University seminary in December. A 2005 graduate of CUC's Religious Studies program, Massiel is no stranger to the campus. "Back in my day, there were many empty spaces," she said in her sermon at the second semester Opening Convocation. "I'm glad that there are many more faces [at CUC] now."

Saida Mejia Belonio, Enrolment Advisor (Western Region)—Saida first noticed the strong family atmosphere on campus as a student at CUC. Her previous work in Vancouver, B.C., as a trainer in Bell's HR Department, where she helped new employees integrate into their new job environment, gives her an integrated approach to counseling prospective students on the academic, social, financial and spiritual aspects of their college education.

Brent van Rensburg, Assistant Dean for Dorm Residents—"I have always considered CUC my second home," says Brent, a 2004 graduate. His recent classroom experience at Peel Adventist School in Brampton, Ont., was excellent preparation for his front-line role with students living at Riverton Hall, Cornerstone, Redstone and Maple Hall. "I really appreciate the opportunity that CUC has given me to serve in this capacity," says Brent. "At CUC, I know friends last forever."

Cassandra Kern, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the Division of Arts—Before moving to CUC

with her husband, who is pursuing Religious Studies, Cassandra earned a post-graduate certificate in Project Management and honed her administrative skills at the Mississauga Children's Choir. "I just love CUC, the community and its values," says Cassandra. "It's been a joy to work in a safe environment where I can really learn more about God and how to allow Christ to work through me."

John McDowell, Dean, Division of Arts—John returns to CUC after teaching for 10 years and heading the Honours program at Pacific Union College, and takes up two of his past positions at CUC—overseeing the departments in the Division of Arts and teaching English. "I'm pleased to see the positive direction and gains here at CUC and to again be part of the strong and dedicated faculty who are moving the college forward," says John.

Sheri Mitchell, Aquatic Director—As Sheri progressed through her CUC degree, she was a leader in its aquatic program, so stepping into her role upon graduating from CUC this past spring seemed natural for the Princeton, Ont., native. The CUC students enrolling in swimming classes in record numbers are just part of what makes her job so exciting: Sheri, who began coaching Lacombe's first group Special Olympics athletes four years ago as a CUC initiative, is pleased that the group has grown to 18 athletes, some of whom qualified for provincial level competition.

Jair Ramos-Medina, Assistant Professor of Mathematics—Teaching at CUC is part of Jair's dream to teach around the world. A native of Peru who until recently taught Math and Physics at Cayetano Heredia University in Lima, Peru, Jair first came to Alberta to do post-doctoral work at the University of Alberta and knew he wanted to return to Canada, winter notwithstanding.

Martha Becker, Office Assistant, School of Education—A 2008 CUC graduate, Martha moves from the Registrar's office to a part-time position to accommodate her other new job: mom. ■

recently spoke with Dan Wilson, pastor at the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church, regarding some exciting ways they are using technology to connect with the community. It all started approximately two years ago when the Halifax church approached the Voice of Prophecy about purchasing some airtime on a local Christian radio station in Halifax called CJLU. For the past two years, that VOP broadcast has been heard every evening for 25 minutes and Sabbath morning for 30 minutes. It is not only heard throughout Halifax but across repeater stations to the Annapolis Valley and on to PEI. At the end of the broadcast, there is a tag line that says, "This program was brought to you by your friends at the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church. Visit us on the web at www.halifaxadventist.org and keep looking up to Jesus, the only Hope we have and the only Hope we need!" Wilson says this radio spot has greatly increased the traffic to their church website, and listeners occasionally send him emails with questions about the Bible or something they heard on the program.

TELL IT TO THE WORLD

The radio station provides some free advertising for the church including an ad about Sandy Lake Academy and their citrus program. "It has been great to build a friendship with the radio station," Wilson says, "We've had five families come to Sandy Lake Academy because of the free advertising on the Radio." Wilson is also very excited that VOP has given the Halifax church their Saturday morning airtime, and in a few weeks they will start broadcasting the Sabbath sermon.

Another exciting use of technology occurred in October of this year. In response to Harold Camping's October 21 end-of-the-world prediction, the two local pastors and four churches decided to hold a three-night evangelistic series at Dalhousie University. A new website, <http://the.coming.ca>, was created for the event, too. Wilson says that approximately 20,000 people have visited the website since it went online. Besides the website advertising, they purchased space on four large billboards, 220 signs inside buses and delivered 10,000 door hangers. All the advertising clearly identified the website address and drove people to it for more information. The biggest technological part of this event was that the whole thing was streamed live on the website's front page. Pedro Graca, pastor of the Tantallon and Fox Point churches, says that there were approximately 50 people each night watching the live video stream.

Wilson said from doing these things he learned that many people today want to check things out but don't necessarily want to come out to a meeting. "We make a mistake by assuming that when people don't come to a live event that they are not interested" says Wilson, "there could be all kinds of reasons why they don't go. I love hockey and I only get to about one hockey game a year. Not because I don't want to, because I don't have time."

The final technology tool I want to share with you that the Halifax church regularly uses is the social media giant called Facebook. Joining the 800 million other users, Wilson regularly sends out announcements about upcoming events or Bible-related information. "It works very well," says Wilson, "I get more people coming to events now than I did before." The Halifax Adventist Youth have their own Facebook page and post information about their own events there. Wilson describes Facebook as a great tool to reach out to the youth because they are on Facebook a lot of the time. "It becomes a great way to reach out to them and let them know about what's happening," he says.

Wilson tells me that they are currently working on a live video stream of their church service and planning to do another live video stream for an event scheduled at Easter time next year. There has also been talk about setting up a web studio for broadcasting more live events but that's just an idea right now waiting to blossom. ■

Troy McQueen is communication specialist for the British Columbia conference. He can also be found at <http://mcquesview.com>

“Thus far the Lord has helped us”

1 Samuel 7:12, NKJV

It is expected that each year a secretary of an institution gives a report about the growth during the previous year of activity. Not doing so would represent a lack of professionalism. As Dennis Prager, a media fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, said: “Our scientific age demands that we provide definitions, measurements, and statistics in order to be taken seriously. Yet most of the important things in life cannot be precisely defined or measured. Can we define or measure love, beauty, friendship, or decency, for example?” We agree with Dr. Prager about the need for regular reports, perceived as valuable tools among the decision makers. Also, the statistics can facilitate the evaluation within a group and give a rapid overview, drawing a global picture through short and sound statements. However, at the same time, we would like to underline with fervor and passion that the quality of life and the involvement of many members in our churches are much higher than the statistics can express. Let’s take a brief look at our reports without forgetting how valuable the spirit of service and love of thousands of remarkable brothers and sisters is.

We finished the year 2011 with 63,681 members. There was a net increase of 549 members, or 0.869 percent of growth. Even though the percentage seems low, I would like to invite you to appreciate the influence of the Holy Spirit and the labour of many pastors, elders, Bible workers, educators, youth leaders, and lay members who made it possible for 628 baptisms and 93 professions of faith across Canada. Each person is precious in God’s sight, and through this report we address a warm welcome to 726 faithful believers who await the soon coming of Jesus. May their presence be a blessing in our communities. May they also find their place, giving the best of themselves for the glory of His name.

In addition to our growth through evangelistic activities, a small percentage comes also from the transfer of our members. While some conferences are more attractive than others, we can conclude that 84 new additional members came from outside of the country, which is 0.131 percent of the total membership (508 additions by letter; 424 dropped members by letter). This

fact reminds us that the true increase will not happen overnight and without diligent work on our part. This is why we understand the urgency of Ellen White’s message: “My brethren and sisters, there are souls in your neighborhood who, if they were judiciously labored for, would be converted. Efforts must be made for those who do not understand the Word. Let those who profess to believe the truth become partakers of the divine nature, and then they will see that the fields are ripe for the work that all can do whose souls are prepared by living the Word.”¹

It is also essential to mention that 128 members who were with us at the beginning of January 2011 decided not to continue their spiritual journey within our church. Our hearts are always hurt when we see people discouraged and leaving what we treasure the most, the communion of God’s children that Jesus redeemed through His blood. May these difficult experiences be an invitation to maintain in our churches an atmosphere of peace, protection, and reconciliation. Let’s also promote God’s Word in all our activities. It is only God’s power that can keep people attached to His church.

In conclusion, we would like to encourage every member to engage in a renewed commitment to regular prayer each and every day. During the past year, 3,511 non-Seventh-day Adventists attended our local churches. Their interest and love for God’s Word is encouraging. The leadership in Canada is inviting you to pray systematically for the spread of the gospel and for life-changing decisions, especially for those non-members who are already coming to worship God with us. May the future months be filled with good news for God’s kingdom and for the salvation of many. Canada is ready to witness the miracles of changed lives as the Holy Spirit works ■

Dragan Stojanovic is Vice President for Administration for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Evangelism* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1973), 114, emphasis added.



SDACC EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATION AWARD

The Office of Education is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2011 Excellence in Teaching and Administration award. This award is given to teachers and school administrators who are currently working in Adventist education to recognize their outstanding leadership in 11 categories: Spiritual Credibility, Concern for Students, Instructional Competence, Classroom Management, Commitment to the Highest Quality Education, Classroom Environment, Student Outcomes, Interest in Professional Development, Working Relationship with Peers, Working Relationships with Supervision, and Involvement in Church and Community. The following five winners of this prestigious award are truly outstanding educators.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AWARD



IAN MIGHTY

IAN MIGHTY, M.A., La Sierra University (2009), is the principal of Red River Valley Junior Academy. He has 15 years of teaching experience. He is married to Jackie and they are the parents of Tiandra and Jaquayne. Ian enjoys fishing and travelling with his family and discovering new places. His school board chair describes Ian as one who “leads by example,” and who “works tirelessly and selflessly for our school.” A parent applauds him for his effective leadership, describing his commitment to their school, students and staff as “immeasurable.” Ian says that his most memorable teaching experience takes the form of miracles occurring every school day with school board members, teachers, parents and students. Having a child walk up to you with a dandelion in her hand, hugging you and telling you that you are the best teacher or principal in the world is a miracle in itself. The love that children demonstrate reminds him of how profound is the biblical injunction, “Unless you become like little children you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.” Ian says that teaching in an Adventist school is an act of love, and it is his unselfish way of giving back to future generations what was given to him by those teachers who mentored him to become the person he is today.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD



LANA LANDRY

LANA LANDRY, B.Ed., University of Manitoba (1997) has 18 years of teaching experience at Red River Valley Junior Academy, where she is currently the grades 7/8 home room teacher. She enjoys reading, conversing, hiking, bicycling and gardening. Her principal describes her as one who maintains a “well-organized classroom” and who is a strong curriculum leader. Because of her expertise in curriculum development, the Manitoba Department of Education has called upon her to review the provincial Grade 7 Mathematics curriculum and to make recommendations. One of the highlights of Lana’s teaching career occurred when her grades 5/6 class undertook a novel study of Lois Lowry’s book *Number the Stars*, which was eventually turned into an entire stage production. Lana chose teaching as a career because she loves children and enjoys listening to their ideas and understanding what they think.



ANTHEA LINDSAY

ANTHEA LINDSAY, M.A.T., Walla Walla University (2007), currently teaches Kindergarten and Art at Deer Lake SDA School in Burnaby, B.C. She is married to Keith and has been teaching in Adventist schools for 15 years. Anthea’s pastimes include art, music, cooking and gardening. Her principal describes her as “an amazing artist,” and one who has “a very kind way with her students.” Anthea has had many memorable experiences as a teacher. She recalled having a selective mute in one of her classes who had not spoken in public since she was three years old. Getting this student to finally speak in class after several months of encouragement was a highlight of her teaching career. Anthea became a teacher because she has a natural love for children and creative activities. She chose to teach in an Adventist school because of the opportunity it gives her to have a future in heaven with her students.



CINDY MAYO

CINDY MAYO, M.Ed., La Sierra University (2004), has 15 years of teaching experience in Adventist schools and is currently on maternity leave from Chinook Winds Adventist Academy in Calgary, Alta. She is married to Paul Mayo and is the proud mother of Mischa and Brooke. Cindy enjoys hiking, photography, reading, camping, and hanging out with friends. Her principal describes her as a “positive role model in spiritual matters,” and a team player who helps to develop “a positive environment in the school.” One of Cindy’s memorable teaching experiences was the occasion when she and her students watched with excitement the transformation of a chrysalis into a beautiful butterfly. Students were laughing and screaming as the process unfolded. From that experience Cindy concluded that the most effective teaching strategy is to get students involved in real life-learning experiences. Cindy enjoys teaching children because they are non-judgmental, spontaneous, and lots of fun. She likes teaching in an Adventist school because she can explore spiritual ideas with her students, which she cannot do in a public school setting.



ANGELA MCQUEEN

ANGELA MCQUEEN, B.Ed., Trinity Western University (2006), has six years of teaching experience. Currently, she teaches grade 4 at Deer Lake SDA School in Burnaby, B.C. Angela is married to Justin. She enjoys playing volleyball, card making and crafts, hiking, camping, reading and travelling. Her principal describes her as one who “is willing to go above and beyond with her students as well as her peers.” Angela gets great joy watching her students grow and learn and get excited about Jesus. She was influenced to become a teacher by observing and admiring her grade 4 teacher, Mrs. Morris. She chose to teach in an Adventist school because of the family atmosphere and the opportunity to share Jesus. She believes that Adventist education is one of the biggest and most effective evangelistic tools our church has.

FIVE REMARKABLE ADVENTISTS TEACHERS

These five remarkable teachers in the Adventist school system are just a few of many who work diligently every school day to educate our children for responsible citizenship in this world and the world to come. It was former United States President Bill Clinton who said: “Teaching is the essential profession, the one that makes all other professions possible. Without well-qualified, caring, and committed teachers, neither improved curricula and assessments, nor safe schools—not even the highest standards in the world—will ensure that our children are prepared for the challenges and opportunities. . . . education will make the difference between those who will prosper in the new economy and those who will be left behind.”¹ Let us continue to support and applaud our teachers for the work they do in preparing our children for future leadership in the church and society. ■

Dennis Marshall is General Vice President and Director of Education of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹ Bill Clinton, “Achieving Excellence In The Teaching Profession,” September 1998, www2.ed.gov/pubs/PromPractice/chapter1.html (accessed November 10, 2011).

Another Reformation?

by CAMPBELL PAGE



We have been hearing a lot about reformations lately. I would like to suggest a reformation that few people are talking about or are even aware is needed. It is a reformation that moves us from “doing” church into “being” the church.

Let me explain.

Society has changed. Canadian society is no longer Christian. Most people do not really know who Jesus is, nor are they all that concerned anyway. Often when we evangelize, we feel that solidifying our own doctrine is what will bring revival. Yet a focus on just doctrine (doing church is a lot about this) becomes very spiritually dry. One author we love to quote, in a very contextually appropriate way, stated to the church of her day that “as a people we have preached the law until we are as dry as the hills of Gilboa without dew or rain.”ⁱ

In Adventism, 1888 was a theological struggle between legalism and righteousness by faith. I would suggest that today we are in a struggle (like most of modern Christianity) between doing church and being the church. Doing church means it is a place, an event that we visit or take part in once a week—twice, if we’re quite devout. Being the church is living under the biblical injunction that God’s people are the church. Where we are, God’s presence is with us. We bring the presence of His church into that situation, whether it be at work, play, the local hockey arena or Tim Horton’s. Doing church is about bringing doctrine, or right thinking, into the minds of our fellow believers, our neighbours and others who don’t know God. However, being the church operates from the standpoint that we first want people to meet Jesus. It is recognizing that most people today need to meet Jesus before they have a correction in thinking. Therefore, I must recognize that I am the church; I am God’s presence in any given situation. I can, with the Spirit’s help, show Jesus to others through myself.

We need a reformation of theology to accomplish this. The very first step is to understand that it is God who has a mission; in fact, God is mission. The church does not have a mission. We join God in His mission. We have been asked to partner with God in His mission. The ramifications? We are not some colonial nation bringing the good news to the people around us whether they want it or not. We are not a superior race of beings coming in like the white knight of old to save the day. We do not look down our noses at the inferior “savages” who live next door to us, work with us or hang out at the same places we do.

Instead we follow a God who is on a mission, a God who is already at work all around us, a God who is already in the lives of our neighbours, friends and co-workers. God says, “Don’t come in thinking you have all the answers. I am already there. Stop,” he says, “for just a moment. ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ Know that I have been working in this person’s life for a very long time, since before they were even born, just like I was with you. I have impressed them and influenced them in many ways from behind the scenes. I want you to join me in this. Slowly! Carefully!”

“First, listen. For more than just a few moments. They don’t need a Bible study yet. They need to be heard. In fact, that is the only way you will know what I have already done. It is the only way you will know what their deepest needs are. Get to know them. Laugh with them. Cry with them. Work with them. Love them. Seek to bless them with no strings attached!” God says, “Meet me in Genesis 12:1–3 again to understand the mission of blessing I gave to Abraham and all his descendants whether physical or spiritual. Check with Paul in Galatians if you’re not

sure whether you fit. Enter into people’s lives regardless of whether or not they ever come to Christ. But be Christ to them. Get to know their culture.” (Yes, Canadians have a culture! It is called secularism.) Get to know it and them, and then bless them. It’s part of our mission, because it’s God’s mission.”

This new reformation, as Reggie McNeal puts it, recognizes that “the church is not for the church”ⁱⁱ (that “doing church” model we mentioned). Get this: the church is for the world. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son . . .” (John 3:16, ESV). His mission is to the world, and we join him in his mission, because we are the church.

Joining God in His mission is seeking to know our friends, our neighbours and our communities. It is getting mixed up in their lives. It is a willingness to be incarnated into their lives just as Jesus was in ours. We get to listen to people in their homes, at the local ball diamond or shopping mall. We are incarnated into their lives long-term in order to see where God is working, what needs they have that God is pointing out to us, and then as God directs, to help them hear the hope, power and freedom the gospel of the kingdom of God will bring into their lives. And boy, they better see that hope, power, peace and freedom in us, too! Do not sell them something you yourself have not fully bought into.

Do I believe we still need paid evangelists? Yes. We should use all kinds of evangelism methods as the context dictates. However, I am not talking today about a new method of evangelism. The reformation I am talking about is really a redefining of our worldview, of our place in God’s mission, and a way in which we must come to live if we want to reach into all the world (even Canada) with the message of the gospel of God’s kingdom. It’s a reformation of how that message was and is displayed through the life, death, resurrection and ongoing life of the God who became one of us, Jesus Christ. And of how life with this God transforms everything—our lives, our neighbours’ lives and the lives of our communities as we live the incarnational life, and ministry, of being a blessing to all nations, making disciples as we go about life. Our lives become our ministry. Our churches become places that develop us into being the presence of Christ and His church wherever we go, rather than just the leader of a ministry for those already “in.” Imagine our churches developing people more than programs; our churches releasing us to be the church every day, everywhere, rather than just a few hours on Sabbath; our churches helping each one of us become more like Jesus for the sake of others.

I love my church, and I love my country. Friends, things have changed. We do not need reformation and revival in our doctrines or how we live them. We need a reformation in mission. By knowing God is mission, we can join Him in His mission. We stop doing church and start being the church—caring about all the people in Canada who need Jesus. I guarantee when we get the mission back on track God’s way, the revival we hope for will come, and so will Jesus! ■

Campbell Page is pastor of the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa, Ontario.

i Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, March 11, 1890.

ii Reggie McNeal, *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003).

"I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35

Available to Serve



Broken vows.

Loss of trust.

A spouse unwilling to right the wrongs. In an effort to provide her children with a better life, my fiercely loyal sister, Shelley, made what was for her the excruciating decision to walk away from her failed marriage. My husband, Gordon, and I made the out-of-province trip to help her move.

Once there, it was clear that we would need more help in order to complete the job within the time available to us. We prayed that God would send someone to help us. Then we started making calls. Not knowing anyone in that city, we called a local Seventh-day Adventist pastor and asked if he knew of anyone who might be called upon to help. He didn't.

I called the employment centre. The woman told me that at least 24 hours' notice was needed before a job posting could be placed on the job board. I explained that wouldn't be possible as we were very short on time. "Well, we're not very busy here this morning, so I'll do it this once," she told me. She was doubtful that we'd get a response.

Then we remembered that a congregation of another denomination near our home often hosted missionaries. We had met a retired couple who were living in a house down the road from our place. They were serving as missionaries for their church. We often met them walking and talked with them about mission service in our church and in theirs. They told us that as missionaries, they and the young missionaries they supervised tried to complete a certain number of community service hours each week. What he said was true. We often saw young missionaries volunteering at the local library shelving books. And once when we were building a garage, a couple of them offered to help with the cement work.

So we knew that if there were such missionaries in the area, they might be happy at the opportunity to assist us in our hour of need. Gordon looked up the number for the local church, but the phone rang and rang. There was no answering machine. Another number was listed in the phone book for an elder of the congregation. Gordon tried that number. The phone rang and rang. No answering machine.

“I’m going to pick up the truck,” said Gordon.

“I’ll try and find some help,” I said. Then I prayed some more.

To be honest, I hoped our church would come through for us. I wanted my sister to see that our church was full of caring, helpful people. Shelley had once been a Seventh-day Adventist, but she had wandered away. I reasoned with the Lord that if He would send someone for our church, Shelley might consider returning. Maybe the pastor we’d contacted would call back.

The second-best option in my mind was that someone would call from the employment centre. I glanced at the phone, hoping it would ring.

Gordon and Shelley returned with the moving truck. Shelley got the moving straps and showed us how to use them to lift heavy objects.

“Hi! Do you need any help?” The voice came from the front of the truck. A couple of young men wearing white shirts and dark pants came around the side of the truck.

“How did you know we needed help?” Gordon asked.

“We were driving down the street and saw the van and thought we’d ask,” said one missionary.

Their Story

Not satisfied with that simple answer, I probed a little more, and this is the story that came out.

That morning, the missionaries had planned to visit a family they had been studying the Bible with. When they arrived at the address, the house was gone. It had been bulldozed to the ground. They discussed what they should do next and remembered a family they had recently met and decided they would go and visit with them.

As they approached that home, they saw missionaries from another church talking with someone at the door.

“Let’s just drive a bit till they leave,” one missionary said to his partner. Then they turned into Shelley’s street. They helped us load the truck and left an online contact for their church.

Part II

The story ought to end here, but there’s more. We arrived at Shelley’s new home in another province on Thursday at 10:30 p.m. It was too late to call anyone for help, but we needed help if we were to have the truck unloaded and returned to the city before sunset Friday.

After a fitful night sleeping on mats on the floor, we rose early and got to work. I waited till I thought the employment office would be open, then made the call. The woman directed me to call another office. I called the second number and was

told to call the first. Frustrated, I looked at my watch and decided it was probably too early to call the pastor of the local Seventh-day Adventist church. I decided to cross the road to the grocery store and try and find something for breakfast.

I explained our need for help first to one and then to another fellow I met in the parking lot. Shelley’s new home was in a small town, and I figured maybe someone would know whom to call for help. One fellow gave me the name of an agency that might supply workers. I decided to look the number up at customer service once I picked up my groceries.

Heading for the cereal aisle, I prayed, “Lord, please help us find someone so that we can be finished with this move before sunset. There’s so much to unload and not much time.”

A young fellow was putting stuff on a shelf at the end of the cereal aisle. I approached him and told him we needed help.

“I go to the XYZ church,” he said. It was the same church the missionaries who’d helped us load up attended. “I know a couple of missionaries who’d probably be able to help,” the young employee added, pulling out his cell phone to get me the number.

Lessons Learned

The harvest is ripe.

Believe it or not, there are people who would like someone to study the Bible with. The missionaries who helped load the truck had been on their way to visit one such particular family. They had made contact with a second family with similar interests.

What are you doing to find those who are searching for truth? Does your church have a plan for seeking the lost? If your church is not doing evangelism or employing a Bible worker, why not?

Harvesters are few.

Harvesting is hard and often dirty work. As a result, not many people sign up for harvesting work. But if we’re not willing to do the work, someone else will get out there and do it. Other churches are in the fields in your town, in your city, doing the harvesting.

Are you available to be of service to God? Are you willing to help when God puts someone in need before you? Are you willing to roll up your sleeves, encourage, give a tract, speak the Word in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2)?

God uses those who make themselves available to Him.

Have you spoken with a missionary, a colporteur or a Bible worker lately? They’ve got amazing stories to tell about the miracles that God employs to save souls. Want your own miracle stories to share? Be available.

We are on the cusp of eternity. This is my personal conviction. Do we care enough for God’s lost children to work for their salvation? That is the question. ■

Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals in the story.

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.

Quebec

God Overrides Financial Crisis



Another year of grace has closed behind us. Just like the preceding years in this economic crisis that struck almost everywhere, the Federation of Quebec continues to benefit from a growth in tithes. After a spectacular rise of 11 percent in 2009, we experienced an increase of almost 5 percent in 2010 and 6 percent in 2011. It is the first time that we have seen an appreciable increase even though our tithe windfall was far lower than usual, that is to say less than \$70,000. It is also the first time that we received tithes

amounting to more than \$400,000 almost every month. The tithes received for December 2011 amounted to almost \$650,000, whereas the highest amount collected up to then had been \$541,000. The financial crisis continues, economic rationale cannot explain our situation, and only the grace of God can explain what is happening. May the Lord be praised for all that He has achieved in Quebec. ■

by Paul Musafili, Quebec conference treasurer

Manitoba-Saskatchewan



Nancy and Jeff Potts

New Ministerial Director Appointed

served in Ontario. Pastor Jeff was senior pastor at the Henderson Highway church when four new churches were being planted: Winnipeg Korean, Winnipeg Spanish, Transcona and the Lighthouse of Hope. Based on that experience, Jeff was assigned as conference church planting coordinator and then left Henderson to become the pastor for the newly formed Transcona and Lighthouse of Hope companies.

Nancy Potts, Jeff's wife, works at Red River Valley Junior Academy in Winnipeg as a teaching assistant, and so they are well engaged in the Winnipeg Adventist community.

Dr. Potts completed his Master's of Divinity at Andrews University and, just a couple of years ago, was awarded a Doctorate of Ministry. His dissertation was based in part on the church planting work in Winnipeg.

Pastor Jeff is well-known to most members of our conference, having been very involved in youth camps, camp meeting and evangelism. In the past year he has been the guest presenter for a series of meetings in Yorkton, Sask., and has consistently held one or two evangelistic series each year for both the Transcona and Lighthouse of Hope companies, both of whom have experienced rapid growth.

Pastor Jeff will continue to serve as pastor for the Lighthouse of Hope company and is always willing to help out wherever and whenever needed.

Although the role of ministerial director is new to Dr. Jeff Potts, we know he is well qualified and will bring a professional and pastoral approach as he seeks to serve and support other pastors in our conference. Thanks, Pastor, and all the best in your new role in 2012! ■

With the retirement of Pastor Graham Glover, our Man-Sask conference needed to look for a new ministerial director. We did not need to look far, and so the conference board voted to call Pastor Jeff Potts to this position, beginning in January 2012.

Pastor Potts has served in our conference since 1999, after coming over from the B.C. conference and having previously

Alberta

Prophecy Seminar Sparks Revival

In December 2011 the Lethbridge church was pleased to welcome into membership five new individuals, including three of our own precious young people. This celebration marks the conclusion of our third prophecy seminar in 2011. Other seminar guests continue to attend church each Sabbath, and more baptisms are being planned.

The church members are excited about the spirit of revival taking place, and we anticipate that 2012 will be an even more exciting year of revival and church growth. God has said to simply “go . . . and make disciples” and that He would be with us “even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19, 20, NKJV). So we move forward, leaving the results with God but rejoicing in the fruit that is borne from these efforts.

Every time we complete a seminar, we hear exciting testimonies and comments



Lethbridge church pastor (far right) stands with baptismal candidates.

from attendees and church members as to how the Lord is bringing about revival and conviction in their hearts.

Jesus is Coming Soon! ■

by Pastor Darrell Beaudoin

Christmas is a Season For Giving



Pastor Adam Deibert; church treasurer, Frits Wortman; worship committee chair, Melanie Wortman; Strathcona Food Bank Association chair, Judith Gray.

That’s why during the four Sabbaths leading up to Christmas, members of the Sherwood Park church reached deep

into their pockets as the children came through the congregation with little red mittens to collect offerings for the

church’s Giving Tree at the front of the sanctuary. On Christmas Eve the church had collected \$723.79. Each year, the worship committee decides on a project to collect for; this year Melanie Wortman, chair of the committee, shared her heart for the Strathcona County Food Bank. And so, on December 31, Judith Gray, chair of the Strathcona Food Bank Association, was on hand during the worship service to receive the donation, which will go towards purchasing fresh milk for their food hampers. “That’s awesome,” she told the church, speaking of the red mittens hanging on the tree. “I love that!” She went on to tell the congregation, “This is going to go a long ways towards helping us be able to look after our families in 2012.” Last year the Food Bank served just over 4,500 people, providing one litre of milk per person as part of each hamper.

As he presented the cheque, Pastor

Adam Deibert reminded the congregation that “the Bible speaks very highly of those who take care of the needy in the community. We’re very grateful for organizations like the Food Bank who are there to take care of them.” Since starting its Giving Tree project three years ago, the

church has collected over \$1,500 for local organizations during the Christmas season. Speaking of this year’s donation, Pastor Adam told the congregation, “It is an incredible gift you have given as a church,” to which Judith added, “this is far beyond what I thought a very small

church would be able to do, and I’m very impressed.” Reflecting on a statement in *The Adventist Home* on page 482, Pastor Adam hopes that other churches will be encouraged to give also, to help provide for the needs of their local communities. ■

Ontario

Ontario Conference Officers Take REACH to Churches



Dr. Mansfield Edwards presents the Ontario Conference’s REACH strategy at Hamilton Mountain church.

On January 22, Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, and executive secretary, Dr. Dan Linrud, led out at Hamilton Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church in the first public presentation of the conference’s REACH strategy.

Over 70 pastors, elders and church officers from churches across the Southern Ontario region were present at the 9:30 Sunday morning meeting.

After an inspiring devotion by ministerial director, Dr. Errol Lawrence, the president presented the REACH strategy to the attendees in general and in broad terms. He explained the meaning of the acronym and stated that it was much more

than simply a slogan.

“REACH is the revival, nurture and evangelistic strategy of the church,” he said. “At the conference office, our directors and staff are really excited about what this can do for our church over the next few years, and you have been invited here so that you may also share in this excitement. We want you to get an understanding of what this is all about and for you to go back to your churches and spread the word.”

Edwards explained that over the next few weeks and months, church leaders will be provided with the necessary details for them to help their congregations embrace REACH and begin its implementation.

Dr. Dan Linrud followed Edwards with a presentation on Natural Church Development (NCD) and how it may be used with REACH to help congregations grow.

Over the next few weeks, the conference officers, along with a number of directors, such as Family Ministries director, Joan Rogers, who was also present, will travel to each region to meet with local pastors, elders and church officers to introduce the REACH strategy to them.

Additional meetings will be held in London (February 12), Toronto (March 3), Ottawa (March 17) and Sudbury (April 15). ■

Mount Olive's Adventurers' Day Celebration



Adventurers' Club at the Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Mount Olive Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated their annual Adventurers' Day on December 3, 2011. Sister Michelle Bennett, Adventurers' Director, provided yet another opportunity for the Adventurers to participate, reflect and celebrate. Adventurers from Kingsview Village, Perth Avenue, Central and Ruth Adventurers' Clubs were there to join in

the celebration.

The Perth Avenue Pathfinders Band played as the Adventurers marched in accompanied by the Pathfinders. Hadiea Isaac, Tevin Wellington, Isaiah Browne and Javonie Stewart from the Adventurers Helping Hands presented thought-provoking sermonettes, which were a blessing to many of those who attended.

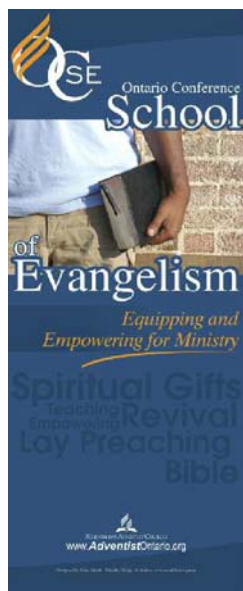
Throughout the service beautiful musical items were performed by the Mount Olive Adventurers' Club and fellow Adventurers from Central, Kingsview Village and Ruth churches.

Sister Lily Walker, Adventurers Area Coordinator, conducted the investiture service. She shared words of inspiration with the club leaders and spoke words of encouragement to the Adventurers. Tevin Wellington, Hadiea Isaac, Isaiah Browne, Javonie Stewart, Makayla Christie and Kallai-Ann Simpson were invested. Ashleigh Bennett was nominated Adventurer of the Year; Amalee Reid was runner-up. Sisters Janice Adams and Iris Robinson were nominated as Mothers of the Year, and Sister Mavis Massey was awarded Grandmother to the Adventurers for her dedication and commitment. Cavel Henry, councillor, Rohan Henry and Jade Joseph- Sumra were inducted in the Adventurers' Club.

Apple Creek and other Adventurers performed musical items during the evening program. Overall, the service was an absolute blessing. ■

by Tyanna Browne,
Communications

Ontario Conference to Launch School of Evangelism in Southern and Eastern Ontario



The Ontario Conference is set to expand its school of evangelism by launching two new schools in March 2012.

The schools will be launched in Southern Ontario at Kitchener-Waterloo Seventh-day Adventist Church on March 24 and in Eastern Ontario at Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist Church on March 31. At the launch, students will meet conference officials, their professors and the organizers of the school of evangelism. Classes will begin by the end of the month in both places.

Pastor Theodore Sargeant, one of the four organizers (or principals, as they are sometimes termed), explained that while these areas are presently being served by broadcasting the school of evangelism in Toronto via the Internet, it was felt that students would benefit more by attending a class together.

“We want them to share in the experience of leaning and growing together, rather than simply being alone at home behind a computer,” said Sargeant.

Students from both regions are already registering via the conference website (www.adventistontario.org). Meanwhile, a new group of students in the GTA are preparing to begin their course, also at the end of March.

Students who began in March 2011 are eagerly working hard to be able to join in the graduation on June 30, 2012. ■

SDA Church in Canada

Adventist Ministries Convention in Florida



Pastors, departmental directors and administrators from throughout Canada were recently in Tampa, Fla., for the Adventist Ministries Convention. Over 100 Canadians joined other leaders from the United States, Bermuda and Guam for four days of inspirational preaching, workshops and networking. The theme, Tools of the Master, highlighted the focus of equipping church leaders for service in contemporary society. ■

God Opens Doors for Hope Channel



After working toward this goal for almost five years, the Hope Channel, as of January 23, 2012, is now on the eligible play list for every cable and satellite company in Canada.

As of February 1, Hope TV is on CityWest Cable, a company that serves an area from Prince Rupert to Smithers, B.C. Two more cable companies are expected to carry Hope TV shortly, and one cable company in southeastern Alberta had bought the equipment in faith that we would get approved.

The Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the regulatory body for this kind of media in Canada, was very supportive and helpful as we went through the process.

A team of very committed individuals worked together to accomplish this goal. Many thanks go out especially to Brad Thorpe, president of the Hope Channel; Charles Ed II Aguilar, pastor of the Terrace church in B.C.; Chad Cunningham, manager of CityWest Cable in Prince Rupert, B.C.; Len Petrie, a broadcast engineer from Ottawa, Ont.; Nadine Crombie of B.C.; the B.C. Conference leadership; as well as the incumbent SDACC president, Elder Mark Johnson; and the former president, Dan Jackson. Our next goal is to have all the other languages the Hope Channel produces on the same eligible play list. Currently, our media are barely touching some ethnic communities such as the Indian and the Chinese populations with the Advent message.

The Hope Channel is the only official TV channel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In October 2003, the Hope Channel was launched as a 24-hour television network. This unique new network grew out of a desire to reach billions of people 24/7 with programming for the different languages and cultures of the world. ■

Stan Jensen is Communication Director for the British Columbia Conference



18 hospitals committed to sharing God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

For job opportunities, visit AdventistHealth.org

Adventist Health

Are you in need of prayer? Call the Kendalwood SDA Church Prayer Line at 905/434-8470 or 1-888/554-3005 Sundays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. Someone from the Prayer Team will be there to pray with you. (1/12)

Announcements

PROCESS:

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

Announcements

Valley Grande Adventist Academy celebrates 75 years! The Alumni Association invites all former faculty, staff, and students to our celebration during our Alumni Weekend to be held on March 30 and 31, 2012. Come sing with the Sylvan choir and visit with friends again. For more information visit our website at www.vgaa.org or contact Robert Saldana: eyeguy@live.com.

The Chatham church in Ontario is looking for information regarding the following individuals: Julie Bacho; Harry Buckler; Karen Collins; Sophia Coolican; Diane, Eleanor and Marlene Dei Amoah; Olla Johnson; Bruce Kuypers; Bridget and Ken Leenhouts; Isaiah Lucas; Annie McDowell; Abrams and John Peters; Daniel and Sarah Violante. If you have any information regarding these persons, please contact Pastor Dirk Zinner c/o 20 Croydon St., Chatham, ON N7L 1L3 or email dzinner@adventistontario.org.

The Orleans church in Ontario is looking for the following missing members: Luc, Lynne, Natacha and Nicole Alexis, and Ruth Johnson. If

you have any information of their whereabouts, please contact Pastor Didier Fourny at dfourny@adventistontario.org.

59th Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend.

Our 59th Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend will be held on May 25–27, 2012. Honoured classes are Classes of 2002, 1997, 1992, 1987 and 1982; TJA Grade 10 Classes of 1977 and 1972. The 4th Annual Vernon Langdon Golf Classic will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012; Alumni Sabbath on Saturday, May 26, 2012, and the 7th Annual Walk 'n' Roll 4Education on Sunday, May 27, 2012. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, toll-free 866/960-2125 Ext. 234, dhall@tadsb.com; or Judy Cardona-Gamez, Ext. 248, jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.tadsb.com. (05/12)

Union College Homecoming

April 5–8, 2012. Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to Homecoming, April 5–8, 2012. Honor classes are 1942, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. Special Unionaires reunion—celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. For more information contact the alumni office at 402/486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu. (02/12)

New Members

Dustin-James “DJ” Serhan was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on December 24, 2011, by Brian Hawes. He is now a member of the Rutland church.

William Savage was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Dec. 24, 2011, by Brian Hawes. William was baptized into the Rutland church after studying with Fritz and Diane Wirtz. He passed away in his sleep shortly after, on December 26.

Legal Notice

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty-third Regular Session (Fourth Quadrennial Session) of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at TCU Place, 35-22nd Street East, Saskatoon, Sask., on Sunday, April 15, 2012, commencing at 9 a.m.

The session is called for the purpose of receiving reports, the election of officers and department directors, the election of a conference board of directors and a standing bylaws committee, amendment of corporation bylaws and the transaction of other such business as may properly come before the session at that time.

As provided for in the current bylaws, delegates to the Quadrennial Session are chosen as follows: One delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof.

Ron Nelson (President)

Collin Akre (Secretary)

Abednigo Mandalupa Jr. (Treasurer)

(02/12)

Anniversaries

Wendell and Susan Willis of Harrowsmith, Ont., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 20, 2011. The Kingston church held a surprise celebration in honour of the couple on the day of their anniversary, and the following day their daughter and son-in-law Annette and Tom Brennan held a family celebration at the River Mill Restaurant in Kingston with loved ones attending from across Canada and the USA.

Paul and Mary (née Mayden) Babiuk of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on



November 2, 2011. They celebrated with an open house for family and friends on October 23 in Kelowna. The Babiuks have a son and a daughter, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Obituaries

Don “Democrito” Aguilar Balaba was born Sept. 7, 1938, in Cagayan de Oro, Northern Mindanao, Philippines, and died Nov. 14, 2011, in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, Philippines. Don was the head elder of the

Fil-Can church in Victoria, B.C., for 12 years. He died while doing missionary work in the Philippines with his wife, Bianita, where they were building a church in Ginatilan, Kidapawan city. Don is predeceased by his brother Emeliano Balaba Jr., and by his sisters Belin Taboclaon and Lolita Villeneuve. Surviving: wife, Bianita; daughters Emy Guillen and Michelle Spittel; brother Mansueto Balaba; sister Shirley Ambrose; and four grandchildren.

Harold Clarke was born March 19, 1932, in Bridgetown, Barbados, and died Dec. 12, 2011, in Calgary, Alta. Harold had a great thirst for knowledge, especially in the area of health, and an untiring interest in people. He is predeceased by his brother Denzel Clarke. Surviving: wife, Jacqueline; daughters, Juliette (Shane) Fuentmann of Calgary and Joanne (Rob) Burns, also of Calgary; brothers Tony Clarke of Vancouver, B.C., and Richard Clarke of London, England; and two grandchildren.

David Falconbridge was born March 13, 1937, in Kitchener, Ont., and died Aug. 17, 2011, in Wasaga Beach, Ont. David was a charter member of the Lincoln Pioneer church in Grassie, Ont., and served as first elder there for many years. He was instrumental in procuring property and overseeing the renovations of the former school into a lovely Sabbath school and church sanctuary. David is predeceased by his daughter, Lynn Ellen. Surviving: wife, Ann; son, Mark (Jeannine); sister, Marion Jones of Worcester, Mass.; brothers, John (Barbara) of Edmore, Mich., and Paul of Stoney Creek, Ont.; and two grandchildren.

Eric Holroyd was born March 5, 1921, in Madras, India, and died Oct. 21, 2011, in Whitehorse, Yukon. Eric was a charter member of the Whitehorse church and aided in its construction in 1978. He also served the church as an elder and treasurer. Eric is predeceased by his brothers, Owen and Malcolm, and his sisters Dorothy Roberts and Phyllis Holroyd. Surviving: wife, Mayville; son, Richard; daughter, Elizabeth Laing; sister Kathleen Hunter; stepsister, Norma Egan; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Martha (née Moritz) Janot

was born July 9, 1909, in Dunejefza, Ukraine, and died Oct. 14, 2011, in Bowmanville, Ont. Martha served her church in Peoria, northern Alberta, as a deaconess and children's Sabbath School teacher for 37 years. She is predeceased by her husband, Emil; her brother, William Moritz; and

four of her grandchildren. Surviving: sons, Wilf (Arlene) of Winfield, B.C., Ed (Loretta) and Leo of Edmonton, Alta.; daughters, Millie (Earl) Cox and Siegrid (Roger) Pollock of Courtice, Ont.; sister, Louise Grohn of Brantford, Ont.; 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Evelyn (née Helland) Kierstead was born Jan. 11, 1942, in Wells, B.C., and died Nov. 21, 2011, in Cranbrook, B.C. Evelyn served her church in various capacities, including in the children's division and in the area of personal ministries. She is predeceased by her brother, Myer. Surviving: husband, Charles; sons, Richard (Bobbie) George of Cranbrook, B.C., Ken George of Vernon, B.C., Colin Bird of St. John, Alta., and Curtis (Helen) Bird of Grand Prairie, Alta.; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Eileen Jennie Martens was born Feb. 25, 1917, in Didsbury, Alta., and died Jan. 2, 2012, in Penticton, B.C. Eileen taught church school for many years, helped lead out in many children's Sabbath School classes and enjoyed working in the Dorcas society. She is predeceased by her husband, Cornelius George Martens; and her brothers, Rolland, Leonard and Harry. Surviving: sons, James (Donna) of Wabasca, Alta., and Art of Penticton; sister, Joyce (Ken) Willis of Calgary, Alta.; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Alexander Rasputny was born Sept. 23, 1923, in Voronezh, Russia, and died Oct. 11, 2011, in Moose Jaw, Sask. Alexander was a faithful member of the Man-Sask conference at the time of his death. He is predeceased by his sister Catherine, who died in infancy. Surviving: sisters Frances Polishuk of Vermillion, Alta., and Elaine (Robert) Clark of Cranbrook, B.C.

Harley Lester Schander was born April 26, 1918, in Heaton, N.D., and died June 6, 2011, in Kettering, Ohio. Harley served as the pastor of the Willowdale church in Ontario, from 1968-74; and the Rutland church in B.C., from 1979-83; and the Dartmouth and New Minas churches in the Maritimes, from 1983-85. He is predeceased by his wife, Susan Mae Lehmann. Surviving: sons, Quentin R. and Kenneth L.; daughters, Mary Kaye Manchur and Alice R. Merrill; and brother, Eugene.

Edith (née Heathcote) Waterhouse was born Jan. 6, 1919, in Greenfield Park, Que., and died April 16, 2011, in Marmora, Ont. Edith was a faithful member of the Abercorn church in

Quebec for over 70 years. She taught in the children's Sabbath School division and was a treasurer for many years. Edith is predeceased by her husband, Norman, and her brother Frank. Surviving: sons, Leonard (Faye) of West Brome, Que., Albert (Carolyn) of Carleton Place, Ont., and Hayden (Helen) of Sutton, Que.; daughter, Iris (Leslie) McClair; brother John Heathcote; 17 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

■ Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

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

RATES:

Classified advertising—\$20 for 50 words or less; 35 cents for each additional word.

Display advertising (camera ready) — \$23 per column inch (b/w) \$29 (colour). For larger display ads, please contact the *Messenger* for a rate sheet.

Discounts—10 percent discount for three or more consecutive insertions without copy changes.

Deadlines

March issue	Feb. 27
April issue:	Mar. 12
May issue:	Apr. 2

■ Advertisements

MBA—Online, Andrews University. Quality and convenient program offered at reduced tuition. Accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. Contact: mba-info@andrews.edu (01/12)

For sale by owner. Beautiful home in immaculate condition in Lynden, Wash., USA. Three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2-car garage, fenced back yard in quiet cul-de-sac. Built in 2000. \$244,000. 604/792-7337. (1/12)

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Christian Record Services for the Blind is seeking a VP for Finance. Denominational or not-for-profit accounting experience preferred. The VP for Finance is responsible for managing the financial matters of CRSB. If interested, please contact Larry Pitcher, president: 402/488-0981 ext. 212 or larry.pitcher@christianrecord.org or Alicejean Baker: 402/488-0981 ext. 222 or prhr@christianrecord.org. (1/12)

Need a career change? Become a registered nutritional consultant. Earn your diploma in one year and begin an exciting career in helping others achieve improved health. Licensed school in Toronto combining science with hands-on training, structured classroom instruction and qualified faculty for a unique learning opportunity. For more information, attend an open house, Sunday, Feb. 26, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. or March 25, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. To register, or for more information, call 289/387-0414 or email smgrant50@yahoo.com. (1/12)

Summer Great Controversy Tour, June 22–July 5, 2012, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax 269/471-5172, email getours@mac.com. (1/12)

Authors wanted. If you've written your life story, want to tell others of God's love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published, call TEACHServices.com at 800-367-1844 for a free manuscript review. (3/12)

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Big Island, Hawaii—Hilltop Haven. Studio vacation rental, in peaceful, scenic Waimea (paradise). Private entrance, kitchen, washer/dryer, DISH and Glorystar. Very affordable, see vacationrentals.com #67406 for more details. Contact us for special rates through the website or by calling us direct, Patsy and Dale 808/885-6467. Say you saw this in the *Messenger*. (3/12)


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Biology Professor sought by Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska. Ph.D. preferred; strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Several

specialties acceptable. Submit vita and cover letter to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, Chair, Division of Science, cawolfe@ucollege.edu. Deadline is January 31, 2012. (1/12)

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In honour of the New Year we have recently entered, the Messenger is looking back to our origins and reflecting on how far we've come.

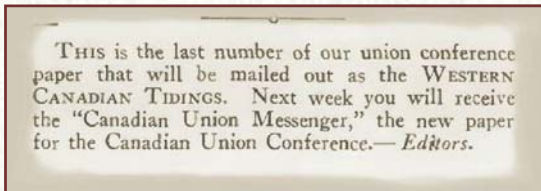
Did you know that the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* has been around for over 100 years? It has gone through many transformations since its birth in 1900 to become the magazine we know and love today.

Originally called the *Canadian Union Messenger*, the magazine was little more than a newsletter that reported on local church news and evangelistic work being accomplished in Canada and around the world. As the Canadian Union Conference expanded, it was decided that one paper could not adequately reach all of Canada. So in 1912 the Western Union Conference began to produce their own publication in Regina, Sask., calling it the *Western Canadian Tidings* and in 1914 the *Canadian Union Messenger* became the *Eastern Canadian Messenger*. The two publications would later be combined, on July 5, 1932, to re-form the *Canadian Union Messenger*. The magazine was renamed the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* on July 7, 1977.

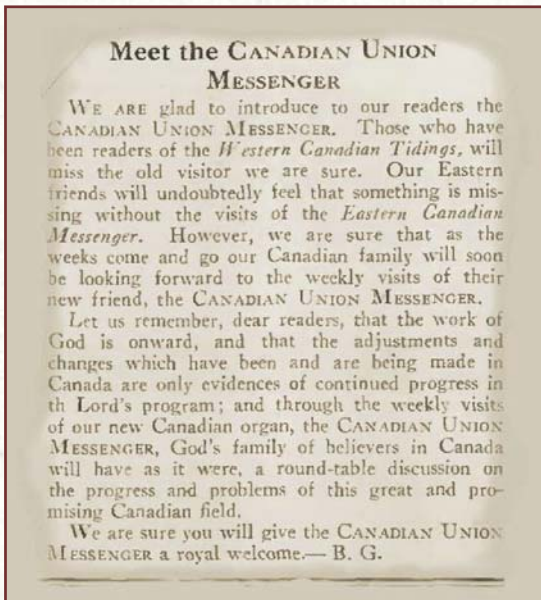
(Seventh-day Adventist Church; General Conference; Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research)

From 1932 . . .

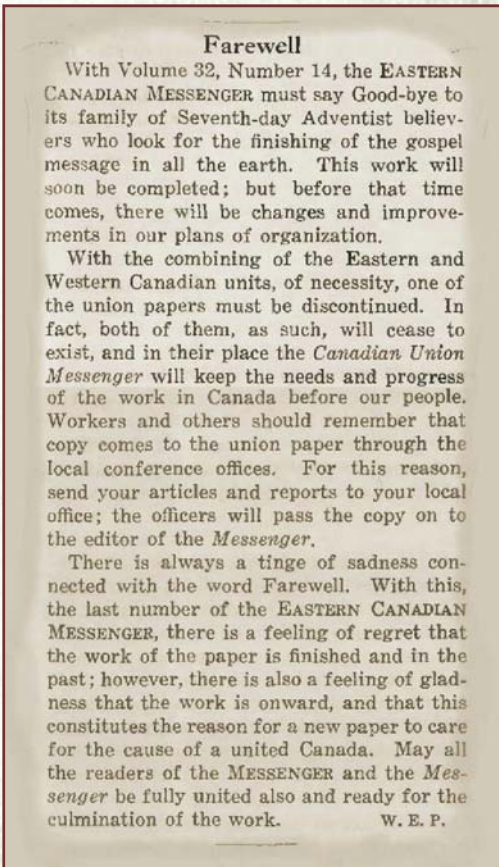
On June 28, 1932, the *Eastern Canadian Messenger* and the *Western Canadian Tidings* printed their last issues, along with farewell announcements to their respective readers. The newly united *Canadian Union Messenger* introduced itself on July 5, 1932, and promised readers a "round-table discussion on the progress and problems of this great and promising Canadian field."



Western Canadian Tidings



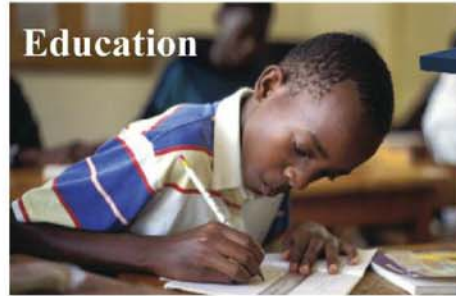
Canadian Union Messenger



Eastern Canadian Messenger

In the next issue we will continue to explore the Messenger's rich history and share more interesting tidbits with you from the archives of the General Conference.

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