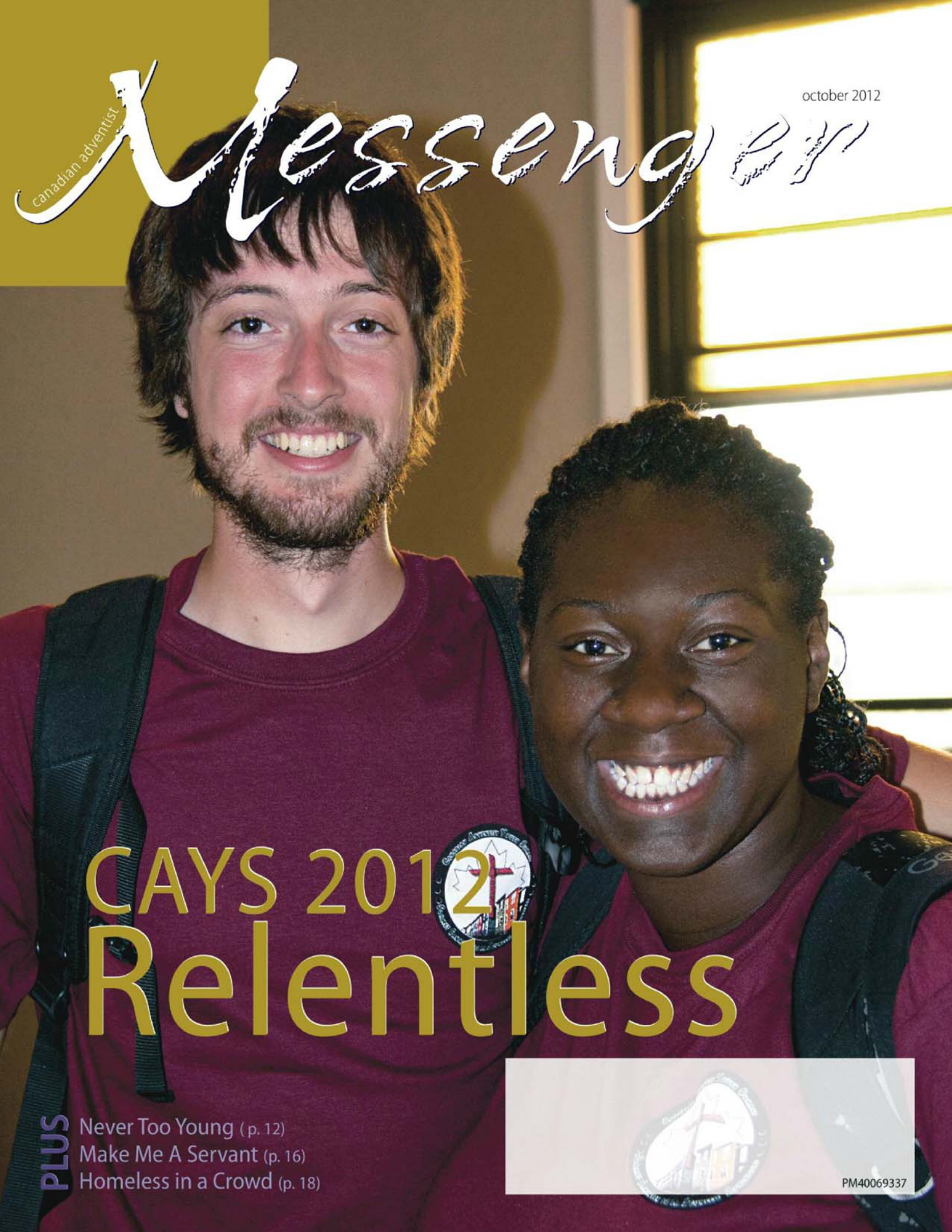


canadian adventist

Messenger

october 2012



CAYS 2012

Relentless



- PLUS** Never Too Young (p. 12)
Make Me A Servant (p. 16)
Homeless in a Crowd (p. 18)



PM40069337

“...a church is either growing or dying, ... there really isn't much middle ground.”



Outreach and Evangelism

I am so very thankful for having spent 27 years of my ministry at the most important part of our church structure, the local church. My experience in both rural and city congregations reinforced in my mind that a church is either growing or dying, that there really isn't much middle ground.

I discovered that many neighbours and friends in the community were confused when they learned that I was an Adventist pastor. They really didn't have much of an idea who Adventists were. I suspect that if we were to somehow poll our fellow Canadians right now, we'd discover that many of them wouldn't have a clue as to who we are and what we're about.

Lately I've been reflecting with you here about the REACH initiative for planning and ministry across Canada. We've talked about the R, E and A; today I'd like to focus on C. The letter C stands for Community Outreach and Evangelism, and this is absolutely essential to the mission of every local congregation. It is what Christ spoke of when He said, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel" (Mark 16:15, ESV). If we follow Jesus, this has to be an urgent matter for each one of us.

I'm encouraged by the creative ways I see outreach occurring across Canada. Our youth at the recent Newfoundland summit shared invitations for people to tune in to VOAR. In Greater Vancouver and other locations, Adventists are active sponsors of home repair projects in the community. Halifax's Food and Furniture Bank is one of several examples of how we care for people in need. Add to this the many depression recovery seminars, vegetarian cooking classes, parenting workshops, along with similar events that take place, and you get an idea of the ways in which we reach the communities where we live and worship.

I like the way my favourite author puts it: "The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" (Ministry of Healing, p. 143).

Outreach has an end in mind, the invitation. It is important to treat people with love and respect, to care for their needs. It is even more important to have a strong sense that we must encourage people to prepare to meet Jesus in peace. Evangelism is part of that strategy—a vital part.

Each day we must live in the continuing awareness that Jesus is coming again. Let's show neighbours and friends what it means to be at peace with Him. ■

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

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One Pot, One Meal, One Dollar a Day

Devastated and traumatized by the human tragedy inflicted by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia is a country working to recover its identity. ADRA donors are providing help to the people in some of the most remote and sparsely populated regions.

L to R: the Chhun family; Von Chhun collecting palm tree sap; palm sap being processed; Chhun's thatch-roofed house built from scavenged materials.

A couple of months ago, I introduced *Messenger* readers to Ann Stickle, associate director of ADRA Cambodia. This month I would like you to meet Von and Eoun Chhun, a couple living in a remote Cambodian village with their five young children.

The Chhun family live in a small one-room, thatch-roofed house they built using scavenged materials. The dry timber used for stilts, walls and floor boards is frighteningly similar to the kindling used to start the cook fire directly below the home. Meals are cooked once a day in the one pot the family owns, and only if food is available.

Eoun, Von, or one of the older children walk about 700 metres several times a day to retrieve potable water. Without a proper toilet, the family members are forced to relieve themselves in the woods close to their home, as are most in this community.

Their home is situated on a small plot of land bordering rice paddies. There are a few small banana trees growing in the yard. Occasionally, the trees produce fruit for the family to supplement their meagre food rations and provide a welcome treat to the predominantly rice-based diet.

The Chhun children are all under the age of 7. The eldest two attend school. Eoun and Von are determined to send

all five children to school and see them all complete grade 12. Neither of these parents had the opportunity to go further than grade 2. They recognize that to improve their children's lives they must provide them with an education.

To provide for their family, Von and Eoun work as labourers. Von also collects palm tree sap, a dangerous job. Collecting the sap requires that Von climb over 10 metres up a rickety bamboo ladder, with old pop jugs and miscellaneous other containers that are strung across his back and shoulders with rope. Once at the top of the tree, he collects full jugs of sap from the previous ascent, replacing the empty bottles and securing the full bottles to himself. Once Von has gathered the sap from one tree, he carefully descends the ladder with the full bottles, only to ascend the next ladder on the next tree, repeating the process up to 10 times. With each ascent, Von's task becomes more laborious and dangerous as his energy wanes under the weight of the precious palm sap. Spilling the sap would mean a devastating loss of income; falling could result in serious injury or even death. Von rises at 5 a.m. for his morning collections and repeats the entire process again in the evening.

Once the sap is collected, it must be strained through a filter into a large bowl

that is heated over the fire under the house. Once the sap has boiled two hours, it is removed from the fire and must be constantly stirred while it cools. As the sap cools, it thickens, eventually taking on the consistency of whipped butter or fudge. The family then takes what is now palm sugar from the bowl and packages it in containers that are sold to the community or at the market. On a very good day of sales, the Chhun family earns about \$1 to \$2 for their day's efforts.

Von and Eoun agreed to share their story with Canadians in hopes that you will understand how important your support is to their family and community. Through your generous financial support and advocacy for ADRA Canada, Cambodians, like the Chhun family, have and will continue to receive access to programming aimed at improving their lives. Currently your support is funding the ADRA SMILE* project, which is improving healthcare, providing nutrition education and supplements, and training primary caregivers. The project is also providing delivery room additions to a rural healthcare facility that serves the most remote communities. ■

Alicia Sawyer is communication coordinator for ADRA Canada

*ADRA SMILE: Securing Mothers' and Infants' Lives with Equity is a \$2.6 million project undertaken with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project seeks to reduce mortality rates of mothers as well as children under age 5 in the Chieab, Chey Sen and Rovieng Districts of Preah Vehear Province, Cambodia.

Lingua franca

The commonality of language and culture between human beings is an interesting phenomenon to ponder. Think for a moment back to the Tower of Babel story, in Genesis 11, when “the whole world had only one language ... [and] all people spoke it” (verse 1, NIRV). The story, though short, is intriguing and mysterious; God discerns an evil motive in the people’s intentions to build the Tower of Babel: “They are one people. And all of them speak the same language. That is why they can do this. Now they will be able to do anything they plan to. ... So the Lord scattered them from there over the whole earth. And they stopped building the city. The Lord mixed up the language of the whole world there” (verses 6–9, NIRV). Though the word Babel means “gate of/to heaven,” people have come to associate it with confusion because of what happens in the story.

Language, when held in common, undoubtedly has a power to unite. Post-Babel, however, languages and dialects have often created barriers and been a force for segregation. Paul hints at it when he said, “If I don’t understand what someone is saying, I am a stranger [literally a barbarian] to that person. And that person is a stranger [barbarian] to me” (1 Cor. 14:11, NIRV). A communication barrier naturally drives apart.

Let’s ponder now an altogether different kind of story in the Bible pertaining to languages. While Babel was a place of confusion, frustration, division and scattering, Pentecost became a place about coming together; understanding; forgiveness; restoration; and bridging social, economical and ethnic gaps. There the Holy Spirit, for the holy purpose of spreading the gospel and winning people’s hearts to Christ, worked a miracle so that people of various languages, cultures and places could hear and understand the gospel message in their own native tongue (Acts 2:1–12). Thousands of people coming from “all over the world,” speaking different languages were united through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Note, however, that Pentecost encompassed more than just the gift of tongues. For 10 days the disciples had tarried in Jerusalem, waiting for the promised power from above (Acts 1:8). But note Ellen White’s important insight: The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fullness that reached every heart. ... Lost in wonder, the apostles exclaimed, ‘Herein is love.’ (Acts of the Apostles, p. 38). The infilling of the Holy Spirit was perceived as an outpouring of love (Rom. 5:5). Could it be that the power from above is about genuine love?

Why all this discussion about language and how it can unite or divide and, furthermore, how it can do so under different motives? The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is

inevitably multiethnic, composed of individuals who speak different languages. English (and in Quebec, mostly French) becomes their lingua franca. Lingua franca is a vehicular language, a common language that serves as a bridge between people with different native languages. Thus, while many Adventists in Canada are fluent in a different language, English is often the one common language that bridges communicational or cultural gaps.

Canada being a multicultural country and language having the ability to both bind and separate, groups of Adventists have opted to band together and form congregations with one ethnic, cultural and linguistic commonality. Unfortunately, I foresee a potential danger in the multiplication of ethnic churches around a pastor sharing the same cultural background. Many church members and even church employees make demands based on the ethnic numbers in membership or in tithes. I am aware that certain non-English, ethnic regions and churches are seeing the most growth, but what kind of growth is it really?

I believe it is high time for us to come together and engage in some deep conversations about the way we live our diversity. Subtle segregations are forming in our churches. Hypocrisy can disguise itself as political correctness or speeches about church growth and cultural awareness. We have to be careful and, above all, prayerful to ensure we are not following our own human desires over God’s will.

The story of Babel teaches us that there is power in speaking the same language and sharing the same spirit. In that particular instance, unfortunately, the people building the tower wanted to use that power for evil purposes. But applying the story to our situation, we can learn that as born-again Seventh-day Adventist Christians living in a diverse culture that shares the same lingua franca, we too can move forward toward one good purpose. We share the same lingua franca; do we share the same mind? What could be a spiritual lingua franca for the Church in Canada—a language that truly goes beyond conveying thoughts and ideas, a language that builds relationships, cohesion and bonding? God is not bound to physical and superficial barriers, as Pentecost reveals, so through the Holy Spirit we can tap into a heavenly, non-linguistic language that transcends them.

Could it be that a mature, intentional choice to step out of our cultural comfort zones to love “all the barbarians” in patience and focused attention will move our Church toward genuine growth? ■

Daniel Latchman is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Quebec.



Pastor problems

T33nTalk

“By this all
will know
that you are
My disciples,
if you have
love for one
another”

(John 13:35,
NKJV).

My pastor is soooo annoying! Help!

Since you didn't ask a question and I don't really know your situation, I'm going to trust that God will use my thoughts to bring some HELP! to your situation.

Jesus was many things to many people. He was a son, a brother, a friend, a prophet, a teacher, a healer, a trainer, a mentor, a preacher/evangelist and, yes, even a pastor. He was and forever remains the Shepherd of the sheep. I'm guessing by now you've seen several shepherds (pastors) come and go. On average, a church gets a different pastor every four years, but before we come back to your situation, let's get back to Jesus.

Jesus was a pastor without a church building. He had no membership list and no specific "congregation." However, he did have what most (if not all) pastors still have today: people who give unsolicited advice, people who think they know more than the pastor, people who think the pastor isn't doing enough, people who wonder what the pastor does, and people who decide to listen to him or her based on whether or not the pastor thinks the way they do. What did Jesus do with all these people? He loved them. He served them. He spoke the truth even if they didn't like it but always in a tone of love and concern. Jesus was so consistently caring that his enemies hated Him for it. They would have preferred to anger Him, to fight with Him, to "get Him off His game," but it never happened. His own disciples openly disagreed with Him, and people even laughed at Him, but He kept on being the Good Shepherd.

Why am I telling you this? Because your pastor isn't Jesus. He is probably more like Peter, James or John. He is more prone to follow his own opinion than be like Jesus. If you are right that your pastor is not cutting it, that means you have reached a level of maturity where you can discern between what a pastor ought to be versus what he or she may be in reality. Where does this leave you? Well, what would your Good Shepherd do? I can tell you He took the annoying Peter who always had all the answers (even when many of them were wrong) and made him not only a pastor but the pastor over other pastors. He took the angry John and softened him by loving him.

Your pastor is a human being. He or she may be carrying burdens you know nothing about, or God may have him where he is in order to grow him because He sees past what he is to what he can become. In the end there are only two kinds of people: those who build others up and those who tear others down. My solemn counsel to you is to make Jesus your Pastor morning by morning and be a blessing to the man or woman who ministers over your local church. If you stand beside him and work with him, you may be shocked at how much your view of him will change. ■



Dan Wilson is pastor of the Halifax and Fox Point churches in Nova Scotia. If you have a question for him, email us at messenger@adventist.ca.

Creation Corner for Kids



Great peace have those who love
Your law, and nothing causes them
to stumble—*Psalms 119:165, NKJV*

Wild Yaks

Wild Yaks are large, cattlelike animals that live in the Himalayan mountains. They are well-designed for living in the high mountains, where there is less oxygen to breathe and the winters are very long and cold. They have three times as many red blood cells as other cattle and larger lungs and hearts to help them live in higher altitudes. Their thick, long coats keep them warm when it is very cold. In fact, yaks are so well-suited to cold temperatures that they can get sick if the temperature goes above 15 degrees Celsius.

One of the things that yaks are best known for, though, is that they are sure-footed. They have split or cloven hooves like other cattle, but they also have an extra-large dew claw, something like an additional smaller hoof that helps them move across rocky or slippery places without sliding or falling.

Think about it.

Jesus said, "Narrow is the way" that leads to life (Matt. 7:14). Satan wants us to slip and fall away from following God, but God's Ten Commandments keep us on the right track. God's law helps us to get a clearer picture of God because it is based on love. Thinking and meditating on God's law can help us focus our minds on God's character of love and help us to become loving like Him.



Do it!

Have you memorized the Ten Commandments? If you haven't, do it now. They're found in Exodus 20. You can learn more about yaks at <http://animal.discovery.com/guides/mammals/habitat/alpine/yak.html>

Higher Ground

CUC Degrees in Action

“I need to find a way to reach out to people and engage the community to experience the joy of service.”

—Eric Rajah, BA Religion, Business minor, 1981; Owner, Advanced Systems; 1st recipient of CUC’s Exceptional Volunteer Service Award, June 20; Alberta Order of Excellence, Oct. 2011; TEDx Talks presenter

“I think that you need to be seen and heard on a broader level,” wrote Dan Jackson to Eric shortly after moving from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) to his new post as president of the North American Division. The words seem prophetic in retrospect: Eric would soon receive word that he was to be inducted into the exclusive Alberta Order of Excellence; he was asked to record a TEDx Talk that would be viewed internationally; and he was invited to serve as consultant to the Regina Catholic School board to help them reinvigorate a sense of mission and humanitarian service in their 24 schools serving 10,000 K to 12 students.

No one is more surprised at these developments than Eric, who emigrated as a teenager with his family from Sri Lanka. Eric is, in fact, one of the few Albertans not born in the province to receive its highest honour. The entrepreneur and owner of Advanced Systems, a computer system consulting company, is the force behind A Better World (ABW)—a 100-percent volunteer-managed organization addressing practical needs through more than 200 community-centred projects around the world. And he’s one of just over 100 individuals—including singer/songwriter Ian Tyson, Premier Ralph Klein and Prime Minister Joe Clark—inducted over the past 30 years into the Alberta Order of Excellence.

It’s not hard to trace Eric’s links to CUC. Four months before the provincial honour was bestowed, Eric received CUC’s very first Exceptional Volunteer Service Award. The words of the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, Alberta’s lieutenant governor, upon the announcement of Eric’s induction to the Alberta Order of Excellence sum up Eric’s attitude and life: “These great Albertans truly understand the importance of service above self,” said the queen’s representative. “They are leaders and innovators who have directed their considerable gifts toward the goal of strengthening the lives of people both here at home and around the world.”

It’s a humbling accolade for the CUC graduate who co-founded A Better World in 1990 with Brian Leavitt, then dean of students at CUC. But the drive to serve humanity—which Eric traces to his family and CUC—keeps him grounded and focused.



Eric Rajah

By Lynn McDowell

“My mother received a chance to go to school in Sri Lanka, offered by two missionaries from CUC 10 years before I was born,” reflects Eric, who now lives in Lacombe. “This is a testimony in itself to CUC’s mission.”

It’s a mission Eric can’t forget. ABW began as one congregation’s outreach—that of the College Heights Church, which is the church of CUC’s students and faculty. ABW now educates more than 12,000 students in Afghanistan. All together, ABW is currently managing 18 different projects in seven countries. More than 200 projects have grown to maturity under A Better World’s umbrella since its inception.

Eric’s business clients are drawn to his

unusual and effective humanitarian “sideline,” and are very committed to ABW. In fact, today 98 percent of A Better World’s financial support and volunteers come from the non-SDA community. More than 2,000 people, including youth, have traveled to projects, and 12 volunteers work day to day in project management. About 10 percent of participants have made more than one trip to projects, and 90 percent are repeat donors. In addition to the projects already in progress, an estimated 150,000 new people will benefit from the \$2 million budgeted for seven countries this year. An outreach of the College Heights Church for more than 22 years, ABW recently evolved into an approved

independent ministry of the SDACC. Due to its phenomenal growth, ABW has applied for its own charitable status with bylaws that ensure it will continue to be governed by Adventist principles.

Making sure that ABW and its projects run smoothly now absorbs 90 percent of Eric’s time. An extremely efficient manager, Eric ensures that his computer clients always get 100 percent service, but the proportion of time Eric spends on A Better World travel and administration with no remuneration reflect his passion: empowering others to make a direct difference in human lives. ■

Catch Eric’s TEDx Talk online. www.tinyurl.com/ericrajah

Off to Change the World



French Professor Monique Auguste Heads International Movement to Improve Lives of Women in Islamic Regimes

CUC’s Monique Auguste welcomes thousands to the March 2012 Paris congress of WAFE, the International Federation of Women Against Fundamentalism and for Equality. As president and a founding member of the European-based organization founded in Geneva in 2004, Auguste, a former immigration lawyer who now heads CUC’s Modern Languages department, welcomed dignitaries and supporters from around the world. Watch this YouTube video to catch part of her speech and get a sense of the mission and power that drives the organization in the YouTube video: www.tinyurl.com/mauguste or www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RXg7_6hYew. ■

Education Professor Keith Leavitt Shares Adventist Educational Expertise with 425 Kenyan Teachers Through A Better World

When CUC Education professor Keith Leavitt left Lacombe to provide in-service instruction as part of an A Better World (ABW) trip in May, he took packets for 150 teachers—a few more than he expected to use. But as word about ABW’s return to Kenya spread, the government stepped in, asking that Leavitt expand his program.

Leavitt and the three other teachers volunteering on the ABW trip obliged, conducting four professional development sessions. Approximately 425 participants from 130 schools, including participants from all of the schools that ABW has been working with, took part.


The session settings ranged from St. Kizito Catholic Church

in rural Londiani; Kenya Highlands Evangelical University in the city of Kericho; a camp in the Masai Mara; and a densely populated Nairobi slum (home to 1 million people). The ABW teachers also visited schools, observing teachers and making collegial suggestions.

Leavitt, as a member of the College Heights Church Board, which is also the board for A Better World, has been involved with ABW since its formation. He and his wife, Bernie, coordinated several Music for the Heart and Soul benefit concerts for ABW, and Leavitt also traveled with ABW to Afghanistan in the exploratory stage of what has become ABW’s 100 Classrooms for Afghanistan project. ■



"NO, HE POURS NEW WINE INTO NEW WINESKINS."

 Words by God — (Mark 2:21-22)

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins." (Mark 2:21, 22, NIV, 1984)

It is impossible for us to change just by our own will. God is ready to fill our "wineskins"—us—with fresh and new life; however it's our wineskins that we must surrender to Him in the first place so that He can make us new before He fills us. Otherwise your wineskin will only fall apart and leave you learning a very hard lesson, one that you may not even grasp time after time.

For years I have tried to be filled with "new wine," only to break and fall apart all over again. There is no quick fix for us; it doesn't happen overnight. As with all things worthwhile, it's a process that takes time. Don't be discouraged. God wants to fill you with new life, with new wine! But before we can be filled and have this lasting change, we need to surrender our old wineskins and be made new by the maker of heaven and earth. I think Mark 2:21, 22 is saying that it's impossible to be changed while in our old wineskins. If we try to change ourselves, it's often as good as ruined. The only way we can have trusted, real change is if we let God do it. Then He can fill us with new life.


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*



 Refresh with Tia



 Watch "I Am New" performed by Jason Gray:
<http://bit.ly/afb9QZ>

app review

by Josué Sánchez



In Brief: The One Project is a young-adult movement that celebrates the supremacy of Jesus in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Annual gatherings are held in North America, Europe and Australia. The app features 30+ Christ-centred testimonies and sermons, most of them recorded at the gatherings. An event section shows the location and dates for upcoming events, directing you to an online registration form that will open in the browser. The Connect tab lets you access their Twitter feed on Safari, join their Facebook group from the Facebook app and manage the traditional email and newsletter options.

Wow Factor: Sleek design and smooth operation.

Meh Factor: It needs to be updated. It could use some kind of in-app social component or notification system to invite users to come back to the app.

Developer: The One Project

Seller: Japhet de Oliveira

Price: Free

Works On: iOS 4.0 and up (iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad)



it is written

Touching Hearts, Impacting Lives ...



These are samples of what comes in the mail every day. Letters like these keep us encouraged and willing to remain faithful to our mission.

“Dear It Is Written,

I was very, very impressed and blessed by your program today. I give a lot of my money away to many causes including supporting four orphan children. My only income is Old Age Pension, but your program today deserves a million dollars ... which I do not have. So enclosed is \$1,000, and please send me three copies of the book you offered today.

God bless you and your program that it may reach to the ends of the earth with power and glory to our wonderful Creator.”

Buchanan, Sask.

“Dear Pastor Santos,

I was born in 1958 in Quebec and have three sisters. My parents were German immigrants—my father was Protestant and my mother was Catholic. I went through the English Protestant school system and received religious instruction up to high school. However, I never went to church, nor was I baptized.

Today I work as a lab technician and have been separated from my wife for almost two years. I have no children and have not been in contact with my family since my father’s death.

At this point life seems empty for me, but when I began watching your show on TV, I felt better. You made me realize that we are not alone and that there is a God.”

*St-Jean-sur-Richelieu,
Quebec*



Never too young

by Carys Cao

I was a typical 32-year-old Seventh-day Adventist. A vegetarian my whole life, I was active, and I was pretty healthy. Yeah, I got the occasional seasonal cold and random stomach flu, but other than that, I had nothing to worry about ... except breast cancer.

RETURNING TO WORK FROM THE ONCOLOGIST'S OFFICE

my husband, Rolf, by my side, I braced to tell my boss. "Mom, it's cancer. No, I'm not joking. I have surgery in five days." My dad then arrived at our family-owned flower and gift shop to get the news. "No, Dad, I'm not kidding." It was hardest on my family and friends. I got the opportunity to fight; they had to sit back and watch. My battle plan? Prayer. Surgery. Prayer. Chemotherapy. Prayer. More surgery. And ...? more prayer!

I resolved to make a difference. Maybe I got cancer for such a time as this. If I could make a difference in one person's life, my fight would be worth it, regardless of the result. I broke the news to the rest of my family and friends, then updated my Facebook status: "Day 5 of my War on Breast Cancer. My spirits are high and my God is great!" That in mind, Rolf and I headed to Pathfinders. We were late, but we were able to sneak in. Their activity had them holding hands, stretched around the entire room. That image will be etched in my memory forever; the Durham Trailblazers were deep in prayer—for me.

The night before my first surgery, my pastor and his wife visited. He said that he usually comforts members of his flock with passages from the Psalms, but God told him I needed a battle plan. It was 2 Chronicles 20 for me. I claimed verse 15 as my own: "Pay attention, all of Judah . . . This is what the Lord says to you: Don't be afraid or discouraged by this great army because the battle isn't yours. It belongs to God" (CEB).

After my first surgery, I had six weeks until chemotherapy, plenty of time to mount a campaign. I contacted a local hair salon to host a head-shave, hair-dyeing event I called "DYE-ing 2 Live." My message was this: "You are never too young or too healthy to get breast cancer." The DYE-ing 2 Live Facebook group swelled to over 900 members, and the date of the event was finally at hand. More than 100 people came, and more money was raised than I had hoped for. Feeling the support from the community was such a boost! The opportunities to make a difference kept coming. A photographer friend asked if he could

take my picture during my chemo journey. He would sell them on istock.com, and his company, Christopher Fatcher Photography, would donate 100 percent of those sales to my choice of breast cancer charity. Count me in!

I had chemo on Monday and felt almost back to normal by Sabbath. During the two weeks that followed each chemo week, I worked as usual. One day a woman asked for input while ordering flowers for her newly diagnosed friend. While designing her bouquet, I shared my story. A few days later another lady entered the shop with a similar breast cancer story. This couldn't be a coincidence. Was God sending these people to our shop? My mind flitted back to a line from the book *Christian Service*, by Ellen G. White: "God in His providence has brought men to our very doors, and thrust them, as it were, into our arms, that they might learn the truth" (p. 200).

Another few days, and more visits later, my question was answered. Woman after woman came into our little flower shop, saying that she was sent by someone to talk with "the young lady with such a positive attitude." I had a hard time accepting that this young lady was me. Every day I prayed that God would use my cancer to make a difference, and He did. At one point my mother labelled our shop, "College Park Flowers, Courtice Cancer Club Headquarters." Praise God! He was bringing the mission field right to my door!

After 18 weeks of chemotherapy, followed by mastectomies and reconstruction, I was starting to feel "normal" again. Normal? What did that even mean? Was I a survivor yet? How could I call myself a survivor, when there was always the possibility of the cancer coming back or my body developing a new cancer?

One of my breast cancer compatriots invited me to join her in the CIBC Run for the Cure. I didn't want to join her, because I didn't feel like a survivor yet. I thought about it, prayed about it, and at



Carys' Run for the Cure shoes.

the last minute, I decided to go. Splashing bright, bold colours on a pair of old running shoes, I set out to dedicate my run to everyone and everything that made a difference to me. I wrote the names of family members I had lost to breast cancer, names of current warriors of this disease, names of women who had battled and won, verses from Scripture I had clung to, and the name of my husband, who was my absolute rock throughout. I started to feel like a survivor.

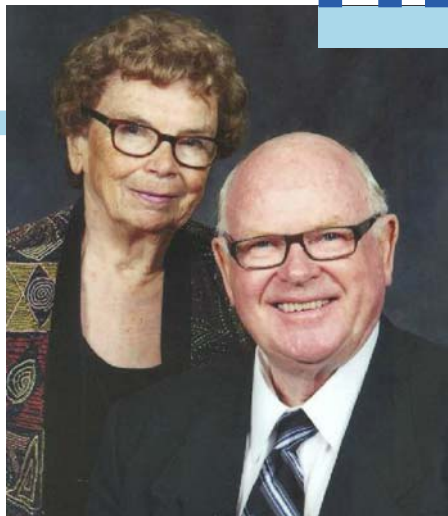
Now, one year and nine months after diagnosis, I lace up for another run. I have learned that there is no such thing as "safe." We live in a world that has turned to darkness, and as long as we live here, we are at risk. I look daily for ways to make a difference. Is there something that I can do or say to help someone in need? Nothing is accidental. Why did God put this person in my path? What can I do to help?

Do I feel like a survivor yet? Maybe. I like to answer, "for now." After all, we are all survivors of this sinful, disease-ridden earth, for now. One day, as long as we stay right with our Saviour, we will either join the ranks of the dead in Christ, or we will be gathered up as His "survivors." Either way, if we can make a difference in just one person's life, our journey will have been worth it. Let our message be this: "You are never too young or too healthy to need a Saviour." ■

Carys Cao, a breast cancer "survivor", is a floral designer at College Park Flowers.

Living in Oshawa, Ontario, with her husband, Rolf Holbrook, Carys volunteers her time speaking with groups of youth about how to turn pain into greatness.

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *What was your childhood like growing up in England?*

John Howard: I was born in 1935, just before World War II started, so most of my childhood took place during wartime. School would be held underground, on occasion with water up to our knees because of the bombs, and we would play in the bomb shelters and the craters that the bombs made.

M: *You've visited many countries, especially in Central Africa. How did you see God working in these countries?*

JH: Well, let me tell you a story. When Mobutu Sese Seko was president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, he made an announcement that everyone must work on Saturday. So here comes Sabbath. To my knowledge, not one of our church members broke the Sabbath. The soldiers came to the church in Kananga, arrested the pastor and the elders and took them to prison.

The next day I went to see the governor and explained to him why we couldn't work on Sabbath. I read to Him from the French Bible, where the word for Saturday and the Sabbath is one and the same.

To cut a long story short, the governor let our Adventists go and they were al-

lowed to work on Sundays. We had 40,000 members in that district. All of them were faithful. It helped me realize at the time that I would prefer to die with our believers in Congo than be anywhere else in the world when Jesus comes.

M: *How did your experience in Congo influence your life from that point on?*

JH: One morning, on the day we were leaving Congo, with no job prospects in sight, my wife and I and the children knelt down in our kitchen and said to God, "You know where you need us, and we ask you to guide and direct us." As we got up from our knees, the mail came and there was a letter from the Alberta conference offering me employment.

Once back in Alberta, I was encouraged to inquire about funding, from the government of Alberta and later the Federal Government, to establish a Seventh-day Adventist humanitarian agency. That was the beginning of ADRA Canada.

M: *Tell me more about your motivation behind starting ADRA Canada?*

JH: My motivation was seeing the deperate needs of those living in Congo.

Although ADRA started up with nothing, it ended up with millions, and with projects in over 40 countries.

M: *What was your approach in working in some of these remote communities in Africa?*

JH: Basically, what you're doing is talking to people in the village, finding out what their needs are, and then seeing if there's anything you can do to make life easier for them.

M: *How did ADRA as a humanitarian agency work to improve and transform the lives of the people in these communities?*

JH: The main purpose of ADRA is to help people become self-sufficient. So we had many projects dealing with water; our projects would deal with access to pure water so that people wouldn't get sick and so that they could have water for agriculture and for their cattle. Next, we had many projects dealing with hygiene. Then there are the agriculture projects, where you teach people how to grow the vegetables and things that they need. We also had quite a few income-generating projects.

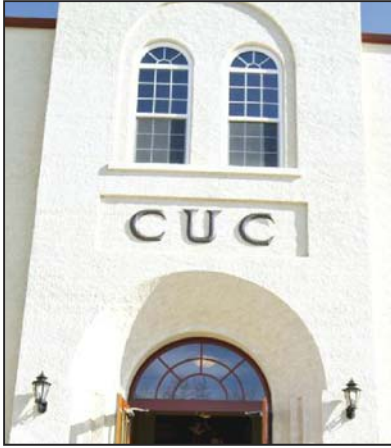
You never saw people so happy as when they became self-sufficient.

M: *Where are you now?*

JH: I'm retired and living in the Northumberland Hills, in Ontario. My wife, Millie, and I grow our own garden and enjoy spending time together down by the lake. I usually end up preaching once or twice a month, and of course, I watch what's happening in the world and see what people are doing in the church.

IVAN AND HELENE CRAWFORD

A Legacy Story



Early in his career, beginning in the 1940s, Ivan Crawford served at Canadian University College (CUC) as dean of men and chairman of the religious studies department. His wife, Helene, was a music instructor. Later they moved to Southern California, but they didn't forget CUC. In 1987 they endowed the Ivan and Helene Crawford Scholarship, and each year since then, it has been awarded to a deserving religious studies student.

In 1991 the Crawfords established a planned giving trust to benefit their family and two schools dear to their hearts, CUC and Spicer Memorial College, as they had also worked in India. After both Ivan and Helene passed away, surviving family saw to it that their wishes were honoured. At CUC two education department scholarships were begun in their names. The residual came later when CUC administrators were struggling with a \$30,000 projected budget deficit.

After spending hours cutting the proposed budget as much as they possibly could, CUC management took a break, and Jerrold Ritchey, vice president for advancement, was able to glance hurriedly at his mail. In one envelope was a very substantial cheque from the trust set up by Ivan and Helene Crawford. "It just amazed me how something God impressed a wonderful couple to plan for in 1991 came back to benefit [CUC] 19 years later just at a time when we needed it," Jerrold observed. The donation not only balanced the projected budget but also provided a considerable amount for CUC's next capital building project. ■

Receive a free copy of *George's Tree: The Story of a Well Planned Gift*, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Edition, by calling 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, or, emailing legal@adventist.ca.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky AT THE NEPEAN, CAMBRIDGE, AND
ST. CATHERINES CHURCHES IN ONTARIO

*A guest with an unruly three-year-old comes to church.
What should you do about it?*

Karen Tembo: Well, I would approach the guest and tell him or her that we do have a baby and toddler room as well as a fellowship hall downstairs. Some kids just need to let their energy out. I would make the guest feel welcome and not feel like they are imposing on the service.

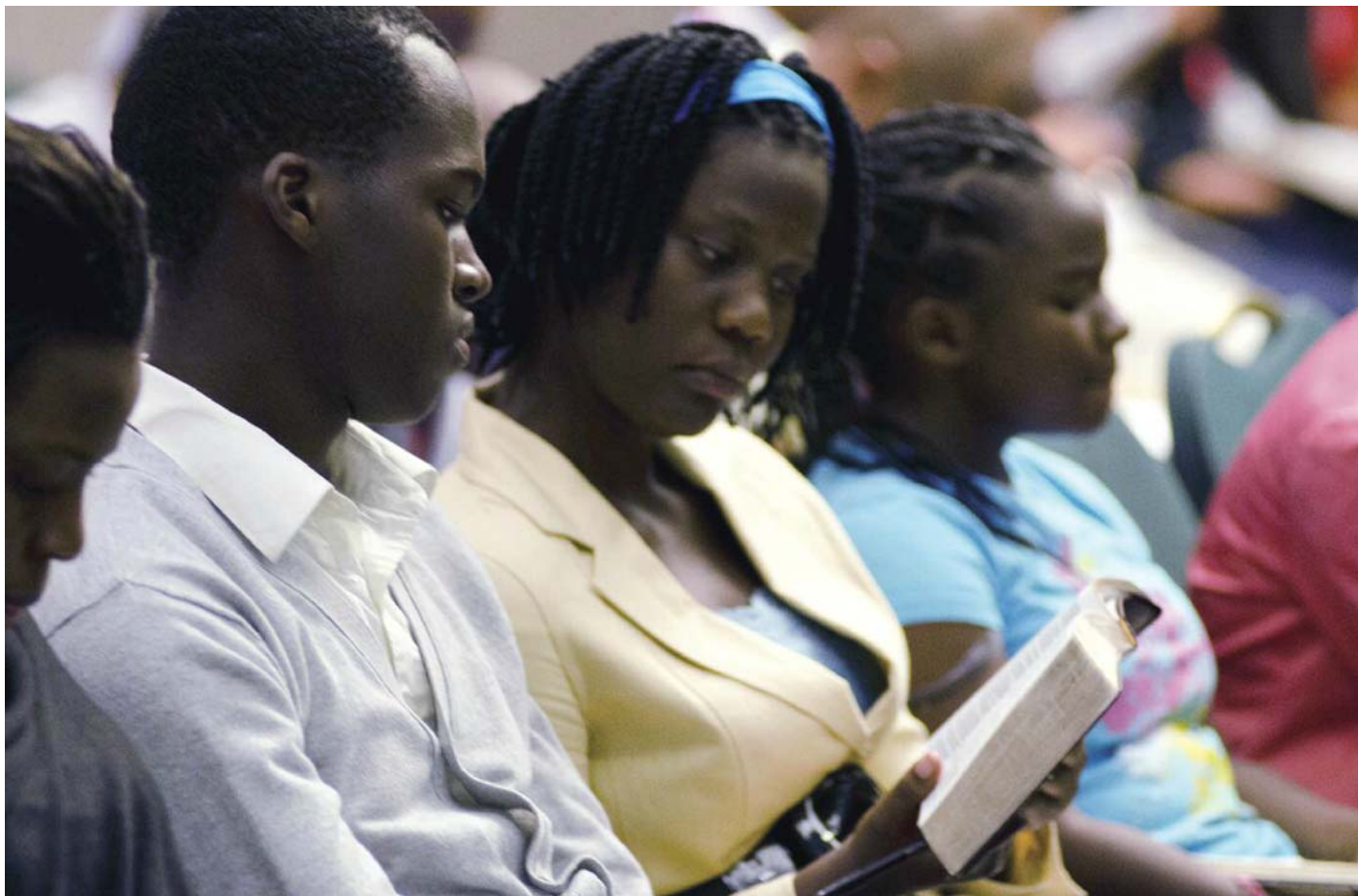
Elinor Kotanko: I would catch the eye of the parent, make a motion to him or her and pass a felt book and Cheerios over. If I have something in my purse the child could play with, I'd pass it over.

Judy Donoso: If the child is unruly at church, chances are the mother or father has also had a tough week, so I would go over and ask how I could help and suggest that the parent go into the sanctuary while I sit with the child in the parents' room. Sometimes it's really tough to keep children quiet. I would do what I could to try and help the guest out.

Helga Bairos: If I saw an unruly three-year-old, I would go up to the parent and ask if he or she would like me to bring them to the back room. Then I would start singing with the child and I would offer some of the toys that we have.

Make Me A Servant

Eastern Canada Youth For Christ Conference



by Alexandra Yeboah

A group of close to eighty young people concluded their summer by attending Eastern Canada Youth for Christ's (ECYC) fifth annual conference, held at the Hilton Airport in Mississauga, Ont. The theme of the conference was Make Me a Servant.

F

rom August 16 to 19, attendees were inspired by solid messages presented by renowned speakers from Ontario and the United States. The conference aimed to give attendees a sense of what a life of servitude, as embodied in the example of Christ, entails.

George Cho, president of ECYC, says that the focus of the ECYC ministry shifted a bit, now resting solely on mission work.

“The goal of this year’s convention was to really impress upon the attendees that young Adventists must be missionaries here in Canada and that ECYC provides an opportunity for them to get involved in this work,” says Cho. The conference this year introduced ECYC as a missionary movement.

Speakers included Dwayne Lemon, from Preaching Teaching Healing Ministries; Benjamin Ng, pastor of the New Life International Seventh-day Adventist Church; Jonathan Zita, director of Canada Youth Challenge; and Dragan Stojanovic, secretary of the the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC). Seminars centred on health, media ministry, reaching loved ones and local communities, Christian leadership, and preaching, all of which were designed to help young people make evangelism more practical and more direct.

ECYC is an independent supporting ministry of the SDACC. Through their conferences, weekend events, and missions, ECYC encourages young people to become more engaged in the work of evangelism.

As the conference drew to a close, a canvassing mission organized by ECYC and KNOCK shortly followed. Young missionaries were out in Windsor from August 19 to September 1. Back in May, ECYC also planned and executed a mission to Newfoundland, where young missionaries engaged in children’s ministry, door-to-door ministry, health ministry and an evangelistic campaign.

Elder Stojanovic says he supports ECYC as a movement and stands by their vision. “As ECYC is totally mission-oriented, [the SDACC] has no problem supporting them. My desire would be to help young people across eastern parts

of Canada to see ECYC as a missionary project and to see them working together across Canada,” Stojanovic said. “I’m always encouraged when I see young people doing the task of evangelism for God’s kingdom. What I appreciate a lot is that young people from ECYC are not trying to find an easy job, they are even choosing difficult, non-friendly environments to promote the good news of salvation.”

Cho says that there exists a need for young people to demonstrate evangelistic zeal and leadership in ministry. “Youth-initiated and youth-led movements are exactly what the church needs. There is a power that young people have to influence their fellow peers. When young people

becoming involved with ECYC, Marcos often assumed more of a background role when serving in a ministry or activity. This has changed. “I want to lead,” he says. “The best way to do that is to learn how others have done it. If I learn from them, I will be able to do it well.”

Nadège Katende, 20, travelled to this year’s ECYC conference from Montreal, Que. It was also her first time. Katende has found the ECYC ministry to be very valuable and has been personally touched by the event. “I’m really hoping to live for others. ECYC is not like other conferences. It is really focused on mission. I will definitely be doing some mission this year.”



L-R: Katherine Pasamonte, Ning Blais, Robert Blais, Daniel Cho, Benjamin Middleton, Mirriam Middleton, Cassandra Kern, Anthony Kern, Michael Appiah, Marc Marcos.

see the radical commitment of other youth, it leaves a very deep impression on the mind and spurs them to dedicate themselves to the Advent cause,” Cho said. “As the plans have been unfolding, there has been a tremendous response from the young people, and radical sacrifices will be made by some in order to make sure the work is done effectively. All this gets me really excited about the work ECYC is planning for the future.”

Marc Marcos, 24, was one of nine missionaries who went to Newfoundland. Even though this year’s conference was the first one he attended, he says he has already developed a strong connection with the ECYC movement. Before

Cho believes that the weekend succeeded in leaving a positive impression on attendees and that it will further propel the ECYC ministry forward. “This year’s convention was a pivotal one in the movement’s history because of the focus on mission work in Canada. People really liked the focus on missions,” he says. “I think the attendees left with the understanding that ECYC is a missionary movement specific to Canada. For this I am very thankful to the Lord. I think we’ll see more and more young people catching ECYC’s vision.” ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer.

HOMELESS IN THE CROWD



"WILL WORK FOR FOOD," "WITHOUT A PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT," "CAN YOU GIVE A LITTLE HELP?" are some of the cardboard signs we see as we travel along busy streets. Behind the cardboard, we often see someone with disheveled hair wearing dirty or tattered clothing, sometimes with a shopping cart piled high with odds and ends.

What is our usual response to their requests? At best we toss them a coin or two, sigh and wonder why they don't find something more productive to engage in.

Have we ever checked into the matter of homelessness? Do we know what the underlying causes are? Unfortunately, society has shaped the general public's perception to regard the homeless as persons whose only interest is buying drugs and alcohol.

Well, a group of students at the University of Waterloo with a vision to help alleviate suffering decided to explore this issue by living homeless for five days. They took up the challenge to relinquish creature comforts and basic necessities in order to raise money and awareness for the Youth Emergency Shelter Society (YESS), a local charity. This challenge to live homeless for several days was originally spearheaded in 2005 by the School of Business at the University of Alberta; the organizers wanted to reverse a common prejudice that business students are uncaring and selfish (see www.5days.ca).

Among the University of Waterloo students who took up the challenge in 2012 was Karlena Carnegie Waugh, an Ontario Scholar and graduate of Crawford Adventist Academy who is now in her final year of studies in sexuality, marriage and family with a minor in biology. “You don’t have anything to eat, so you should be grateful for what you get” was the rejoinder scornfully tossed her way when a passer-by threw her a half-eaten sandwich that she had declined. One night, when a boy asked the adults accompanying him if he could give some money to the homeless people, he was told no and the explanation he was given was that the only thing homeless people do is buy drugs, cigarettes and alcohol.

Thoughts of going through the trash cans in search of someone else’s castaways made the participants’ stomachs churn. There was no soup kitchen where they could get a meal, so they had to rely on the goodwill of others. Their first meal for the week was some cold pasta left over from someone’s potluck. In fact, all non-perishable items and money given to the group was to be donated to the homeless shelters. Organizers and participants certainly did not try to make this challenge easy on themselves in any way.

The rules were specific: “No change of clothes, teeth could only be brushed in public washrooms, no bathing,” shares Karlena. So how did they take care of their daily needs? “We were only allowed to use the washrooms in buildings that were open during the night, and as university students we had to continue with our obligations, such as work, school and club meetings. This was probably the

most embarrassing aspect of the program, because as people realized you hadn’t showered for a few days, you started seeing less and less of some of your friends, which was quite interesting especially since all of our friends knew about the campaign.”

Cell phones were generally not allowed (only one cell phone in the group was permitted for emergency reasons only), no computer, no modern means of communication as would be expected with young adults. They slept under an overpass, which served as a shelter against the elements, and although the days were fairly comfortable in light of Canadian winter conditions, the nights were cold, evidenced by one of Karlena’s schoolmates waking up with frost on his beard when the temperature dipped to -10 degrees; and another night when a storm passed through, everyone got drenched and a sympathizer “rescued” them by drying their clothes and returning them in the evening while they wore just their T-shirts and shorts during the day.

But the experience was well worth it. The 26 Canadian schools that participated in 2012, along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, raised \$235,867. The money will be used to support organizations that serve homeless individuals directly and offer resources and tools for independence and success. “All of our group’s proceeds went to Argus and ROOF (Reaching Our Outdoor Friends) in Kitchener, which are shelters for youth,” says Karlena. The shelters help provide jobs and teach the residents life skills to promote independence. Argus is a shelter for youth ages 16 to 24. The youth who were recipients of the funds expressed their gratitude by sending some small plaques bearing messages of appreciation. One of these plaques, for example, states: “On behalf of all the residents of Argus, we want to thank you for raising money to support the Argus shelters and inform people what it is like to be in our situation. Your contribution has made a difference in our lives.”

The five-day experiment was a very eye-opening, even life-changing, experience for the participants. Karlena realized that “trying to fix the problem is more than just throwing money at these individuals or giving homeless persons a job, as there

may be many fundamental problems associated with the current circumstances or conditions.” A homeless person may have a disorder that requires medical attention or other intervention, especially if there is also a physiological challenge that is affecting the individual. Furthermore, homelessness is “unfortunately a situation that many people, especially youth, have found themselves in because of a breakdown in the family structure or something outside their control,” Karlena explains. She learned, for instance, that “such persons need to be taught how to live and be good contributors to society.”

Karlena, who also serves as vice president of the Waterloo Adventist Christian Association, adds: “I can definitely say that it [the experience] has changed my attitude toward the indigent and homeless and reminds me of Christ’s words, ‘inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me’” (Matt. 25:40, NKJV).

How do we as Christians act and react to the homeless and the less fortunate? Do we consider these individuals our brothers and sisters, or are they castaways, buffeted by the storms and washed up like driftwood on the shores of life? What would we have done had we lived in Jesus’ time? Would we have disregarded Christ in our everyday dealings if He lived among us as the itinerant preacher He was? He who had no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58) and who told His disciples to go and do His work without taking a change of clothes, and to shake the dust of their feet—as a form of curse—if they were refused shelter (Matt. 10:9–15)?

Let us not neglect showing love to our brothers and sisters, even if we can’t give them all the necessities of life—we can share what we have. And remember, there’s no need to shout your kindness from the rooftops (Matt. 6:1–4).

The rich and the poor are both created by God (Prov. 22:2). Let us treat each person as our brother or sister; the shoe could be on the other foot, or you could have no shoes at all! ■

Beverly Henry is an educator who regularly writes for the Collegiate Quarterly.
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RELENTLESS

CANADIAN ADVENTIST YOUTH SUMMIT

ADVENTISTYOUTH.CA



Some of the Adventist Youth Summit (AYS) participants. In the front row, at the far

EIGHTY-FIVE CANADIAN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (B.C.: 3; Alta.: 4; Man-Sask: 13; Ont.: 6; Que.: 18; Maritimes: 23, N.L.: 18), plus their conferences' youth directors, gathered at Woody Acres Camp in Newfoundland for the biennial Canadian Adventist Youth Summit, August 22 to 26. The theme of the 2012 Youth Summit was "**RELENTLESS**", and the keynote speaker for the weekend was Sam Leonor, chaplain of La Sierra University.

On the first day, participants were divided into three groups and immersed in Newfoundland culture, touring the various tourist attractions in and around St. John's. They visited the headquarters of Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR), hiked the trails of Signal Hill (a Canadian national historic site), toured Cape Spear Lighthouse and went whale watching—the third group was lucky and saw a Minke whale. After returning to Woody Acres Camp in the evening, the youth and young adults from across Canada had the opportunity to participate in a Newfoundland Kitchen Party. The "Newfie Night" enabled those who didn't hail from the beautiful province to experience its unique culture by creating "hugly stick" (ugly stick) instruments, which are made of bottle caps, a broom stick and a shoe. People—including the president of the Newfoundland Seventh-day Adventist Mission, Ken Corkum—were also inducted to become "honourary Newfies" by kissing

a cod fish and drinking bog water.

The summit's breakout sessions were the highlight of the Friday morning and afternoon. Participants were able to choose from four sessions, but as Simone Samuels, from Ontario, stated, "[There were] so many good seminars, I wish I could attend them all." The session presenters had come from all across Canada and the United States. The sessions included presentations such as: *How to Lead Worship Through Music*, by Josh Jamieson; *Street Evangelism*, by Patrick Dupuis; *The Mission Lifeguard*, by Herbert Valiamé; *Intergenerational Community*, by Massiel Davila; and many others.

The sessions were insightful and provided relevant information that could be implemented throughout Canada. Kate Nachilobe, from Saskatchewan, who attended the session *The Mission Lifeguard*, stated, "This seminar brought up topics relevant to me, and it is my hope that his program is not only installed in my church, but in churches all across Canada."

The 2012 Youth Summit was sponsored in part by VOAR. On Sabbath three buses were sent to St. John's, Bay Bulls and Conception Bay to promote one of Canada's oldest and largest Christian radio stations. Dressed in their matching maroon T-shirts, youth and young adults went door to door distributing pamphlets that described the history and programming of VOAR. Joshua Graça, from Nova Scotia, described the experience by saying, "I enjoyed the sense of community I felt between the youth, and their willingness and energy that they put into outreach."

Even those who were apprehensive about going door to door found the people of St. John's warm-hearted. Josh Dingman, from Quebec, said, "The people in the surrounding region of St. John's were very receptive and easy to approach, which made doing door to door for VOAR very easy. It was easier to go up to a house and talk one on one with someone. Even if you were turned down, it was on a good note." Overall, the door-to-door experience was a blessing to those who participated and hopefully to those who received the VOAR as well.

The messages presented by Leonor, resonated with the youth and young adults in attendance. Throughout the week, he painted a picture of God's relentless love,



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



Top photo: Conference youth directors (l to r) Brian Williams (Man./Sask.), Lyle Notice (assoc. director, Alta.), Cyril Millet (Ont.), Paul Llewelyn (Maritimes), Hérbert Valiamé (Que.), and Brian Wahl (B.C.)

Bottom photo: AYS participants explore tourist attractions in and around St. John's, Nfld.

Top photo: AYS praise team

Middle photo: Partick Dupuis and Jacob Diamond enjoying water sports at Woody Acres Camp.

Bottom photo: AYS participants from the Maritime conference.

stating, “Tell them [youth and young adults] they are already in Jesus [because He loves them] and they will come.” Leonor inspired his audience to let God be everything we need. For example, he had the audience contemplate 2 Corinthians 11:25–27, where Paul describes the many physical hardships he has experienced, such as enduring lashings and beatings, being shipwrecked, having to face a plethora of dangers—both human and environmental, and lacking shelter, rest, food and clothing. Clearly, the apostle Paul endured copious amounts of abuse, so we can assume that his body was mangled, yet, as Leonor reminded us, Paul devoted his life to the gospel despite all of this. Christ was Paul’s everything. And Christ is everything we truly need.

Once again the biennial Canadian Adventist Youth Summit was a success. This time it was because of the

diligent work of the Newfoundland Mission office, the entire VOAR staff of eight people, the entire Newfoundland pastoral staff of six, three of their wives, two employees on the maintenance staff of Woody Acres, and up to six volunteers. They were the support group for everything, from the zip lines, rock climbing, speed boats, lifeguarding, grounds, to keeping the washrooms clean and supplied, preparing the facility, cooking, and making beds for the youth directors who came early to the summit. The 85 youth and young adults who attended the Youth Summit were blessed as they enjoyed nature and learned about God’s relentlessness. It was an incredible experience that touched the hearts of many. ■

Brittany Harwood is administrative assistant for communications at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference.

APPS for Ministry

Resources to keep you connected



I was recently asked what software apps I use to help me stay organized in ministry. It seems like I spend more of my day using mobile devices (i.e., my phone and tablet) than an actual computer, which has affected how I create, manage, store, and share my work. So whether you are a busy pastor or ministry leader, the following are some helpful apps I use that you might like to try (if you haven't already). Most of these are free, unless otherwise noted.

BEST CLOUD STORAGE

Because I use several mobile devices rather than just one laptop computer, I hardly ever save my work on a hard drive these days; it would be too difficult to keep track of all of my files. Therefore, the best option is to store my work in the "cloud." Cloud computing, essentially, is anything on the Internet that allows you to save and share your work in a data warehouse rather than on your native device—it's like a cyber storage locker with a ton of options. The main advantage of storing your work in a cloud is that you can access your work from anywhere on anything with an Internet connection.

My selection: Box.com allows you to store all of your work through cloud computing. You can give other people privileges to share all or certain files. This enables you to give ministry leaders access to documents, music, videos and much more.

Other options: Dropbox.com is the most popular cloud app. I have had problems syncing multiple accounts on Dropbox and keeping them organized. Now I keep my personal Box.com cloud accounts and church-related accounts on Dropbox. Another option, Amazon Cloud, gives all Amazon members five free gigs of space.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

Many members find it a challenge to drive to the church for a meeting, especially after a long day at work, having to get dinner

and school work out of the way, and dealing with children's bedtimes. The solution for our church committees has been conference calls by either telephone or computer software. This option also saves people fuel and time while allowing members to connect in the comfort of their own homes.

My selection: Zoom.us allows you to have meetings with up to 15 people at a time. I am particularly partial to this program because it also allows screen sharing—being able to work on and see the same document together during the conference call—and it has a crisp HD picture quality.

Other options: AnyMeeting.com also has strong qualities similar to Zoom. This is a convenient program particularly if you are presenting a webinar to a large group. You can have up to 200 attendees join this platform at one time, with banner advertising.

NOTE TAKING OPTIONS

If you find yourself taking notes on napkins, sticky notes or random pieces of scratch paper, you may need upgrade to something more robust.

My Selection: Evernote.com is the Godzilla of note taking and project management tools. I keep all of my project updates and notes on this app. Evernote allows you to upload pictures (JPEGs) and PDFs to the site for future reference. There are some fantastic tutorials on YouTube to help you see the possibilities on how to use this resource.

Other options: Simplenote is a good note-taking app that doesn't have all of the robust features Evernote does; however, it does sync to all of your devices, so you never lose a note.

BIBLE SOFTWARE

My Selection: Glo Bible was voted the best Bible app by USA Today. This app allows you to write your personal notes and thoughts and share them with a wider community such as You Version. It also provides outstanding media resources such as maps, graphs, charts, and commentary for your Bible study. Although the premium version costs \$49.99, it is well worth the upgrade cost. You can sync this program to five different devices.

Other options: I am starting to become a fan of Faithlife, a never-ending biblical commentary and community. Faithlife is integrated with the Logos Bible Software, popular among scholars and pastors alike. This site allows you to create reading plans, as well as study groups for your congregation and local community. Check out the website first and then download the mobile version. ■

Dr. Rajkumar Dixit is associate pastor at New Hope Adventist Church and a recent convert to all things Mac. He is also the author of Branded Faith. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.

As we consider the challenges facing society in general and particularly education in the twenty-first century, we may be tempted to say as did Charles Dickens, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Certainly, we can recognize the best as Adventist schools refocus on spirituality, nurturing and discipleship. But we can also see the worst as society becomes more humanistic, materialistic and selfish. Similar contrasts can be found in several areas.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION

It is the best of times!

SPIRITUAL TRUTH—It is the best of times for Adventist education because our Gen-X students show a renewed interest in knowing the truth of the Bible and building a personal relationship with God. Yet, it is the worst of times as the pressures of a secular society tempt youth to seek pleasure rather than truth.

CREATION—It is the best of times for Adventist education because students in Adventist elementary and secondary schools are being taught to reaffirm their belief in the story of Creation and in their Creator, God. At many higher institutions of learning, however, it is the worst of times as scholars question a literal six-day Creation and lose faith in a Creator, resulting in an eventual rejection of the Bible as God’s inspired Word.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED—It is the best of times for Adventist education, for we see prophecies being fulfilled and “the day of the Lord” approaching. Yet, it is the worst of times because the fulfillment of prophecy also means that evil abounds and today’s youth are bombarded with even greater temptations.

TECHNOLOGY—It is the best of times for Adventist education because new technologies provide opportunities for increased engagement, access to information and more personalized instruction. But technology can also bring the worst of times as teachers and students struggle to find balance, make wise choices and protect themselves from cyber abuse.

CURRICULUM—It is the best of times for Adventist education because our schools offer rich curriculum and engage in best practices that improve student achievement. Sadly, however, it is the worst of times when schools struggle to meet government demands and avoid content that is not in harmony with the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Word of God.

COMMITMENT—It is the best of times for Adventist education because our schools are increasingly recognized for their holistic education, which nurtures caring, law-abiding and productive citizens. Sadly, however, it is the worst of times as we recognize how many Adventist children do not currently enjoy

the benefits of this holistic education.

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION—Finally, it is the best of times because Adventist schools, more than ever before, are attempting to meet the needs of students who learn differently. But it is the worst of times partly because of the state of the economy, which means that homes, schools and churches struggle to provide the necessary resources and to meet their financial commitments.

There is no doubt that Adventist education in the twenty-first century is experiencing both the best and worst of times. But this is only one more indication that Jesus is coming soon. As we depend on Him, never forgetting how He has led us in the past, we can move forward, confident in the knowledge that God is in control. With His help, our educators will continue to capitalize on the strengths of our schools as they prepare our children for the best of times in the earth made new. ■

Janice Maitland is education superintendent at the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Happy 39th anniversary, National Camps for the Blind Canada!



After a bit of inquiring in regards to the historical background of the Christian Record Braille Foundation in Canada, we came across an article in the *Canadian Union Messenger* written by M. Graham, educational secretary for the Alberta conference at the time. It refers to the first Blind Camp occurring in 1973 at the “new Camp Bowden” in Alberta. The piece was titled “A Camp for Blind Children.” Children from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan participated in many fun activities. Of course, they had the delight of starting campfires, riding horses, practicing archery, diving, and so much more.

In hindsight, the article indeed demonstrates the deeply rooted passion that lies within the Adventist community; to help others is the best gift Christians can give. Inspired to provide a great service for people who are visually impaired, National Camps for the Blind (NCB), in conjunction with several Canadian Seventh-day Adventist conferences and with the support of many volunteers, staff members, and generous sponsors, has endeavoured to offer high-quality camping programs across the country for nearly four decades.

So, how important have these camping programs been for the numerous blind individuals who attended NCB camps? The fact is that for centuries living with “blindness” resulted in much oppression, not to mention the difficulties of basic, everyday chores. The twentieth century saw a major shift in the ways societies lived. With the rise of mass media, telecommunications and information technology, the world changed, and the blind community had access to independent living and free thinking. Though the twenty-first century is proving to be very resourceful

and reachable, blind persons today continue to face restrictions, such as financial limitations and the need for sighted guides; hence, the reason why so many do not participate in certain types of recreational activities.

Since its humble beginnings NCB has focused on providing delightful activities and cutting-edge programs. From access to various reading materials, to promoting sight-oriented events such as mini-golf, boating, high ropes, crafts, etc., the NCB mission has been constant: to show the love of Christ in every facet of this charity and give blind people the opportunity to develop new and varied skills—in essence, promoting the love, joy and hope of Christ in whatever we do.

Researchers estimate that more than 1 million Canadians are living with blindness or a considerable loss of vision that is defined as “a significant reduction in vision that affects a person’s life and cannot be fully corrected by glasses or contact lenses.” This includes partial to complete loss of vision. Blindness has no age restriction; it targets young, middle-aged and senior citizens. Causes vary from age-related onsets, health-associated effects, heredity, and others. There is no age limit. For this reason NCB prides itself in allowing young and old people to attend camps; after all, what would Jesus do? We may not be able to “give sight” as Jesus did, but we can give hope, new knowledge, genuine affection and insight in experiencing God’s glorious blessings! Discover more about National Camps for the Blind by visiting our website: www.ncbcservices.ca. ■

*Michelle Richards is the associate director
for the National Camps for the Blind*

Notebooks, Not Bullets, for a Better World

Adventists Bringing Education to Afghans

Returning to school after summer holidays can seem like a pain to many students, but on the other side of the globe many kids can't wait for the chance to go to school.

In Afghanistan, A Better World (ABW) has pledged to build 100 classrooms to give students who want to be educated the opportunity, access and means to do so.

"It's amazing to see kids even going beyond grade 8," said Azalea Lehndorff, founder of ABW's 100 Classroom Project. "These are rural farming communities, so they don't see a huge direct benefit in going beyond basic literacy."

The project, founded by Lehndorff, who was then studying biology at Canadian University College (CUC), has completed four schools in Afghanistan. When Lehndorff, together with CUC professors Howard Smith (chemistry) and Keith Leavitt (education), visited northern Afghanistan in 2010 to assess the schools and needs for teacher development, the task ahead seemed daunting. Today, however, with support from Adventists across Canada; Adventist schools, including Lakeview Christian School, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy; the CUC girls' soccer team; as well as many churches and individuals, more than \$500,000 has been raised and 32 classrooms built.

The most recent school was built in a rural community after the village elders approached ABW about building a school in their area.

"That school, in Tunika village, has never seen girls reach grade 12. This year, for the first time, girls will graduate from high school," said Lehndorff.

In his speech at the Kinara school ground-breaking ceremony, the provincial governor, Mr. Saiee, said: "Without education for both our girls and boys our communities will be without teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers and engineers. Without education our country will be without the foundation for a more peaceful future."

Parents also contribute to their children's education by donating the land on which the new schools are built and building a 12-foot boundary wall around the perimeter of the school grounds.

Since 2001 the Afghan people have voted for education by sending their children to school. Beginning with only 900,000 boys in school at the end of the Taliban regime in 2001, the number of students has increased to almost 6 million, of which about 2.2 million are girls.

In June 2012 Gail Misek, a member of the Aldergrove Adventist Church whose generous gift made the new school at Kinara possible, attended the opening of the Kinara Secondary School along with Eric Rajah, ABW director, and Azalea Lehndorff.

"Without a doubt, education is highly valued and supported by the community as well as the local and provincial government," said Misek, who is a retired elementary school teacher.

With construction on the fourth school to be complete in a few weeks, Lehndorff and ABW are already looking at building two more schools in 2013, both girls-only high schools (grades 1 to 12).

Speaking of her plans to return to Afghanistan in May 2013, Misek said, "With all my heart I believe that education will bring the freedom that the people desire for their families and country." ■



At the grand opening of Kinara Secondary School, Afghan local and national media came to interview Azalea Lehndorff about why Canadians are willing to contribute to education in Afghanistan. A national story was published claiming education is the best foundation for a better future.

Rajiv Emerson is a volunteer with A Better World in the IT department. He enjoys interviewing people and writing about the impact A Better world is making.

Our Creator is faithful still. He said, "Before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isa. 65:24). This promise came to mind when Ed Dunn, the Native Ministries director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, shared his story about being an answer to prayer without even knowing it. I will let his wife, Cheryl, relate it to you.

Before They Call

We were driving through New Brunswick after being at the Youth Summit in Newfoundland. Our plan was to drive to Miramichi for Sabbath, but Ed couldn't get hold of any of his contacts there. After visiting three First Nation reserves in Fredericton, we headed for Quebec.

We knew the Kinneys lived in Perth-Andover, which was along the route, so we decided to stop there for Sabbath. Unfortunately, I had misplaced their phone number, and the only person I knew who had it was away. Friday morning I decided to call in the off-chance that perhaps that person was still home—and she was. We made contact with the Kinneys and asked if they would be interested in having Ed preach the next day.

The response was unexpected and awesome. Peggy said that a few days earlier, at prayer meeting, they had been discussing their need to reach the First Nations people living nearby, as well as their lack of knowledge about how to do it. The only person they knew could help them was Ed Dunn, and he lived out west, so there probably wasn't much chance of getting him over very soon, they thought.

Then came the phone call. There were a lot of surprised and excited people at church the next day. Ed preached an inspiring



Ed and Cheryl Dunn standing in front of their travel trailer.

sermon and had a wonderful seminar in the afternoon on how to reach First Nations people. Afterwards we were all praising God for His wonderful providence in working out our schedule to answer their need.

We all need to faithfully keep doing the work God has given us to do because we never know when He will use us to answer someone's prayer. ■

Ramona McKenzie is a field writer for the Messenger. Cheryl Dunn does volunteer work for Native Ministries.

>> BREAKING NEWS FROM THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2012, delegates of the Quebec Conference streamed into LaSalle New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church, the site of the 8th quadrennial conference session. Alexander Bryant, executive secretary of the North American Division (NAD), Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), and Mark Haynal, president of Canadian University College (CUC), were among those present at this year's meeting.

On Sunday, September 16, the 15-member nominating committee under the leadership of Johnson, elected the administrators, board directors and executive committee of the Quebec Conference.

Daniel Latchman was re-elected by the delegates to serve as president for the next four years, with 143 of 180 delegates voting in his favor. Emile Maxi was re-elected as



L to R: Alexander Bryant, executive secretary, NAD; Paul Musafili, vice-president of finance, Quebec; Emile Maxi, vice-president of administration, Quebec; Daniel Latchman, president, Quebec; and Mark Johnson, president, SDACC.

the vice-president of administration, and Paul Musafili was re-elected as vice-president of finance.

It is our prayer that God will richly bless the administrators, workers, and volunteers of the Quebec Conference,

and grants us wisdom as we work together to reach Quebec for Christ.

*— Oneil Madden, pastor
LaSalle SDA Church,
communication director,
Quebec conference.*

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM EXPERTS MEET IN TORONTO



Under the shadows of the old towers at the University of Toronto, the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) held its 14th Annual Meeting of Experts during August 20 to 22, 2012. Over 20 scholars from around the world congregated at the Multi-Faith Centre to discuss secularism and religious freedom. They considered the experiences of Canada, the United States and Europe. The presentations were deep and informative. The subject was not for the faint of heart. The issues of religion and secularism go to the very soul of society in the West and it takes a considerable amount of time to develop a reasoned position. The Experts will generally meet on the same issues for a couple of years and develop an official statement on the results of their study. Those statements are then used in public advocacy in the legislative capitals around the world and at the UN in New York and Geneva.

In total, 13 major papers were presented. Sampled below is just a fraction of the matters discussed:

Dr. Jeremy Gunn, a professor of international studies at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco, presented a paper that argued for further understanding about “how we are using terms such as secular and secularization.” He stated that the focus “is whether human beings are or are not becoming more secular.” It is hard to tell with any certainty and it’s very difficult to measure. It is his sense that Western societies are nevertheless more apt to allow “science and medicine ... increasing explanatory power, and even the most religious of societies rely on developments in those fields.” It would be naïve to imagine religion disappearing any time soon.

Professor Blandine Chelini-Pont presented on the evolution of freedom of conscience and respect of religious convictions in France over the last year. As a professor of history, law and religion at the Université Paul Cézanne, she shared her observations of how the political parties in France use fear of immigrants for their own purposes. Immigrants do not bother bringing cases of religious injustice to courts because they are seldom successful, partly because of the law’s emphasis on protecting race not religion.

Professor Natasha Bakht, an associate professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, argued that to deny Islamic women the right to wear their niqab is to deny their dignity. These women should not be forced to choose between their faith

and having a place in society. Living in a multicultural society means we are to allow diversity.

Professor W. Cole Durham Jr., the director of the Brigham Young University International Center for Law and Religious Studies, is a long-time supporter of IRLA Board of Experts who has travelled to many of the meetings around the world. He discussed the approaches to offensive religious expression and noted that there are two dimensions of the problem: religious expression that gives offense and expression that offends religious sensibilities.

Shauna Van Praagh, a professor of law at McGill University in Montreal, gave a detailed description of ethics, culture and religion. She was joined with Professor Ben Berger, of Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, who gave an introductory historical survey of the experience of Canada regarding law and religion. Both discussed the Supreme Court of Canada’s recent decision that supported Quebec’s right to force all children to attend an ethics course. Professor Berger noted that the courts have a major job on their hands to balance society’s interest in educating the youth and the parental concerns about what their children are taught.

Other papers dealt with defamation of religion to incitement to religious hatred, religion in contemporary politics, discrimination in the workplace, and secularity and equality in the United States.

The atmosphere was collegial and earnest about trying to develop solutions to real world problems in the field of religious freedom. The Meeting of Experts acts as the IRLA think tank. The IRLA is an institution that has been around since the 1890s, sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is the church’s outreach to engage scholars of religious freedom from around the world to work together in supporting religious freedom.

Dr. John Graz is the secretary-general of the IRLA, assisted by Dwayne Leslie and Dr. Ganoune Diop. The office is located in Silver Spring, Md.

You can find out more about the work of IRLA at www.irla.org ■

Barry W. Bussey is a lawyer practicing as in-house counsel in Elmira, Ontario

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Ontario

Unentitled: Youth Rally held in Southern Ontario

Many of us today feel that we are entitled to certain things in life. A Southern Ontario youth rally cleverly called "Un{entitled}," held May 25 to 27 with the blessings from the Ontario conference, sought to address this prevalent mentality. The youth rally was geared toward high school youth and college-aged students up to age 25. The Bronte, Cambridge, Hamilton Mountain, Waterloo, Living Word and Heritage Green churches were the ones primarily involved with the event. This was not the first year that Southern Ontario held this youth rally. It was organized for the first time last year and was hosted by the Living Word church, but this year, organizers wanted to get all the churches in the region involved.

Organizers invited Pastor Frank Dell'Erba to be the special speaker. The weekend started off on Friday night. After registering and receiving a T-shirt and a planner, the attending youth got a chance to meet one another and mingle. There was worship and a short sermon from Pastor Frank.

On Sabbath, more youth showed up for worship and were blessed by another sermon from Pastor Frank. One of his sermons was titled "All the Freedom You Can Handle." He touched on how our entitlement issues often mask our brokenness and the fact that we are just too easily pleased. God wants us to have much more, but it's only when we grow through challenges that we are able to handle more truth, joy and life. Challenges are part of growth, and entitlement issues only seek to bypass that. Following the



Following the service, the youth had another chance to interact with one another through round-table discussions and interactive games.

service, the youth had another chance to interact with one another through round-table discussions and interactive games. Though all the attendees were already having fun, they were all anxiously awaiting the highlight of the day: paintballing!

On Sunday the young people participated in a community project planned at the Eva Rothwell Centre, where they unselfishly gave up their time to help children who came from underprivileged families. An invitation was extended to the Kingsway College Aerials from Oshawa as well, and their team came out to perform a show and also teach a workshop to the kids from the area. The

youth helped serve the community by cleaning up the neighbourhood, serving food, face painting the kids, and helping them play baseball and soccer. It really was an awesome, eye-opening experience. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces was truly rewarding.

Un{entitled} was a great opportunity for young people to engage in thought-provoking, self-reflecting discussion and take part in bridge-building, heart-changing service for Christ. Organizers are looking forward to planning another rally for next year. ■

— Gabriela Paz-Bergeron

British Columbia

Acts of Kindness Charity Golf Classic brings in \$55,000



Some of the event organizers: Michael Dauncey, Paula Grimsmo and Sandy Stoyanowski.



Wayne Culmore (driver 1st cart), president; Michael Wixwat (1st cart), treasurer; Bill Gerber (2nd cart driver), camp director; and Lloyd Robinson (2nd cart), education superintendent.

The Acts of Kindness (AOK) ministries of the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church have existed for over 13 years now. It is impossible to know just how many people have been touched by all of the community projects the church has coordinated over the years; there could easily be thousands.

In order for a church to make this kind of a positive difference, it needs a large quantity of funds. It was back in 2004 that a small group of Aldergrove members met in an RV at campmeeting to determine that a community golf tournament would be a great way to raise funds for AOK. It proved to be true, because the first tournament brought in \$40,300 in profit.

Since then the AOK Charity Golf Classic is annually held in memory of Dr. Michael Haluschak, a champion for community service and a pioneer of the programs AOK provides. Inspiring and fun for participants, the event has proven to be a tremendous financial boost to AOK's community programs.

Monday, Sept. 10, 2012, brought the

ninth annual tournament. This year it was a little nerve-racking to see dark clouds appear early in the day, but, thankfully, they kept coasting by. The sun came out, and the day turned out to be beautiful. We had 94 golfers (up from 60 last year) begin with a shotgun start at noon.

About five hours later we saw our banquet tent fill up with golfers, volunteers and extra guests to the number of 150. As we ate a wonderful banquet meal, we shared with our guests the fantastic things AOK does with the money raised. We pride ourselves in ensuring that every cent goes back to the community. Nothing is kept for administrative costs. We showed a video highlighting different ministries, such as Summer Camp for Kids, Single Moms' Oil Change, Minivans for Moms and Extreme Home Repair. One of the participants, Wayne Culmore, B.C. Conference president, said, "I was moved by how engaged those who support Acts of Kindness were in not only giving financial support but the emotional support as well. I saw a number of tears during the Acts of Kindness video. Supporters were

moved by the amazing difference you are making in people's lives."

After the dust settled and numbers were crunched, the amount raised was \$55,000. We praise the Lord for this. Since the inception of the Acts of Kindness Charity Golf Classic nine years ago, over \$424,000 has been raised and poured back into the lives of God's children in Aldergrove and Langley!

This year 63 percent of our golfers were non-Adventist, and many are non-Christian. It is so great to raise money from the community rather than put the burden on church members entirely. Plus, working together with the community is a great way to connect, build confidence and create lasting friendships.

To learn more about Acts of Kindness and see video clips, go to aokaldergrove.org. ■

*Michael Dauncey,
AOK Coordinator;
associate pastor,
Aldergrove Seventh-day
Adventist Church*

Pathfinders pitch in at Thanksgiving food drive

The second annual BC Thanksgiving food drive took place on September 15. Communities across the province participated in this one-day coordinated collection, designed to support local community food banks.

The Island Eagles Pathfinder Club (Victoria and Rest Haven churches) participated again this year, helping to collect over 20,000 lbs of food for the Sidney Food Bank. Representatives from the food bank stated that this food should last almost three months. Generally, this being the toughest time of the year for food banks, gives this food drive a pressing need.

The Island Eagles joined with several other church and community groups to deliver flyers to almost 8000 homes, following up with a coordinated province-



Island Eagles Pathfinders with food collected.

wide collection on September 15.

Last year's efforts in 60 communities brought in over 250,000 lbs of food. Of those 60 communities, the Sidney and Saanich Peninsula was the most successful, bringing in over 16,000 lbs. ■

—Michael Greer, Island Eagles Pathfinder Club

Manitoba - Saskatchewan



Ethel (Woodkey) Heinricks

Power of the Book

Ethel (Woodkey) Heinricks, a lady with an amazing story and a lifelong passion to share her Lord with others, recently celebrated her 100th birthday in Winnipeg, Man. Her life has had its usual share of ups and downs. But whether it was living through the Depression as a young woman, raising a family of

three daughters together with her husband, or making ends meet during the tough times by sewing all her children's clothing, Ethel relied on her heavenly Father to meet her needs.

Throughout her long life so far, Ethel has used every opportunity to talk about her special Friend, Jesus. Oftentimes when traveling by Greyhound bus, she would engage a fellow passenger in conversation and share a piece of literature. Strangers became her friends. Many were the radio preachers who received her packages in the mail with a book pertaining to the Sabbath truth.

Ethel has lovingly shared literature because she has good reason to believe in the power of a book. Her faith as a Seventh-day Adventist goes back some 200 years ago when Mr. McGee, an Adventist colporteur, visited her grandfather's farm, near Inglis,

Man. Her grandfather Julius J. Frohlich (affectionately called Grandpa Frolke), a recent German immigrant at the time, was a lay preacher at the Lutheran church that he, his family and his community had built and organized.

The colporteur gave Grandpa Frolke a German copy of *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*. As Frolke began to read and study it, he became convinced that the Sabbath of the Lord was Saturday, not Sunday as he had been preaching. In short, he shared this newfound truth with his family first and then, through earnest study, with the church members, most of whom were amazed at what they were learning. Then a young German Adventist pastor named Kuenkel came and stayed in Inglis for some time, teaching Frolke's group from the Bible.

Eventually, 20 members of the Frolke family and many others in that German Lutheran community were baptized, and a new Adventist church was organized. Little Ethel was born during this time to one of Mr. Frolke's daughters, and thus began her love for Jesus at a very early age. Many of Grandpa Frolke's descendants have followed the faith and served the Adventist Church in countless capacities. What the colporteur shared was only a book, but in his visit and within that book was a heavenly message inspired to reach people's hearts and change whole communities. Only heaven will reveal the harvest reaped from that one powerful seed.

—Donna Rose, daughter of Ethel Heinricks

Curtis-Horne Christian School Turns 80



Curtis-Horne students, along with their teacher Katie Paul, assemble to watch the ground breaking for their new school building on September 12, 1968.



L to R: Charles Cooper, pastor, Regina SDA Church; William Nepjuk, treasurer of the Man-Sask. Conference; and Norman Matiko, Secretary of the Man/Sask Conference

Curtis-Horne Christian School (CHCS), in Regina, Saskatchewan, celebrated its 80th anniversary from August 19 to 26 with an Education Week and our Celebration Weekend.

The humble Regina Seventh-day Adventist Academy started in 1932 after a series of evangelistic meetings by Pastor S. A. Ruskjer, who was president of the Canadian Western Union Conference at the time. A building was purchased from the Catholic church and divided into a church and school.

Divine providence and the dedication of church leaders, pastors, parents, church members and students started this school 80 years ago. The same stakeholders continue to keep the vision alive for Christian education in Regina.

Regina has been blessed through the years with two churches that fully support their local school. Members came together in 1968 to build the school and again in 1985 to expand it. Today they continue to support the school by contributing to the student financial assistance fund.

To celebrate 80 years CHCS hosted Education Week. We started the week

with a community fun fair, where children climbed the rock wall, played in the bouncer, had root beer from the root beer gardens and participated in other fun events. Then we hosted an education film festival in which we explored the general state of education in North America and the world.

Michael Zwaagstra, our keynote speaker, is a prominent lecturer and author who promotes reform in education through common sense. Many of Michael's philosophical beliefs are based on Ellen G. White's book *Education*. We finished off Education Week with an education panel and open forum. We were also pleased that Dennis Plubell, associate director of Education for the North American Division, could join us as we answered the public's questions.

During our celebration weekend we were blessed to have former teachers and students join us for worship. We also had a number of speakers, and a single theme emerged. The Lord has truly blessed the Regina churches through Christian education for 80 years. It was a time for reflection, and we acknowledged it has

only been God's leading that has kept this school open. It also gave us opportunity to look ahead; we believe that God will continue to bless this school. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, ... plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11, NIV).

Our new director of education for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, Shad Lehmann, reminded us that when we work together, great things happen, such as keeping a school open for 80 years. Betty Bayer, associate director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, reminded us that our small school is not alone. We are part of a system ordained by God, and Adventist education is valuable academically and spiritually. Today more than ever before our students face worldly temptations, and Adventist schools remain a haven for students to learn about Jesus and come to know Him as friend and Saviour.

—Jeff Mathieson,
Principal, Curtis-Horne
Christian School

Alberta

Everything is Possible With God: *Peace River VBS 2012*



Nicole Proud (in the captain's hat) was the leader for the 2012 Peace River Vacation Bible School. Her sister, Lindsay, stands next to her as the two engage the children in the imaginative theme.

"We will fly, we will soar. *nothing* is impossible!" These words and the catchy tune still run round and round in our minds a week after our Vacation Bible School program ended. What a fabulous blessing the Lord delivered to the members of the Peace River church when 40 kids, ages 5-12, tumbled into the church on Monday afternoon, August 20. The amazing fact that not *one* of these 40 children were from our church made us quickly pay attention to the opportunity God sent our way to add to our children's divisions! Members of the Peace River church family and from the community came together to co-ordinate this undertaking, to man each station or lead (or feed!) a crew of kids. Our goal was to instill in these children the knowledge that God loves them and that anything and everything is possible with Him! It was "All aboard!" flight SKY©, the adventure-filled VBS program of discovering that "Everything is possible with

God!" Each day saw the children soaring through Imagination Station where lessons about God were drawn from everyday physics. "It's like we're really there!" commented one little boy to his mother about the Wild Blue Bible Adventures that transported the children back to Bible time to really experience what happened. The children were astounded to see a dead man called out of his tomb and experienced the drama of creeping through the dark Garden of Gethsemane looking for clues of what happened to Jesus.

"I need more paint!" was the theme at the hands-on Sky High Crafts station on Monday where helpers tried to keep pace with the whirl of activity as kids painted hot air

balloons and fashioned aviation wonders. A bag full of created treasures accompanied each child home at the end of the week to adorn shelves and make Mom and Dad proud.

The fun enjoyed during the All-Star Games encouraged an active connection to the daily Bible point and geared the crews up for the snacks prepared at the Skydive Diner. Who knew blue jello hearts and cool whip could teach a child that God's love can make your sad, jigglely heart clean and pure again!

The highlight of the event though was the Thursday evening meal and program enjoyed by the kids, their parents and friends. The Peace River church was packed with 100 people excitedly waiting

to hear about what their children were learning and to join them in singing and praising God. *Everyone* learned that: No matter who you are; No matter how you feel; No matter what people do; No matter what happens; No matter where you are, you can trust God!

— Sandra Willing,
Communications,
Peace River SDA Church

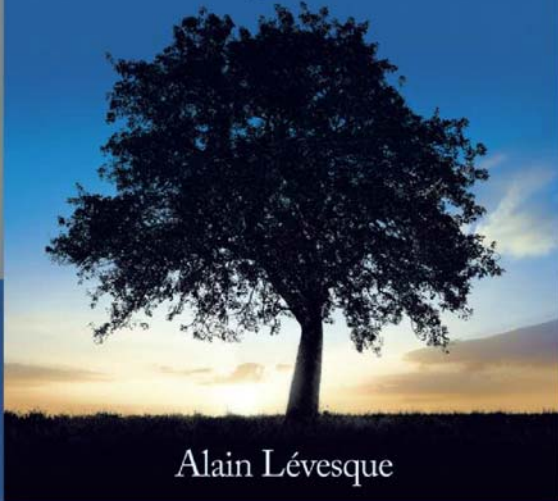


Some of the completed crafts and activity books ready to take home.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA EDITION

GEORGE'S TREE

The story of a *well* planned gift



Alain Lévesque

GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

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Despite an historic stance of refusal to bear arms, today more Seventh-day Adventist young people have voluntarily joined the military than in any previous generation. Edited by Barry W. Bussey, *Should I Fight?* is a compilation of essays presented at a symposium called to discuss the Adventist Church's position on conscientious objection.

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PROCESS:

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- 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.
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years of dedication to their church and family and for setting such a great example of a happy marriage.

Heinz and Elfriede Volk of Penicton, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 29,



2012. They celebrated their anniversary by doing concurrent ShareHim campaigns in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with Heinz preaching at the Akaki Seventh-day Adventist Academy and Elfriede at the L'Esperance Orphanage and Children's Village. They plan to continue doing at least one ShareHim campaign each year for as long as God gives them the strength and ability.

■ Birthdays

Ethel Heinrichs of Winnipeg, Man. celebrated her 100th birthday on June 7, 2012. The family celebrated in the nursing home where Ethel currently resides. Ethel has three children and eight grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Clayton Wilbert "Sonny" Hough was born Jan. 10, 1937, in Port Stanley, Ont., and died June 25, 2012, in Port Stanley. Clayton was a beloved member of the St. Thomas church, where he served as elder and Sabbath School teacher. He is predeceased by his brothers Calvin and Larry Hough. Surviving: wife, Donna Jean (née Hartsell) Hough; sons Robert (Tracey) of Toronto, Ont., Brian of Port Stanley, and Jonathan of Toronto; daughters Donna (Jack) Wisnicki of Ottawa, Ont., and Linda (Blain) McNeil of Dartmouth, N.S.; brothers Raymond (Lou) of Port Stanley, and Gary (Edie) of B.C.; sister, Myrna (Imants) Lapins of Pickering, Ont.; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; numerous aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and his mother-in-law, Mable Crossan of St. Thomas.

Edith (née Loxdale) Longard was born June 3, 1938, in Halifax, N.S., and died Feb. 28, 2012, in Halifax. Edith was a lifetime member of the Halifax church and served faithfully. She was an inspiration to those attending her during her illness because of her confidence, assurance and love of Jesus. She is survived by her husband, Humphrey, and her sisters, Marilyn Raw and Sheila Bennett.

Wendy Diane (née Pedersen) Kinch Oickle was born Feb. 22, 1956, in Pincher Creek, Alta., and died July 29, 2012, in Black Diamond, Alta. Wendy loved to sing and play musical instruments at her church. She is survived by her husband, Victor; her sons, Jason (Kimberly) Kinch of Nanaimo, B.C., and Mathew (Nicole) Kinch of Calgary, Alta.; her stepsons, Brendon Grovet-Oickle of Lacombe, Alta., and Alexander Grovet-Oickle of Fairview, Alta.; daughters, Hannah (Garrett) Spray of North Vancouver, B.C., and Hadassah (Owen) Kinch-Blake of Calgary; stepdaughters, Danielle (Scott Duhig) Timinski of Spruce Grove, Alta.; Samantha Grovet-Oickle of Red Deer, Alta., Kimberly (James Tanton) Oickle of Edmonton, Alta., and Dominique Grovet-Oickle of Olds, Alta.; parents, Roald and Lorna Pedersen; brother, David (Cheryl) Pedersen of Calgary; sister, Shannon Pedersen of Okotoks, Alta.; and 11 grandchildren.

Glenn Sandness was born Sept. 2, 1928, in Lloydminster, Sask., and died Sept. 2, 2011, in Chetwynd, B.C. Glenn taught for the Seventh-day Adventist school system for 36 years, beginning at what was then known as Toronto Junior Academy and ending at Peace Christian School. He also served as a church elder, deacon and adult Sabbath School teacher for many years. Glenn is predeceased by his wife, Margaret. Surviving: daughters, Glenda (Evan) Pye of Chetwynd, and Marilyn (Wayne) McAdams of Lafayette, Ore.

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

Deadlines

December issue: **October 1**
January issue: **Nov. 1**
February issue: **Dec. 3**

■ Births

Weston Wade Gallant was born on June 28, 2012, to Blaine and Darla (née Holm) Gallant of Watson, Sask.

■ Anniversaries

Cliff and Kathy Sawchuk of Yorkton, Sask., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 5, 2012.



Their children would like to congratulate them and thank them for many

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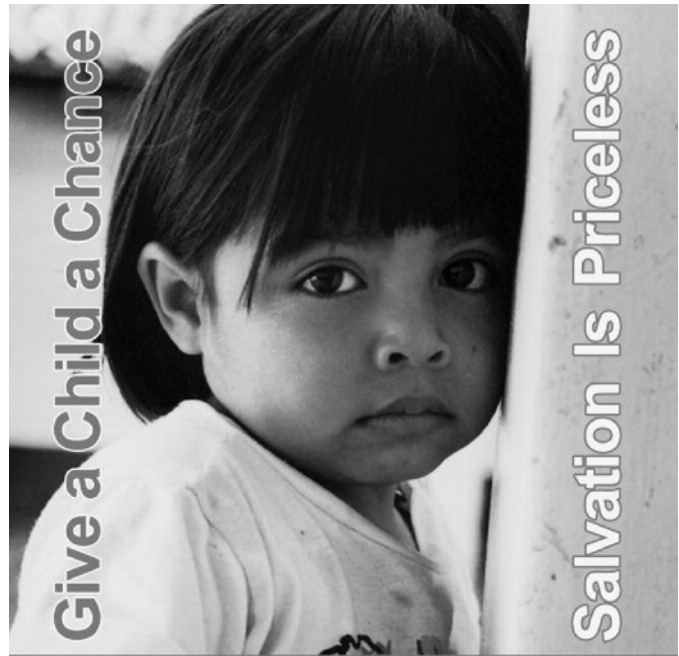
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EVANGELISM IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH HAS MANY FACES.

Throughout history Adventists have been taking seriously the call to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19, NIV). In the 1950s, Seventh-day Adventists made sure evangelism was on the forefront. They travelled all throughout Canada evangelizing and spreading the gospel of Christ.

Adventists have done evangelism in many different parts of Canada, from Manitoba to British Columbia, to Newfoundland. Whether it was in the public sphere or within the privacy of someone’s home, evangelism was anything from visiting the sick, broadcasting messages, distributing Christian literature, to holding an evangelistic series. Whatever it was, it was all done with one purpose in mind: to win souls for Christ.



VOAR—“VOICE OF ADVENTIST RADIO”—NEWFOUNDLAND

Broadcasters in the studio of VOAR. This station gets its popularity from its fine religious music and its continuous presentation of gospel stories for children and adults. VOAR has the largest library of religious records in the world. Right to left seated: George Morgan, Jerry Williams, Frank Knutson, and Mrs. Emerson Hillock at the piano; standing: Emerson Hillock, Pastor Philip Moores, Mrs. Frank Knutson, and Mrs. Philip Moores.

Canadian Union Messenger, January 2, 1952

Evangelism in Newfoundland

IF present plans are carried out, Newfoundland will go all out for evangelism in '52. Public evangelism will be in the forefront.

Plans have been laid to bring a full-time evangelist and a song leader to St. John's about the first of June. They will find awaiting them the finest setup for evangelism in Canada. A missionary-minded church, a school full of talented young people under the able leadership of Brother Emerson Hillock, and a radio station that has made many friends for Adventists, will

blend their powers into a programme of all-out evangelism in St. John's.

Later in the year it is planned that a full-scale evangelistic programme will be carried on in Corner Brook.

The Canadian Union has allocated \$2,500 to evangelism in Newfoundland, and the church members plan to make 1952 the biggest year yet in soul winning.

Adventists of Newfoundland realize that golden opportunities are at hand and that much must be done in a short time. Every possible means will be used to press forward with the work of evangelism in 1952.

P. MOORES, President

Canadian Union Messenger, January 2, 1952

Evangelism Among Japanese in B. C.

ABOUT a year ago Brother Wylie Anderson felt a burden to work among the agricultural Japanese people of the Okanagan Valley. Tape recordings of over two hundred sermons preached by Elder G. Aso, pastor of our Japanese church in Denver, were faithfully given week by week to these Japanese people. Their interest in the message and in Elder Aso grew with the passing of time. About two weeks ago Elder Aso came to the Okanagan Valley in answer to their wishes and prayers.

Elder G. M. MacLean, pastor of the church in Kelowna, sent in a remarkable report of the marvellous interest which has been manifested. I shall quote from his report.

“You will be intensely interested to know about the remarkable response to the Japanese spearhead effort conducted by Elder Aso, of Denver.

“There have been meetings every night since he came, and although I could not attend all of them, what I have seen and heard is truly a foretaste of the latter rain. Monday night fifty-two took their stand to be Christians. That is remarkable when we consider that many of them were Buddhists. Last night sixty stood—the whole congregation—to go all the way. The people feel that at last they have found that for which they have been looking. Many examples of conversions are seen.

Canadian Union Messenger, January 2, 1952



Mrs. L. Smith of Fort William, Ontario (right) with one of her latest converts, Mrs. Barbara A. Scollie. How wonderful if every church member would win just one soul for Jesus in 1952.

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