

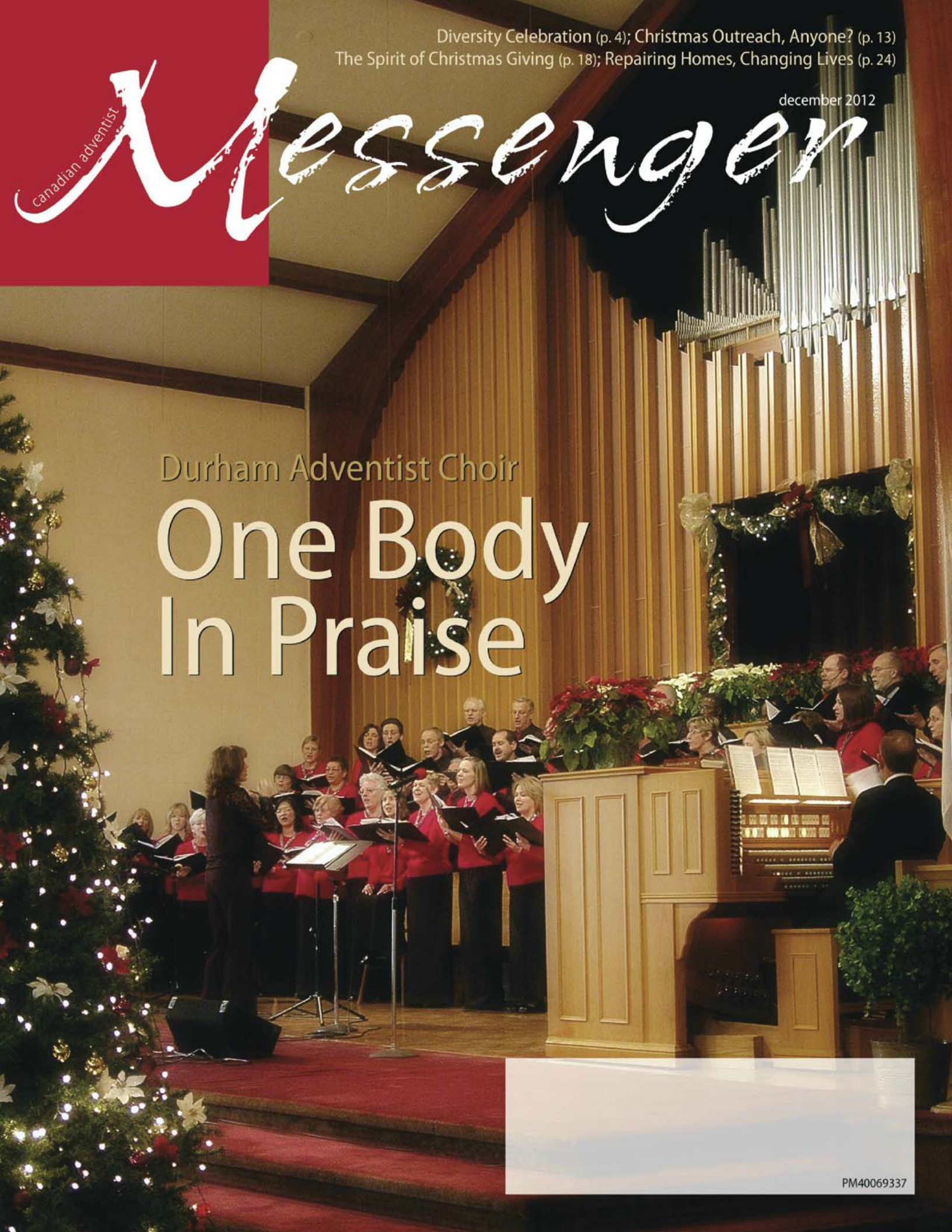
Diversity Celebration (p. 4); Christmas Outreach, Anyone? (p. 13)
The Spirit of Christmas Giving (p. 18); Repairing Homes, Changing Lives (p. 24)

december 2012

canadian adventist
Messenger

Durham Adventist Choir

One Body In Praise



“I can do all things
through Him who
strengthens me.”



Ending and Beginning

Can you believe that it is December again? Here we are approaching the end of this year and the beginning of another. Becky and I have been noticing calendars at the Chapters bookstore. She will probably purchase some for the New Year shortly to be put up in our house. Soon they will be filled with notes of things planned and events that will be part of our lives in 2013.

I like this time of year. It is a time for reflection on what we've done, what lies in the past. As always, there are things we're proud of and some things we'd change if we could. And the calendar that lies ahead gives us the opportunity to begin afresh, to choose new directions, to discard broken behaviours and to mend the relationships and plans that have been damaged in 2012.

Several years ago I took a stack of 3 x 5 cards and wrote on some of them the characteristics I hoped to incorporate in my life throughout the following year. I carried them in my shirt pocket and reviewed them periodically along with some Bible verses that reminded me of Christ's power to change my life. Whatever approach we take, it is important to find the time in this busy season to review where we are and plan for the future.

So, I'm thinking about 2013. What adjustments do I need to make for the New Year? I've been thinking of a personal theme for the year, "To know Christ and to make Him known." I'm borrowing that from a group of leaders I worked with some years past. I like what it says; don't you? It sets the landscape for a lot of choices and decisions. It provides a framework for my words and my actions as I wake up each day. And it provides a daily focus for my life: whose life will I touch today and how will I make it easier or better for them in the minutes I spend in their life just now?

Endings and beginnings are important, and for a Christian they are incredible opportunities to take a little time to be quiet in the presence of God as we listen to His voice and follow Him.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13, NASB)

Have a wonderful and blessed New Year! ■

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

Messenger

December 2012 Vol. 81 No. 12

Communication Director/Editor Stan Jensen
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

Art Director Joan Tanasiychuk
tanasiychuk.joan@adventist.ca

Ad Manager/Circulation Alexandra Yeboah
yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca;
messenger@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Mirkovich
messenger@adventist.ca

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



Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

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

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Daniel Stojanovic
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

VP Finance John Ramsay
ramsay.john@adventist.ca

General VP Dennis Marshall
marshall.dennis@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 5820B Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5, phone 403/342-5044

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canadian University College 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

Deadlines

February issue	December 3
March issue	January 2
April issue	February 4

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

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

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.

WHAT'S INSIDE

December 2012



FEATURES

- 4** **FEATURE** Diversity Celebration
Hermione Wilson reports on the recent Diversity Celebration held in Maryland.
- 16** **FEATURE** Q & A—Stan Jensen interviews Dennis Marshall, General Vice-President of the SDA Church in Canada.
- 20** **COVER STORY** The Durham Adventist Choir—One Body in Praise.
- 24** **NEWS FEATURE** The Home Team—Repairing Homes, Changing Lives.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2** **HEART TO HEART** Ending and Beginning
- 6** **TEEN TALK** Questioning Christmas
- 7** **CREATION CORNER** Common Snipe
- 8** **CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**
- 10** **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?** Harry Sackett
- 11** **PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES/ ON THE ROAD WITH BECKY**
- 12** **A BETTER WORLD**
- 13** **THE CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 14** **REFRESH WITH TIA**
- 15** **APP REVIEW//IT IS WRITTEN**
- 18** **ADRA CANADA**
- 19** **CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES**
- 23** **EDUCATION**
- 26** **KINGSWAY COLLEGE**
- 27** **NEWS**
- 33** **NATIVE MINISTRIES**
- 35** **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 38** **FROM THE EDITOR**
- 39** **A BACKWARD GLANCE**



Hermione Wilson, Mark Johnson, and Keenda Cadogan in the lobby of the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Diversity Celebr



Photo by Daniel Stojanovic

“Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.”

There’s more grace in a good question than a worn-out answer,” said Peter Bath, vice-president for Mission at Florida Hospital, during his presentation on gender differences at this November’s Diversity Celebration.

The conference, which took place the weekend before the year-end meetings began, brought church leaders together from all over the North American Division (NAD) to contemplate, discuss and celebrate the joys and challenges of an increasingly diverse membership.

The Diversity Celebration is the second event of its kind. The first, the Race Summit of 1999, was, as its name suggests, mainly focused on race relations in the church. The Diversity Celebration was designed to be a celebration of diversity within our church, not just in terms of race, but age and gender as well.

Women’s roles in leadership featured prominently in the discussions, as well as strategies for bridging the generational divide and keeping young adults from leaving the church. Charlotte L. V. Thoms, Disabilities Ministries director for the Atlantic Union Conference, spoke of the importance of recognizing that those with disabilities, both inside and outside the church, are people first and not defined by their conditions.

“I’m so glad and so thankful that our God doesn’t play favourites,” said Adly Campos, the first Latina evangelist to host a televised evangelistic series. She pointed to Joel 2:28, where it is written that both men and women will receive an equal outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days. “Diversity will be composed of men and women filled with the Holy Spirit,” said Campos.

Samuel Betances, who was present at the first Race Summit of ’99, made this poignant statement during his talk on building racial harmony: “Diversity is not about counting heads; it’s about making heads count.”

Scattered among the various church leaders were the youth delegates, young adults from each union in the NAD. When I was invited to represent the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, along with Keenda Cadogan, I didn’t know what to expect.

The three-day conference was shortened to two days because of Hurricane Sandy, so when I arrived at the hotel on Wednesday, Oct. 31, I had a chance to hang out with a few of the other youth delegates. We went out for dinner and got to know one another. Before we parted ways on Friday, I asked them what they would take away from the conference.

“We are really different ... we are different groups, different communities, and we’re all coming together, so we need to know how to move forward but stay united at the same time,” Theo Osei of Rhode Island told me. “I enjoyed it a lot and I thought it was awesome,” he added.

For Keenda, the conference was also a powerful experience. “As young people, we can take a purposeful interest by having discussions with people in and out of our comfort circle,” she said. “Some of us may be future leaders and will be in a position to help transform the church.”

“The world is not used to seeing Christians who love,” said Pastor Tara VinCross, of Philadelphia, who led morning worship on the first day of the conference. She spoke about how we as a church need to be united in love, to rise above petty disagreement and prejudice but also to set an example in our society.

As the words of the Diversity Celebration theme song, set to the tune of the Doxology, say, “Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.” ■

Hermione Wilson is a field writer for the Messenger.

ation

Questioning Christmas

T33nTalk

Some people in my church think Christmas is wrong. Is it?

'Tis certainly the season to consider the question, so let's start with the facts:

- December 25 is not the birthday of Jesus. I won't waste time going into what December 25 is, but what we do know is that Jesus was born sometime around late September/early October.
- Christmas trees are not in the Bible.
- Midnight has no significance to his birth; there was no cave, perhaps no animals, even ...

I could go on for a long time making such a list, but I won't. If you want to have some "Birth of Jesus" fun, go online and try some Bible quizzes surrounding His birth. You may be shocked to discover how much of what you think you know is based on Christmas plays and tradition, not on the Scriptures.

Now to answer your question, Christmas is here to stay. We can lament the commercialism of it, we can decry the pagan roots of the date and we can get all bent out of shape over all kinds of "issues" with it. However, none of that brings any glory to Jesus. Our role as Christians is not to be reactive but proactive. What that means is that we are not to run around reacting to what the world does but to be looking for ways to introduce Jesus to others both by what we say and, more importantly, by how we live.

Paul pointed to an idol (yes, a stone idol!) that had been erected to "the unknown God" in Athens and told the people, "Let me tell you about the God you don't know" (see Acts 17:23). Since Christmas is here to stay, use it to your advantage to talk about Jesus. Use it to your advantage to show by example that it is more blessed to give than to receive. More and more people know less and less about Jesus every day. You are a witness. Use Christmas to increase your opportunities to be that witness.

Encourage your church to host a "Christmas Dinner Theatre" for the poor and anyone else who wants to come hear the true story of Jesus.

Identify some needy families in your community and pour gifts and love into their homes this holiday season.

If your church is too small or the above is too complex, get a little group together and go carolling. Music and lyrics can be a powerful reminder of the reality of the Son of God becoming the Son of man and changing the world forever!

Whatever you do or don't do this Christmas season, remember we don't do God a favour by railing against "the evils." We bring glory to God by allowing the truth to live through us and bring light and love and blessing to the people around us. ■



Creation Corner for Kids

Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."—Exodus 4:10, NIV

Common Snipe

Next to the sound of geese returning from warmer waters to the south of us, frogs noisily croaking to mates and raucous crows setting up nesting sites, the sound I most look forward to hearing in spring is the "call" of the Common Snipe.

The Common Snipe nests in marshes and pokes around in the mucky wetlands for invertebrates that live in the mud. The snipe makes its nest on the ground and the female sits on two to five eggs, which hatch within three weeks.

In spring, the male Common Snipe flies high over the marsh calling to females. Its call is a windy, rapid, going-downhill hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo sound. What's fascinating about this bird's "call" is that the noise doesn't come from the bird's throat but from its tail feathers.

Think about it.

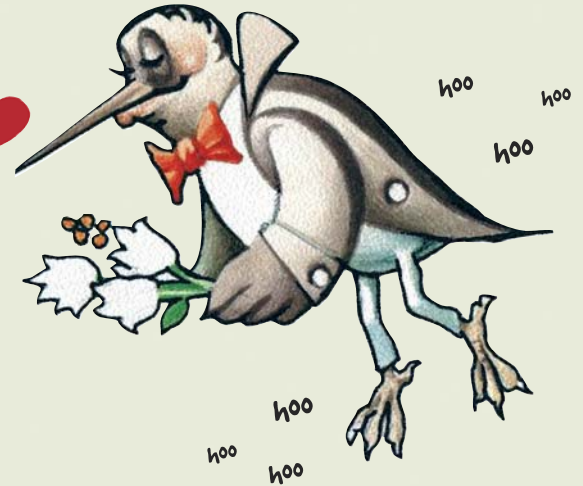
The male Common Snipe doesn't need a singing voice to do the work he needs to do in spring, that is, to attract a mate. The snipe doesn't give up because he only has tail feathers instead of a beautiful voice. God has equipped him for success. When God called Moses to go and speak to Pharaoh, Moses made excuses. He said he couldn't speak well. But God had prepared Moses and equipped him for the work He called him to do.

Do it!

What work has God given you to do? Instead of making excuses about your inability, thank God for preparing you and giving you just what you need to do the work He's called you to do. Then get to work.

You can learn more about the Common Snipe at www.arkive.org/. Just type "common snipe" into the search line.

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.



a new dream

In the university and college landscape in the United States, March means one thing: college basketball.



Colby during one of the CUC basketball games.

“March Madness” sees 68 college basketball teams compete in a single elimination tournament to determine the top collegiate basketball program in the nation. For Colby Maier, a high school basketball star from Kelowna, B.C., that was the dream—collegiate basketball. With interest from Division 1 colleges in the United States and Canada, Colby dreamed about continuing to play collegiately at the highest level and maybe even beyond. And then all of a sudden his life was turned upside down, his future uncertain and the dream unclear. But the one thing that Colby was sure of was that his life now had purpose and that it was to always follow and honour God.

Before finishing high school, Colby attended a Revelation seminar and was amazed at the information he heard. The material made sense, and the sincerity and earnestness of the speaker touched his heart. He wanted to make a stand for what he now believed to be the truth, and so he made the decision to not only be baptized but to dedicate his life to serving God. With his newfound dedication to honour God’s Sabbath, all his former dreams of playing collegiate basketball in the United States or Canada had to be evaluated. If keeping the Sabbath meant the loss of interest from the large public colleges and universities, then that was just the way it was going to be. His dream had now expanded from basketball to serving God. And in his search for a place he could accomplish that, he found CUC.

When Colby acknowledged that the best decision for him was to go through Adventist education, he began sending out feelers to Adventist colleges and universities across North America in hopes of scholarships and to find the best fit for him. Schools from all over the United States contacted him: Andrews University, La Sierra University, Pacific Union College, Washington Adventist University, Canadian University College and many others. The deciding factor for him was a series of conversations with CUC basketball coach, Peter Ford. It was Pastor Ford’s Christ-centred approach that ultimately won him over. Just like Colby, Pastor Ford wanted to use basketball as an instrument to reach others for Christ. He was excited to go to a place where whatever it is he wanted to be involved in he could ultimately use it to God’s glory.

Well into Colby’s third year of religious studies at CUC his enthusiasm continues to be infectious. Shortly after he got to campus, he began volunteering at the Maskwachees Seventh-day Adventist Company in Hobbema, where his coach Peter Ford is the pastor, just north of the CUC campus. At first he began working with the youth and playing guitar with the kids, but this year he has taken on a new role. He is now doing his pastoral practicum at the company, giving him the opportunity to do more teaching and preaching to the adult members. His experience at Hobbema has taught him humility in reaching out and understanding those he is trying to minister to. One of the lessons he has learned is to meet people where they are in their walk with Christ and to not let the big theological terms he might have learned in class the day before get in the way of a true conversation that could lead to a real relationship.



Colby leading out in song service at the Adventist company in Hobbema.

In his first two years at CUC Colby has helped the basketball team to a second and then a third straight league championship. This past summer alongside a few of his teammates he ran the CUC basketball camp at B.C. campmeeting, a chance for him to give back and reach the kids at their level. With all the memories on the court it might be surprising to hear what Colby enjoys most about his time at CUC, not basketball but his academics. According to Colby, what he learns in class every day continues to inspire him: “I wouldn’t trade in my religious studies program for the world! It means a lot to be studying God’s Word in depth with some of the best professors each and every day. You learn a lot and grow a lot. Secondly, the people you meet here will become some of your best friends for the rest of your life! You develop lifelong relationships at CUC, relationships that don’t fade over time or by distance, and that’s special!”

For Colby, being a pastor is the new dream. Learning about God in classes turns academics into a large devotional study. Colby adds, “There is a lot of knowledge at this campus, a lot of insight, wisdom, and understanding especially on the Bible. But I think the greatest truth I’ve learned at this institution is quite a simple one. It’s not about what you know; it’s about Who you know; allow that relationship with Jesus to transcend your understanding and action!”

Basketball, volunteer work, academics and friendships are everything Colby could have hoped for in a university experience. But what he is most thankful for is a community where he can continue to grow in his relationship with God. He adds, “I enjoy my Christianity; I enjoy my walk and relationship with God! And that’s huge! CUC provides an environment where you are really encouraged toward building a loving and saving relationship with Jesus. Isn’t that what it’s all about?” ■

*JR Ferrer is the communication director
for Canadian University College*

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *What was it like growing up in California?*

Harry Sackett: For me, it was great. We lived in Los Gatos, just below the mountains and with a cool breeze from the ocean in the summer. The winters had just enough cool weather to occasionally form ice on the puddles for us to jump on and break the ice without wearing boots.

Every summer as I was growing up, my favourite activity was to go to our conference summer camp in Wawonato, just outside of Yosemite National Park. Nothing compares to the smell of those pine trees at the camp. The extra bonus was seeing friends from all over California each year and vowing to meet up again the following year.

I am so glad that our conferences still have summer camps.

M: *As a teen you attended Mountain View Academy and Pacific Union College. What were your dreams and aspirations at that time?*

HS: I lived in Los Gatos, where there was no church school. The Sacketts believed that children should have every opportunity to remain faithful to God

and to the remnant church. After I graduated, I started my “Around the World” trip and ended up at Oshawa Missionary College (now known as Kingsway). In those early years, my dream was to be anything but a minister. Sports were always my first love, but Elder E. L. Minchin conducted a Week of Prayer series. Elder Minchin appealed to us young people to give our hearts and lives to God and live lives of service for Him. Many of us responded to those appeals and have never forgotten that Week of Prayer; it changed our lives. Often those of us who were there talk of the lifelong conviction of that time.

M: *You moved on to study theology at Walla Walla College? What was that experience like for you?*

HS: Oshawa was a two-year college at the time, so I looked for a college, as did others, to finish my theology degree. When I met Elder Balharrie, the head of the theology department at Walla Walla College, I knew it was the right choice. Elder Balharrie convinced me I might make it in the ministry. Through the years I have discovered God always sends someone to encourage you along your way. After graduating from Walla Walla College, I spent one year at the seminary at Andrews University.

M: *When did you know God was calling*

you to enter into pastoral ministry?

HS: I began my pastoral ministry in St. Pal, Minnesota. I had Bible Studies with everyone I could find. One of my first studies was with the head of a motorcycle gang! Opening the Bible to study with him and his friends, with beer cans everywhere, was quite an experience for a new pastor. When I baptized Dennis and his wife, I learned God chooses people for his kingdom we would otherwise be inclined to pass by. I studied with a murderer in the Minnesota State prison and watched in amazement how God changed his life. When I baptized Alf, I was hooked on ministry. When you have seen God change lives like these, you want to do nothing but see more miracles.

M: *Where are you now?*

HS: I worked in several places in the United States and Canada and in different capacities from pastor to president. As my wife, Shirley, and I got into retirement, we decided it would be nice to live closer to our children, Ron and Dawn. So we moved in 2009 to the Grey Highlands area in Ontario. We live in the country between Markdale and Collingwood. The fall colours are some of the greatest in Canada. You will find us in the Owen Sound Church on Sabbath. You are most welcome to come visit. ■

Editor's note: Harry served as a pastor in the Ontario and Manitoba-Saskatchewan conferences. He also served as conference secretary at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference and as ministerial director at the British Columbia Conference. In 2002, he was appointed as the president of the British Columbia Conference.

Ramona's Story

On the Sabbath of Sept. 29, many Adventist church members across Canada viewed Ramona Mackenzie's story, which was part of the 2012 Native Ministries offering appeal.

Photo: Jonah Greenman



To view Ramona's story, go to adventist.ca/en/departments/native-ministries/ and click on 2012 Native Ministries Offering.



Ramona was a child of the Kenora, Ont., Obashkaandagaang Bay First Nation. Her early years in Thunder Bay, Ont., were marred by abusive relationships, domestic violence, hunger and hardship. Later, as a teenager living on the reservation and influenced by attending Thunder Bay's Adventist church and school, Ramona made life-changing decisions: she would find a better way to live, she would be baptized and she would depend on Jesus to guide her life.

Here is where you come in: your tithe supported Pastor Naphtali Dorzilme, the pastor from whom Ramona requested baptism; your financial support of the Thunder Bay Adventist School and of Canadian University College gave Ramona Christian study environments; and your donations to Adventist Education also enabled the British Columbia Conference to hire Ramona to teach at the Port Hardy, B.C., Avalon Adventist Jr. Academy, an opportunity for her to pass on her trust in Jesus, her life lessons and her strong work ethic.

If you missed the 2012 Native Ministries offering you are still welcome to make a gift. You may also wish to consider sponsoring First Nation Scholarships, Student Financial Aid, or Evangelism for a native community near you. Thank you for your gifts to Native Ministries and to many other Canadian Adventist charitable organizations. You are changing lives in Jesus' name. ■

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

Your neighbour, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, asks you to join a Bible study group at their place. Should you go and why?

AT THE NEPEAN AND CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES IN ONTARIO AND THE ABBOTSFORD CHURCH IN B.C.

Gail Boyce: I would look upon that as an opportunity to get to know my neighbour better, to become better connected, and to allow the Lord to use me as He guides. I would be able to share some truths that my neighbour might not know. I certainly would go in to those Bible studies with prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, and I would use that opportunity to be a witness, to reveal His love and to build a friendship.

Shelley Lewis: Yes, I would go. This could possibly be one of the best ways to share the Adventist message. You could bring out Bible texts that would highlight our message. Plus, if I were to ask them to attend some events at my local church, I believe they would be open to that as well.

Violet Zama: I would definitely go, because it opens up the way of communication and friendship. It's very important to build friendships and not to isolate ourselves, but to be present and to engage in friendly discussions.





Dr. Kelvin and Marca Hill providing dental services.

DOCTORS WITHOUT *RELIGIOUS* BORDERS

A BETTER WORLD'S 2012 MEDICAL TEAM HAS RECENTLY

completed its fifth annual humanitarian trip. The volunteer group has travelled to Sudan, the border of Myanmar, and Rwanda since the first team of five travelled to Kenya in 2008. The group has grown each year, with 32 professionals in the multi-disciplinary team that recently returned. Their activities included providing much needed medical care to patients at clinics where A Better World has invested, attendance at the opening ceremony for the newest clinic funded by the medical group, provision of training to local clinical officers and community health care workers in public health, and giving medical students the opportunity to travel and be mentored by professionals.

Early this year as an initiative of A Better World's student division Tomorrow's Edge, five medical students from the University of Alberta and last month six medical students from the University of Queensland in Australia completed

their internships with A Better World's medical team. The students received credit toward their medical education under the mentorship of medical professionals who have travelled extensively with A Better World.

Each year the training program has expanded. This year, highlights included demonstrations by Dr. Charlotte Goodine, pediatrician, on neonatal care. Dr. Len Wade provided training in advanced trauma life support. Wade was recently awarded "Family Physician of the Year" (in Alberta). During the training the Australian medical students participated in the demonstration of various techniques and attended patients under the supervision of the Canadian doctors.

A Better World's medical division is directed by Red Deer family physician Dr. Ray Comeau and his wife, Deryl Comeau, RN, MPH, who trains the community health workers. They are both active members of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Deer, Alta. "We have worked with other organizations, and

A Better World brings a holistic approach to service. People from all walks of life, religious backgrounds and faith are welcome on these medical missions," says Comeau. Dr. Len Wade, who just completed his third trip, says, "I am not a religious person, but my wife and I are committed to helping people, and A Better World is passionate about that, which brings us all together for a common good. I appreciate that about my association with A Better World."

The six students from Australia feel that they had the best of both worlds. Aaron Hawkins says, "We are mentored by experienced professionals who know the challenges Africa faces, and we are exposed to local doctors who amaze us with little of anything to treat their patients and yet deliver the best possible care." ■

Azalea is a project manager for A Better World and is a graduate student at the University of Alberta. She is working toward an MPH degree with a focus on global health.

Christmas Outreach, Anyone?

What are you doing this year for Christmas? Are you preparing for first-time guests? Seventh-day Adventists have not traditionally thought of Christmas as an evangelistic season. However, studies have shown that people who do not attend church on a regular basis are more willing to attend church for a Christmas service. Here are some possible suggestions for your church to consider when reaching the secular unchurched during the holidays.

HOLD A MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

If you open up the newspaper this holiday season, you will discover most Protestant churches in your community will be holding Christmas Eve services. If a person has stopped attending church, he or she is more likely to attend a Christmas Eve service because it reminds them of childhood traditions.

Each year at my church we hold a one-hour Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m. We invite a string quartet from the community and sing several Christmas hymns. The church is already decorated. The pastor gives a short 10-minute homily and invites attendees to make a commitment in finding a local church and begin attending on a regular basis. At midnight the congregation rings small hand bells that were distributed earlier in the service as they celebrate the birth of Christ. The first year we organized this service, approximately 50 people attended. Over the last several years, the service has grown to over 150 people. Would you believe over 50 percent of the people in attendance are visitors from the community?

INVITE FORMER CATHOLICS

According to the latest data, 1 out of every 10 Catholics is leaving his or her church. They are not leaving because they no longer believe in God; rather, they are unhappy with what many consider to be a church that is no longer relevant in modern times. As you prepare to

reach unchurched people during the Christmas holiday, consider those who are formerly Catholic. Many of them are ready and primed for a spiritual experience that reaches their personal needs.

PLAN A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

Many Adventist churches only offer communion on the 13th Sabbath. This leaves many people out from experiencing a special worship tradition. If you plan a Christmas communion, you may be able to serve many more people, such as college students who are visiting from break and first-time visitors who can be introduced to the story of God's grace through the sacraments. Make sure you use communion as a teaching moment, reminding your audience why we participate in this holy tradition, and inviting them to follow Jesus as the leader of their life.

CHILDREN ARE YOUR GREATEST RECRUITING TOOL

There are about two dozen single "Sabbath moms" who attend my church. They are married but attend church alone with their kids because they have a spouse who doesn't attend church. I have found that the greatest challenge in getting those spouses to begin attending regularly is for them to step out and discover that the church isn't the judgmental place they may have attended as a child). During the holiday season, consider holding a Christmas program sponsored by the children's division. You can hold a talent show or a short children's dramatic presentation. Be sure to include the kids whose parents don't attend regularly in your program. Ask the children to invite their parents and grandparents to this event. Make sure you offer light refreshments after the program so your church leaders can interact with the special guests.

The purpose of Christmas is about God coming down to the earth in human form to save every man, woman, boy and girl. Let's not keep Christmas to ourselves; rather, share the great message with those who need it the most. ■

Dr. Rajkumar Dixit is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World. You can check out his church website at lookingforachurch.org and follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.





COOKIE DOUGH



Words by God — Philippians 2: 1, 2, and Hebrews 10:24, 25, NIV

When you're making cookies, you don't just throw in the flour and say "come and get it!" If you did, I am sure you would be quite disappointed with how that batch turned out! Instead, you would add the flour, butter, eggs, sugar, milk, vanilla, and other tasty ingredients that make you want to share the cookies and come back for more. The body of Christ is just like the cookie mix; one ingredient by itself does not make a cookie. Only when that ingredient is joined to the rest of the ingredients can you fully enjoy the tasty creation. Unity is a process; it doesn't happen overnight. We have been called to unity in Christ. That does not mean we will not have differences but that our uniqueness adds the flavour and passion for the purpose we are called.

Coming together as believers in Jesus Christ is a good thing. This is one place where age, race, culture and things that show our obvious differences can be brought together to share in the goodness and grace of God and celebrate our salvation in Jesus Christ. "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (Phil. 2:1, 2, NIV). "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:24, 25, NIV).

We need to come together as the larger body of Christ to worship, pray, and encourage one another in our relationship with Jesus. As any good cookie recipe calls for more than one ingredient, so we also cannot do this alone. Together we make a better tasting cookie.

Be Blessed



Tia Lawrence is 18 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 "Come People of the Risen King," by Keith and Kristyn Getty on YouTube: bit.ly/T1T2bB



app review

by Josué Sánchez



In Brief: The Hope Channel App is a no-frills application that brings a variety of Adventist channels to your pocket (quite a large pocket, if you use an iPad, though). It basically has two options: watching live TV and checking the upcoming schedule. Imagine the possibilities: you are on a business trip and can't find a church, or sick and can't go to church, or on vacation away from home, stuck in traffic or snowed in! Plus, you can brush up your Spanish, Brazilian or German.

Wow Factor: Extremely easy to use.

Meh Factor: Sorry, no French channel.

Developer: Hoffnung e.V. / Hope Channel

Seller: Stimme der Hoffnung

Price: \$0.99

Works On: iOS 3.2 & up (iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad), Android 2.1 & up (after installing the Vitamio Player Plugin)



it is written

Touching Hearts, Impacting Lives ...



Here is a letter from someone who has been sentenced for life but is requesting reading materials and Bible courses from watching It Is Written Canada on TV.

"I JUST WATCHED YOUR PROGRAM TODAY, and it was a discussion-based program that focused on the second epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians.

I am starting a life sentence at Donnacona Institution in Quebec. A couple of years ago, I was looking for forgiveness from myself and from God for what I had done. I began reading the Bible for the first time. A friend had given me an address book, and in it was information about a course that I could take. I had read the Bible, but I had many questions, so I sent away for this course.

I find myself thirsting for more now that Jesus Christ is in my life. I enjoy looking into the Bible to understand it even more. I am in a difficult position, as I do not speak French.

We have not had a chapel service since last May, so Bible study with a group is not an option at present. Everything I am doing, I am doing on my own. Please send me anything you have."

Donnacona Institution, QC

Many viewers appreciate the program and look forward to watching new episodes.

"I pray that It Is Written Canada goes on for many years to come. I look forward to watching it every week. Bill Santos does a wonderful job for our Father in heaven, and the marvellous singers and speakers are great. God must be so proud of them!"

Head of Jeddore, N.S.



BY STAN JENSEN

One of our strongest works surrounding Adventism in Canada is our Adventist schools. Many active and former members reflect on actions by a certain teacher or classmate that led them to give their life over to Christ. With that in mind, one might like to know more about the overall leader of the Adventist education system in Canada—Dr. Dennis Marshall.



Photo of Dennis Marshall by Insignia Photography.

STAN: *Dr. Dennis Marshall, can you tell us a little about yourself?*

DENNIS: People are surprised to hear me say that I am a first-generation Adventist, and that I became an Adventist because I fell in love with an attractive Adventist woman.

I am married to Juanita Marshall. We recently celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary. We have two children: Andy Marshall who is married to Paula Marshall, an elementary school teacher at Crawford Adventist Academy, and Abigail (Abi) Marshall. We have two grandchildren, Keon and Ksana Marshall. My father is deceased, but my mother is 98 years old living in Brooklyn, NY.

My mother had instilled in my mind at an early age that education will get you out of poverty, and being nurtured by love in a “poor” environment, I took her counsel to heart. So I studied hard at the high school and university levels graduating with two undergraduate degrees, three Master’s Degrees and a doctorate in education. I have developed an insatiable thirst for knowledge and academic explorations.

STAN: *How long have you been in your current position and what other positions have you held?*

DENNIS: I assumed the position of director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) in 2006, replacing the former education director, Dr. Mike Lekic. After serving two years as the pastor at Guelph, I was asked to assume the portfolio of education superintendent for the Ontario conference in 2002, a position that I did not gravitate to willingly, as I had gotten attached to pastoring and intended to spend the rest of my life doing just that. But President Derrick Nichols thought that with my educational qualifications and experience, I would serve the church well, if I should accept the call, and so I did.

In 2010, at the SDACC quinquennial session, I was voted the first General Vice-President of the SDACC. This has been an exceptional journey.

STAN: *Have you worked in the public education system? What major differences have you noticed between the public and SDA schools?*

DENNIS: I spent 25 years working in the public school system, serving as a secondary school teacher, program director, vice principal and principal.

The major difference between the two systems is spiritual and philosophical. The Adventist school environment nurtures the development of the spiritual life of students, providing many opportunities for spiritual growth and development. Teachers are committed to teach children, not merely curriculum, for their ultimate goal is the character development of their students.

Adventist teachers see children as the heritage of the Lord, and go the extra mile to help them develop their potential with loving care and concern. Herein lies the philosophical difference: Adventist teachers view teaching as a ministry as opposed to a mere profession and this concept of ministry is rooted in the fundamental belief that Adventist education compliments the work of the church that is, saving souls for the kingdom of God.

STAN: *What is one of your favorite teaching moments?*

DENNIS: Perhaps my most memorable teaching moment happened many years ago while teaching in the public school system. I noticed a student who recently enrolled in my class was avoiding regular classwork and utilized his time drawing sport cars.

After several encounters, I finally asked him to tell me why he was refusing to do any work except drawing cars. He reluctantly told me that he had been placed in special education classes all his life and he did nothing meaningful, because he was dumb. Even his mother had told him that he was dumb and that he would not be successful in life.

I told him that he couldn't stay in my class if he refused to try and that I would be willing to spend some time with him if he showed any interest. He refused to respond and kept on drawing. As I observed his drawing, I became convinced that he had a special gift. I said to him, "Eric, you have a gift from God, and I can see you going places if you make an effort to learn. I can see you designing cars for Ford or GM." This idea caught his attention, and he responded, without looking at me: "You really think so?" I said that I did, and he kept on drawing. I left him.

The next day he approached my desk and asked if I would help him with his work. I said that I would, and we developed a good working relationship. He eventually

graduated one year after his peers. Several years later, Eric visited the school and came to see me. I was happy to see him, smartly dressed. He invited me outside to see his car. It was a red sports car, fully loaded.

The first thought that came to my mind was negative, thinking that his achievement was linked to pushing drugs. So I asked him about his employment. He smiled and said that he was working for Chrysler in the drafting department. Then he shook my hand and said, "Thanks." I was dumbfounded.

STAN: *What makes up our Adventist education system in Canada?*

DENNIS: Currently we have 45 schools comprised of 2 boarding academies—Kingsway College in Oshawa and Parkview Adventist Academy in Lacombe, Alberta; 8 senior academies, 9 junior academies, 29 elementary schools and two K-12 online schools (Distributed Learning). Our school enrollment is 3,515 students and we have 299 teachers.

STAN: *What do you say to parents who struggle to decide between sacrificing financially to send their children to an Adventist school or sending them to a free public school?*

DENNIS: Parents who believe that Adventist education plays a pivotal role in their children's character development, do all that is necessary to ensure that their children receive an Adventist education. To me, Adventist education is the best choice. On average, over 85% of our high school graduates enroll in higher education both in public and Adventist colleges and universities, and a great percentage remain loyal to the church in adult life. So I encourage parents to believe in our educational system, make the sacrifice and trust in God for success. God has a way of making the impossible, possible.

STAN: *Would you mind sharing your vision for Adventist Education in Canada?*

DENNIS: It is my desire that every Adventist child be given the opportunity to have an Adventist education, that parents would see Adventist schools as their schools designed by God for their children's education and salvation. It is my vision that pastors, conference administrators, teachers, parents and other stakeholders would be united in purpose to advance the cause of Adventist education, thus making it the first choice for the education of our boys and girls. If this should happen, our schools will become the greatest evangelistic agency contributing to church growth, providing successful and well-rounded citizens for this world and the world to come. ■

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

The Spirit of Christmas Giving is Year-round for Canadians

Together, you and ADRA Canada have provided opportunity where previously there was despair. Together, you and ADRA Canada have provided families the ability to lay out a feast on their table with foods grown and harvested from gardens they learned to sow, tend and harvest through agricultural training. Together, you and ADRA Canada provided financial stability to a rural community, protecting young children from exploitation by predators. Together, you and ADRA Canada, in 2012, have created a Christmas that lasts throughout the year for over 85,000 beneficiaries.

What we have accomplished over the last year, over the last 27 years, is amazing! We have brought hope, self-reliance and security to thousands around the world. For them, your generosity, your willingness to support them, even though they are unknown to you, is a testament to each and every one of those who benefit from the work of ADRA.

Many of you will choose to give a gift from the ADRA Canada Really Useful Gift catalogue at Christmas, and these gifts create so many opportunities. This year there are many new and wonderful gifts, and the catalogue is good all year long; so like me, you may choose to purchase something for another special occasion, for a hostess, an anniversary, a birthday, or maybe just because. Whatever the reason, each time you purchase one of the many gifts, you are helping improve lives in developing countries.

This Christmas, as you share time with your family, as you open your gifts, and as you dine at your table, I hope you will remember also the gift you have provided to so many. Know that could they thank you themselves, it would be with endless blessings. ■

Christmas is upon us, and as you bustle from store to store, as you prepare for family dinner, and as you attend numerous get-togethers and functions in celebration of the holiday season, I hope you will also take a moment to pat yourself on the back for the wonderful generosity you have shown to underprivileged individuals through your contributions over this last year to support development.

Alicia Sawyer is Communication coordinator at ADRA Canada.

www.adra.ca/gift catalogue



NCB BLIND CAMPS A New Beginning Eagerly Anticipated!



Marie Rutter-Look and her seeing-eye dog, Parade.

My Christian Record Services/National Camps for the Blind experiences started back in the spring of 1996. I, a 14-year-old girl, was looking to have fun just like all my sighted friends who got to play sports, go to camp and hang out during the summer break. I was at the W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind on a week-long trial basis, as I was considering attending classes there in the fall. Midway through the week, I heard on the morning announcements that someone was going to be giving out summer camp forms in the student centre and that there was minimal cost to go. I decided I'd check it out.

That's where I met Ed Ritsema, a CRS/NCB Representative. He asked me if I had ever been to any of the National Camps for the Blind. When I said "no," he immediately and quite enthusiastically started spewing information about what the camp had to offer: from boat rides and swimming to horsemanship and crafts and everything in between. Camp Frenda was the place to be!

Ed also asked me if I had been to any other summer camp programs. I again replied that I hadn't. And when he asked why, I explained that my parents told me it was too expensive and too far to drive. He smiled and said that these would not be problems with this camp, as most of the cost and transportation was covered by loving donors who thought that blind kids should have a chance to enjoy summer camp too. With an application fee of only \$25 and pick-up points in Brantford, Hamilton and Toronto, it was both convenient and affordable for parents to send their children on a week-long adventure with Jesus. I couldn't help but get my hopes up that I could convince my parents to let me go.

When I got home that Friday afternoon, I couldn't wait to tell my mom and dad about this seemingly too-good-to-be-true opportunity. My mom was skeptical. Skeptical that this organization she had never heard of was willing to send her daughter to a camp she had never heard of for such an affordable price. My dad, on the other hand, told me to jump at the chance to go out and have new experiences with other blind people.

At the time I didn't know anyone else with a visual impairment. I was born with bilateral Coloboma affecting the optic nerves, retina, choroid, pupil and iris. Basically, my entire optic system was underdeveloped since birth; a hereditary deformity, although family members with this condition had passed before I was born. I felt alone in my struggles. My dad told me he would gladly drive me to the pick-up location in Brantford if it meant that his only child was finally going to have what she so desperately wanted: to be just like everyone else and to have fun. My dad still drives me to catch the bus to camp, despite whatever he may be doing—even if it means rescheduling a haul delivery time. He does it because he knows how much these camps mean to me and how they changed my life.

A few months later on an early August morning, I eagerly loaded my luggage, which I had packed a week before in anticipation, into the back of the pickup truck. I was so nervous and excited. I didn't know whom I'd meet or what to expect. All I knew was that I didn't know anyone and that I couldn't wait to get there. The ride to Brantford seemed to take forever! Upon our arrival, Ed, with a friendly smile and much chatter, greeted my dad and me. This reassured us that we had made the right decision.

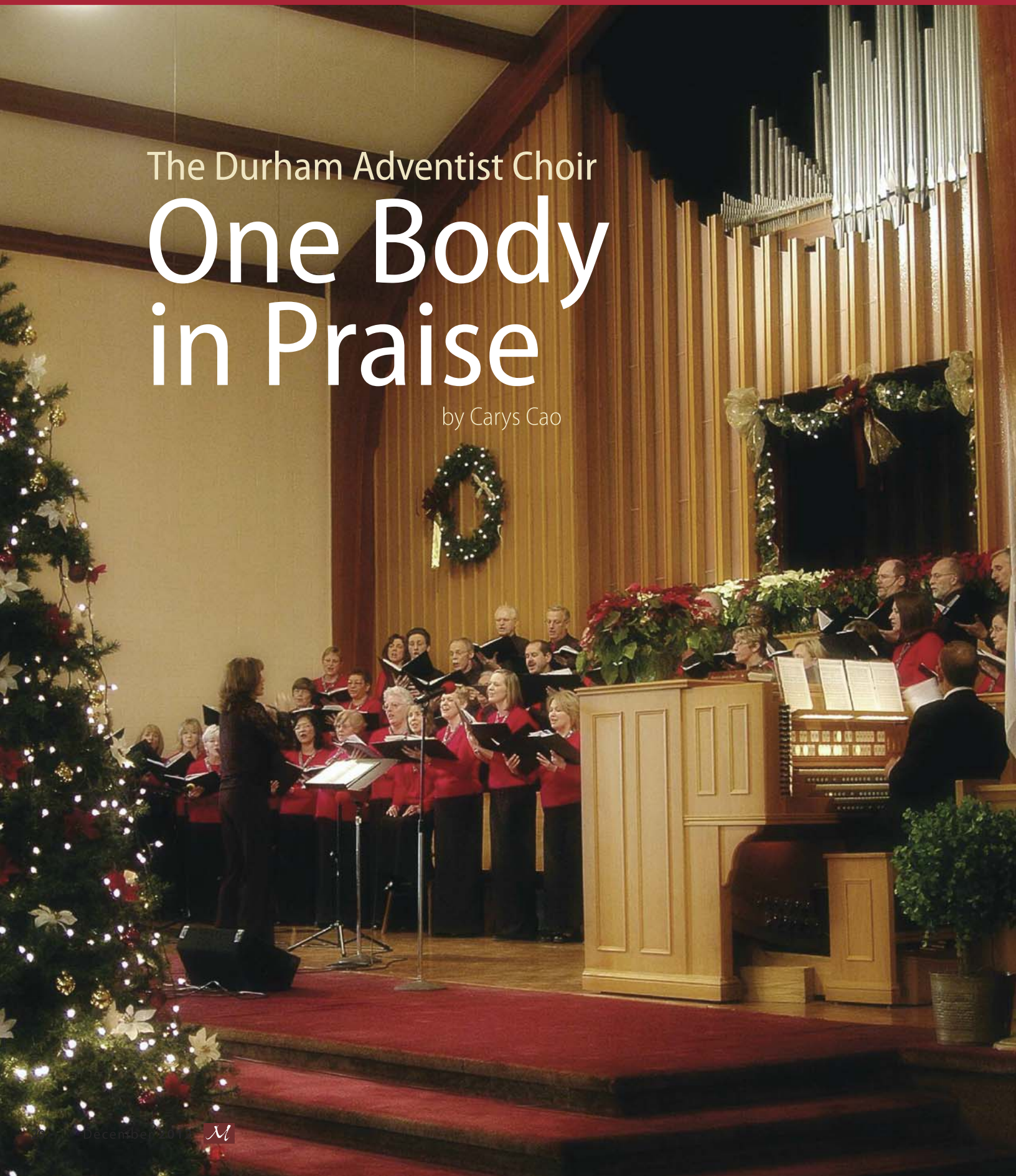
I will never forget that first year at summer camp. I participated in so many activities I'd never done before or even considered doing: repelling down a mountain side, archery, water tubing, paddle boating and swimming in the beautiful waters of Lake Rosseau, which remains my most cherished activity of all. Participating in all these activities with other blind people, both young and old, gave me an incredible boost of self-confidence. For the first time, I really felt that it didn't matter that I was blind—I could do anything! The energetic and friendly staff and volunteers who guided us around and provided words of encouragement made the week go smoothly. I had so much fun and made so many new friends with fellow campers, staff and volunteers, that the week seemed to go by so quickly, and at the end of it, I didn't want to leave. ■

Marie Rutter-Look is a patron of National Camps for the Blind. She lives in xxxxxx. Part 2 of her story will be published in the next issue of the Messenger.

The Durham Adventist Choir

One Body in Praise

by Carys Cao



"It became a tie that binds and a means for us to express our eternal gratitude for our salvation."

You want us to do what?"

"Join the Durham Adventist Choir!
It will be so much fun!"

"But, you know I can't sing!"

"It doesn't matter. Sharon Foreman is
so good, she can teach us to sing!"

When I mentioned this conversation to our choir's director, Sharon Janes Foreman, she cracked a smile and started laughing. Admittedly, this is a far cry from what most choir directors would want to hear of prospective members, but it was music to her ears. I asked her to explain why she is so gracious in extending membership to her choir. She replied, "If the goal is to be a community choir, and not a professional choir, then the choir needs to be built from the community." After having taught voice lessons and choirs for 30 years, she firmly believes that if someone can carry a tune and match a pitch, that person can learn to sing in a choir. Other than Sharon and her accompanist husband, Greg Foreman, only a few of our members have any advanced musical training. Sharon doesn't only conduct her singers; she educates them and gives them the opportunity to spread the gospel through song.

In January 1997, when asked by the members of the board to organize a choir at College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Oshawa, Sharon replied that she was not really interested. The thought of weekly performances and a choir made from a finite supply of voices wasn't the most appealing to her. She had a different vision, a vision of a united body of voices, voices from different churches, churches united in love: the love of singing praise to their Heavenly Father.

Sharon made her counteroffer. Would the College Park church board approve some funds for the start of a community-based choir that did not belong to them? They did, and the Durham Adventist Choir was born, open to men and women from College Park, Kendalwood, New Life, and Bowmanville, and nearly 35 of us signed on. In 1998 the first choir members from other Christian faiths

came to join us. Children of choir members came home from university and wanted in on the fun. Singers encouraged their friends and co-workers to join, and the numbers, as well as the music, swelled. Since then we have grown to a group of 67 members, who range in age from early teens to mid-70s. We come from all over Canada, the United States, South America, Great Britain, the West Indies, Europe, India, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. We come together because of our love of singing to, for, and about God and His gift of salvation. In spite of all of our differences, this unites.

A democracy in all ways but one, the choir has a voice in all decisions, except music selection. Early on, Sharon asked us what style of music we wanted to perform. Since our members were different ages, had different cultural backgrounds and different worship styles, this could have caused division. Amazingly, we discovered that each of us had one desire in common: to sing contemporary repertoire that shared the gospel's message. With this in mind, Sharon decides which pieces we sing. Often when challenged by a particularly difficult selection, we wish we had the power to veto her decisions. However, once she has taught the music to us, those

same difficult pieces often become our favourites. We have seen over and over how the music chosen for each season touches us at specific times in our lives. God speaks to and through each choir member, giving comfort and uplifting not only our audiences' faith but also our own.

Throughout the years, we have eagerly accepted invitations to sing at Seventh-day Adventist, Baptist, United, Methodist, Catholic, Anglican, Christian Reform and Pentecostal churches throughout the Golden Horseshoe area in Ontario. In 2003, we received a call to minister through song at the Pugwash campmeeting in Nova Scotia. Waste this opportunity to spread God's love? Not a chance. We raised the funds, and off we went. In 2007, we once again had the opportunity to travel east. This time it was to Newfoundland, where many choir members could trace their roots.

The point of a community choir is not only to use the community but also to build community. Performing and travelling together for the last 15 years, we now feel like family. We attend and sing for one another's weddings, pray for one another's loved ones, and volunteer to help one another. When cancer and



Durham Adventist Choir Director, Sharon Foreman, with her husband, Greg Foreman



other serious diseases strike, our choir family is there to help. Meals are prepared, housework attended to, yards cleaned up and driveways shoveled. And when the time comes for us to bury our own, we mourn together. Songs of our Saviour's coming and the resurrection take on fresh meaning when we sing them at the funerals of our loved ones, cementing in our minds the assurance of salvation.

Not only does our choir family grow closer through song, but our biological families have also grown closer. A number of spouses and siblings sing together, cousins, in-laws, aunts and uncles, parents and children. Entire families sing together, including one family of five. Children who when they were small, sat in the pews and listened to their parents sing, grew old enough to accompany our choir in a children's chorus and are now full members, singing alongside their parents. One couple, now married for seven years,

even met and started their lives together through the Durham Adventist Choir.

Because our choir does not belong to any one church, it is not bound by the decisions of any one church board. Where this gives us a certain amount of freedom, it also presents a few challenges. One of these is funding. There is no money set aside in any church budget for us, but this has not gotten in the way of our ministry. Choir members are not paid. Instead, we pay for our own transportation and uniforms. At most of our singing engagements, a free-will offering is collected; at some, a stipend is given. Even others are performed with no expectation of payment, but there is always enough money at the start of each season to purchase new music and continue on in song.

When I asked Sharon if she had any idea that the choir she started in 1997 would grow into what it is today, she

replied, "Definitely not!" It surpassed any expectations she may have had for its success. It became a tie that binds and a means for us to express our eternal gratitude for our salvation. As the Bible describes God's church as having many parts, it seems it also describes our choir. If the whole choir would be soprano, where would the deep bass tones be? If it was made of only tenors, when would we hear the harmonic tones of the altos? But as it is, God chose each member of our group to fulfil a specific need. There are many parts but one body (1 Cor. 12). Unity through diversity, united through love. Beautiful melodies strung throughout our community. ■

In late 1997 Carys Cao joined her parents in the DAC. Seven years later she was joined by her husband.

Moving Hearts and Minds

NAD Teachers' Convention connects educators

“never forget that the mission of our schools is evangelism.”

On August 5–8, 2012, educators from the nine unions across the North American Division (NAD) and from Guam-Micronesia, the newest NAD territory, converged at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tenn., for the NAD Teachers' Convention held once every six years. Educators also arrived from South Africa, China and Europe. Altogether, approximately 6,300 educators came to be part of what many have described as the best NAD teachers' convention held so far.

Larry Blackmer, vice-president for Education for the North American Division, opened the convention with an enthusiastic welcome, stating emphatically that the reason that Adventist education exists is for the salvation of our children as portrayed in the convention theme, *Moving Hearts and Minds Upward*. Dr. Carlton Byrd, speaker/director of the weekly *Breath of Life* television ministry and senior pastor of Oakwood University Church was the keynote speaker. He kicked off the convention with a heart-stirring message of hope and service exhorting us to make Jesus famous and challenged teachers to “never forget that the mission of our schools is evangelism.”

Dr. Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, was our devotional speaker. It was amazing to see thousands of teachers filling up the huge auditorium every morning to listen to his dynamic messages on prayer. We were also inspired and motivated by the excellent general session speakers, the varied breakout sessions and the inspiring music rendered by various artists, including our own Charmaine Dunchie, Grade 6 teacher from Crawford Adventist Academy, Toronto. Musical concerts featured The Isaacs, a Christian country gospel music group; Committed, an award-winning

singing group composed of graduates from Oakwood University; and The Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy choir.

More than 500 breakout sessions offered teachers professional growth opportunities covering topics such as classroom management, dealing with bullying, and technology resources. Several sessions focused on new NAD curriculum initiatives including *Stepping Stones*, the new kindergarten curriculum, and *ByDesign*, the creation-based elementary science series. In addition, Early Childhood Education and Care was officially welcomed as part of the education system across the division, and many ECE Center administrators and teachers joined the team of educators who attended the convention.

The convention ended on a high spiritual note. The last day commenced with an early morning anointing service and concluded with a commitment service officiated by Dan Jackson, president of the NAD. Jackson thanked the teachers for their leadership in God's cause, emphasizing that “it's not about you and me when we're doing God's work; it's about what God is doing that counts. ... There is only one true north,” he said, “Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and let it never be said there's another.”

Teachers left the convention feeling valued, empowered, connected and encouraged. Jeannie Costopoulos, of Valley View Seventh-day Adventist Christian School in Scottsbluff, Neb., in an interview with the *Adventist Review* remarked, “I left the convention spiritually renewed, professionally refreshed, filled with new ideas and better equipped to return to the classroom. This was truly using our resources in a very practical manner.” Samantha Dingman, one of our teachers from Greaves Adventist Academy in Montreal said, “Teachers in

small schools sometimes feel very isolated, like we're the only ones dealing with problems. Here there are so many other teachers from all over who are challenged by similar things, so it's very encouraging to know I'm not alone.”

More than 200 Adventist educators from across Canada experienced these blessings, not only blessings of professional and spiritual growth, but also the blessings of networking with one another as part of a team of educators in Canada. Our red Canadian shirts, the flags we waved when our union was introduced, the special supper we shared at The Old Spaghetti Factory ... these were only small tokens of the greater blessing we experienced knowing we are part of a Canada-wide team called by God to educate our children and youth for time and for eternity.

As we reflect on the convention highlights—the powerful presentations, the enlightening breakout sessions, the morning worships, the early morning exercise sessions, the anointing and commitment services, the many educational displays in the 150 exhibit booths and our time together as Canadian Adventist teachers—we cannot help but give God thanks for the gift of Adventist education and the privilege of being part of this worldwide educational system concerned about our children's salvation.

It is appropriate to end this article with the following statement by Ellen G. White: “When I was shown by the angel of God that an institution should be established for the education of our youth, I saw that it would be one of the greatest means ordained of God for the salvation of souls” (*Christian Education*, p. 24). ■

Dennis Marshall is general vice-president and director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist church in Canada.

GOD IS AT WORK. EVERYWHERE. IN EVERYONE. SOMETIMES IT JUST TAKES OPENING OUR EYES AND EARS AND "SIXTH SENSES" TO EXPERIENCE HIS OMNIPRESENCE. OUR CHURCH EXPERIENCED THIS REALITY AGAIN, FOR THE SIXTH YEAR, WHEN OUR HOME TEAM MINISTRY EMBARKED ON ANOTHER INTENSE, WEEK-LONG EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER PROJECT FOR A WELL-DESERVING FAMILY. LIKE IT IS EVERY YEAR, GOD'S KINGDOM WAS ADVANCED IN SEPTEMBER IN MAPLE RIDGE, B.C., DURING CORNERSTONE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH'S ANNUAL PROJECT.

REPAIRING HOMES

THE HOME TEAM

CHANGING LIVES

BY STEVAN MIRKOVICH



OUR VOLUNTEERS engage when they hear the stories of the families we are helping. Like this year's story, about the Gagnon family, who had suffered and battled for the past eight years. Their grown daughter, Deandra, and two grandsons were in a terrible motor vehicle accident that left Deandra with a very serious brain injury and in a coma for months, only to later begin the arduous task of recovering some of her speech and limited mobility. Mike and Angie, Deandra's parents, reacted the way any parent or grandparent would; they stepped in to do all they could to help their family. However, their home was not what it needed to be to care for a recovering daughter and two growing, soon-to-be teenagers. But with all that was going on in their lives, hope ran out, finances suffered, energy faded, dependency set in and their home renovation project stalled out, leaving the family home in an awkward state.

For 10 days the team, which is amassed and assembled by a huge network that extends deep into the Metro-Vancouver community, worked tirelessly and selflessly, giving, when for many there is next to nothing left in the tank to give. Everyone works free of charge—the only real and tangible return comes from the recognition that this is making a difference, one family at a time.

So while daily everyone on the team is able to see the changes—old, malfunctioning things being torn out and replaced with new walls, windows, roofs, siding, plumbing, electrical, drywall, cabinets and appliances—everyone knows that the biggest difference will come in the ensuing months and years, when the family is empowered and motivated to patch back together the rest of their lives.

The whole event, a massive renovation that in this year's case amounted to approximately \$350,000 in value—all selflessly donated by local businesses—is actually a very fitting symbolic representation of the personal transformation that takes place when we encounter the life-transforming Good News of the kingdom. The process is very reminiscent of Paul's statement to the Corinthians, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:7, ESV).

But something even more amazing than meets the eye actually happens every year. And the more I think about it, the more it continues to amaze me. Let's be clear here: most of our volunteers are business owners and their employees and families, and the truth is that the vast majority of these people who bring this project together do not claim Jesus as either Lord or Saviour. But because of a collection of dedicated leaders at Cornerstone who, through our projects, provide an environment for our community to engage in kingdom building, we witness this miracle: people acting like Jesus. This ministry opportunity brings people together to do something that resembles the kinds of things Jesus did while He walked this earth. In Luke 4:18,19, Jesus announces His ministry: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people" (GNB).

The work during our week together also takes cues from "the



The Gagnon family

least of these" passage in Matthew 25, where Jesus enumerates a broad variety of activities that together sketch a picture of discipleship modeled after Jesus. Intriguingly, the people in that passage don't even realize what they are doing: "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you?" they ask, to which Jesus replies, "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!" (Matt. 25:35–40, GNB). Guess what? Neither do many of the business people and labourers helping with the Home Team realize whom they are serving.

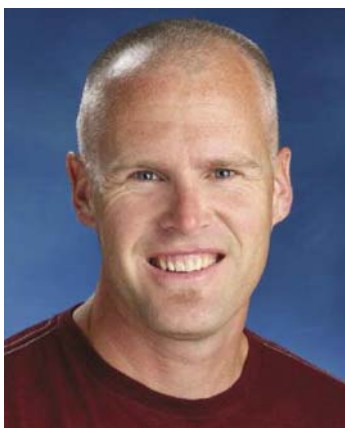
So why do they do it? In Luke 17:20, 21, Jesus makes one of his more enigmatic statements in response to the Pharisees asking about the coming kingdom. He says, "The Kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen. No one will say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!'; because the Kingdom of God is within you." It seems as though within each person, hidden, sometimes in nascent form, is this capacity to be kingdom builders. God does and will use anyone and everyone as an agent for establishing this gentle revolution, a new direction, a passing from death to resurrection, a different kind of kingdom, God's kingdom.

A family was broken and hurting. The Gagnons had endured more than any family should be subjected to. Those nasty intruders—pain and suffering, darkness and confusion, death and dependency—were threatening and, in fact, had made an indelible mark on their lives. Hopelessness had begun to set in. And if it weren't for that persistent sandlike little mustard seed kingdom that Christ had begun, restoration and renewal would not have been possible. And so the powers and forces of evil were pushed back by a team of people who, through a God-inspired intuition, knew that this was a good work, indeed Good News! ■

Stevan Mirkovich is the pastor of the Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church in Coquitlam, B.C., and one of the 12 core members of the Home Team.

“Why We Are Here”

A Conversation with Adam Mohns



“... my purpose ... is to be a positive role model who is focusing on eternity.”

ADAM MOHNS graduated from Southern University in 1997 with a B.Sc and physical education degree, as well as teaching credentials in Bible and elementary schooling.

Adam has previously taught at Crawford

Adventist Academy, College Park Elementary School and in the Ontario public school system, before joining Kingsway College.

In the short time that Adam Mohns has been a teacher of religion here at Kingsway College, he has seen positive spiritual changes made here on campus.

For the third year in a row, time has been made during the school day for students to study the Bible.

Over 50% of the student body has independently elected to take the Bible Studies that are offered. As a result of the Bible Studies held in the 2011-2012 school year, there were quite a few baptisms that took place last June.

We recently sat down to have a one-on-one interview with Adam at Kingsway College.

K.C.: *Adam, why teach at Kingsway College?*

A.M.: I chose Kingsway College because I believe in the mission of the school; in the spiritual, academic, social and physical development of the whole student.

K.C.: *What classes do you teach?*

A.M.: I teach Religion, or as I like to call it, Bible class. I want my students to know what they believe in, I want to teach them to be thinkers and doers of the Word, and to be both citizens of planet earth and of the Heavenly Kingdom.

I want my students to know that I take Religion class seriously because it has eternal importance.

K.C.: *How do you demonstrate your seriousness?*

A.M.: I expect that my students are coming to class prepared, and are ready to be engaged. I have them look up answers in the Bible and generate thoughtful answers.

K.C.: *How does one teach Religion to children who have grown up as Adventists vs. students who have no religious background?*

A.M.: That’s a difficult tightrope to walk. I have to cover the necessary curriculum in a semester, and yet go slow enough so that those kids without a Bible background can keep up.

Adventist kids definitely have an advantage as they have had time to previously learn and comprehend Biblical concepts.

K.C.: *Do you feel that you are witnessing to your students?*

A.M.: Yes I do, and I desire to see the end results of being used by the Holy Spirit!

I hope that my enthusiasm for the subject that I teach, in turn, creates enthusiasm among my students.

K.C.: *What are some of the obstacles in teaching Religion to the youth?*

A.M.: Unlike elementary children who are more forward and demonstrative when learning new things, high school students show signs of “masking” or “keeping their guard up” in front of their peers and are often unwilling to step out.

It is usually some kind of life incident that forces decision and change in the religious and spiritual experience. It is then, that students begin to step forward.

K.C.: *What are the highlights of being a teacher of Religion at Kingsway College?*

A.M.: The highlight of teaching is definitely in seeing when “Truth” makes sense, when I see the happiness and joy that comes only from the Holy Spirit.

In addition, I have personally been rewarded by seeing several students blossom spiritually. Seeing glimpses of the Holy Spirit’s workings reminds me of why I am really here and what my purpose is here at Kingsway College, and that is to be a positive role model who is focusing on eternity.

K.C.: *What would be your ideal outcome for students here at Kingsway College?*

A.M.: I would hope to see our youth taking leadership roles and ownership in witnessing Jesus to the community and beyond. That is why we are here! ■

Jennifer Parent is development coordinator for Kingsway College.

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

British Columbia

Passionate Focus on Youth

What's the best thing that's happened to you?



I work at Langley Memorial Hospital. As I'm starting a client's IV, I often ask, "What is the best thing that's happened to you this week?"

This gets the client's mind off the IV I'm starting and usually starts a good conversation. Now, the best thing about asking a question like this is that it often comes right back to me. "What is the best thing that's happened to you?" they ask back. I reply, "Mountain View Summer Camp."

For eight years I have volunteered at Mountain View Summer Camp (MVSC). The joys of service are numerous. One particular Thursday Chris came in for his treatment. I asked Chris the question, and he soon turned it back to me.

As I excitedly told him of MVSC, he said, "I always wanted to go to summer camp as a kid. I have a son, 10 years old. I would love to have him go to camp." I just happened to have a brochure, which I shared with him.

A couple days later, I was shopping in a grocery store across the border in Lynden, Wash. To my surprise, I turned the corner of an aisle and heard, "There's the summer camp lady!"

It was Chris with his two sons. Jarron, the 10-year-old, looked at me with sparkly eyes: "Dad has the camp brochure on the coffee table. I've been looking through it," he said.

"Oh, I hope you can come," I replied.

Weeks went by. Chris was back in our clinic. "I don't think I'm going to be able to send Jarron to camp this year," he told me sadly. "We just can't afford it; \$365 is just too much for us this summer." Chris and I talked a bit more about camp and he left.

Our clinic consists of a room with six recliners. The clients sit, talk and read while receiving their medication. There was only one other lady in the room that day.

On Tuesday the next week, I received a call at work. "Something personal," the note said and had Janet's name, one of our clients, written on it. Curious, I phoned her. "I just can't get that man's son out of my mind," Janet said. "I've been thinking about him all weekend, and I want to help him go to camp."

"How much are you willing to donate?" I asked.

"Two hundred dollars," she said. "Do you think the rest of the money will come in?"

"We have a big God," I replied. "Yes, I think somehow it will come in."

What do you think my story is now when I'm asked how my week is going? It's about the miracle client who is paying for a child she's never met to go to summer camp!

Well, the next week, as I'm telling another client what a great unit we have and how people are caring for one another, Lenna pulls \$40 cash out of her wallet. "I want to help Jarron attend camp!"

With that affirmation I phoned Chris with the good news. Chris signed Jarron up, agreed to pay \$50, and I said God would come up with the rest of the money. A week later a third client asked me, "Have you received all the money for Chris's son to be able to go to camp?"

"No," I replied. "We are still \$75 short."

Diana pulled out her cheque book. A minute later I was holding the final amount for the summer camp fee. "I want to be a part of the solution," Diana said, "and sending a child to camp is a good thing."

Jarron was able to attend the first week of Junior Camp, July 8-15. That's the best thing that happened to me this week! ■

*Pamela Wahl, Volunteer,
Mountain View Summer Camp*

Education for Eternity

Cesar Antonio Ysa Smith was born into a Catholic home in Lima, Peru. When it was time for him to start school, his parents enrolled him in the Union Seventh-day Adventist school, as they wanted the best education possible for him. He stayed there for 10 years, then transferred to a public school. But the friends he had made there stayed in contact with him and encouraged him.

In the year 2000, Cesar's mother moved to Penticton, B.C. Cesar joined her three years later. So did his sister, younger brother, and niece. Life was good.

But for the last three years, Cesar says something was troubling him. He felt that he needed to change his lifestyle and way of thinking. His Adventist friends in Peru encouraged him. Finally, he decided to contact the Adventist church to learn more about God and phoned Pastor Greg Wellman.

"The change happened two years ago," Cesar says. "God was calling me for some reason. He has a plan for me. When I was a child in the Adventist school, I made friends with Christian boys. It was a part of me that never went away. I always felt in my heart that I should follow God."

Studying the Bible with Pastor



Pastor Greg Wellman baptizing Cesar Antonio Ysa Smith.

Wellman, Cesar readily accepted all the doctrines. There was only one problem. His job required him to work Friday nights and Saturdays. Pastor Wellman wrote a letter to his employer, explaining the Biblical reasons for Sabbath observance, and Cesar was granted both Fridays and Saturdays off.

In gratitude to God, Cesar was baptized the very next Sabbath, the first day he was

able to attend church. Cesar's story is just one of many examples of how Adventist schools can plant seeds for eternity in the hearts of its students. May God continue to bless all of our schools so that they will fulfill their potential in making an eternal difference. ■

*Elfriede Volk,
Communication Secretary,
Penticton Seventh-day
Adventist church*



Purple Cow Education

When something is healthy, it will grow—our house plants, the local community garden, our own children. God has created organic systems everywhere that mature and bear fruit in the right environment.

In Adventist education the same principle applies. We strive to design healthy schools that grow. Oftentimes, in the process of developing a school, we look at marketing to improve our image and assist with growth. And there is sometimes a perception that if we'd only do better marketing (get a great website, design newer graphics and create more buzz with promotional videos), our organization would thrive.

Research shows that strategically planned marketing can draw attention to an organization and increase its popularity, or market reach, and ultimately affect its growth. But no matter how much marketing we do, the image created by that marketing must match the internal environment when we step inside to experience the organization.

Seth Godin, marketing expert and author of the best seller *Purple Cow: Transform Your Business by Being Remarkable*, explains the principle this way: if something is truly remarkable, it's worth talking about. In other words, it's going to make you want to buy the product or service because it's so amazing.

Godin teaches that businesses and organizations in the twenty-first century must find ways to stand out—to be a purple cow in a field of monochrome Holsteins. But Godin’s real zinger is that this can only happen when the organization itself has identified clearly what it does that is truly remarkable.

As a marketer I’ve found this concept to be, well, remarkably true! Working in an independent Christian school, I follow a traditional plan for basic marketing, understand what stakeholders expect for their school, increase communication among all constituents and help the organization create a greater presence. But this can only be successful because I have the privilege of working in a school that knows why it is remarkable. For years, teachers, administrators and board

members have had a clear picture of the kind of school they want to be, namely, one that resembles a family, with Jesus at the centre, where nurturing and developing each family member matters more than anything else. In this family everyone is welcome, no matter what their culture, background or religion, and everyone is provided the resources they need to learn, grow and excel. (In this context it operates as a mission school, reaching out to its local community.) The vision of the school has not changed in nearly two decades.

And while no school is perfect, this collective, intentional vision has helped create an environment for growth, moving the school slowly and steadily to its present, highest enrolment of 276 students—40 percent of whom are community, non-Adventist students. And interestingly,

internal surveys among parents and students always indicate, without a doubt, that what they value the most at their school is the caring and accepting family atmosphere.

So our school is a purple cow, not because good marketing has made it that way, but because the people inside know what makes it remarkable. And every day students and parents alike tell other students and parents about their remarkable school ... and true marketing happens. This marketing could never be created, bought or designed. It is marketing that matches the natural reality of everyday life.

And that’s a purple cow worth talking about. ■

*Gaileen Woytko,
Community Relations
and Marketing,
Deer Lake School*

How One Woman Made a Difference



Anna Singbeil handles donation receipts on a volunteer basis.

An 86-year-old woman from Chilliwack, B.C., is easily identified as one of the most influential Canadians to affect the aid organization Maranatha Volunteers International.

Maranatha facilitates volunteer projects to construct urgently needed buildings around the world. Anna Singbeil and her husband, Clarence, volunteered on Maranatha projects all over the world for many years as well as sat on Maranatha’s

Canadian Association Board. They loved serving hands-on in places like Brazil, Guatemala and India. It was on a trip to Panama that Anna remembers Maranatha asking her to help create a presence in Canada. “I said, ‘Sure!’” smiles Anna.

Based in the United States, the Adventist supporting ministry was unable to provide tax-deductible receipts for any donation coming from Canada at the time. Anna agreed to manage all

Canadian funds for the organization on a volunteer basis. Her commitment to service changed the way Canadians were able to interact as volunteers and as donors.

Since Anna began issuing receipts, Canadian volunteering has increased 98 percent, and Maranatha has had a 921 percent increase in donation receipts from Canada. The results are a testament to the power of one volunteer.

“I don’t know how we would have been able to get established in Canada without having someone as a physical presence in the country,” says Maranatha director of donor administration, Shawnda McCaleb. “She has really been a lifesaver for us!”

Anna is now retiring from her post after 16 years. Many volunteers will miss her friendly response to their calls and letters. At the Maranatha headquarters there are a lot of smiles when Anna is mentioned. “I want her to always know that we love her and will miss her in the role,” says McCaleb. ■

*Carrie Purkeypile,
Maranatha Volunteers
International*

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Man.-Sask. Pastors Trained as Church Plant Coaches



Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference pastors gathered at Camp Whitesand the weekend of September 28–30 for an intensive training session with Tom Evans and Walter Allred. Tom Evans is an associate director at the North American Division Evangelistic Institute and previously was the church planting coordinator for the Texas Conference, where he coordinated the planting of 114 new congregations in nine years. Walter Allred is currently serving as a pastor in Texas, where he also coaches several lay church planters.

The goal of our three-day training session at Camp Whitesand was to equip our pastors with the skills they need to be effective coaches. Our focus was on coaching lay church planters. However, the coaching skills acquired by our pastors will be valuable in many different contexts.

The 15-hour Church Plant Coaching Certification Course prepared our pastors to empower committed lay people to raise up new congregations in our conference. Some of these congregations will meet in rented venues. Others will meet in the

homes of our church members. The house church approach will enable us to reach into many of the small towns scattered across Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

My hope is that by the end of 2013 every Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference pastor will be actively coaching a lay church planter. This model has worked amazingly well in Texas, where thousands of new members have come into the church as a direct result of church planting. This model will also work well here in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

We have already seen it work effectively in Winnipeg. The Transcona church was established back in 2006 by Franklin St. Bernard, a gifted layperson who sensed that God was calling him to plant a new church on the east side of Winnipeg. Franklin and his team of 22 committed Christ-followers launched the Transcona Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the last five years, the Transcona church has welcomed 26 new members by baptism or profession of faith. Today over 50 people gather for worship each Sabbath.

Many of these individuals would never have become Seventh-day Adventists were it not for a committed layperson who responded to the call of God to launch a new church.

Ellen White said, “I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God’s word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world” (Testimonies, vol. 9, pp. 28, 29). The day will come when there will be a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in every city and village in our conference. I believe that most of these new congregations will be launched by dedicated lay people. Could it be that one of those “jets of light” Ellen White saw in her vision is a church God is calling you to launch? ■

*Jeff Potts,
Executive Secretary,
Man.-Sask. Conference*

Man-Sask Elders Trained at Camp Whitesand



The Leadership Retreat recently held at Camp Whitesand drew pastors and elders of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference together into a forum designed to inform and challenge us to prayerfully develop strategies to advance Christ's kingdom within our field.

The meetings the elders attended intentionally focused on the essential elements crucial to church growth as identified by Natural Church Development, such as Empowering Leadership

(Developing Leadership Skills), Passionate Spirituality (Prayer, Spiritual Disciplines) and Effective Structures (Improving Communication).

Groups focused on each element and discussed their thoughts collectively. It was a rich informative discussion that will greatly assist conference leadership and staff as we develop strategies to better serve in our field.

It is with grateful hearts that we seek to glorify God in our efforts to edify the

body of Christ and to extend the borders of His kingdom.

My heart was warmed by the dialogue and the commitment of leadership to come together in this manner. As we take up our respective duties, may the Lord help us to focus and move forward in active service for Him. ■

*Ron Nelson, President,
Man.-Sask. Conference*

Alberta

Let's Move

On October 23, 2012, the Ponoka Seventh-day Adventist Church sponsored a "Let's Move" 5-10K walk/bike/run to promote exercise, to raise money for the development of the trans-Canada trail through Ponoka, and to make the church more visible in our community.

It was the first time the Ponoka church had held an event on such a large scale, and there are plans to make it an annual event.

The participants ranged in age, from four, to 95 years old.

Janice Clark brought her grade five students from Mamawi Atosketan Native School, to participate. Gifts were donated by town businesses and one of Janice's



Left: Our oldest participant, Alma Reimche, with her daughter, Loma Boyd, who also did the 5K walk. Right: Our youngest participant, Shanen Walsh, refueling after her 5K walk.



students won a prize in the draw.

The church was able to raise over seventeen hundred dollars, which is to be matched by the government. Through, this outreach, many people were met on the town council, in businesses and,

and in the neighborhood. It was a good opportunity for the Ponoka Church to do something positive for the community. ■

*Phyllis Shoop, Personal Ministries,
Ponoka Seventh-day Adventist Church*

General Conference

A Call for Worldwide Prayer



Church members around the world are invited to participate in the upcoming 10 Days of Prayer initiative (formerly called Operation Global Rain), January 9–19, 2013. The theme for the 10 Days of Prayer is taken from 2 Peter 1:1–11, where Peter sets forth the divine plan for the development of Christian character (see *Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 529, 530). Hope Channel and the General Conference Ministerial Association will partner to produce a nightly live broadcast of Let’s Pray. Editor of *Ministry* magazine, Derek Morris, will join Let’s Pray host Kandus Thorp to discuss the daily points of focus, while host David Franklin will be on location with various church groups participating in the 10 Days of Prayer initiative.

The purpose in setting aside 10 days in January for prayer is for Seventh-day Adventist church members to saturate every aspect of their lives in prayer as

they start the year so that they can live and proclaim God’s last-day message of love and truth to the world (see Rev. 14:6–12).

“Heaven is anxiously waiting for God’s people to awake and seek the blessing of God’s Spirit,” says world church president, Ted N.C. Wilson. “It is the power of God’s Spirit working in the lives of His people that will effectively enlighten the world with the glory of God so that Jesus can return.”

Congregations of all sizes, small groups and individuals are encouraged to sign up for the upcoming 10 Days of Prayer, 2013, by going to www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org. There you can also download united prayer guidelines for leaders, daily theme sheets, daily intercession themes, journal pages, a printable flyer, bulletin inserts, postcards, free e-book *Praying for Rain*, as well as other supporting materials.

During the 10 Days of Prayer in 2012, Adventist churches in more than 100 countries experienced the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Church elders, pastors and lay leaders led out in prayer groups held in homes, schools, churches, online forums, and teleconferences. Below is a sampling of their testimonies:

“God is faithful! The 10 Days experience can’t be quantified. Hearts were surrendered, souls were convicted and requests for prayer were answered.”

“We prayed for members who left to return. We challenged every active member to sign up to pray for three or four members in our church. This past Sabbath we had seven members return to church.”

“We have never experienced so much spiritual growth and so many answers to prayer in any past event . . . The drops of rain are beginning to fall.”

“The 10 Days of Prayer revived the mid-week and Friday prayer meetings . . . This 10-day session taught us that the power rests in prayer and brought unity amongst church members and a zeal to work for the Lord.”

God wants to pour out His Spirit on us today just as he did for His disciples during Pentecost. Won’t you join the world church in praying for that blessing during January 9–19? Sign up today at www.TenDaysofPrayer.org. If your group is unable to meet during the designated days, choose an alternate 10 days and you will be just as blessed. ■

*Jackie Ordelheide Smith,
Communication Manager,
Ministerial Association
General Conference World
Headquarters*

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Oct. 31, 2012, there are 457 depositors with a total deposit of \$23,455,017. There are 75 loans with a value of \$19,072,513.

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

SDA Church in Canada

Shine

JESUS SAID,

“You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:14–16, NIV).

CUC shone brightly for Jesus in the community of Hobbema, Alta. A vision of having a team of students to provide and lead youth programs for First Nations across Canada came to life this past summer. Ted Merceus, Ammmishadya Flores, Zurishadya Flores, Matthew Edwards, Sharon Baragona, Chantal Leotaud, Sapphire Woods, Janelle Mutya and Craig Edwards sacrificed their time and energy to give hope and love to hearts that were perplexed with hunger, suicide and violence.

The group volunteered at Mamawi Atosketan before the scheduled summer program, thus establishing a positive relationship with the youth, which led to an even more successful program. It included weekend youth excursions such as outdoor activities, camping, boating



Summer VBS team with the Mamawi Atosketan grade5 class at Camp Foothills

and girl nights; three VBS programs (two in Hobbema and one in Yellowknife, NWT); Native Campmeeting children and youth programming; cultural awareness campmeeting facilitations for Alberta and British Columbia; and community service projects: a window maintenance project.

As a result of this hard work, the enrollment at Mamawi Atosketan increased from 137 to 177. There were easily 27 students from contacts made during the summer by the outreach team from CUC. Also, the church experienced an impressive increase in attendance of the youth department activities.

This was only the beginning for this

team. Now that the leadership has been established, an additional team will be trained. This will allow them to have a regional training team and another team travelling to various locations across Canada. They have already been booked to visit Port Hardy, B.C. If you and your church would like this team shining near you, please contact Pastor Peter Ford for more details.

“Hard work will always beat talent when talent refuses to work hard!”
Therefore, let your light shine! ■

Ramona MacKenzie is a field writer for the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

Good News!

Join the growing number of Adventist churches who are receiving the official Adventist TV network, **Hope Channel**, in their community. It's the perfect way to help your neighbours, family and friends discover the Adventist Church. Hope Channel recently received CRTC approval and could soon be broadcast by every cable and satellite company in Canada. Ask your pastor what you can do to help make this a reality. Register at <http://hopechannel.ca> for more information.

Hope CHANNEL

Report from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Year-End Meetings

The year-end meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is an important event for church leaders across the country to review existing activities as well to establish priorities, vote a preliminary budget and inaugurate new projects for our institutions. It is always good to mention some of the important news that have emerged from this week of thoughtful deliberation.

Funding for an additional (fourth) Bible Instructor has been voted for the Native Ministries of Canada. Furthermore, a new DVD will be produced within the Native New Health Program. Also, a new project for translating the Bible lessons for First Nations people into French was accepted in order to facilitate a more effective spread of the gospel among all First Nations communities.

New plans are being discussed on how best to care for the National Program,

currently operated by ADRA Canada. In the future, local community projects will come under the direct leadership of the conferences/mission. Some form of Adventist Community Services may be developed in order to provide support at the local level. ADRA Canada will continue, on behalf of Canadian Adventists, to respond to the needs of the poor around the world, as well as carry on supporting the Adventist Church's response to disasters and emergency initiatives in Canada.

Earlier this year a new corporation and charity known as Lifestyle Canada Education Services (LCES) was created in Canada to serve as the Review and Herald Publishing Association's representative in our country. It will continue to operate the Canada Youth Challenge. The SDACC board approved some funding that will help them harness the

enthusiasm, skills, and potential of the Canadian youth in the goal to reach everyone for Jesus.

A Canadian Biblical Foundations Advisory will study the question of the ordination of women along with other important topics creating some challenges for the Church in Canada (spiritual formation, ecumenism, Jewish festivals, homosexuality, etc.). Thus, an important but still humble contribution will be made to the existing debate of the worldwide church. Moreover, new materials will be prepared for pastors, elders, and other local leaders, helping them to accomplish their ministry with strength and clarity. ■

Daniel Stojanvic is the vice-president of administration for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

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.

To receive your FREE copy of GEORGE'S TREE, please email legal@adventist.ca with your name and address, or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078.

■ Announcements

PROCESS:

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

■ Announcements

Crawford Adventist Academy 60th Anniversary

—Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 60th Anniversary on May 23-26, 2013. We welcome all our alumni and families, former faculty and staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988 and 1983. Our Sabbath speaker will be the dynamic, Dr. Wesley Knight, born in Toronto, ON. Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB —Derrick Hall, VP Advancement, 416/633-0090/toll-free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy- Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook 'The official TJA/CAA Alumni Group'. (5/13)

■ Births

Sullivan Charles Hawes was born on Aug. 2, 2012, to Regan and Charissa Hawes, of Lacombe, Alta.

Austin Domenick Jacinto was born on Sept. 13, 2012, to Rose and Domenick Jacinto, of Oshawa, Ont.

Kiara Azure Rocca was born on Oct. 16, 2012, to Alex and Amber Rocca, of Saskatoon, Sask.

■ Anniversaries

Dale and Hazel Cross of Oshawa, Ont., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18, 2012. An



open house was held at Kingsway Pioneer Apartments. Over 80 people attended. The Crosses have four children: Sandy, of Washington; Jerry, of Oshawa; Donna, of Oshawa; and Terry, of Port Hope. They have five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Alice Fifield was born June 11, 1928, in St. John's, N.L., and died Jan. 17, 2012, in St. John's, N.L. Alice was a longtime member of the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is survived by her two nieces, three nephews and sister-in-law, Ruby.

William Reimer was born March 22, 1927, in Lumby, B.C., and died Aug. 31, 2012, in B.C. William loved to volunteer for Maranatha projects, some of which included the Grande Prairie, Prince Rupert, Sechelt and Hope campgrounds. He also did mission projects in Mexico and the Philippines. William is predeceased by his wife, Anna, his former wife, Mary, and brothers, Ted and Dave. Surviving: stepsons, Robert and Harvey Smook; stepdaughters Barbara Kizman and Darlene Anderson; and sister, Margaret.

George Allan Agrey was born May 5, 1927, in Shellbrook, Sask., and died Aug. 10, 2012, in Langley, B.C. George served as a literature evangelist in the British Columbia Conference during the 1980s. He also served as an elder and deacon for many years in the Vernon and Abbotsford churches. George is predeceased by his wife, Mary; brothers, Melvin, of Victoria, B.C., Arnold, of Edmonton, Alta., Elwood (Janet), of Parkside, Sask., brother,

Keith (Marion), of Morinville, Alta.; and sisters, Ruby Kriek, of Mission, B.C., and Eva (John) Yeates, of Swift Current, Sask. Surviving: sons, Robert (Lucienne Mensart), of Sihanoukville, Cambodia, Loren (Shelley), of Thailand, daughter, Meril (Vicente Corleto) of Abbotsford, B.C., brothers, Kenneth (Doreen), of Belbutte, Sask., Robert (June), of Grand Prairie, Alta., sisters, Edna Jewitt, from Shellbrook, Sask., and Elaine Hastman, from Calgary, Alta.; five grand-children and one great-grandchild.

Paul Lee was born May 9, 1943, in Osijek, Yugoslavia, and died Aug. 28, 2012, in South Dakota. Paul taught physics and math at Canadian Union College and Columbia Union College. Paul is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Libby), his sons, Elliot, from South Blend, Ind., and Martin, from Berrien Springs, Mich., and his brother, John, from California.

Barbara Blain (née Anderson) was born Jan. 24, 1936, in Red Deer, Alta., and died Sept. 14, 2012, in Calgary, Alta. The Church was one of the most important parts of Barbara's life. She loved her church and looked forward to every Sabbath. Barbara would not miss any church function or event. Both Barbara and her husband, Leonard, committed to transporting individuals to church weekly. Barbara is predeceased by her husband, Leonard, and daughter Laurie Lipscombe. Surviving: daughter Sheryl Lee Archer, of Great Falls, Mont.; stepdaughter, Vickie Snider, of Calgary, Alta.; sisters, Marie Wombold, of Calgary, Alta., Bernice Fox, of Kelowna, B.C., and Shirley Kenzle, of Red Deer, Alta.; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Don Segee was born May 24, 1930, in London, Ont., and died Sept. 28, 2012, in Woodstock, Ont. Don dedicated his life to serving God as a literature evangelist for 38 years. Don is predeceased by his wife, Velma Barnes. Surviving: Sons, Randy (Bonnie), David (Georgina), and Greg, (Beth) of London, Ont.; daughters, Roseanne Crandall, and Gail (Larry) Demers, of Woodstock, Ont., brother, Bryon, of Windsor, Ont.; and sister, Norma (Jack) Aitken, of London, Ont.

■ Advertisements

Improve your child's behavior and health! MannaBears and GlycoBears are here to help, are very affordable @ under \$30, and kids love them! www.navig8.biz/LifeEnhancer7. Questions—call Vivian 866/270-6019, email thegoodlife@littleloon.ca. (3/13)

■ Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

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

RATES:

Classified advertising—\$30 for 50 words or less; \$5 for each additional 10 words.

Display advertising Contact the *Messenger* for a rate sheet.

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

Big Island, Hawaii—Hilltop Haven. Studio vacation rental, peaceful, scenic Waimea (paradise). Private entrance, kitchen, washer/dryer, DISH & Glorystar. Very affordable, see [#67406](http://vacationrentals.com) for more details. Contact us for special rates through the website or by calling us direct, Patsy and Dale 808/885-6467. Say you saw this in the *Messenger*. (3/13)

Country property—two parcels (160 acres each). Beautiful, pristine, forested and cultivated land. Abundant wildlife. Perfect for wellness centre, recreation, farm or just good, clean country living. Located approximately 4 miles from the majestic Riding Mountain National Park. Three small churches within driving distance. Come discover and evangelize Manitoba (Canada's best-kept secret) \$90,000 per 160-acre parcel. Please call 204/638-9023. (11/12)

End the "Battle of the Bulge" forever! Turn your "fat-storing switch" off with OsoLean. Halts hunger hormones and cravings, burns body fat, builds lean muscle and bones, and promotes lasting energy yet good sleep. No stimulants and effective for all ages. Get started today to look and feel your best. 6-month satisfaction guarantee. Video, www.navig8.biz/LifeEnhancer4. Questions? Call Vivian 866/270-6019, email thegoodlife@littleloon.ca (3/13)

Terrorist threats, devastating tornadoes, a shaky economy—it's enough to frighten anybody. Mark Finley's *End-Time Hope*, the 2013 sharing book, provides answers to the turmoil the world is facing. To order, call 1-800-765-6955 or shop online at AdventistBookCenter.com. (12/12)

For Sale—Lovely country home nestled amongst large poplar trees and some oak, offering a gorgeous west view of Riding Mountain National Park. 3+2 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1280 sq. ft. bi-level, wood/electric heat, attached garage, 40x32 shop, 5,000-bushel grain storage and other buildings on 157 acres in Kelwood/McCreary area in beautiful Manitoba. Large garden area including well-established raspberries and grapevines. The incredible wild life and wild berries are practically at your doorstep. Perfect for young family or retired couple, market gardening or hobby farm. Three small churches within driving distance. Come discover Manitoba! Please call 204/835-2681 (6/13)

A Residence for Seniors: Ken Health Care is a 20-bed-facility located on the beautiful island of Jamaica, minutes from the Northern Caribbean University and the town of Mandeville. Recovering from an illness? Just need a break or a place to spend your senior years? We will meet all your needs for a long or short stay. Please call 416/992-0358 or 1-876/383-2570 or visit www.kenhealthcareja.com. Email kenhealthcare@yahoo.com. (2/13)

The Wildwood Lifestyle Program can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800/634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle. (4/13)

Improve your mental and physical health, naturally! Optimize your brain, immune, digestive and cellular communication function with NutriVerus... made entirely of plants! It is highly effective yet economical. At less than \$65/month and a 6-month satisfaction guarantee, you have everything to gain. Get started today to enjoy all of the benefits that improve your quality of life! Visit www.navig8.me/112820 to view a video. Questions? Call Viv 866/270-6019 or email thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca. (3/13)

New research and advancements in glycobiology show regaining normal brain function is as easy as taking a couple teaspoons of Ambrotose powder each day! It increases cognitive function, memory, concentration, attentiveness and mood, while decreasing irritability. Who doesn't want *all* of these benefits, especially as we age? Great for kids too! Info doc at <http://library.mannatech.com/1071>; more info and ordering at www.mymannapages.com/LifeEnhancerAmbrotos. 6-month satisfaction guarantee, so get started today to reap the benefits of improved quality of life! Questions—call Viv at 866/270-6019 or email at thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca. (3/13)

Hawaiian vacation retreat at Kahili Mountain Park on Kauai with free Wi-Fi. Accommodations for single families include comfortable beds and kitchenettes. Gather your friends for an unforgettable family reunion or church retreat, and reserve our fully equipped kitchen/lodge for your meals and activities. Visit www.kahilipark.org for pictures, or call 808/742-9921. (12/12)

Authors wanted. Have you written a children's book, life testimony, story of God's love, or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800/367-1844 ext. 3, or email publishing@teachservices.com, for a free manuscript review. (3/13)

Natural Skin Care—paraben-free, no preservatives, colours or fragrances. Age-defying, long-lasting hydration, firms and tightens. 34% fewer lines/wrinkles in 12 wks., restores youthful radiance, enhances natural repair while nourishing your skin. 6-month satisfaction guarantee. Viv 866/270-6019, email thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca; video, www.navig8biz/lifeenhancer5. (3/13)

A home-based, health-related business provides me with spiritual satisfaction and a wonderful quality of life. If you are a "people person" and would like to improve your finances, it may be a fit for you! www.navig8.biz/LifeEnhancer, then www.navig8.biz/LifeEnhancer2. Questions? Call Vivian 866/270-6019 or email thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca. (3/13)

Improve your endurance! www.navig8.biz/Lifeenhancer6 Questions? Call Vivian 866/270-6019 or email thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca. (3/13)

Planning an evangelistic series or health seminar? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800/274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit www.hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin's HOPE deliver on time. (12/12)

End the "Battle of the Bulge" forever! Turn your "fat-storing switch" off with OsoLean. Halts hunger hormones and cravings, burns body fat, builds lean muscle and bones, and promotes lasting energy yet good sleep. No stimulants and effective for all ages. Get started today to look and feel your best. 6-month satisfaction guarantee. Video, www.navig8.biz/LifeEnhancer4. Questions? Call Vivian 866/270-6019, email thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca (3/13)

Loma Linda Vegetarian Congress—Researchers and experts will present the latest scientific facts about plant-based diets and health February 24-26, 2013, at Loma Linda University. Speakers include Dr. Gary Fraser, principal investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2, and Dr. Neal Barnard, author and advocate. Visit www.vegetariannutrition.org, to learn more. (12/13)

For sale: 4 bdr+office, 3 bathrms, in a century ½ duplex (brick). New roof, windows, electrical, heat, water. Painted and ready to move in. Live in or rent out, or live in part and rent out part. Over 1700 sq. ft.+ basement for only \$177,000 in Owen Sound, Ont. (two hours from Toronto and the airport). pccaran@primus.ca or 905/697-8854 (1/13)

In God's Love Song Ginny Allen shows God's love through stories that come from the deepest places of the heart. *God's Love Song* is the women's sharing book for 2013. To order, call 1-800-765-6955 or shop online at AdventistBookCenter.com. (12/12)



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

For job opportunities, visit AdventistHealth.org

Adventist Health

Should I Fight?

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.

Only \$19.95 • For more information, visit www.adventist.ca/legal

RE/MAX
Ability Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage
Independently Owned and Operated

Sandy Brittain
Sales Representative

905-922-5430

Office: 905-432-7200
Toll Free: 888-226-2230
Fax: 905-432-1260

1413 King Street East
Courtice, Ontario L1E 2J6

sandy@soldwithsandy.ca
www.soldwithsandy.ca

19 Adventist Channels

Plus more than 50 other FREE Christian Channels and 4 News Channels

Official Distribution Partner for all Adventist Broadcasters

Automatic Channel Updating
One-Room System
Only \$249^{Can}
 plus shipping

**Do you have an old receiver?
 Do you want to view
 all 19 Adventist Channels?**

UPGRADE FOR ONLY \$99
 new satellite receiver
 expires 01-31-13
Use Promo Code SAVE26

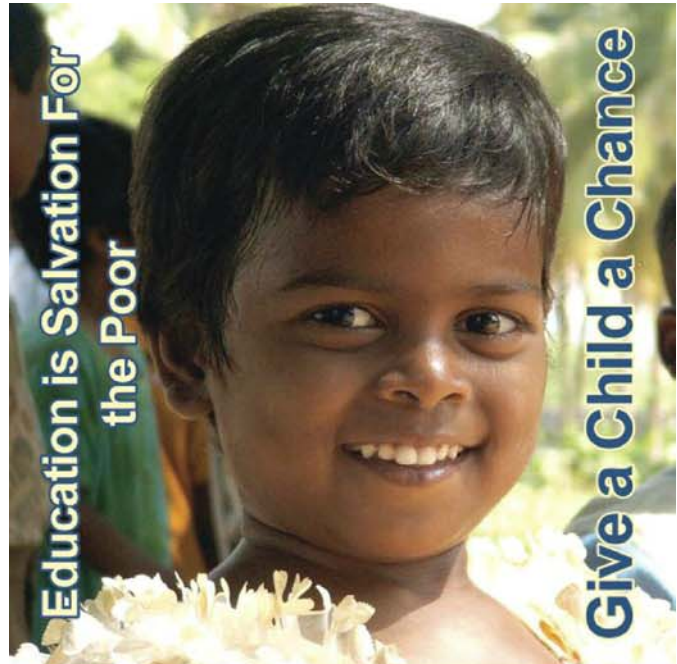
**No Monthly Fees
 No Subscriptions
 No Credit Checks**

Make this gift a blessing

- To Loved Ones
- To Friends
- To Neighbors
- To New Members

ADVENTISTSAT.COM
 A Glorystar Network

866-552-6882 toll free www.adventistsat.com



Education is Salvation For
the Poor

Give a Child a Chance

REACH Canada

(Render Effective Aid to Children Inc.)

- VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION, NO SALARIES INVOLVED
- REACH Canada Incorporated as a registered charity in 1994
- Tax exempt # 895034189RR0001
- Member of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries
- An independent ministry supporting the SDA Church's mission
- Operates schools, orphanages, hostels, and feeding centers
- Actively working in 26 countries
- Seven branch offices
- 0.04% from each sponsorship is used for administration
- REACH International Inc. organized in 1973

SPONSOR A CHILD TODAY

- YES! I will sponsor a child for \$25/mo.
- Boy Girl No preference
- I do not wish to sponsor a child but I would like to make a donation of \$ _____
- Joy Fund Greatest Need Other _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Prov. _____ PC _____

Tel _____ Email _____



REACH Canada, Box 70529, 1801 Dundas St. E
 Whitby, ON, L1N 9G3, Canada (905) 720-1624
www.reachcanada.org • info@reachcanada.org

National Camps for the Blind

A Program of Christian Record Service, Inc.

SENDING SMILES TO CAMP...
 Serving People with Visual Disabilities Since 1973
1.888.899.0006

Sponsor a Blind Camper!

BLINDCAMPS.CA BLINDCAMPS.CA BLINDCAMPS.CA

You Can Educate Orphans In African Adventist Schools!

FACE

Free African Children thru Education
 FACE orphans live at home with surviving family members! Your \$65 a year gift pays school fees, uniform, pencils, pens, paper and blanket for a child orphaned by war, poverty & disease. FACE sends 100% of your check to Uganda then sends to you a tax receipt with your child's information.

Send to: FACE c/o Marta Roffey
 1338 French Line Road,
 Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0 Canada

Phone: 613-259-5545 (5 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
 Email: facekidscharity@yahoo.com

WWW.FreeAfricanChildrenthruEducation.blogspot.com



from the editor

2013 is going to be a tremendous year for the *Messenger*. We will continue to tell the story of a strong Adventist Church in Canada. Here are some things you can look forward to in the new year.

FIRST NATION WORK

Ramona MacKenzie, our field reporter and Adventist teacher in Port Hardy, B.C., will continue telling the story of our First Nation work in Canada. I am thankful that the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada has assigned resources and staff to focus on this most important work. I spent the past weekend with the Native Advisory and was so impressed with the work.

"I'VE COME HOME"

Starting in January, we are dedicating one page in every issue to stories of individuals who grew up in an Adventist home but strayed away from the church and then found their way back. We are looking for stories that are about 500 to 650 words in length and a couple of accompanying photos—a good chance for people to not only share their testimony but also provide encouraging words to those who are considering coming home. Please email me to share your story. Looking for Canadians living in Canada.

ADVENTIST RAINMAKERS

The *Messenger* will share stories of Adventists who have made a significant difference and the business they are associated with. If you know of someone who fits into this category, please email us with 100 to 200 words on why you view this person as an Adventist rainmaker.

ADVENTIST MUSIC

Naomi Striemer has gracefully consented to interview or write an article monthly on an Adventist musician or gospel group. We are looking for a diversity of Adventist talent across Canada.

HOPE CHANNEL

We are also applying to rebroadcast other languages of the Hope Channel in Canada. We have the English channel approved to broadcast and we are getting it distributed in various places in Canada. By the time this issue is distributed, we should have the Spanish Hope Channel, Esperanza TV, approved to broadcast coast to coast in Canada. Our next applications will be for the Hindi, Mandarin, Romanian, Ukrainian and Portuguese language channels to be approved.

At the end of 2013, all of us want to look back and see nothing but good news on the expansion of our gospel mission in Canada. We look forward to sharing this news in the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan Jensen'.

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT. Throughout history and all over the world, words on paper have long been impressing and inspiring readers. Seventh-day Adventists have always been known for their eye-popping literature, which has often proved quite effective in convicting and converting with precious truths.

As a result of compelling Adventist literature continually being shared among individuals, stories of lives having been transformed are always emerging. Whether through canvassing, colporteuring, or simply handing out tracts, Seventh-day Adventists have been doing their part to make such literature widespread. In these issues of the *Canadian Union Messenger*, we read of how lives were changed, through both the receipt and distribution of our literature.

The Published Word

OF THE many ways God has provided for the spreading of His Word, one of the most successful ways, if not the one most successful way, is the medium of the printed page. We are told: "Blessed, soul-saving Bible truths are published in our papers."—*Vol. IX, p. 63.*

In speaking of the Word going to earth's remotest bounds, the Psalmist said, "The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it." Ps. 68:11. We are told by the Spirit of prophecy: "There are many who can help in the work of selling our periodicals."—*Vol. IX, p. 63.*

A Colporteur's Experience

SUNDAY afternoon I came to a place where two Italian families lived. I canvassed them, but received the answer, "No, too much money." After that objection was answered, one woman said, "Good book, but cannot buy now. Some other time." I immediately closed my prospectus and changed the subject,—asked the distance to the next place, and if I could buy a lunch from them. They said "Yes," and again referred to the book, "It's a good book, when you come some other time we will buy it." Then I said, "I am glad that you people realize the value and the need of this book in your home. But why take a chance at some other time?" Then a conversation followed among themselves, and soon one of the men who had been listening to my canvass, asked where to sign his name. I received two orders from here with \$20 cash in advance. They also gave me a lunch and thanked me for calling.—*J. H. Zachary.*

Literature and Personal Work Near Ft. William

IT IS more than a year and a half since our local church elder and a newly-established brother in the church, with their wives, began personal literature work in Neebing County, about six miles out from Fort William.

Each week they visited about 20 families with the Present Truth Series, until an interest was aroused. Then they secured the school-house for Sunday afternoons. They organized a Sunday school of about 30 children, where the Sabbath school lessons were taught and the missionary readings read. In the after service, both young and old were seen listening to the third angel's message.

This continued about a year, when the writer was asked to bind off the interest. This was a difficult task last spring, owing to the roads in the country being so bad underfoot. For nearly three months, we could only gather into the after service, one, or two, or three. But when spring ushered in good weather, I was in touch with them almost weekly. About two months ago we organized a baptismal class, carrying out the Master's wish, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway."

It is interesting to note that one of the sisters who became interested in the truth through our brethren's ministry, went out and invited two others, who, in turn, studied the message and were baptized with the first sister. As a result of this work five were baptized.

It was on November 5, in the quiet hours of the afternoon, when the sun of the sacred Sabbath was sinking in the west, that Elder D. N. Reiner conducted a lovely baptism, in the Westfort Baptist church in Fort William. Six adult sisters were led into the watery grave to rise and walk in newness of life. Elder Reiner also took the Sunday night service at Port Arthur, where about 70 were much interested. A. B. BELCHAMBERS.

"Great Controversy"

SOME years ago a "Great Controversy," in German was sold to a Catholic lady, who after beginning to read the book, got angry and was about to put it in her stove to burn it. Just then another German Catholic, neighbor to her, came in and asked the reason for her trouble. The answer was, "A swindler has sold me a book, which is running down the doctrines of my church." The neighbor lady bade her not to do it, but said, "We will first prove it by the Bible." Then the first one said, "Why, do you have a Bible?" The answer was, "Yes," and at once she went and got it. Together, they looked up the references in the Bible, and thus they convinced themselves of the truthfulness of the book. Instead of burning the book, together with their children, they became Seventh-day Adventists.

KINDNESS has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence, or learning.—*F. W. Faber.*

Amazing Facts Ministries Goes Viral!

AFM is launching the first of what it hopes will be many more "Viral" media campaigns targeting the vast and growing internet streaming media audience.

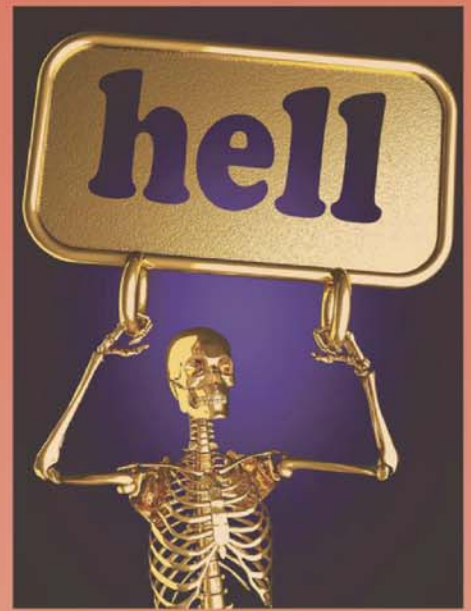
In an effort to counteract the proliferation of lies by Satan regarding the subject of HELL, AFM is producing a short video on this hot topic designed to reach people where they are going to get information—the internet.

Millions of people have been turned away from God by the popular teaching that God burns the wicked in the flames of fire

for eternity. We want to change their perception of God and His character by using a popular motion graphic technique called, "typo-kinetic" animation.

The voice-over narration is tightly choreographed to text animation so that the message is engaging and interesting to watch.

When finished, the video on Hell will be planted on YouTube, Facebook and other sites with the ability to copy and send it to friends and family, thus going "viral."



If you would like to help sponsor more cutting-edge viral media projects on important Biblical topics, contact our office today!



A Christian Media Centre for Canadians

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat." Luke 9:13

We know that the Word of God is the "bread of life." Each year thousands of hungry souls look to heaven seeking answers to their Bible questions. That's why Amazing Facts Ministries has started a Bible School to meet this important need.

Our broadcasts reach millions each week, and many become interested in knowing more about salvation, Bible prophecy and how the world will end.

Help us heed the admonition of Jesus, to "give them something to eat" that will satisfy their spiritual hunger today!

We need your help to provide the Bible lessons to truth seekers in Canada. Won't you partner with us? Call our number listed below.

