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FACEing AFRICA

Refresh with Tia (p. 13)
AppReview by José Sánchez (p. 13)
Q& A Editor's Interview (p. 14)

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There is a synergy that happens when everyone's contribution complements another's.



Alignment

As a young preacher, driving lots of kilometers in a large district, I noticed some disturbing wear on my tires. I mentioned it to one of my elders, and after a quick look he said, "you need to check your alignment." My investment in a lifetime alignment for that vehicle proved to be a good choice. It handled better. Tires lasted longer. It was a joy to drive.

We've looked at the REACH planning initiative here before. R represents Revival and Transformation, and E represents Education for Discipleship. Both of these are important ingredients for a stronger, healthier church family at any level of our church.

Today, I'm thinking about the A in REACH, which stands for Alignment Within the Church. Just as with a vehicle, alignment is important to the church. That alignment provides for a common direction and an understood purpose in what we are doing. Thus, our witnessing ministries and our worship services work in harmony, not in opposition. If we are serious about witnessing for Christ, then we will be careful to ensure that what we say and do in church will help people grow in faith.

Alignment also means that there is a service opportunity for everyone in the church family, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or length of church membership. It is affirming to each one of us when we can work together with others on a shared project. There is a synergy that happens when everyone's contribution complements another's.

Alignment also gives us the opportunity to think clearly about what needs to be done to fulfill our mission as a church. It helps us avoid distractions and sense that there is one major theme for the church: "Jesus is coming again!"

Alignment is biblical. In Amos 3:3 I read, "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?" (ESV). Agreement and planning together are vital to spirituality.

Walking or working together in alignment within a church or a home is a choice, a good choice. Let's do it! ■

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





Messenger

September 2012 Vol. 81 No. 9

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The Canadian Adventist Messenger—the

official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$15.00. Printed by Maracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



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Deadlines

November issue September 4

December issue October 1

January issue November 1

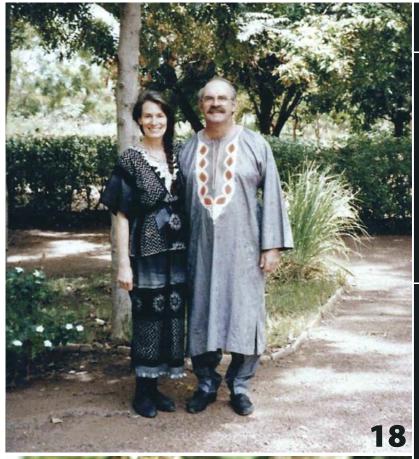
>> View this issue online at www.adventist.ca/messenger

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

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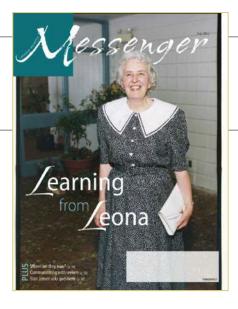
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Your Words

6 I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the improved quality of the articles and the whole spiritual tone of the *Messenger* this year."

RE: "Teen Talk", August 2012

Just a comment on your latest Teen Talk. I had two instances of exams/Sabbath conflicts while I was at a secular university. In the first instance, a conflict appeared in the tentative exam schedule. I talked to the registrar's office and they rescheduled the exam date. In the second instance, a conflict occurred in the final exam schedule. They couldn't help me in this case, but told me to talk to the professor. The professor had no problem with rescheduling it for me. When I showed up in the classroom to write it, there were a few other students there as well. I wasn't the only one with a conflict. Secular universities/colleges have to make accommodations for religious reasons in cases like this. So, if the conflict shows up in the tentative exam schedule, go to the registrar's office first. They may ask you a question or two (I was asked who my pastor was). In my second case, there was no conflict with the tentative exam schedule—it showed up in the final exam schedule. Since that was fixed, the registrar's office said I had to see the professor personally. So, go to the registrar's office first, at any rate, as they can inform you as what you need to do. Go as soon as you discover the exam problem. Cases like this are not new to them and they will be very helpful.

> R. Foulkes, Fredericton, N.B., via email

RE: "Learning from Leona", July 2012

Many of you had much to say about our July 2012 cover story entitled "Learning from Leona." Here are some of the comments you left on our Facebook page:

Terrific article about Ms. (Leona) Alderson. She touched so many people, especially those of us who attended Kingsway!

Wanda Swensen

So great to read this article on Ms. Alderson. I remember her with great fondness... definitely one of the kindest, most caring teachers I ever knew.

Edgar Edge

I had the privilege of working for her all through my high school years. She was a great boss, and I learned so much from her! Nice to see her getting the recognition.

> Rosalie Marie McClair Nickol

Very nice to read the write-up on Ms. Alderson. So many of us were touched by her kindness and love. I love the fact that she met her husband the same place that I did!

Reece Crabbe

I enjoyed being in her class. Learned a lot from her. She is a great person.

> Roxanne Greenslade-McPherson

RE: Backward Glance

I enjoy the "Backward Glance" page of the Messenger. It seems to me students enjoyed more creative approaches to entertainment before the 1950s.

> Edith Fitch, Director of Archives

RE: Messenger

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the improved quality of the articles and the whole spiritual tone of the Messenger this year. I am really blessed and thank God, Mark Johnson and his new editor for these welcomed changes.

> Phyllis Vallieres, Madoc Church Company

As always, we love to hear from our readers, whether you have a criticism or a compliment. Keep those letters coming!

Email comments to jensen.stan@adventist.ca or mail them to Editor, Canadian Adventist Messenger, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8. Be sure to include your name, contact information, and the name and date of the article(s) you are referencing. 200 words maximum. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Not all letters will be published.

Sufficient?

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

any years ago now, a friend of mine and I rode a bus across two Canadian provinces in order to attend the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) in Vancouver, B.C. We just thought that it was a good idea. We had little money, no hotel reservations and had not planned things very well. In fact we slept in open newspaper bins upon arriving in the city.

Early the next morning, we set out for the fair, knowing that a friend of ours was working there. We were certain that he would invite us to his place (not taking into account that he had brothers and sisters and a mother who might want to have a say). The invitation materialized, and we spent a couple of nights experiencing the comfort and generosity of that home.

The first morning we were treated to a wonderful breakfast of pancakes and eggs, hot cereal and juice. We knew that nothing could be better than this. As we were finishing our meal, the hostess asked us the following question: "Have you boys had enough? Would you like more?" The response of my friend has remained in my mind since that day. With all of the dignity that a 17-year-old could muster, he said: "No, thank you; I have had sufficient." With that all of the young people at the table burst into laughter. "I have had sufficient" became our one-line in-house joke for many years to come. A funny statement and yet one that evokes interesting and compelling images.

When have you had sufficient? What is it that satisfies you? Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO and co-founder of Facebook, had amassed a fortune of 27 billion dollars by his 27th birthday. Was that enough? Was that sufficient? The question of sufficiency evokes a wide variety of answers depending on where you live and what you do. The starving and impoverished in our world have very different answers to these questions than do the individuals who live in suburban North America, and yet even those answers are changing.

There is one area where the question of "enough" or sufficiency is of equal and utmost importance, and that is in the matter of salvation. Can we do something to warrant our own favour and notice by God? How much is enough? Better yet: is Jesus enough? Is His life, death, resurrection and mediatory work enough to bring me into justified and sanctified harmony with God.

God Himself answers this question through the simple and memorable words of the apostle Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul rejoiced in this knowledge to such an extent that he ended the passage by saying, "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Cor. 12:9, NIV).

There is a wonderful comment on this in an article that Ellen White wrote for the *Review and Herald*, May 6, 1902:

"When the attention is fastened on the cross of Christ, the whole being is ennobled. The knowledge of the Savior's love subdues the soul, and lifts the mind above the things of time and sense. Let us learn to estimate all temporal things in the light that shines from the cross. Let us strive to fathom the depths of humiliation to which our Savior descended in order to make man the possessor of eternal riches. As we study the plan of redemption, the heart will feel the throb of the Savior's love, and will be ravished by the charms of His character."

God bless you, dear reader. May His love and grace always be sufficient for you.

Dan Jackson is president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.



School again!

School again! How do I fit everything in and not leave God behind?

> Time for some "confession" on my part: When I was a young teenager I always sensed that God wanted to spend more time with me then I was spending with Him. I even put a poster on my wall that I had made from a Sabbath School lesson that struck me. I used the word in a chapter title in the book I wrote, Can God Save You? The poster said "Don't Get Lost in Inbetweenia." Inbetweenia is that almost comfortable place where you have one foot in one world and one foot in another. It doesn't sound so bad until you put it in the context of a relationship. "Baby, you

> > know I love you, and I'm almost completely

committed to you, but there is this other girl and she is nice too ..."

As this feeling (that God wanted more of me) grew, I put the burden back on Him. Not being a morning person, I told Him if He wanted to be first in my life and the first one I spent time with every morning, then He would have to wake me up at 5:30 the next morning. I never dreamed it would happen. I hardly ever woke up in the middle of the night or early in the morning. The very next morning, however, I was awake at exactly 5:30. It is an experience I will never forget. I wish I could tell you I've spent every morning with Him since, but if I did I would be lying. However, the situation has vastly improved in that direction!

Let me see if I can quickly break down the root issues of your question. You are going to school to improve yourself. You are seeking to improve yourself because you want to succeed. So let me ask you, which will have a greater impact on your immediate and eternal success: school or God? God is not against school, by far, but He is against you losing sight of what really matters. Remember what Jesus said? "I know you need food and clothes and money. Seek Me first and I will make sure you have all your needs met as well" (Matt. 6:33, paraphrased).

Regardless of how busy your school life gets, in the long haul you cannot afford to make more time by cutting God out of your schedule. He knows you need time. He knows you have responsibilities. He is not asking you to sacrifice time for Him. He is asking you to let Him prove Himself to you. He is inviting you to make Him your academic business partner. Stick with Him and you will get smarter faster and accomplish more in less time. He can do that. Try Him . . . every morning. Psalm 34:8 says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (NKJV). ■



SNAILS

A friend gave us a great collection of seashells she had while living in Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

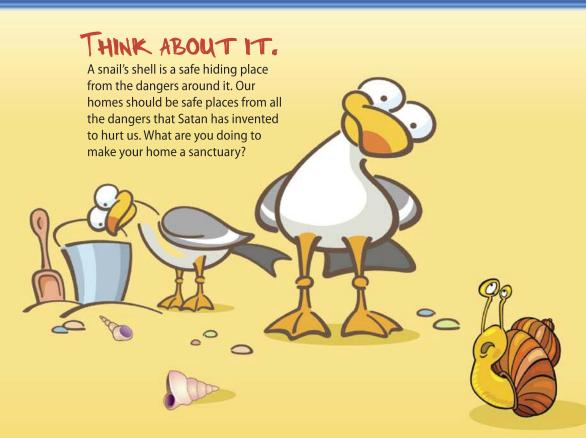
Many of the shells were from marine snails. There are large, cinnamon bun—shaped ones; small, shiny, speckled ones shaped like tusks; and elegantly spiraled ones that look like swirled ice cream.

A marine snail's shell protects it from pounding waves, watery sand storms, drying out when the tide is low, and from enemies. When the snail senses danger, it pulls its body into the shell and closes the opening with a lid, called an operculum.

DO IT!

Look around your home. Do you see things that don't belong in your sanctuary from Satan? If you do, get rid of them. A snail would never invite its enemies inside its shell, and we shouldn't invite the enemy into our homes by bringing his inventions home with us, either.

For a video of a moon snail tucking into its shell on Salt Spring Island, B.C., try http://bit.ly/QfZs4Q).







Higher Ground

CUC Degrees at Work

"I would recommend my Outward Pursuits degree to anyone [applying to medical school] above a science degree."

> —Mandy Klinger, Outward Pursuits major, class of 2011, Lacombe, Alberta; Accepted into three medical schools; attending University of Alberta Medical School

Getting into medical school with a three-year degree is no small feat. Getting into the International Health track of the medical school at Ben Gurion University in Isreal, Loma Linda University, and the University of Alberta with a three-year degree in Outward Pursuits is unprecedented at all three medical schools, but it doesn't surprise Mandy Klinger.

"Having a degree that no one has heard of has helped me in most cases," says Mandy. "Medical schools are definitely starting to emphasize humanities and look for humanities degrees; [from the OP program], I have leadership and psychology as well."

Mandy came to CUC after completing a year of horticulture at Olds College, ruling it out, and not knowing what to do next or what direction to take. She loved her English class with Dr. Joy Fehr but wanted to spend more time outdoors, so she signed up for an OP class.

"My OP courses were harder than the rest of my other courses except Bio Chem," says Mandy. "OP courses are very time-consuming and difficult!" She's clear that the hardest class of her CUC career was Wilderness Survival. "It's just you out there by yourself, and your thoughts," she recalls. That and one other OP class were the only college classes in which Mandy didn't get an A, but she has no regrets and wouldn't change a thing.

"I like how Dr. Lehmann integrates health and nutrition, and Christianity and lifestyle," she reflects. "In OP, Dr. Paul Lehmann pushes you to the limit; he picked my brain to help me develop my own style of leadership. The answers aren't things you can just 'find' somewhere."

"There's a spiritual application in everything in OP," says Mandy. " It's so much a part of who Paul and DonnaLee Lehmann are, it just comes out. It's not a focus—just natural."

Never one to look for the easy way, Mandy plans to work in frontier medicine, perhaps in the Far North. OP will continue to serve her well, she thinks, but not necessarily for the wilderness survival skills she gained. "It involves people," says Mandy. "That's what makes it really valuable for me as a doctor."

Adventure-Based Youth Leadership takes the West Coast

One + One + Nature = Change



OP summer class (and alumni) makes an impact in northern B.C. (left to right) Shirley Webb (former Outward Pursuits secretary), Jim Webb (OP/ABC graduate), Justine Link, Josh McMillan, Andrew Heinrichs, Jeremy Purviance, Mark Kramer, Chris Young, Rebecca Johnson, Andrew Pekar, DonnaLee Lehmann, Paul Lehmann.

This summer, from Alaska to Mt. Rainier in Washington, CUC's Adventure-based Youth Leadership (ABYL) students introduced kids to nature, gave them one-on-one time, and took them out—sometimes way out—of their comfort zones. The goal? To lead them to Jesus.

"Religion is a huge part of my life," says Ross Mason, of Montrose, Colo., "and so is the outdoors. Adventure-based Youth Leadership is different [from other Outward Pursuits (OP) degrees] because it has a real spiritual emphasis; half the courses are Religious Studies. It's specifically meant to use the outdoors to reveal Christ's character."

Ross, who's starting his final year of the ABYL program, did an ABYL practicum at Camp Tuk, Camp Lorraine and Camp Polaris in Alaska last summer. This year Ross was invited back as assistant program director of the three camps. He's enthusiastic about the results he sees as he employs his practical ABYL skills in working with a range of youth.

Though Ross was one of the many ABYL students using his skills in independent jobs this summer, five of his classmates plied their skills in practicums. Yet others accompanied DonnaLee and Paul Lehmann in a class that took them to Hazelton and northern British Columbia at the invitation of Jim Webb, a graduate of the Outward Pursuits/ Adventure-based Counseling (ABC) program.

The Hazelton/northern B.C. group helped open the eyes of local officials to new possibilities for working with First Nations children and adults. Following are comments about the work of CUC's ABYL team in northern B.C. from those whose lives they touched:

From elementary students from the Hazelton Mission School After-School Program:

"Are the Big Guys coming back next year?"

"This is our favourite event of the whole year!"

"Give me a piggy-back ride!"

From the Mental Health staff and counselors:

"You can actually get a degree in this?! Wow, we should come to some of your classes."

"Your students are so respectful and helpful to our special needs students."

"This has been a [positive] experience not many get to have."

From the Seventh-day Adventist Mission School board:

"What a positive difference CUC students have made! And the new paint on the school looks so great."

"Many thanks—your students are amazing!"

From a staff member:

"We are blessed to have your students join us." ■

What do you do with ABYL?

The Outward Pursuits (OP) department places almost 90 percent of its graduates, including ABYL and ABC grads. This gives the OP department the distinction of having the college's second-highest graduate placement record (Education is highest). Through practicum placements, most often with the institution of their choice, students have earned the respect of employers. Many of these employers now call CUC asking for students from OP departments, including ABYL students, to fill their needs.

Give Me That Online Religion From Gutenberg to Google

must admit that I was one of the early adopters who purchased the first-generation Kindle. I was mesmerized by the idea of reading a book on a digital device. I was amazed that it could carry two, 10, even 100, books in one small instrument. This was going to revolutionize the way my own children carried books to school. Imagine having all of your school books, from grade 1 through medical school, all on one device!

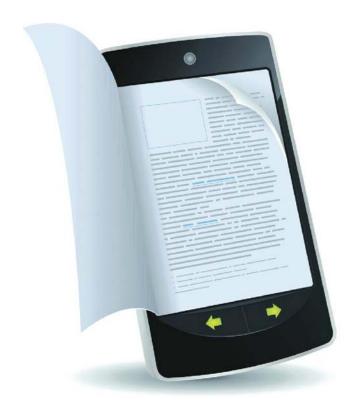
Many of my purist friends were hesitant to embrace this new technology. They couldn't imagine that paper books would ever be phased out by a digital

"There is nothing like curling up with a book in bed...Nobody wants to curl up with a computer," they snorted.

"I love the smell of paper. You can't replace that with a digital book," another close friend argued.

Change is hard to accept. However, over time I witnessed my friends who were once ardent defenders of the paper book slowly shift to the digital format. A few short years later, Amazon .com published that their Kindle book purchases surpassed the sale of print books. During the last four hundred years, since the invention of Gutenberg's printing press, we have been slaves to paper. Paper, in many ways, has been representative of the slow evolution of communication. For centuries we have witnessed how paper has kept the world's economy moving. Paper was equivalent to power.

When Gutenberg invented the moveable type, common people had access to the Holy Scriptures in print form. This marked the first power shift in the Church. The religious leaders who had guardedly kept this resource close to them were losing their power now that ordinary people finally had the opportunity to hold and read God's Word and keep it



close to their own hearts.

We are undergoing a radical change in the history of humanity, for all things that were once available only on paper are becoming digitized. Perhaps what is more impressive is the speed at which this change is occurring. Outside of the church, the world of technology is making monumental leaps. The world is learning to adapt quickly, or die.

While the companies hustle to stay in the game, the church is crippling along, trying to find its voice. Ed Stetzer writes, "It has already been more than 10 years since we were preparing for the Y2K bug, using the new tool known as 'IM,' and talking about the postmodern movement. Today they are barely applicable to anything that we do or discuss. It simply shows that the church must be vigilant to see what is next and ready to address new issues."1

It was Billy Graham who said, "I

preach with the Bible in one hand and the daily newspaper in the other." Graham was implying how important it is for every preacher to know how to make God's message applicable to the hearer by staying current with world events. If Pastor Graham were to rewrite his words, I wonder if he would say, "I preach with the Bible in one hand and my Twitter feed in the other."

As you share the story of Jesus with others, how will your message be communicated? Does it matter if it happens within the confines of the bricks and mortar that make up the church building, or can you convey God's love through the virtual world?

Dr. Rajkumar thoroughly enjoyed speaking at campmeeting in British Columbia. He is the author of Branded Faith and a pastor at New Hope Adventist Church. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.

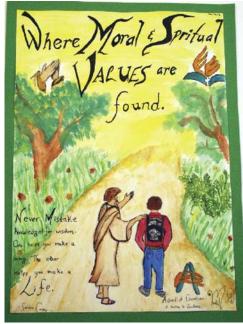
What Adventist Education Means to Me



(3rd place—Grades K-4) Riya Patel and Canin Mohanavadivu, **Kindergarten, Greaves Adventist Academy**



4th place-Grades 5-8) Bismark Gonzales, Grade 8, **Chinook Winds Adventist Academy**



2nd place—Grades 9-12) Mariel de Castro, Grade 10, **Kingsway College**

s part of our celebration of 2012 as the Year of Adventist Education, the SDACC Office of Education challenged all students in Adventist schools across Canada to find an original way to communicate what Adventist education means to them. As many as 116 students responded to the challenge, submitting 90 entries in three categories (grades K to 4, 5 to 8, and 9 to 12), with submissions ranging from poetry, posters, and songs, to essays and digital productions.

The panel of seven judges spent hours reviewing all the entries, impressed by both the content and the presentation, captivated by the originality and creativity. All students communicated important messages about Adventist education. Some of their words were inspirational, some were thought-provoking, but all made it clear that Adventist education is continuing to shape the lives of children across Canada in remarkable ways.

The family atmosphere in Adventist schools was a very common point among the entries. "I feel like one big family," wrote Edward Schwarz (grade 4, South Side Christian School). "It is where love gets its way and never ends," says Laura Kaye Reyes, "where I can call the staff and friends my family" (grade 7, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy).

Most importantly, Adventist schools are places where students choose to be part of God's family. Lyrics by two grade 8 students say it well: "Though it may seem tough, /You learn the right stuff, / It's all about Him" (Jasmine Machar and Chloe Diwa, Chinook Winds Adventist Academy). "It turned my life around ... it never lets me down" (lyrics by Samuel Golovenko, grade 5, and Jeremy Morales, grade 6, Adventist Christian Elementary School); "it builds a well-rounded character so that when we leave we'll work for God to change the world" (Rebekah Maurice, grade 12, Kingsway College).

According to Jemimah Euraoba, whose family recently relocated to Canada to study in a church school, it is "more precious than the pearly shells and starfish I used to collect on the seashores of our island in the Pacific" (grade 7, Curtis-Horne Christian School). In a creatively done puppet show, a green hippo puppet shares her positive experience in an Adventist school with her puppy dog friend who ends up saying, "I think I want to go to an Adventist school!" (Sofia Perez Erazo, grade 1, and Mwaba Kabangwe, grade 4, Adventist Christian Elementary School). "If everyone on earth had been educated in an Adventist school," says Alannah Tjhatra, "the world would be a much better place!" (grade 5, College Park Elementary School).

Creative metaphors were used effectively by students to represent Adventist education. A beautiful poster depicts two hands holding a rose freshly dug from the earth, with the caption "Adventist education to me means an environment where one can grow strong roots in your relationship with God. Children are like seeds; they need good fertile soil to grow, which in this case is the Adventist environment. This way when they grow up the child will have strong, deep roots in the Lord" (Bismarck Gonzalez, grade 8, Chinook Winds Adventist Academy). A video production depicts the author's school life and education like a plane: "the students are the passengers, and the teachers are the flight attendants...But God is the ultimate Pilot. I am on a journey to excellence" (Laura Kaye Reyes, grade 7, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy).

We introduced the contest by challenging students to describe what Adventist education means to them. But the contest ended with a challenge to all of us from these students, a challenge for continued support as Adventist schools strive to educate children and youth for both time and eternity.

Betty Bayer is associate director of Education.

GOD HEARD THE BOY CRYING—Genesis 21:17, NIV





God heard the little boy's tears as he waited to die, hungry, banished and, I am sure, feeling all alone and without hope. God heard the tears of the mom, Hagar, as she sat alone. Not wanting to see her son suffer, she put him in a bush out of the heat of the desert. They were out of water, food and hope. But God hadn't given up on them. The angel of the Lord called out to Hagar and said, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make of him a great nation" (Gen. 21:17, 18, NIV).

Imagine how Hagar felt hearing this? Awestruck! Feeling alone and unable to keep her son alive in the middle of the hot desert, here she was suffering for choices that were not her own—and God heard! He answered! The Lord opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well of water. God provided for them and kept His promise. Hagar's son grew. He and his descendants became a great nation because God saw his tears and had mercy on him.

God sees your tears and hears your cries, too. He knows your heart and He made you to rely on Him. Just as God was with Hagar and Ishmael in the desert, He will never leave or forsake you in your desert when you are feeling hopeless and are crying for help.

God cares about you. Hear Him say, "I am with you."

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 17 years old and a first year college student. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com







In Brief: InPrayer is a global prayer chain app that reminds you to pray every day at

7 a.m. and 7 p.m. A map shows you the current prayer participants' location around the world (around 5 km at the moment). You can choose to automatically update your Facebook and Twitter status with a predefined message that you can edit (highly recommended!). It only does so if you actually open the app when the notification comes up—clever! A very basic personal prayer section lets you keep your prayer lists handy, and a

brief devotional helps you start your day right.

Wow Factor: The warm feeling of seeing on a map who else is praying with you.

Meh Factor: Prayer Request feature consistently unavailable. Support page takes you

to a broken link.

Developer: TAGnet

Seller: Three Angels Global Networking

Price:

Works On: iOS (iPhone, iPad, iTouch, 3.1 and up) & Android (1.6 and up)



Touching Hearts, Impacting Lives ...

Someone who recently attended a series of evangelistic meetings presented by Pastor Bill Santos wrote:

"Dear Pastor Santos, this morning I listened to your message "Why Jesus" at the Bronte church. It was the closing moments of the service that prompted me to write to you.

At the age of 17, through the leading of the Holy Spirit and the writings in the Signs of the Times, my Dad gave his heart and life over to Jesus, was baptized and spent the rest of his life telling "the old, old story, of Jesus and His love." Too numerous to count were the series of evangelistic meetings he held. In the Maritimes, especially in the smaller rural communities, there weren't many to help out ... I was the pianist. At the close of each meeting he'd always have an altar call, just like you did this morning. When your musician began to play, I knew what was coming. Dad would nod at me; I'd



Bill Santos and new member Christina Xavier.

slip up on the piano stool and play the old hymns while he invited those who wanted to side with Jesus to make a public statement by coming to the front. Dear Pastor, I saw that same passion in you today, heard it in your voice, in your reluctance to bring the meeting to a close lest someone miss the opportunity of accepting Jesus today. No hype, no drama, just an earnest invitation to follow the prompting of the Spirit.

Over the years doctrine has sometimes gotten in the way of that simple truth that Jesus loves us; itchy-ears preaching has soothed my wayward spirit. Life crowded in; circumstances justified behaviour. But last evening I renewed my commitment to worship in God's house today, and what a feast He'd prepared for me. He carried me back to my roots. Thank you for going where He needed you today. And never ever apologize for drawing out the invitation!"

from Smithville, Ont.



I recently had some routine dental work done at my regular dentist's clinic in Abbotsford. When I went to pay the bill, the receptionist commented on how professional my health care provider was; she went on to state:

"When I call them for coverage information, they know the answer immediately, and they always give prompt payments."

I was pleased to hear her say that among the health plans she works with, the Adventist Church's plan is a very professional program and delivers top-level performance.

I then pondered, I should find out more about the Health Benefits Plan (HBP) the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada provides for its employees and retired workers.

STAN: Juanita, how many employees and retirees are you managing through the Health Benefits Plan in Canada?

JUANITA: The Plan currently covers 1,077 employees and 475 retirees; including spouses and children, we provide benefits coverage to 3,138 persons.

STAN: That group is significantly larger than I, and probably many of our members, expected.

How many years of service do employees need in order to have health benefits when they retire?

JUANITA: To qualify for medical benefits during retirement, a church employee must have a minimum of 15 years of service. Benefits are scaled, increasing the percentage reimbursement for each year of service.

STAN: Wow, it must take a lot of staff to manage that.

JUANITA: Our department has three staff including me. We are very aware of our role as a service department and work very hard to respond to employee claims and questions in a timely way. This year we upgraded our claims software, and that also assists us in enhancing our service to members. Employees and retirees can

now receive direct deposit of their claim reimbursement, submit dental claims electronically, as well as view their own claims history and information pertinent to their benefits, such as plan booklets and claim forms.

STAN: Has the Church in Canada always had this program? When did it start? What happened before that?

JUANITA: In 1987 the church established a group benefits program for Canada; prior to that each conference administered its own program. Administering the benefit program from this office provides consistency of benefit coverage across Canada, and cost savings are realized through group coverages that would not be available on an individual basis. This also frees resources at the local level.

STAN: I understand the HBP even provides reimbursement for some fitness clubs. Why would you do this, and do a lot of people take advantage of this?

JUANITA: Diet and lifestyle have such a significant effect on health; we would be remiss if we did not include an incentive to inspire participation.



Juanita Longman

STAN: A number of organizations are encouraging people in their plan to lose weight as well. Does the Adventist Church in Canada plan have anything similar?

JUANITA: As part of our wellness initiatives we do include coverage for weight loss programs. Studies have found that excess weight has such an adverse effect on health, increasing risk factors for so many diseases. We do care about our members and want them to experience the best of health. An investment in health also results in improvements in productivity and stress levels.

STAN: Over the years I have met some pastors who became unable to work due to sickness. Does the Church look after them in any way? Is there disability insurance?

JUANITA: Yes, the Church includes disability coverage as part of the benefits package. In the event of an accident, members are covered from the first day of disability; otherwise they are covered after the $14^{\rm th}$ day of disability. The medical evidence is reviewed by our disability carrier using standard guidelines for disability duration in convert with their medical experts.

STAN: Our members are very mission—minded. When people go overseas to do mission work, can they get some coverage or do they need to get that health care insurance elsewhere?

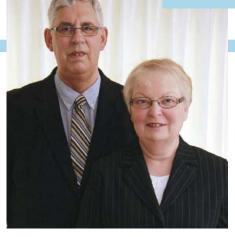
JUANITA: We deal only with employee benefits. The General Conference does have coverage for volunteers, which can be purchased through Adventist Risk Management in their Washington office.

STAN: Juanita, I just want to personally thank you and your staff for managing an organization that we as members can be so proud of. It was wonderful to hear the staff at my dentist's office make such positive remarks.

JUANITA: Thank you, Stan. We take pride in our role as representatives of the employing organizations across Canada and strive to provide excellence in service to our members.

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

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Hermione Wilson, Messenger Staff Writer.

M: Where did you grow up?

O: I was born in Bay Roberts, Nfld. and lived there until the age of nine. My parents then moved to Oshawa, Ontario so my brother and I could attend church school. That was 1952.

M: After junior college you went to Atlantic Union College. How long were you there and what did you study?

O: I studied business there from 1963 to 1965, planning to be a business education teacher.

M: Where did you go after graduation?

O: I filled in at the church school [in Halifax for one year but the next year worked for a civil engineering company. [In 1967] I began teaching business at Kingsway during the school years 1967-68 to 1974-75 and again from 1980-81 to 1985-86, after which I became business manager from June 1986 to January 1996.

M: What are some of your most memorable moments from Kingsway College?

O: The interaction with my students was phenomenal. I still hear from many of them and I am proud of each and every one of them. It was an absolute privilege for me to be associated with Kingsway College.

M: You left Kingsway in 1996 to serve as Vice President for Financial Administration at Canadian Union College (CUC). What was that like?

O: I served there from January 1996 to August 2000. I have tremendous regard for CUC's faculty and staff, for the parents, alumni and friends who so generously support Canadian Adventist Higher Education, and for the students who impress me with their high level of maturity and spirituality.

M: After CUC you were called to serve as Vice President for Finance at the Alberta Conference. You are the second woman to serve in that position, the first being Stella B. Lowry, who was the first secretary-treasurer of the conference when it was formed in 1906. What was that like?

O: I can't say that my being a woman made any difference. The environment for women administrators within the church has equalized significantly, as can be seen from the number of women managing departments at the SDACC. However, it is still true that our types are generally in the minority.

M: During your career you've worked as both a teacher and an administrator? Which do you enjoy the most?

O: I enjoyed both teaching and administration. Teaching was great when I was young and had lots of energy for the classroom and for extracurricular activities; administration gave me the opportunity to put into practice the business subjects I had studied and taught. I had a very fulfilling career.

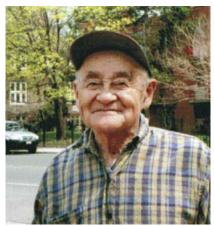
M: Where are you now?

O: My husband and I live in Lacombe, Alta., a very short distance from CUC. I am retired but I volunteer on a CUC committee and work a little for two church entities. This winter I edited the SDACC edition of George's Tree, a planned giving book for Canadian donors. I am also writing a biography of Melvin Boutilier whose story was featured in the August 2012 Messenger.

My husband taught at several Adventist church schools and was principal at College Park Elementary School, Oshawa, Ont., and at Sandy Lake Academy, Halifax, N.S. He also taught Math-Science at Kingsway College for 16 years. Before retiring he worked at CUC Plant Services for eight years.

Our daughter, Kristi, is an oilfield safety manager here in Alberta. We are very glad to be close to her and her daughter, Kaely.

Two Georges



George Sakurai

George is the name of the Planned Giving mentor in the book *George's Tree: A Story of a Well-Planned Gift*, by Alain Lévesque.¹

George also happens to be the name of a Canadian Adventist church member who quietly demonstrated leadership even though he never held a church office. In The Real Jesus and Other Sermons, author James Allan Francis reminds us that "Jesus did none of the things one usually associates with greatness." Yet, Francis concludes, nothing "affected the life of man on earth as much as that one solitary Life." So it was with our Adventist friend George Sakurai.

While George was alive, he made a Christian will, assisted by the Ontario Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services director. When George passed away, he left an enduring legacy to his church in Ontario, a legacy that extends his Christian influence even while he awaits the call of the Lifegiver.

While none of us have the leadership skills of Jesus, we can all lead as George did. We can choose to make a Christian will that not only cares for our loved ones but also reaches out to humankind through the charities of our choice.

Email legal@adventist.ca or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, today for your free copy of the book George's Tree. In it you will discover surprising ways to multiply your own legacy. ■



ON THE ROAD WITH Recky

It is Communion Sabbath and a visitor comes to church wearing worn-out clothes and smells bad. Do you ask them to take part with you or not and why?

Becky at the bowmanville, six nations, and st. catherines churches in ontario

Hollace Burnett-Simmonds: I wouldn't ask them to take part simply because I grew up believing that Communion was an activity that a baptized member took part in. I would invite them to sit beside me, observe, and offer to answer any questions that they might have.

Cindy Allison: Absolutely because everyone is welcome and Communion is open for everyone.

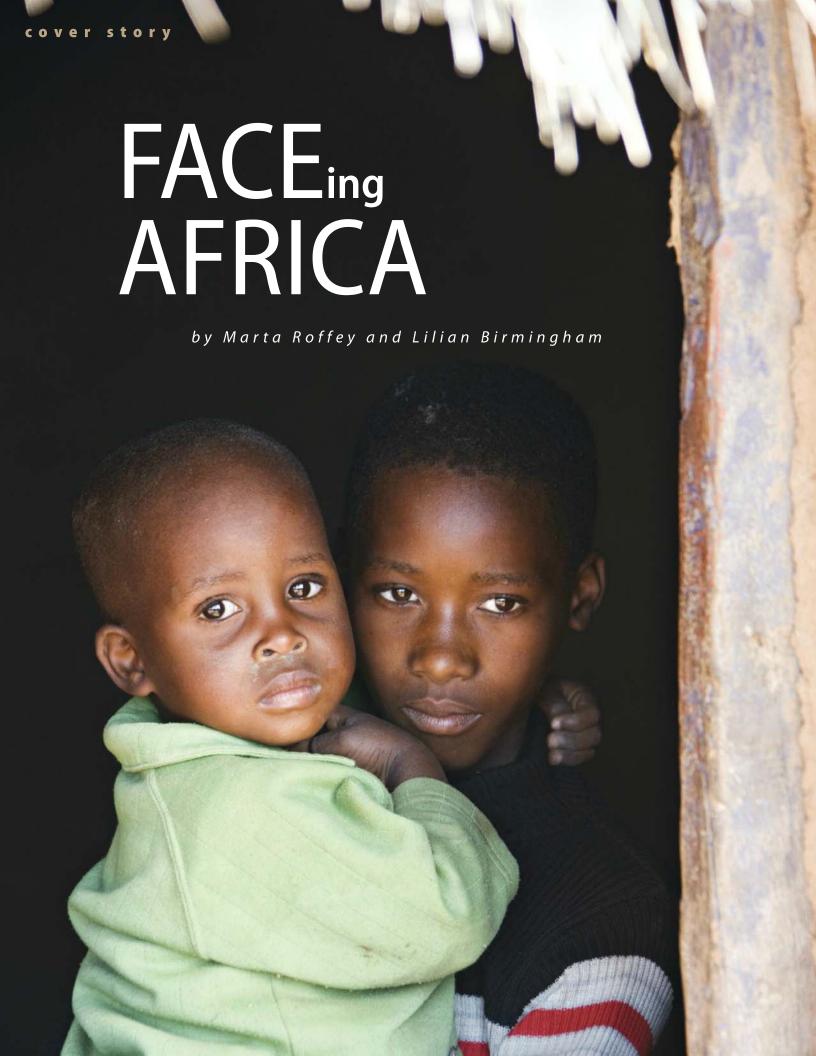
Verla Maracle: I think it would almost be an insult to them if you didn't. If you want people to come to church, you have to show love.

Sharon-Rose Nyambiya: I would introduce myself and ask them to take part with me. I think with anyone, when they come to a church or anywhere where they don't know anyone, they want to feel welcome.



¹ The original book was written by Alain Lévesque, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada has adapted it into an edition that includes suggestions on planned giving to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

² James Allan Francis, The Real Jesus and Other Sermons (Philadelphia: Judson Press of Philadelphia, 1926), pp. 123, 124.



AS WE APPROACHED THE UGANDAN BORDER

crossing, it was with some effort that we suppressed our laughter. Two very serious guards approached our vehicle, unsmiling and ramrod straight, holding their Russian AK-47 rifles meaningfully across their chests. What struck us as funny was that we'd been told it had been some time since they were issued any ammunition for their weapons. They asked to see our papers. Then one of the guards swung the pole barrier aside, and we proceeded into Uganda.

Jim and I were leaving Rwanda to build and manage an orphanage in Uganda for L'Esperance Children's Aide, an Adventist charity based in Germany.

It was June 1990. We had just spent two years in Rwanda managing and extending an orphanage, and we would remain in Africa six more years.

As we entered the city of Kampala, it looked like a ghost town. The sun was setting and all was still because of the strict government-enforced curfew. Almost 20 years had passed since Ugandans last enjoyed freely strolling along these deserted streets after sundown. Everywhere steel bars covered glassless windows and doors. However, Idi Amin and Milton Abode had been ousted by the new democratic government and they could do no more harm. The curfew would soon end.

Our new routine began the next morning with a 15-minute motorcycle commute over red clay roads to our building site. The 60-acre banana plantation overlooking Lake Victoria had been owned by former vice president and prime minister, Dr. Kisekka. It would become the orphanage and our new home.

Days turned into months before we could travel to the Rwenzori Mountains to meet the children designated to live at the orphanage, but the day finally arrived. Our plantation of newly planted pineapples, beans, sweet potatoes, as well as mulberry trees that would hold a population of silkworms, was underway. Gerhardt, the German architect, was on site, and construction on the buildings was progressing.

We travelled west to Fort Portal then further west to Bundibugyo, where many of the orphanage children lived. After that we would head south to Kasese to visit the headquarters of the Southwestern Uganda Field of Seventh-day Adventists and the education director.

As we travelled we enjoyed the tropical beauty so like Hawaii. However, we couldn't help but also notice the poverty. Tiny homes became primitive huts. Made of bamboo and mud, each housed a family with up to 10 children. They lived here without glass windows, electricity, running water or toilets.

We also noticed a Seventh-day Adventist church in every village and beside each church, a church school.

One morning we stopped beside a green field where a hand-painted sign read, "Izinga Seventh-day Adventist School." A small mud hut with a grass roof stood in the clearing. As at the other schools we visited, children would sit on narrow benches or mud floors, copying lessons into exercise books they would treasure for a lifetime. Schools had been destroyed and textbooks burned under the previous dictatorial regime that wanted to keep the people illiterate.

The air felt heavy and damp after the early morning rain as we exited our vehicle, and it seemed that no sooner had our feet touched the ground that children came running to surround us, shouting, "Umuzungus! Umuzungus!" ("Foreigners! Foreigners!").

"Where are the adults?" I called to Jim over the delighted voices of the children. News travels fast in the mountains, and it would not be long before the entire village would come to greet us.

The headmaster, a young man in his late teens with only a seventh-grade education, soon identified himself and instructed the school's 25 students to stand at attention. We noticed other children apart from the uniformed students, but our questions had to wait; greetings in Uganda cannot be rushed. First there is handshaking, bowing, asking about the health of the family, and then meeting the village chief, who holds on to your hand until you turn to leave.

After the greetings Jim asked about the three boys without uniforms who had attached themselves to his white, muscled arms.

"They're orphans," the headmaster replied.

The village chief explained that he assigns these children to live with a surviving relative. The relatives provide kinship and food but struggle to pay for other basics like medicine. No families here could pay the school fees for an orphan, and their future looked bleak.

Jim dug into his pocket and, with the villagers looking on, gave the headmaster 150,000 Ugandan shillings (C\$75) along with instructions to put these three boys in school.

After we arrived back in Kampala, I began a silk-screening project to make Christmas cards. One evening Jim was adding up the expenses and balancing the books for the orphanage while I was screening the cards. As we worked I asked, "What do you think about adding a note with the cards asking people to sponsor orphans in one of our schools?"

Jim looked up at me, "I was thinking the same thing." Moments later I added, "I was thinking about starting a charity to sponsor children ... "

"So, was I!"

"Kids could stay with surviving family."

"And attend the local Adventist schools we saw in every village we visited."

"The cost would be minimal."

We outlined a plan. "The village chief, headmaster and pastor could verify that the children are orphans..."

"I can take photos of the children."

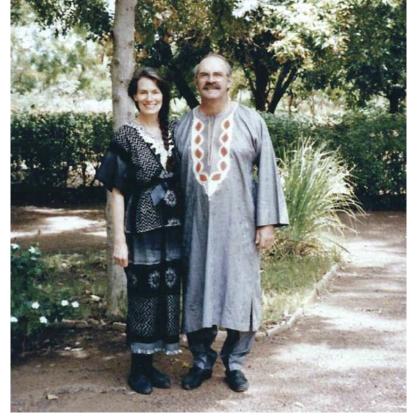
"We could send a photo, and the child's application to the sponsoring family."

Moments later Jim asked, "What would we call the charity?" I thought of the photos we had taken of the kids and their smiling faces. "What about FACE?" I suggested.

"What do the letters mean?"

We bounced some words around together: "Children... Education ... Africa ... Freedom ... Free African Children through Education!" Thus FACE was born, and requests for sponsors first accompanied those Christmas cards.

We returned to the Rwenzori Mountains six months after our first visit. As we came within sight of the Izinga Seventh-day



Marta and Jim Roffey dressed in traditional African dress.

Adventist School, we stared in amazement. A brick building, unfinished but large enough for three classrooms, stood beside the old school. Children again ran to us shouting and giggling, "Madam! Madam! Bwana Jim!" The headmaster, also delighted by our arrival, began the greetings. Just as they did last time, the entire village soon appeared! We learned that the funds Jim had given had enabled the community to buy supplies so they could make bricks for the new school. They couldn't yet afford the window frames, doors or metal roof, but they had started to build.

Soon after this we returned to Canada on furlough and eager to seek charity status. As we began putting together a proposal, friends cautioned us, "It could take years for Revenue Canada to give you charity status." Undaunted, we went to the Canadian Revenue Agency in Ottawa and were directed to a small office.

"We are missionaries in Uganda," I told the woman attending us. "We want to start a charity to support orphans so that they live with surviving relatives rather than in orphanages. Our sponsorships will allow orphans to go to the village Christian school."

"That sounds wonderful! You will want tax-free charity status, and we can do that." Pulling out the necessary documents, she completed the paperwork as we watched. "We could also initiate a treaty with the United States, which allows for charitable status with the Inland Revenue Service," she offered. Minutes later FACE became a registered charity in both countries.

From the beginning, FACE focused on accountability. Donor funds are wired to the Standard Chartered Bank of England in Kampala. Cheques from there say, "DEPOSIT ONLY." This ensures that schools with



Roffey's new brick school building.

FACE children receive money as per instructions I forward in advance.

Donations pay for the orphan's school fees, uniform, pencils, pens and paper, an annual photo, school report and a blanket. Local parent-teacher FACE Boards determine how to best use any remaining money. Thus FACE funds have also helped communities construct new school buildings; build latrines, desks and other furniture; purchase Bibles and textbooks to add to their libraries; and augment teachers' salaries.

FACE has no paid staff. Marta volunteers as FACE president and CEO. Although Jim Roffey passed away in 2010, we praise the vision and support he gave. Elaine Delisle, a FACE volunteer from the beginning, is FACE's accountant. Vladimire Tschaplinski has volunteered as director of technical support for the last six years. Lilian Birmingham volunteers with freelance writing and a website.

Today's 50 schools lie within the Rwensori Field, under the direction of the Adventist education director, Pastor Wanzalabana, who has Internet access. This keeps the accountability network small but effective. It also allows for much further growth, as 299 Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions operate in Uganda alone.

FACE offers an education to orphaned children age 7 or older of all faiths, all tribes and all languages. Within the 21 years of FACE operation, thousands of children have acquired an education and 800 children receive support today. The cost to sponsor a child remains a low \$65 per year.

Sponsorship offers more than education. Latrines facilitate necessary health principles. However FACE's most important gift is to inspire orphans with hope for the future and faith in Jesus. These children take Jesus back to their villages, where people continue to consult witch doctors and embrace animism, atheism, or spirit /ancestor worship. Meanwhile, letters come to us from headmasters that read, "we baptized five of your FACE children last Sabbath."

In this year of Adventist Education we wish to thank everyone who has embraced such a global vision.

> Marta Roffey is president and director of FACE and Lilian Birmingham is a freelance writer.



Jesus came by today. Did you see Him?

ave you ever wondered what Jesus looks like? It seems most artists' renditions I remember from childhood portrayed Him as a tall Caucasian with dark, long, curly hair who always walked around in sandals and a long robe. Do you have an image of Jesus in your mind? Do you think you'd recognize Him if you saw Him?

Troublingly, the Bible has many examples of religious people and leaders not recognizing Christ when they saw Him. When He was brought to the temple as a baby, and even when He hung on the cross, few saw the promised Messiah. And a parable in Matthew 25 tells of people who didn't mean to cut Jesus out from their lives; they just didn't recognize Him when they saw Him. "Lord, when did we see you?" they asked, astonished (NKJV).

This parable delivers a clear message: the judgment isn't going to be an essay question on the 28 Fundamental Beliefs; it'll just be a "did you?" or "didn't you?" question. He clearly advises us, "I'm not a Caucasian male with long, curly hair and a robe and sandals only living in the heavens." He clarifies: "I'm all around you. I'm in the thirsty, the hungry, the sick, the naked, the prisoners. And if you're ignoring them, you're ignoring me, with eternal consequences."

He gave us plenty more instruction on this. God's heart for and directives to His followers about taking action for the poor is mentioned more than 2,100 times in Scripture.¹

In Micah 6:8 He states that He "requires" us to "do justly." In Jeremiah 22:16 He tells us that defending the cause of the poor and needy is what it means to know Him. Proverbs 19:17 declares that lending to the poor is the same as lending to the Lord. Proverbs 14:31 says we honour God when we care for the poor. Ezekiel 16:49 explains that the sin of Sodom was that they were unconcerned and did not help the poor and needy. Could this describe us?

God is asking us to make our mission the same as His: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free" (Luke 4:18, NIV).

He also made it clear that merely caring about the poor is not enough; we must act. In Proverbs 3:27 He demands that we do not withhold help from those in need when it's in our power to help them. And just before we excuse ourselves from this obligation because we feel we don't have any extra to share, 2 Corinthians

8:12–14 reminds us that it doesn't matter how much we have. What matters is how much' you are willing to give from what you have.... It's only fair when we have so much, and others have so little" (CEV). In this country every one of us would be hard-pressed not to conclude that the majority of the world has "so little" monetarily compared to our "so much."

As Christians we have to ask, What will I do for the poor? What will my family do? What will my church do? Matthew 25 teaches us our answer has eternal consequences.

Watch the news for a few moments. You'll see that God is hungry. You could provide him with seeds and garden tools to feed his family? You'll read that God is thirsty. Would you like to provide a well in her community?

The church established ADRA as its official worldwide humanitarian agency. ADRA is to be our church's response to the needs of Jesus. Jesus is in every day and every person of ADRA's work. No doubt, you saw Him today, too...in your community or on the news showing the latest humanitarian crises, perhaps. Did you recognize Him? What will you do now?

Michelle L. Oetman is the Donor Relations director for ADRA Canada

¹ The Poverty and Justice Bible: Contemporary English Version (New York: American Bible Society, 2008).



Jose Quezada and Ghadihela Flores

Meet the Team

Bill and Lisa Neish have established an ongoing ministry in Iqaluit. Bill lived in the North for 14 years and then left, only to hear God's voice calling him back six years later. Having a great burden for the North, Bill and Lisa have opened up their home to the public for Sabbath programs and Bible studies during the week. Furthermore, they have adopted an Inuk baby they named Jeremiah, who makes everyone smile.

Jose, from Vancouver, B.C., came up on June 2009 for two weeks of Bible work. Those two weeks left a big enough impression that he had to return. On July 19, 2011, he made the decision to move to the North and help with the ministry. Hearing about the North and the ministry, Ghadihela Flores, from Vancouver, arrived in Iqaluit in October 2011. Her love for Jesus and her passion to teach others about God indeed brought her to the north.

Ghadihela and Lisa run a Bible study at the Women's Correctional Centre. Bill and Jose run a Bible study program at the Baffin Correctional Centre and Young Offenders as well. They run a church program that starts at 2 p.m., after the



Lisa, baby Jeremiah, and Bill Neish

children's program. The attendance lately has been good; a few individuals come faithfully, and some are even bringing their friends to the program. The attendees love to look up the texts in the Bible and familiarize themselves with the stories of the Old Testament. They had not learned about it because the Old Testament had not been translated to the Inuktitut

language; however, the whole Bible has been officially translated and has been available as of June 3, 2012. Many are extremely excited to have the whole Word of God in their language, and they can't wait to study it for themselves.

Jose Quezada ia a bible worker in Nunavut

CRS-NCB takes a closer "Look" at "Facebook"!



Pugwash wave 2012

ith social media penetrating every level of this twenty-first century society, it is clear that people talk about everything and invite the whole world to read about it. Folks, young and old, from all walks of life, are getting connected and expressing themselves on various social media networks, such as Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Skype, MSN, blogs and Facebook.

In order to better grasp the buzz that occurs after each camp, we decided to take a closer look at Facebook. What we discovered was stirring! Facebook has become a wonderful communication and networking tool where NCB campers as well as camp staff and volunteers share the joys, revelations, positive feelings, quotes, spiritual enlightenments and experiences they have gleaned while at Blind Camp.

While searching for feedback about the 2012 Pugwash Blind Camp, we discovered these comments:

Dan Wilson—The hush that came over the auditorium when Daniel MacDonald (paraplegic and totally blind) sang "At the Cross" is a moment I will never forget.

Laura Bain—I was also incredibly moved by Daniel's singing of "At the Cross." It was perfect in its imperfection. He is an individual who shows everyone his beautiful soul.

Jane McClair—Tears came to my eyes or a smile to my lips several times last week as I interacted with the campers and watched them interact with each other and the great staff

Emily Green—I loved Pugwash! A massive thanks to those who worked it.

Chris Daigle—For me Pugwash this year was the best

because EM was there, the spiritual time in Bible class, the walks together in the ocean, ... may God continue to bless.

Natalie Fougere—Back from Camp Pugwash and had an absolute blast once more! It was great to see all new and regular campers, do fun activities, sing songs that will stay stuck in my head for weeks, eat good food, be part of the talent show and much, much more!

Marye McKenney—Awesome week! Great to see old friends and make new ones!

Dan Wilson—I have been asked to share what I learned at Blind Camp this week. Here it is in a nutshell: I learned that true sight does not come from eyes. I learned that for some, having one less sense is an advantage, not a disability. I learned that God is speaking loudly today in ways that amaze me. I was asked to come and inspire 45 blind people, but they inspired me.

National Camps for the Blind Canada wants to give its patrons, sponsors, friends, staff and volunteers a place to share experiences and ideas, get informed and promote the services. We invite you to join our Facebook page (BlindCamps.ca) and our Facebook Group (National Camps for the Blind/Christian Record Services Canada). Our goal is to have these two accounts fully developed and active by the end of 2012. We look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions, as well as seeing your positive comments on Facebook! Discover more about National Camps for the Blind Canada by visiting our active website, www.ncbservices.ca. ■

> Michelle Richards is associate director of National Camps for the Blind.

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Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Ordination/Commissioning Service





Almay, Abednigo, and Lorna Mandalupa

Back row: Elmer and Angela Manzanares-Marenco. Front row: Elmer, Benjamin and Johan.

At campmeeting, on the Sabbath of July 14, the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference commissioned Elder Abednigo Mandalupa, treasurer of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference, and ordained Pastor Elmer Manzanares-Marenco, pastor of the Transcona and Nueva Esperanza churches.

Elder Abednigo Mandalupa is originally from the Philippines. By the time he came to Canada in 2008, Elder Mandalupa had completed 21 years of denominational employment, most recently in mission roles in Haiti and Guyana. All of his Adventist employment, both in the mission field and in the Philippines (1988–2001), centred in the areas of his degree specialties and have involved General Conference auditing, health care and academic administration.

Elder Mandalupa completed a bachelor of science in business administration, then achieved a Certified Public Accountant

status while working to complete a master's in business management. He now also has his doctorate in management and human resources.

Elder Mandalupa is married to Lorna, who is a surgical assistant. They have a daughter, Almay, who is a student at Canadian University College.

Pastor Elmer Manzanares-Marenco, of Jewish-Spanish descent, was born in Nicaragua and immigrated to Canada at the age of 28. Pastor Elmer attended Canadian University College and graduated with a bachelor in religious studies in 1996. He began to work parttime for the Alberta conference in mid-1996, and in 1997 he became a full-time pastor. In 1999 Elmer immigrated to the United States where he had the privilege of serving the Lord for 11 years as a literature evangelist, a family and substance abuse counselor and as a pastor. In January 2011 Elmer accepted a call to come back to Canada and serve

as the pastor for two Winnipeg churches.

Pastor Elmer is married to Angela, who is a teacher. They are the parents of Bethsaida, twins Elmer and Johan, and Benjamin.

The commissioning sermon was presented by Alvin Kibble, vice president of the North American Division. Kibble spoke to the candidates and congregation about what God expects His ministers to do and to be. Kibble shared that God expects His ministers to us the gifts they were given for the glory of God's name, whether their gifts be preaching, teaching, singing, administration or something else. Elder Kibble also shared that God wants His ministers to preach His truth and do His will. God's desire is that His ministers bring His people back to Him because Jesus is coming again soon.

In his sermon Elder Kibble outlined what God expects His ministers to be. The first, and most prominent, was to be obedient. Kibble pointed out that God

expects His ministers to be like sheep; they hear the Shepherd's voice and obey, even in cases like Jonah's, when they don't want to or can't understand why. Elder Kibble used the example of Ezekiel. Ezekiel found himself in a place of dry and dead bones, and when pastors find themselves in districts that seem dry and dead, they must believe that God will bring flesh and life to their congregations as He did with the dead bones where Ezekiel was. Elder Kibble ended his powerful sermon by stating that God also expects His ministers to be honest and humble as they work on His behalf throughout their ministries and life.

Following the sermon, Ron Nelson, president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference, offered a prayer of dedication, and Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, gave charges to the candidates, concluding with the text:

"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who

witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing" (1 Tim. 6:11–13).

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference would like to congratulate Elder Abednigo Mandalupa, Pastor Elmer Manzanares-Marenco and their families. We wish them God's blessing on their ministries.

Brittany Harwood, Administrative Assistant for Communications, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

Jeff Potts Accepts Executive Secretary Position

eff Potts, currently the J pastor of Lighthouse of Hope Church in Winnipeg, Man., and his wife, Nancy, have accepted the call for him to serve as the executive secretary of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, beginning Oct. 1, 2012. Earlier this summer current executive secretary, Collin Akre, chose to relinquish the secretariat role to become the executive director of Park Manor Personal Care Home, in Winnipeg.

After carefully and prayerfully considering a strong field of potential candidates, the Manitoba-Saskatchewan board of directions unanimously voted to extend a call to Potts. The ministerial department, which has also been headed by Potts, will now be shared between the president, Ron Nelson, and Potts until they revisit the role in the New Year, after consulting with the Manitoba-Saskatchewan board and the field.

Conference president Ron Nelson stated, "The high respect of the field toward Potts was reflected in the unanimous decision of the board of directors to extend a call to him to serve as the executive secretary of our conference.



Nancy and Jeff Potts

The deep appreciation of his success as a pastor and as a church planter/evangelist enabled him to garner the support of our pastors in his brief tenure as the ministerial secretary. Without question, it was determined that he could best advance the cause of God in this new assignment."

Jeff Potts earned his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich. After serving in the Perth-Carleton Place district in eastern Ontario and helping launch the Smiths Falls Seventh-day Adventist Church, he was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 15, 1993. Potts also served in the British Columbia Conference and, afterward, in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference for approximately 13 years, during which he launched four new churches.

In 2009, after six years of part-time studies, Jeff graduated with his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Andrews University Theological Seminary. His dissertation was entitled Church Planting to Reach Postmodern Generations: Launching a New Church

in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

For the past three years, in addition to leading two young church plants, Jeff has been the church planting coordinator for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. In this role he has focused on identifying and empowering committed lay people to launch new congregations.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference is very pleased to receive Potts as the new executive secretary and anticipates a strong working relationship with him that will advance and strengthen our Lord's work in the region.

Communications, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

British Columbia

Nakita's Kitchen

ne day when I arrived at the top of one of the hills at British Columbia Campmeeting, I found a girl sitting behind a little table with boxes of granola in front of her. I talked to her for a few minutes and then bought one box for \$5. The sign read, "Money goes for Investment," so my purchase was for a good cause, I said to myself.

As I talked to eight-year-old Nakita Greaves, who responded enthusiastically with bright eyes and telling facial expressions, I was convinced that her dedication to Jesus and her Edmonton South church, in Alberta, would say a lot in both an article and a video presentation featuring her granola sales and her love for Jesus.

Charles Ed II Aguilar, communications director of the British Columbia Conference, was anxious to record how she began and continued this mission project. Later Pastor Bill Santos of It Is Written Canada also recorded her responses to his questions for a future television program.

As we began the interview, I asked Nakita, "How did you get started making and selling granola?"

"Oh," she responded excitedly, "our church made \$20 available to all primaryand junior-age children who would invest the money. So my mother, Linda Greaves, taught me how to make this cereal, my dad, Anthony Greaves, prints the boxes, and, together, we cut and glue them. Then we put the granola in a plastic bag, place it in the box, and secure the contents."

As if the delicious granola inside weren't inviting enough, the box itself draws interested persons to the project because it features a photograph of smiling Nakita on the outside.

In addition, printed right on both the front and back of the box are the words "Temple Fuel," along with the scripture 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. Nakita defined the reason behind this Bible text: "The



Nakita Greaves selling boxes of her "Temple Fuel Granola" as an investment project.

verses talk about your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, and you must treat it right. So I made this granola with a cause in mind."

Nakita has sold 260 boxes of granola since she began this project last fall and 60 boxes at campmeeting. "Everyone likes granola," she explained.

"What do you plan to be when you grow older," I inquired.

"I plan to be a nurse for pets and animals—a veterinarian," she replied.

Her mother, Linda, homeschools Nakita, and she will be in grade three next Fall. The next day, as I visited the Greaves, I asked Nakita why she loved Jesus, and she answered, "I like Jesus because I feel like I belong with Him. Ever since I was growing up, my parents took me to church, so I have been with Jesus a lot and learned about Him."

"Last night I had a dream," she continued. "I dreamed that there was an earthquake. We were at a church,

and the walls started collapsing. I went outside, and I saw Jesus coming. There was a friend who was blind, and then when the light shone on her, she skipped and jumped and said, 'I am healed.'

"Then my family and I and my friends went to heaven. When I awoke, I felt like I was in Jesus' presence. I started crying only because I found myself in the bedroom—not in heaven.

"When I thought about it, He is coming soon and this is the end time. I feel happy that I can go to Jesus whenever I want. We talk to Him about problems and things that my friends and I shouldn't have done. It makes me feel better because I apologize to Jesus. You have a book in heaven and every problem you have, ask Jesus to clear it. He puts it to the east and to the west and then it is gone."

by Myrna Tetz, 2012 British Columbia Camp Meeting

http://vimeo.com/48836843

Year of Adventist Education: Teachers Recognized

The British Columbia Conference operates a large school system, a total of 17 schools all over the province, five of which are senior academies. For more than 20 years, Dr. Reuben Matiko and his wife have actively supported Adventist education in B.C. and have sponsored annual awards of recognition for up to seven selected teachers. This year the recipients are as follows:

Excellence in Teaching

In recognition of their teaching and commitment to Adventist education:



Lawrence Brock, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, Aldergrove



Rachel Rusk, Cariboo Adventist Academy, Williams



Lawrence McMullen. Okanagan Adventist Academy, Kelowna



Warren Friesen, Cariboo Adventist Academy and West Coast Adventist School in Williams Lake

Up and Coming

In recognition of a new teacher with a high potential for a career of excellence:



Colton Greenlaw, Peace Christian School, Chetwynd



Principal of the Year

Kristin Pazitka. **Avalon Adventist** Junior Academy, Port Hardy





Agnes Oosterhof, Lakeview Christian School, Victoria



Agnes Oosterhof, centre, sitting with Dr. and Mrs. Matiko.

These awards, consisting of a commemorative plague and \$1,000, are presented in the spring in the teachers' home school communities. Our teachers are answering God's call to the teaching ministry and are not seeking external recognition, but they gratefully and accept and appreciate these awards.

We want to acknowledge and thank Dr. and Mrs. Matiko for their generous support of our education system in British Columbia.

Lloyd Robinson, Superintendent of Education, British Columbia Conference

As of July 31, 2012, there are 462 depositors with a total deposit

Alberta

Drayton Valley Baptisms



Jim and Shelly Dorigo with daughters, Aaliyah (holding flowers) and Alyssa.

ay 26, 2012, was a joyous day for the Drayton Valley Seventh-day Adventist Company, when Pastor John Gilbert baptized Aaliyah Dorigo at the Wetaskiwin church. This marked the first baptism since the Drayton Valley group officially organized into a company on

April 28. Pastor Gilbert also had the privilege of baptizing Aaliyah's mother, Shelley Dorigo, three years earlier in May 2009 after she was led to the Adventist faith through Amazing Facts. Aaliyah loves Jesus very much and is active in her Sabbath School class at Drayton Valley.

She longs to share Jesus' love with all her family and friends.

Another special event occurred on July 28, 2012, when Pastor John Gilbert baptized Kyle and Kristina Basque at the Wetaskiwin church. This young couple has been a part of the Drayton Valley fellowship from the start, active in the Wednesday night Bible study and prayer meetings, Friday night FAST program, and Sabbath School and worship services. Kyle's love for Bible truth grew during Bible studies in an Adventist home in Drayton Valley that he, his mom and his sister participated in when Kyle was a youth. It was an exciting time for members of the Drayton Valley Company to witness Kyle and Kristina's commitment to each other in marriage in August 2011 and their commitment to Christ through baptism almost a year later. They are already sharing their faith and trust in Jesus with family and friends. ■

— Teresa Kisser, Secretary, Drayton Valley SDA Company

Ontario

One Hundred and Ten Graduates— **Ontario Conference School of Evangelism**

ne hundred ten persons graduated from the Ontario Conference School of Evangelism's (OCSE) inaugural class on the Sabbath of June 30, 2012.

The graduation service was held at 3:30 p.m. in the presence of over 4,000 people during the conference's annual campmeeting at the International Centre in Mississauga, Ont. It was also broadcasted live over the Internet.

As the graduates, resplendent in their

blue robes, marched into the auditorium to Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," there was a perceptible change in the congregation's mood. At first, unsure about what to expect, they saw the robed OCSE professor, Fitzroy Maitland, leading the graduates to their reserved seats, and perhaps sensed that the occasion was more significant than they anticipated. The significance was quickly confirmed by the composition of the platform party. It included Mark Johnson, SDACC president; Daniel Stojanovic, SDACC executive secretary; Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president; Daniel Linrud, Ontario Conference executive secretary; Janice Maitland, education superintendent; Frank Dell'Erba, OCSE professor; and, in their academic regalia, the four administrators of the OCSE, Errol Lawrence and Halsey Peat, Theodore Sargeant and Eustace Williams.



Mansfield Edwards congratulates a graduate.

The service that followed was both joyous and solemn. The graduates were thrilled to have completed the grueling 15-month course. Some had managed to squeeze into the graduating class by submitting their final assignments only a week before. The graduates being surrounded by their families and friends, it was clear that the students' sacrifice, time commitment and hard work had paid off. So they eagerly walked across the platform to receive their certificates from Edwards and congratulatory handshakes from the other dignitaries. Their certificates were accompanied by a medallion bearing the school's logo and inscribed with their names.

Of the 110-member graduating class, 104 were present, six graduated in absentia, unable to be present because they live either outside the province or even in another country. They took the course online.

The joy of the students was tempered by the reminder that 240 persons had commenced the course in March 2011 but that not all were able to complete it. And in one very sad case, the person passed away.

The solemnity of the graduation lay in the charge given to them by conference president, Mansfield Edwards.

"The New Testament clearly teaches that all Christians are to be ministers," he said. "When Jesus spoke of self-denial, taking up the cross and following Him, He was not talking only to pastors. He was addressing every believer."

Edwards was emphatic when he told them that when they received certificates as lay Bible instructors, lay preachers, or both, their certificates "were not simply to be placed on a wall." The graduates are now expected to dedicate themselves to "building God's kingdom."

Speaking later about the value of the OCSE, Edwards said, "In my estimation, the school of evangelism is one of the best initiatives that has ever been undertaken in this conference. I unreservedly affirm the four principals who work day and night travelling all across this conference to make it a success."

Part of the requirements for graduation is that all students must be engaged in personal evangelism—giving Bible studies with the purpose of leading someone to Jesus. Many students are already very active in sharing their faith.

The idea of having a school of evangelism arose from discussions among Pastors Lawrence, Peat, Sargeant and Williams, all directors at the Ontario Conference. They had observed the favourable response of church members to training for lay preaching that Williams had offered through the Personal Ministries department in early 2010, and suggested a pooling of resources to offer wider training. The idea of a school of evangelism was born, and they quickly moved on to develop a curriculum that would be challenging yet inclusive.

They did not need to look too far to



OCSE graduates Indira Ramos and Shay Swain.

find teachers. The pool of pastors in Ontario provided a rich source of highly skilled, well-educated and well-experienced instructors. Some had taught at college or university levels, while others were experienced evangelists and leaders. The "four principals," as the organizers were soon termed, worked on a schedule that would allow students to attend class and fulfill their assignments in their spare time. The proposal was adopted by the conference administration, and the school was launched on March 5, 2011, at Willowdale Adventist Church. Classes began at Kingsview Village Church on March 27, 2011. Fifty-five students viewed the first class online from across Ontario. Canada and the world.

Presently, students are able to register for one of two streams: Lay Bible Instructor or Credentialed Lay Preacher. However, registration for the latter stream allows the registrant to complete all the requirements for the Lay Bible Instructor's stream.

For 2012, students are able to attend the OCSE in Ottawa, Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and London. It is anticipated that a northern Ontario location will be added in the near future.

The class of 2013 is already hard at work and looking forward to its graduation. ■

Halsey Peat, Communication Director, Ontario Conference

Toronto French Group Officially Becomes A Company



ur French-speaking Seventh-day Adventists of Toronto reached new heights as the group, located in Scarborough, was officially organized as a company during a worship service and a special ceremony on the Sabbath of July 14, 2012.

To make this memorable occasion even more special, our group decided to make that day a visitors' day. The congregation, which has about 40 regular members, was blessed by a total of about 200 persons—both Adventist and non-Adventist—in attendance that day.

Evangelism being the primary mission of our church, the church members shared booklets and magazines with all our visitor friends. The speaker of day was the president of the Ontario Conference, Mansfield Edwards, whose sermon "You Will Receive a Power" reminded us that to fulfil the divine work, God's people must count on the representative of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, at all times. The message was followed by the organization of the congregation into a company. Daniel Linrud and Ulysses Guarin, secretary and treasurer of the conference, respectively, were also present.

The new Toronto French Seventh-day Adventist Company is the only French

congregation in Toronto, and it came into existence as a result of a first meeting in October 2007 (in the gymnasium of All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church) and a second meeting in February 2008 (in the gymnasium of Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church), and from that point forward weekly meetings were held. It was that year (2008) that the group became officially recognized by the conference, which made it possible for Pastor Vaudré Jacques to help the congregation. The group eventually moved and began meeting at the gymnasium of the Crawford Academy and later, in 2009, finally found a home at the present site, the West Ellesmere United Church, at 37 Marchington Circle in Scarborough.

Since its formation the group has not ceased to advance, in spite of winds and tides, and is made up of members from various countries, including Canada, Congo, the Mauritius, Guadeloupe, France and Haiti. Our group does not stop at reaching out only in Toronto but also makes itself known elsewhere in Canada and in the world, thanks in part to our website, www.eaft.ca. The site receives more than 1,000 visitors monthly, and from different countries, such as France, Belgium, French Polynesia, Germany,

Russia, and many other places. Visitors can peruse our Sabbath School lessons, biblical studies, music, and many other interesting subjects, and obtain our contact information, of course. Occasionally, we also have people who are visiting Toronto come to our church to worship with us. Translation is always available for people who do not speak French.

The Toronto French Seventh-day Adventist Company outlined a mission as soon as it came into existence: to proclaim the three angels' messages to the Francophiles and French-speaking individuals of the Toronto area. We ask God to give us all we need to announce the good news of Jesus Christ to those who still do not know him; our desire is to bring Him a rich harvest of souls to the glory of His name. You are all invited to visit and worship with us, at 37 Marchington Circle, Scarborough, Ont. If you have any questions, you may contact us by phone, at 647/350-0981 and 905/499-9054, or by email, at eaft@live.ca. May God bless you! ■

> Ralph Rancy, head elder, Toronto French Seventhday Adventist Company



Elliot Lake SDA Church Responds to Algo Centre Mall Tragedy



On Saturday, June 23, a large section of the roof at Algo Centre Mall in Elliot Lake, Ont., suddenly collapsed, causing metal and concrete to crash down through two floors. The incident gained national attention especially because for days following the incident emergency response workers could not access the collapsed structure to conduct a proper search for missing persons in the building, as the structure was dangerously unstable. During the wait people from the community kept vigil in hopes that anybody trapped within the mall would be rescued alive.

Our Seventh-day Adventist church in Elliot Lake began to respond to the needs of the community immediately. Every evening of that first week, members helped out with the memorial wall, lighting candles and speaking to people. The largest

need arose when mall employees, approximately 300 people, lost their jobs. In many cases the job loss meant that victims would not be able to meet even their own basic needs. The church held two yard sale fundraisers, first in order to contribute to the local food bank and, subsequently, to provide relief to members of the community who were affected by the loss of employment.

With a donation from our sister church, in Sudbury, we were able to present a cheque of \$1,000 to the Elliot Lake Food Bank on Tuesday July 10, 2012, as well as deliver over 150 pounds of food. Also, we made a donation to the Maplegate House for Women of about 100 pounds of baby food and diapers. "It was a real sense of joy to give back something to our community," one member commented. Also, two young ladies from our youth guitar class were present with us at the food bank to make the presentation. Local radio station Moose 94.1 FM was present to capture the moment. The station also featured Northshore and Elliot Lake pastor, Daniel D. Saugh, earlier in the morning to provide an overview of the work of the Seventhday Adventist Church and even share a short message of hope with the listeners.

The food bank was so grateful for the funds and the food because, as one of the coordinators said, "the needs are just pouring in." We were grateful we could make a meaningful contribution. We have also presented another cash donation with the help of the Ontario Conference and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada to a local relief fund for those who specifically lost their jobs.

We continue to open our church every Tuesday so that people can drop in to visit our clothes depot, small food bank and also the youth guitar class, which any youth of our community can join free of charge. If you or your church would like to make a contribution, you can send it to the Elliot Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church. We can be contacted at 705/578-3009. Thank you in advance for your support.

Daniel D. Saugh, pastor, Northshore/Elliot Lake SDA churches

The Pathfinder Bible Experience

At the first staff meeting of the year, the Durham Trailblazers Pathfinder Club, of Oshawa, Ont., was presented with an idea. The club's new director, Almyra Hodder, had the dream to increase each pathfinder's knowledge of the Bible through the North American Division's (NAD) new Bible testing initiative called "Pathfinder Bible Experience," or PBE.

The Durham Trailblazers have been a very active club, camping, preaching and collecting food for the Adventist Community Services Centre, but they had yet to compete in a Bible trivia competition. The staff was excited by Mrs. Hodder's suggestion, and the club started forming teams. Two dedicated teams emerged, and each team member was encouraged to study on their own, as well as practice together.

Time was ticking, and before they knew it, it was January 21, and the firstever Durham District-level PBE playoff. The two teams from Durham Trailblazers met up with two teams from Pickering's Agape Aqualights, and all got a chance to showcase their knowledge of 1 Samuel and Mark. Team A of the Durham Trailblazers advanced to the next level of the competition, the Ontario Conference level. Any teams who had a certain percentage of correct questions would then advance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) level (union level), and then on to the finals at the NAD headquarters, in Silver Spring, Md. This brought up a unique set of circumstances, since no other teams in all of Canada participated in the competition.

After much communication with the PBE organizers at the NAD level, it was decided that Team A from the Durham Trailblazers would advance to the finals! While the team was excited to learn this news, they had no time to waste in preparing for the trip. Passports needed to be obtained, uniforms spiffed up, transportation and housing arranged, and money raised. Through many answered prayers, a generous donation from the Ontario Conference, and help with housing from the Potomac Conference,



From left to right: Marcus Durocher, Andrew Hodgins, Theresa Jones, Zachary Simmonds, Vania Smith and Aaron Simmonds.

the team and their coaches were able to make the trip for only \$2,500.

All day Thursday, April 19, was spent driving and reviewing Bible knowledge. Upon arriving in Maryland, the team and their sponsors and coaches turned a Potomac Conference rental property into their home away from home and rested up for a day of tourism in Washington, D.C. Friday evening was filled with nerves because the Pathfinders were to lead Sabbath worship; they phoned home for words of encouragement from their families. The air was electric on Sabbath morning as each person scrambled to put his or her uniform together just right and hurried out the door for worship at the General Conference building.

Among things to do while visiting Maryland, a tour of the offices came first; a highlight was a visit to the Ellen G. White Estate to see the vault with her original writings inside. After the tour, members of the local Pathfinder clubs held a wonderful worship experience.

At 2 p.m. the testing began. The room fell quiet as the questions were read, and hundreds of Pathfinders from across North America submitted answers to the best of their ability. Overall, the Durham Trailblazers Team A achieved a third-place ranking.

When asked how they felt about the results, they responded that they were proud of their ranking. They studied hard and had the honour of being the only club to represent their country. Even though they didn't score as well as they had hoped they would, they said they were glad to have had this experience because they knew more about God's Word than they would have otherwise.

The Youth Department of the NAD developed this program for Pathfinders to immerse themselves in selected passages of God's Word. The next portions of Scripture to be tested are Acts and both 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Do you know a group of Pathfinders eager to experience the Bible in a new way? Encourage them to form a team and work toward the 2013 finals, to be held in Lincoln, Neb. I hope to see you there! ■

> Carys Cao, PBE coach, Durham Trailblazers, College Park SDA Church

Youth Social Media Evangelism Project Launched at Mississauga Church



"LET NO MAN DESPISE THY YOUTH;

but be thou an example of the believers.... Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy" (1 Tim. 4: 12–14). This is the mantra of the Adventist youth in Mississauga who have come together to create TBT:YUTE3, which stands for Truth Be Told: Youth United to Energize, Empower and Evangelize.

TBT:YUTE3 is a youth social media ministry of the Mississauga Seventh-day Adventist Church. The project was created to reach young people where they are in their everyday lives, regardless of geography, race, culture, religion, gender or socioeconomic status. Through social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr, this revolutionary youth group offers many things to the world and believes that social media is the most effective way to connect with today's youth. As a contemporary youth forum, TBT:YUTE3 offers a fresh perspective on topics ranging from community news to worldwide issues and provides a space that encourages youth to speak to and connect with one another via music, poetry, arts and culture, inspirational quotes, videos and sermonettes.

On July 7, 2012, to a packed audience,

and in the form of a talk show dubbed Truth Be Told Talk, TBT:YUTE3 was launched. Special guest Pastor Mirthell Mitchell got the conversation started and shared with the audience the value of social media as an evangelism tool and its potential to spread God's Word to people in every corner of the world. Pastor Mitchell also shared how his church in Hamilton utilized social media to organize and conduct an evangelistic series earlier this year. Following Pastor Mitchell, members of the executive team of TBT:YUTE3 made appearances. Collectively, they shared with the audience the goals of the project, rules for participation, and through a live demonstration unveiled the project's Facebook and Twitter pages—leading the audience into a virtual flashmob.

The team emphasized that through TBT:YUTE3, young people also have a support system where they can receive encouragement, motivation, direction and friendship. Under the leadership of Chelsea Walwyn, Jon Andrew McGaw, Kyle Francis, Mario Simpson, Brittany Coy-Pinnock and Raimi Simpson, this group believes that knowing Jesus and

His love is the way, and they are determined to establish positive relationships with everyone they come in contact with.

Using the aforementioned social media platforms, TBT:YUTE3 will generate weekly online conversations, organize events in the community and share information on church programs and activities. By creating this positive environment, the team will encourage, inspire and motivate youth in the way of Christ. We trust that the youth of today, connected through TBT:YUTE3, will consistently strive for the best and accomplish their dreams.

"As the TBT:YUTE3 of today, we have no intention of neglecting the gifts God has blessed us with. We promise to use all of our talents to take a stand and be the leaders of today," the TBT:YUTE3 team pledges.

Please view the group on Facebook at Truth Be Told (YUTE3) and "like" their page. You can also follow them on Twitter @truthbetoldyute.

Kyle Francis and Chelsea Walwyn, Mississauga SDA Church

SDA Church in Canada

A New First Nations Church

yrna Marie Mack of Bella Coola, B.C., answered God's call. It meant taking a leap of faith and God has been honouring it. Enjoy her testimony below:

So it was last March 2011 God woke me up saying, "Go buy the Cole house." I said okay and went back to sleep. The thought came to me it is an old house (built 1928), so it must need a new roof and foundation.

On Sunday I walked by the house and lo and behold it already had a new roof and foundation. I asked a few local Bella Coola seniors what they knew about the house. They asked me, "Why do you want to know?" I told them "God told me to buy it." They said, "Buy it then."

I never, ever had thought of buying a house and had no money saved up. The following weekend I worked a nightshift at our transition house. In the morning I got a call to work Sunday for home support and that afternoon the hospital asked me to work a night shift. Praise God this was just the amount needed for lawyer fees.

The house price was \$49,900 with a CMHC loan of 95% of that, so I needed \$9000 as a down payment. I took a \$3000 credit card cash advance and \$6000 line of credit. Satan tried to make me worry and figure out how I would di-



vide my paycheck to erase this deposit. As soon as I tried to write out a plan God said, "It's not going to be like that." The first week after closing, someone offered to pay the \$3000 loan. The following week they said God told them to pay the \$9000. Praise God!

The song "My Father is rich in houses and lands, He holds the wealth of the world in His hands" and "I am a child of the King," kept running through my head.

This house is in downtown Bella Coola, accessible to many people (Bella Coola is mostly First Nations people). It needed lots of work, so I told people, "that is how we humans are in need of renovations, watch God transform this house for His glory and change the lives of His children who come to worship

The walls upstairs were rotten and

there was no insulation in the house. Since last year many people have donated their time, skill and money to renovate "Our Father's House of Prayer." The house is now fully insulated. It still needs work, but for about one year now there are many things happening:

Monday night is Bible Study, Worship and prayer on Tuesday Worship and intercession on Wednesday morning

Thursday night men and women's Bible study,

Friday night worship, sharing the word and prayer

Listening to Him when He spoke and experiencing Divine appointments to witness that only He could have made it possible. People from many places have helped, some visiting from China, Missouri, and Australia. God is so good. I have a 14 year mortgage, but I believe God will provide for that to be paid much sooner so that we don't waste His money on interest. If God moves your heart to help in any way, it will be greatly

Pray for all the people who God will draw to Himself through the ministry at "Our Father's House of Prayer." It is His House! ■

> Myrna Marie Mack, Our Father's House of Prayer

Canadian Adventist Messenger—Transitions



Hermione Wilson

or the past two years Hermione Wilson has been a faithful employee at the Canadian Adventist Messenger and has gifted us with her pleasant outlook on life, hard work ethic and copious other skills and talents.

Hermione's job skills have exceeded our expectations; she was always willing and

able to go above and beyond what her position as secretary, circulation coordinator and ad manager required. She has not only written a number of articles, including cover stories, but has also edited many articles others have submitted for publication.

Hermione is leaving her position with the magazine and beginning a new chapter in her life. This month she is embarking on a new career and undertaking postgraduate studies in journalism.

Hermione, all the staff at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada wish and pray for the very best as you continue to pursue your career. We have appreciated you and will miss you very much! ■

To submit stories, obituaries, birth announcements and changes of address, or to inquire about classified and display ads, please contact Alexandra at Yeboah.Alexandra@adventist.ca.



Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (nonprofit 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.'

Births

Braelyn Jessica Carpenter was born on Feb. 3, 2012, to Troy and Debbie Carpenter, of Saint John, N.B. Big brothers Gavin and Cohen

■ New Members

are thrilled with her arrival.

Santana Larose-Kohler was baptized in Whitehorse, Y.T., on July 4, 2012, by David Laughton. She is now a member of the Whitehorse church.

■ Legal Notices

Quadrennial Session of the Seventh-Day Adventist **Church—Quebec Conference**

Notice is hereby given that the Quebec Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will hold its eighth quadrennial session at the LaSalle Seventh-day Adventist Church (7780 Boul. Champlain, LaSalle), Sept. 14-16, 2012. Registration of delegates will begin on Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, at 5 p.m.

The regular business meeting of the session will be called at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, 2012. All matters pertaining to the general sessionelections, reports, etc.—will be on the agenda.

The bylaws provide for representatives from each church in the Quebec conference to attend. The session is open to everyone, but only the delegates will have the right to vote.

> Daniel Latchman, President Emile Maxi, Executive Secretary

Session Quadriennale de l'église Adventiste du Septième Jour -Fédération du Québec

La huitième Assemblée quadriennale de l'Église Adventiste du Septième Jour-Fédération du Québec se tiendra à l'Église de LaSalle New Life sise au 7780 boul. Champlain, (LaSalle), du 14 au 16 septembre 2012. L'inscription des délégués commencera à 17 h 00 le vendredi 14 septembre 2012.

La session officielle débutera à 18 h 30 le vendredi 14 septembre. Tout ce qui a trait à la session générale, les élections, les rapports, etc. sera à

Les règlements prévoient que des représentants de chaque église de la Fédération du Québec pourront y assister. Tout membre déglise peut également assister aux débats mais seuls les délégués auront droit de vote.

> Daniel Latchman, Président Emile Maxi, Secrétaire exécutif

Obituaries

Eric Arthur Eckert was born Jan. 11, 1918, in Morden, Man., and died June 19, 2012, in Vernon, B.C. Eric was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in October 2011. He is predeceased by his wife, Elmeda. Surviving: sons, Ron (Carol), of Colville, Wash., Dave (Laury), of Blackfalds, Alta., Richard (Heather), of Terrace, B.C.; daughter, Carole (Don) Ganson of Terrace; twin sister, Olga Odenbach; brother, Arnold Eckert; nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Lena (née Moseanko) Grange

was born Dec. 30, 1916, in Lonesome Butte, Sask., and died Nov. 30, 2011, in Lacombe, Alta. Lena was a charter member of the Lacombe Community church. She is predeceased by her husband, Norman, and her brothers Phillip, Andrew and Samuel Moseanko. Surviving: son, Gordon (Dani), of Dallas, Tex.; daughters, Darleen (Gunther) Metzker, of Peachland, B.C., and Dorothy (Ian) Cheeseman, of Victoria, B.C.; sisters, Irene (Reg) Neal, Ethel Thomas, Catherine MacTavish and Ruth (Sylvester) Riffin; brothers Walter and Terence Moseanko; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Norman Grange was born Oct. 13, 1914, in Viceroy, Sask., and died Aug. 15, 2011, in Lacombe, Alta. Norman was a charter member of the Lacombe Community church. He predeceased his wife, Lena, who died four months later. He is predeceased by his brothers, Clarence and Harold Grange, and his sister, Beatrice Kabanuk. Surviving: son, Gordon (Dani), of Dallas, Tex.; daughters, Darleen (Gunther) Metzker, of Peachland, B.C., and Dorothy (Ian) Cheeseman, of Victoria, B.C.; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Advertising **Policies**

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- 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.

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Complete 10-volume set of The Bible Story by Arthur S. Maxwell.

Hardcover, original set published 1953. Pristine condition—no marks or tears, \$120. Oshawa, 905/434-8133. (9/12)

BarleyLife provides a rich source of chlorophyll, nature's cleanser, and vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that will provide your body's needs and help you stay looking and feeling young and healthy. Introducing Veggie-D, a completely vegan source (rather than the commonly used sheep's wool) of Vitamin D, crucial for good health. Free longevity e-book. Make your health a priority and call Ray today for free information. 888/ 707-3663 rayfoucher@gmail.com. (9/12)

Rent or own this amazing cottage home. Rent it at \$1,000 per week or own it at \$167 firm. Very private residence for your home or business. New fire place indoors and fire pit outdoors. Large garden tub plus regular tub for bathing, two bathrooms and a warm country kitchen. High-speed Internet access, 3ABN Christian satellite and 42-inch flat-screen TV included. Comes with a king-size bed, a lovely en suite in the master bedroom, with one extra bedroom. Surrounded by perennial plants, flowers and evergreens, and close to beautiful lakes, with a large patio in front and back, and three lovely, quiet gazebos. Two sheds and lots of firewood, new home generator connected to house for emergencies. Warm SDA church, groceries, medical centre, school, pharmacy, bank and gas station close by and more. For more information, contact mountainbliss @hotmail.ca or call 613/336-1703. This lovely cottage home is south of Bon Echo Park in the Land O' Lakes district, north of Highway 7. (9/12)

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Fountainview Academy is seeking cafeteria manager. Key duties: plan and prepare menus that are based on fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, as well as other vegan food options; ability to keep abreast of vegan dining trends and to seek out or develop new recipes. Must provide leadership and direction to kitchen staff and students. Qualifications: experience in quantity food prep and kitchen maintenance, knowledge of vegan cooking and balanced nutrition, good organizational skills, ability to work well with a team and willing to travel to prepare meals for activities on the road. Remuneration \$27,000 -\$30,216, based on experience.

Also seeking assistant vegan cook. To support the cafeteria manager with food prep, you must be knowledgeable about vegan food and cooking techniques. Qualifications: same as above for cafeteria manager. Remuneration \$23,100-\$27,030, based on experience. Please consider sending your résumé to Elaine Roque at eroque@fountainview.ca (9/12)

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but have no church school nearby? We invite you to move to Rosthern, Sask., where we have a vibrant church school. Rosthern is a thriving community located within an hour of Saskatoon and Prince Albert. For further information, call Wes at 306/232-7725(cell) or 306/232-4951(home) or email Melanie at lymedisease@sasktel.net (9/12)

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Fountainview Academy is an 80student boarding school nestled in the beautiful, pristine mountains of British Columbia. Leading young people to Christ is our first priority. We are an accredited school with excellent facilities and a promising future. Fountainview Academy operates with a dedicated team of staff and administrators. Annual teacher salaries range from \$35 K to \$38 K plus benefits. If you are a certified high school teacher (any subject), please consider sending your résumé to Baird Corrigan at bcorrigan @fountainview.ca. (9/12)

A home-based, health-related business helped me achieve financial freedom. If you have a heart for wellness and want to improve your finances, this is for you! Check it out

at www.navig8.biz/lifeenhancer then www.navig8.biz/lifeenhancer2. Viv 866/270-6019. (9/12)

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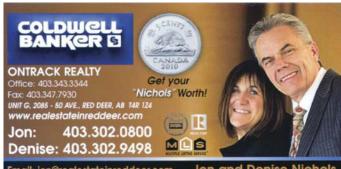
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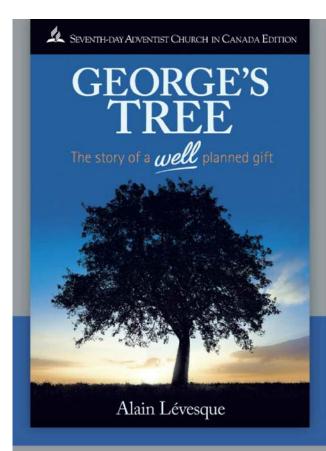


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Canadian Union Messenger.

" As the cold of snow in the time of harvest so is a faithful messenger."

Vel., III.

TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 15TH, 1904.

No. 17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE OFTEN THE MOST INTERESTING PARTS OF THE MAGAZINE. We are invited to celebrate with newly married couples, proud parents, and couples celebrating years of loving commitment. On a more sobering note, we also mourn with families who have lost a loved one and meditate on a life lived. Some things never change, it seems...

Manitoba – Saskatchewan Conference

Office Address: 604 Connaught Bldg., Saskatoon Saskatchewan President. O. Ziprick; Secretary-Treasurer, F. T. Balmer

More Wedding Bells

WEDDING bells again! This time they rang first near the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundry line, and then near the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary.

The contracting parties at Leader, October 30, the first wedding, were Mr. William Tetz, of Lacombe, and Miss Rachel Weis, of Leader. The Leader church was very appropriately decorated for the occasion. To the music of the wedding march, played by Miss Lilian Wentz, the happy couple marched into the church, accompanied by bridesmaids and best men, and were united in marriage by the writer. Brother and Sister Tetz will make their home in Alberta.

The wedding at Atwater took place on November 6, when Mr. David Manweiler and Miss Emma Neudorf joined hearts and hands. While a quartet was sung, they took their places accompanied by the bridesmaid and the best man, and the writer spoke the words which made them husband and wife. Mr. and Mrs. Manweiler will make their home near Atwater.

We wish for each of these young couples a long and happy married life, coupled with all the blessings that go with a Christian union.

D. D. NEUFELD.

Canadian Union Messenger, December 13, 1932

OBITUARY.

Arnold—Died at East Richford, Vt., May 19, 1904, of consumption, Gertrude E. Arnold, wife of Louis Arnold, and daughter of David T. Dow, aged 27 years, 8 months and 22 days. The deceased was received into church fellowship by baptism, October 2, 1892, and continued a faithful member until her death. And as her body grew weaker during her lintering illness, her faith and love for the truth seemed to grow stronger. And after exhorting all her friends to faithfulness and making an earnest request that her little infant daughter should be taught the truth, she fell asleep in Jesus and rests in the bright hope of the resurrection morning. Funeral serivces were conducted by

the writer, assisted by Elder H. J. Far-

Canadian Union Messenger, July 15, 1904

Little Bertha Agnes McGeehan fell asleep in Jesus at the home of her parents in St. John, N. B., Sunday, March 26, aged seven years and six months. She was a dear little pet, loved by all who knew her. She delighted in attending Sabbath Scheol and prized her paper the Little Friend. She did not hesitate to speak of Jesus anywhere, and to the best of her ability let her little light shine for the Master she loved. Funeral was Monday March 27. Words of comfort were spoken by the writer.

J. A. STRICKLAND.

Canadian Union Messenger, July 15, 1904

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