

The Personal Touch

Literature
evangelists
who share the
compassionate,
personal touch
of God

PLUS

Coming Home (p. 4)
Music Ministry Spotlight (p. 23)
Editor's Q&A (p. 16)



“Early Childhood Education and Care programs are not new to Adventist church and school systems.”



Early Childhood Education and Care —part of the Church’s education program

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs are not new to Adventist church and school systems. When they began, most operated independently as part of a church or school ministry. In 2007, however, recognizing the need to ensure safe and quality programs, the North American Division (NAD) assigned the supervision of ECEC programs to the Education department.

In 2008 the SDACC Board of Directors voted to ask Betty Bayer, associate director of Education for the SDACC, to represent the Canadian union on the NAD Early Childhood Advisory. Currently, there are only three early childhood centres in Canada in addition to the pre-Kindergarten programs offered in conjunction with Kindergarten programs in eight of our schools.

Conference presidents from across Canada met recently to discuss the future of early childhood programs in our union and the needs of our many families with small children. They will be inviting Betty to share ECEC information in each conference during the coming year, and conversations will continue as we plan for the future. We welcome your input. ■

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Coming home

My childhood was wonderful. It was filled with happiness, love, laughter and innocence. I was born and raised in the Toronto Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church, and at 16, I wanted to be baptized. I was blessed to meet my loving high school sweetheart. After dating him, I knew I wanted to marry him, so on May 31, 2008, I married my wonderful husband.

Fast forward to the year 2011 in my life. Somehow I had begun to develop a somewhat negative perspective. Seeing as I was headed down the wrong path, I believe God decided to intervene and help me on June 15, 2011. On that day, I fell down while at work, hurting the muscles in my back. I thought to myself, In a short time with some physiotherapy, I'll be as good as new.

However, in the beginning of August I woke up with a new problem. I had a lot of pain in my thighs and knees. In September, I started experiencing severe pain in my neck, arms, hands, wrists and elbows, and I had no strength. I could no longer take care of myself. My husband and mom had to help clean the house and cook, and there was even one night when my husband had to bathe me.

I cried every day because I didn't know what to do anymore. I could not find peace, I could not sleep, the doctors could not help me, and I could see that my family felt helpless as well. One night while I was sobbing on the telephone with my mom, she calmly said, "Don't forget about God. Faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains." Those words resounded in my head as I thought to myself, I tried to fix my problems on my own, and things became worse. I never included God or placed these problems in his hands.

That night I cried and prayed with a long list of requests: for forgiveness, for

guidance, for a closer relationship with God; for God to take away my pain, to give me strength, to give me peace and comfort. At the end of the prayer, I had an extreme sense of peace, comfort and the feeling that the road ahead wasn't going to be easy, but God was always with me and I was going to make it.

From that day on, I was praying more and reading my Bible again; how reading the Bible encouraged and strengthened me! I also went back to church; feeling God's presence in church strengthened me.

It was now November, my back pain was better, but I was still having pain and problems with my body. Someone at work told me about a doctor they visited after having muscle pain as well. I prayed to God asking if seeing this doctor would be a good decision. The doctor didn't know how or why my muscles had stopped working. He was positive that by loosening my tight muscles and by me strengthening my muscles with exercises, my muscles would eventually start to work again.

That night I started attending the It is Written "Countdown to Life" program. Each night that I attended, I felt even more hope that I was going to get better. I felt God's presence and I felt as if I was now back on the right path that God wanted me to be on. As well, it was so nice to see the church members whom I had gotten to know back when I was growing up. They offered me so much encouragement and reminded me of the ways that I participated in church when I was younger. The program was truly the last puzzle piece that was missing in my journey. The pain that I had experienced in my back, neck, arms, legs, knees and hips for months started getting better, and I felt stronger during this same week.

I continued to get better the following year. In June 2012 I was able to go to



Israel with my family. In Israel I thanked God for sending Jesus to die for us so that we could have eternal life. I also thanked God for everything that He had done for me in the past year.

Every time I think about my experience, I cry, not with sadness but with happiness! I am healthy again and am so thankful to God for changing my life. The blessings that I continue to receive are too numerous to count. You see, only God can change a person so that a horrible experience can turn into something wonderful. What touches my heart the most is that God loves me so much that He never abandoned me. Even though my experience was so difficult, God helped me to reach out to Him and rebuild my relationship with Him. I believe it was the only way to get my attention in order to turn my life around. We all go through difficult times, and many times we don't know why. But always know that when you put your life in God's hands and trust Him and ask him for guidance, you can't go wrong. It is usually during our most difficult trials in life that we grow closer to God. God loves us all so much that He will do anything so that we can go to heaven and be with Him. God is always with you, reaching out to help you. Just simply reach out your hand to him as well. ■

Susana Ostrowski was raised in the Toronto Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church where she enjoys participating with their English group. She is married and they have two adopted cats, Abby and Whiskers.

Difficult conversations

With so many issues the Adventist Church is facing, leaders continue to make appeals for unity. That was Jesus' prayer as well when He prayed "that they may be one just as We are one" (John 17:22, NKJV). Ellen White also entreats unity. She says, "He [Satan] well knows that union is their [God's people's] strength, and division their weakness. It is important and essential that all of Christ's followers understand Satan's devices and with a united front meet his attacks and vanquish him" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 435). Yet while a united front is essential, there are times when differing opinions will come about. Speaking about the need for converted hearts, Ellen White said, "While all their hopes are centered in Jesus Christ, while His Spirit pervades the soul, then there will be unity, although every idea may not be exactly the same on all points" (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 81, emphasis mine). Evidently, there is room for healthy dialogue.

While much of our "unity" discussions revolve around theological issues, social and personal matters also arise wherein we don't always see eye to eye. While political parties debate and governments argue, employers, employees, clients, colleagues, church members, family members and even friends can find themselves embroiled in heated conversations. Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton and Sheila Heen call these "difficult conversations" and co-authored a book by that name: *Difficult Conversations* (published by Viking in 1999). Is it possible to have differing opinions without destroying one another, and is there a biblical example to follow? Evidently, Ellen White believes that "every idea may not be exactly the same on all points."

"A difficult conversation," Stone, Patton and Heen submit, "is anything you find hard to talk about" (p. xv). Race, gender, politics and religion come to mind, but even more difficult are those topics that make us feel vulnerable or when our self-esteem is implicated. Often these conversations are with people we care deeply about, and speaking up runs the risk of being misunderstood or even jeopardizing a good relationship. As hard as it is, open dialogue is better than remaining silent.

Most difficult conversations make the assumption, "I'm right; you're wrong." Such a stance ends in blaming and quarreling. A healthier position, according to *Difficult Conversations*, is to assume a "learning conversation." Such an approach would include being

curious as to why the other person has taken a particular position and making an effort to understand his or her story. In so doing, especially if we listen carefully, we begin to learn that even though some facts may be similar, some are also different. Even if they are the same, interpretations may be different, and past experiences certainly influence conclusions. Whatever the case, Stone, Patton and Heen say, "Wherever you want to go, understanding—imaging yourself into the other person's story—has got to be your first step" (p. 43).

Perhaps Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well is a classic "difficult conversation." Both took the stance "I'm right you're wrong" (obviously, Jesus was right, but the way He handled it is what's important here). Had this conversation ensued between any other Jew and this Samaritan woman, there would have been blaming and quarreling. Jesus, on the other hand, took the position of being curious and led out in a "learning conversation." Though He knew all about the woman beforehand, He allowed her to express her position, giving Him the facts from her perspective. Some were the same, some different, and certainly the woman's past experience shaped her conclusion.

Unity is paramount to spiritual survival, especially in the theological realm, but difficult conversations will always be a part of our personal lives. They began when sin entered the universe and will conclude only when eternity is ushered in. Until then, when difficult conversations must be had, take the first step by positioning yourself as a curious learner, see the other person's viewpoint, let him or her see yours, and come to a mutual conclusion without "I'm right, you're wrong!" ■

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



Ready or not?

T33nTa1k

“I feel pressure from a lot of people to get baptized and I feel a lot of pressure to change if I do get baptized. What should I do?”

I am going to be bold on this one. The reason Jesus was baptized as an adult and why Seventh-day Adventists (and many others) only baptize those old enough to choose for themselves is because baptism is a commitment between you and God. For anyone to pressure you in any way is satanic, pure and simple. They may mean well, and they may have great concern for you, but pressure is a tactic used by the dark side and never by Jesus. Do not get baptized because your friends are baptized or your parents or grandparents, or pastor, or whoever else wants you to. You are ready for baptism when the Spirit of God brings you to the realization that Jesus loves you and following Him (wherever that may lead) is the only way you can live your life to the full.

As for changing, remember this: Change is not something you do for God; it's something God does in you. He is the Potter and you are the clay (Jer. 18). God is not demanding change from you; He's offering to work changes in you. What kind of changes? Where there is now doubt, fear, insecurity, shame, guilt, anger, lies, lusts, etc., He will put His mind, His thoughts, His heart. He is offering full restoration. He is offering to remake you into His image. Religion tells you that the pressure is on you to become like Jesus or like Buddha, or like (fill in the name of whatever god goes with whatever religion here). But this is not the religion of Jesus. Jesus says, “Follow Me, and I will make you become ...” (Mark 1:17, NKJV). The “pressure” is on Him. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it (see Phil. 1:6).

I am hammering away on this point because I sense you want to please Jesus and your family and friends and that you want to be baptized but are afraid you can't or won't measure up. I am afraid your eyes are altogether focused on your lack instead of God's fullness. If you love Jesus and would love to be like Him, then take the first step. Once you place yourself in His hands, your success becomes His responsibility, and I can tell you He never fails. ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
— Philipians 3:20, NKJV



Wild Turkey

Crawling out of our tent early one sunny morning at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, some movement near pine trees not far from our campsite caught my eye. A wild turkey hen led her five speckled chicks in and out among the trees. The chicks made a soft peep peep as the mother called them with her louder peeoup peeoup. One of the chicks spotted a grasshopper and ran hopping after it, but the grasshopper got away, and the chick, suddenly realizing it was far from its family, half flew, half ran back to its family.

Wild turkeys are a lot like chickens and other ground-dwelling birds in many ways. They scratch the ground for seeds and bugs, eat grass and peck at gravel, which they need to grind food inside their crops. Although they spend their whole days on the ground, adult turkeys are excellent fliers, and each night they fly to high branches to perch with all the other high-fliers—flying squirrels, robins, blue jays and others.

Think about it.

God created people to keep company with Him and the heavenly angels. Because of sin, we must spend our time with all the other earth-bound sinners until Jesus comes to take us high into the heavens with Him. Our business while we're here is inviting our family, friends and others to meet our wonderful Saviour and make friends with Him. Let's remember our high calling and never forget that our dwelling place is far from this sin-filled earth.

Do it!

You can learn more about wild turkeys at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website: www.allaboutbirds.org. Just type "wild turkey" in the search box.



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.



Mary Gordon, Campus Ministries director

On Fire

Step foot on the Canadian University College campus, ask around, and it will appear that everyone knows who Mary is.

While most graduating university students spend their last year on campus just trying to survive, Mary Gordon, a fourth-year Religious Studies major, chose to make her last year at CUC her most challenging yet! Already serving as the vice-president for the CUC Graduating Class of 2013 and also as the head resident assistant at the Parkview Adventist Academy dorm, she felt the need to do more. After serving two previous years on Campus Ministries, she chose her last year to tackle the top post-Campus Ministries director.

The fear of being overwhelmed by schoolwork and last-minute graduation details was not enough to override Mary's sense of service to her fellow students. Her burden to share God with the campus was enough to propel her toward a leadership role in the largest student-run organization at the university. Campus Ministries (CM), while overseen by the campus chaplains, Paul Antunes and Janice De-Whyte, is student-run and staffed. Campus Ministries oversees the spiritual programming involving students on-and-off campus. A CM executive of eight students oversees the programming with other student leaders serving in each area. Ministries include Adventist Youth (AY), Afterglow, drama ministries, food drive, Hobbema ministries, kids' church, prayer ministries, prison ministries, Sabbath school, service days, small groups, soup kitchen, sunshine bands, vespers, and the Week in Spiritual Emphasis—a big task!

The CM leadership team is as diverse as the students they serve. The team's interest in academic programs range from Religious Studies and Psychology to International Health and Outward Pursuits. They come from all over: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, the United States and the Caribbean. It is a team rich in academic, geographical, cultural and spiritual diversity that so captures the world we now live in. Paul Antunes, who oversees and leads the team, loves working and seeing firsthand the passion the students have. "Working with Mary Gordon has been a tremendous blessing. She truly is a God-fearing woman, a serious go-getter and dependable worker. I look forward to seeing the doors that God will open up for her in the ministry. Each week this group comes together to plan, orchestrate and execute countless programs, outreach opportunities and various other projects to make Jesus come alive and seen as the all-powerful and loving God that He is. Truly, our young

people are making a difference for Jesus,” beams Pastor Antunes.

Of the four years Mary has spent at CUC, there is something about this year that feels special. Graduating from university is usually enough to excite any student, but it is the fire for God Mary sees in her fellow students that excites her. Seventeen baptisms during the last day of the Week in Spiritual Emphasis at the start of the school year can do that. Mary believes that the responsibility of Campus Ministries is to ensure that the spiritual life on campus is well-rounded and accessible. With essays, projects and tests consuming students’ time, she feels the Campus Ministries team can provide opportunity for students to spend time with God. Her burden for the year is to support her fellow students in their spiritual walk any way she can. Mary remarks, “My burden for the students this year is to get the students on fire for God. I want them to know how great God is if we seek Him. I want them to know all the many ways we can serve Him through outreach, inreach, missions, small groups and prayer. I also want the upperclassman to reach out the younger students to share their experience with one another while sharing God.”

The passion that burns inside Mary is also evident among the student body. The sheer number of small groups that have sprung up all around campus is one of the many things that excite Mary and the CM team. She says, “Small groups have started on their own! Students are going to prayer meetings at the College Heights church, and they are willing to serve the community and the church family. One of the best things is the students’ willingness to go up front and be a part of the worship service. These students want to preach!” For Mary, being the Campus Ministries director is a blessing and humbling experience. When she marches across the church stage later this year and receives her diploma, the lessons from class won’t be all that she takes away with her from her time at CUC. Working for God and others and watching the spiritual growth in her and her fellow students is the ultimate preparation for her future ministry. Mary says, “It’s exciting to be at CUC right now. The students are on fire!” ■

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



From l.-r.: Desi-Rae Dionne, small groups coordinator; Christina Plascko, prayer coordinator; Cara Boyce, inreach coordinator; Mark Kramer, missions coordinator; Mary Gordon, Campus Ministries director; Julio Davila, outreach coordinator; Jessica Hall, program coordinator; Paul Antunes, CUC chaplain; Andlaine Joseph, communications coordinator; missing, Janice De-Whyte, CUC chaplain.

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *Where did you grow up?*

June Polishuk: I grew up in Oshawa, right across from College Park Church, and my mom and dad had been students at Kingsway, met there, and I was their firstborn. Of course, that was during the time of the Great Depression. We didn't know that we were poor, because everybody was. We had a cow, we had a garden. Our food was practically all just what we grew. I went to Kingsway and that's where I met my husband. We got married and lived across from the church. I love College Park church; it's where I've attended all my life.

M: *Can you tell me about your family?*

JP: My dad came over from Scotland, attended school in Oshawa, and met my mother, who was from Quebec. I had a wonderful home life. In my mind, my dad was absolutely perfect. He never uttered a cross word. My folks were charter members of the church. My oldest daughter, Janice, was born four years later, and then five years later, I had a second daughter, named Lynn.

It thrills me to be close to them; they're just such loving daughters. I have one granddaughter, one grandson, and

four great-grandchildren. I'm thrilled also to have my brother, Bob Russell. He and I are Scrabble players. It's very nice for me to have him so close by.

M: *What activities are you involved in, at College Park Church?*

JP: I am one of the members of the Connections group, and that is a group that befriends new members. I'm at the welcome desk every two or three Sabbaths. If people who are visiting the area come in, or if newly baptized people come, we welcome them or bring them home for lunch, or take them to the potluck, if there is one.

And that's my mission, to work with new members. I also used to teach in the children's division, and I've been a deaconess. Now I volunteer at ADRA Community Services. I work there every Wednesday, and I just love it. We have a great time over there. We make friends with those clients. So many who come are truly in need. Some of the people who have come in have never had a Bible, so we've been giving out Bibles to them. They come sometimes, in a desperate situation.

M: *What sparked your interest to enter in the world of publishing?*

JP: I worked at Maracle Press as a Kingsway student, at 25 cents an hour,

but it was a job that I enjoyed. My dad worked there. I've always loved anything to do with words. I loved to read. I'm just out of place if I don't have a book. I think that helped me a lot, working with the *Messenger*. When the lady who was working with the *Messenger* retired, they asked me if I would start, and I said: "I don't think I'm qualified for that." But they said to me: "Just give it a try." I did, and then I was there for 20 years. I still have dreams about it. In fact, I have nightmares that a deadline is here.

M: *You were involved with the Canadian Adventist Messenger for 20 years, many of which was spent as the editor. What were some of the joys of working at the Messenger?*

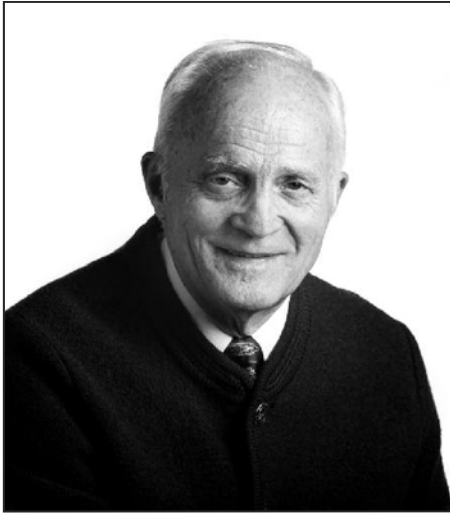
JP: Well, getting to know so many leaders from across Canada, for one thing. I got to be aware of who's who in what province or in what conference. They would send articles about the different church activities. I made a lot of friends through that job.

M: *Where are you now?*

JP: I just love being retired. When I worked, I didn't have time to do the things that I wanted to do, and now I have lots of time, to read, to cook, and to look after my grandchildren. And I just love that. And my church means everything.

Robert's Charitable Gift Annuity

Stock photo—GC Planned Giving and Trust Services Dept.



Robert,¹ a 75-year-old Canadian single Adventist, was surprised a few years ago when he saw an ad in an American church paper. The ad offered up to 11.5 percent interest on charitable gift annuities. Robert already knew that annuities provide a guaranteed income for life, or for a term, with payments based on age, amount invested, and interest rate. So he quickly phoned his conference Planned Giving director to ask about charitable gift annuities and to learn if this rate was offered in Canada.

The Planned Giving director called the American charity to be sure they were in agreement. Yes, they were using the same life expectancy and interest rate tables. However, the data showed that a person had to be 95 years old to qualify for the 11.5 percent. Then the director told Robert the rate for his age was in the 8 percent range.² Robert liked this and decided to set up an annuity.

A charitable gift annuity is expected to benefit the organization offering the annuity. In Robert's case he had \$80,000 to use, with 25 percent, or \$20,000, going directly to the conference ministry of his choice (for a tax credit receipt), and \$60,000 to invest in his annuity. Robert's local conference had provincial authority to offer annuities,³ and they were very careful that Robert's annuity would never infringe on conference assets. In fact, any funds remaining at Robert's death would belong to the conference. The final step was approval from his financial advisor, and Robert's annuity was activated. ■

¹ The name has been changed in this true story; always get independent financial advice.

² If the charity of your choice offers charitable gift annuities, they can supply current interest rates.

³ Charities may also use reinsured charitable gift annuities, purchased from a licensed insurance agent.

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



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE BAY ROBERTS CHURCH IN NEWFOUNDLAND
AND COLLEGE PARK CHURCH IN ONTARIO.

If this world had rejected Satan back in the beginning (Garden of Eden), what would have happened to him?

Christine Bergen: He would have experienced hell immediately. With no one to tempt, his accusations about God's character would have been refuted. The whole universe would see that his claims were false.

Jennifer Wilkins: He would have remained a castaway from heaven. His power would only be over the other fallen angels, which would probably make him regret the choices he had made. It is hard to say what alternative plan Satan would have come up with in order to gain more power.

Tammy Sittlinger: All I have known is that Satan is here to stay until Jesus comes. It seems that whatever is going to happen to Satan at the end of the world would have happened at the time he was rejected. ■



Teaching A Higher Order of Thinking

CUC School of Education Partners with A Better World



Keith Leavitt leading workshop

Keith Leavitt wasn't sure what to expect when he got the call to train teachers in four different regions of Kenya. He was a teaching veteran, having served 26 years within the School of Education at Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alta. But he had never travelled to this developing country, where the educational system is as diverse as the country's landscape.

Last March he travelled with seven others from Central Alberta-based international development organization A Better World (ABW) Canada. While some of them were tasked to come up with a maintenance plan for the school buildings, Leavitt and three Surrey, B.C., residents—retired teacher Gail Misek and teacher trainers Graham Mulligan and Jennifer McArthur—were invited to provide professional development training to teachers working at schools sponsored by A Better World.

Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World Canada, said this trip was significant. "One of the reasons we wanted this to happen is that infrastructure alone is not the only solution for excellence in education," he said. "What happens inside the school is just as important."

Over a span of 17 days, the four

educational professionals became highly sought after for their expertise. The original plan was to work with teachers from eight to 12 schools sponsored by ABW. "But word got out that we were doing this professional development," said Leavitt. The district education officers asked if their teachers could participate in these one-day sessions as well. They were allowed to send one representative, plus all teachers from ABW-supported schools were invited.

By the end of the sessions, approximately 420 teachers from about 130 schools took part. Every teacher received the session for free, plus a meal and snacks, plus transportation were provided at no cost as well. "We'd visit classrooms and see how the teachers were teaching, the kinds of materials they had," said Leavitt. "From there, we'd choose the methods or teaching strategies for our professional development seminars."

He referred to one typical teaching style in which the teacher would say a sentence and the student would end it. Students were memorizing and repeating what the teacher would say. Students were learning a lower order of thinking, said Leavitt.

"I wanted teachers to have students to think, to do problems with higher levels

of thinking, to analyze, to make choices—and not something that had to be memorized."

One teacher showed his classroom homemade weather instruments and then had students repeat what they were and what they were used for. He later moved the students to a higher level of thinking, asking how each instrument functioned. The classroom of about 60 students could easily recite what the instruments were, but no one could answer the tougher question.

"So I focused on helping the teachers to get their students to a higher order of thinking—analysis, synthesis and evaluation," said Leavitt. "I found there was very little of this higher order of thinking, so that's what I concentrated on."

This type of teaching struck a chord with the district education officers because they could see the lasting benefits of such learning far beyond the classrooms. Students would be able to graduate with greater critical thinking skills, and in that way, they wouldn't just accept things at face value, said Leavitt. ■

Laura Tester is a reporter with the Red Deer Advocate and volunteers with A Better World to bring stories from her travels.



Managing the Media

Last month the world woke up to the surprising news story that Angus T. Jones, the co-star of the popular television show *Two and a Half Men*, was renouncing the values of his show. In fact, a viral video that quickly spread around the world had Jones asking his own viewers not to support the show.

Every major media outlet began to carry this international story. Within a few hours, the media was inquiring about the background of the Forerunner Christian Church that Jones had apparently converted to. A few months prior, Jones had been studying about the Seventh-day Adventist Christian faith in San Fernando Valley, Calif. After he accepted Jesus Christ, his conversion experience compelled him to shy away from subject matter that would be considered immoral.

As I watched the CNN story about Jones, I immediately text messaged George Johnson, the communications director of the North American Division. He responded immediately, saying, “We are working on it right now.” I was impressed that the church leaders were attuned to this pop culture story.

How can the local church be prepared for local and national news when it arises? Here are some tips:

The Local Connection

The local and national news outlets are looking for a connection to the international story that is currently in the headlines. A few years ago I was about to board a plane to Haiti with 30 volunteers. Our flight was supposed to leave 10 hours before the earthquake hit. Since our flight was now cancelled, we immediately went into “media” mode and developed angles to reach out to the

press. Within a few short hours, every single local television station and newspaper picked up our story. They were looking for a local connection to an international story. As a result, MSNBC picked up the story and the story about our local church and we received national coverage.

Get ahead of the story

It is common for organizations to feel defensive and worried about the press. Adventists have had past unfortunate experiences with the press to feel gun shy. It is rare to have international exposure about the church and have the opportunity to brand the Adventist church in your local community. Remember, the media often rely on one another’s stories to borrow information from. If you can supply positive information about your local church and the worldwide Adventist denomination first, you will be ahead of the story.

Remember your time is short

By the time most non-profit organizations begin to put together a plan to respond, the media has already moved on to the next big story. Your exposure time is limited; therefore, you want to take advantage of every minute you have to talk about your faith.

Where is your press kit?

During a time of calm, your communication committee should create a press kit. This package should include a short description about your church. Include a thumb drive with 20 high-quality pictures of your church building, pastor, members in action, and worship. Be sure to include a one-paragraph statement of what the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is.

I will caution you not to give a list of the 28 fundamental beliefs. Rather, your description should be written in a personal, narrative form.

What not to say

Never, never, never, say, “no comment.” Those two words make you appear guilty or you are hiding something. Instead, saying something like, “We are still working on this development, and I will be back in touch with you in two hours.”

Punt the Story

If the media called your church to speak on a certain matter and you don’t have a communications representative, what should you do? Do not be afraid to “punt” the story to your local conference or union communications director. Always have their contact information in your address book. You can say, “Our regional communications officer is handling this story for us. Let me give you their contact information.”


Let your pastor be the pastor

It is easy to ask the pastor to be the media manager during a media storm. However, I would urge you to resist. Let your pastor assume the role of the “expert” who can provide a quote or short interview about the church. The communications liaison in your church should be the “broker” who is working with the media on a regular basis. ■

*Dr. Rajkumar Dixit is the author of *Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World*. He is also a local pastor (www.lookingforachurch.org) and a communications specialist. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.*



NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS

 Words by God — Matthew 6:26, NKJV, and Philippians 4:19, NIV

I like to go down to the ocean and watch the birds. It always amazes me how they come to the beach every day for their meal and their supply never runs dry. He satisfies them with the richest of food and provides for their every need. As I sat watching the herons, eagles and seagulls catch their dinner, a verse popped into my head: “Your Heavenly Father feeds them.” How much more does He provide for mine?

Jesus said, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Matt. 6:26, NKJV).

There was a famine—Elijah and the time of no rain—and God told Elijah to take shelter by the Brook Kerith in the middle of nowhere. Every day God sent ravens with bread and meat for Elijah and fresh water from the brook. If you were in Elijah’s sandals, would you eat the food delivered by ravens? If you were hungry, out of money, and had no access to food and God said, “I’ll send a raven with food for you,” would you eat it? We see the story today and think raven food delivery is unique, but what if we were in that situation? How would we respond to God’s blessings? Would you still consider it a blessing?

We may not always understand how or why things happen in our lives, but God knows what each one of us needs. He knows what bill is coming up, He sees that you’re exhausted, He knows you need to be spiritually—not just physically—fed. He knows every one of your needs. God cares about us. God’s ways are not our ways; neither are His thoughts our thoughts (see Isa. 55:8). From our perspective we see impossibility; in God’s eyes His resources are unlimited. Nothing is too big or too small. He knows all of our needs before we ask, and even though He has a solution in place, yet we worry about it. Why worry? Has worrying ever added to your day?


“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Phil.s 4:19, NIV).



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 the video preview “Do Not Worry” from Worship House media: bit.ly/UaG3kz



Exposing the Treasure

How It Is Written Canada is helping people find meaning for their lives

The search for the legendary “Lost City of Gold” fascinated explorers since the days when the Spanish Conquistadors set out to sail the oceans. Even though no evidence for the existence of such a place had been found, they eagerly made their way to Lake Guatavita, near present-day Bogotá, Colombia.

According to the story, a tribal chief would cover himself with gold dust, get on a boat, and dive into the lake, leaving there all the gold and the gems he carried upon himself. The gold and gems deposited on the lakebed over the years by chief El Dorado (Spanish for “the gilded one”) became the prime motivation for conquistadors to scout around the lake.

However, after centuries of unsuccessful searching, the explorers realized that all the gold the aboriginal people possessed had been obtained in trade, not from supposedly existing rich mines.

Someone said that “reality is determined not by what scientists or anyone else says or believes but by what the evidence reveals to us.” And no evidence ever confirmed what the legend sustained.

Evidence has revealed, though, the existence of a reservoir containing a wealth of truth. It can be found in God’s Word, the Bible, which has stood the test of time and is still relevant in today’s complex world. It contains the truth—pure truth—that can give new direction to minds and hearts.

That is what a family from Toronto recently found out through It Is Written Canada.

Bill Santos, speaker and executive director for It Is Written Canada held an evangelistic series last November at the Toronto Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church. While he preached the sermons in English, I had the privilege of delivering the same messages in Portuguese in an adjacent room.

Two days before the end of the series, a church member told us about this couple who was willing to come and attend the last Sabbath meetings. But there was something particular about this couple: they wanted to be baptized right away. Why? Because they were faithful viewers of our Portuguese program. They had been testing what Bill Santos preaches on TV against what the Scriptures say, and they realized there was no contradiction.

Like any growing Christian, they still had questions. But they had accepted the Sabbath and other aspects of the truth as contained in the Bible. They not only came to our meetings but also brought their daughter, who over the following weeks made new friends at church and began her own spiritual journey.

Isn’t that amazing? A genuine 21st-century miracle.



Bill Santos visiting a viewer and her family in Toronto, Ont.

A few weeks after the series, Bill Santos and Tyler McIntosh visited a lady in Toronto who also discovered the Bible truth about the Sabbath from watching our television program. She could not make it to the evangelistic series but along with her daughter had the privilege of having a personal Bible study with Santos.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of It Is Written Canada. For the past 40 years, this ministry has been faithful to its God-given mission: preaching the truth and the truth alone as revealed in the Bible. Henry Feyerabend blazed the trail when he pioneered the launch of a five-minute telecast on commercial TV in the early fall of 1973. He left a legacy of passion for evangelism and love for others that was embraced by Shawn Boonstra, who replaced Feyerabend as speaker for It Is Written Canada between 2001 and 2004. And for the past nine years, Bill Santos is making sure the torch he was once handed keeps burning so millions around the world continue to be impacted by the power of the gospel.

There is no greater privilege than this, of being co-workers with Christ in the salvation of others.

God’s truth cannot be concealed. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:14-16, NIV).

Please keep us in your prayers. ■

Evaldo Vicente is director of Music and Donor Relations at It Is Written Canada.

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Over the years I have called in to speak with the president of the SDACC, as well as other administrators, and someone named Cathy usually answered the phone. "Who is this Cathy?" I thought, "and what does she look like and what is her Adventist history and her family background?" I am sure others have had similar questions, so in this issue of Messenger the editor's Q & A features Cathy Anderson.



Cathy Anderson (left) with her husband James, daughter Sophie, and son Eric.

STAN: *How long have you worked at the SDACC and what are all the positions you have worked in?*

CATHY: I actually started working in this building in 1985 when ADRA Canada was located here. Then, a few years later, ADRA moved out of the SDACC building. I worked for ADRA Canada 12 and a half years (full and part-time). Then in 2000 I was offered a job in the retirement department here at the SDACC. Unfortunately, I was only able to work in this department for 9 months, as my husband, James Anderson, felt called to go back to school to become a pastor, so in August of 2001, we moved to Lacombe, Alta., so that James could attend Canadian University College (CUC). Upon completing his degree, my husband received a call back to Ontario, and I was so thankful to the Lord for giving me the opportunity to work here at the SDACC once again. I started on July 18, 2005, as the receptionist /archivist until December 2007, when I became the administrative secretary to the president and vice-president for administration. And I have worked in this position until now.

STAN: Have you always been an Adventist?

CATHY: Yes, I was born into an Adventist family. And I was baptized by Pastor Gordon Pifher in 1979 at the Ontario Campmeeting, which at the time was being held at the Ferndale Camp.

STAN: What is your family history of Adventism?

CATHY: My father was born into an Adventist family in England, but his parents came from Switzerland and his grandparents were among the first Adventist families in Switzerland. Something interesting is that Ellen G. White mentions the Guenin family name somewhere in her writings,

as she did go and spend some time in Switzerland. My mother was also born into an Adventist family in France.

STAN: So where were you born and when did you move to Canada and why did you choose Canada?

CATHY: I was born in Geneva, Switzerland, but I actually grew up just across the border in France at the Adventist school called Séminaire Adventiste de Collonges Sous Salève. Both my parents worked for the school. As for moving to Canada, I didn't have much choice because I was only six years old when my father received a call from Kingsway College to be their French and English literature teacher. At that time, my mom was expecting my brother, and because she was seven months pregnant, the doctor would not let her take the plane, so we ended up taking a boat, which took us seven days before finally arriving in Montreal. I don't remember much of the trip, but my mom tells me that at one point in time the weather was so bad that the boat was moving so much that they had to put borders on the tables so the plates wouldn't fall off. It wasn't the kind of luxury cruise liners that people take now to go on vacation!

STAN: Your father taught at Kingsway? How long did your father teach at Kingsway? Did you ever attend Kingsway College?

CATHY: My dad taught at Kingsway College for four years, until he got a call to go to work in Cameroon, Africa. Upon our return from Africa in 1977, I took a couple of Grade 10 classes at Kingsway College and also took some French correspondence courses to finish off my grade 10. Then I started full-time at Kingsway College taking Grades 11 to 13. I met James Anderson while attending Kingsway. So I owe a lot to Kingsway College! (laughs)

STAN: Have you lived anywhere else?

CATHY: When I was 10 years old, my family moved to Africa. We lived in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon. We stayed there for four years coming home for furlough every 21 months.

STAN: What was that experience like? Would you recommend it to others? Favourite moments?

CATHY: Yes, I would definitely recommend it to anyone who feels called by God to do mission work because it is an experience of a lifetime that I will never forget. Even though I wasn't actually old enough to be working as a missionary, I did learn a lot about the African culture and learned how other cultures live. My favourite moments were going on trips with my father into the bush and visiting different schools, as he was the education superintendent for Cameroon. I also enjoyed spending Christmas at the beach.

STAN: What keeps your husband busy? What about your children?

CATHY: My husband, James, is a pastor in the Ontario Conference and is currently pastor of the Richmond Hill church in Toronto. Being in this kind of ministry has given us the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, and we thank the Lord for the friends we have made along the way.

My children are both in university. Eric, our oldest will be graduating from Canadian University College in April 2013 with a four-year Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, and he plans to do mission work in the Arctic. Our daughter, Sophie, is attending Southern Adventist University and will be graduating next December with a Bachelor in Health Science and a minor in Physical Education. She then would like to continue her studies to become a physical therapist and would like to work overseas, possibly in Chad, Africa.

STAN: It must have been difficult having no income and two children when your husband went to back to school. It looks like God provided for your every need.

CATHY: He sure did. There were times when we really didn't know if we would make it financially, but God always came through. One time I remember receiving a cheque for \$500 in the mail from a friend whom we had not heard from in a long time. Her note just said, "The Lord impressed me that I should send you this money." And it had come at one of those times when our finances were not looking very promising! And this happened several times over the four years that we were in Alberta.

STAN: You really are the secretary for both Mark Johnson and Daniel Stojanovic; that must keep you busy.

CATHY: I do enjoy working with Mark and Daniel, and yes, they do definitely keep me busy! (chuckles) They are both godly men who are very dedicated to seeing the work of the gospel advance here in Canada.

STAN: If you had a dream for the Church in Canada, what would that be?

CATHY: My earnest prayer and dream is that we here in Canada, along with the world church, would finally finish the work the Lord has given us to do here on this earth and that we could finally go home to be with our heavenly Father, where there will be no more sickness, no more heartaches, and no more tears! I long for that day and I pray that we will all band together to finish God's work. ■

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

Dear ADRA Canada supporters,

My name is Yacuba. I live with my family in a small village called Golo, near the town of Tibiri, Niger. For years my people have suffered from insufficient food supply. Whenever the rains stopped, we would get very nervous and worried because we didn't know how we would find food for the long months without rain. Because of poverty we are unable to afford health-care or our children's education. Even when we put forth our best efforts, the lack of rain would let us down. Our ability to produce food has always been limited by rapidly changing climatic conditions and limited knowledge and tools.

Life has always been tough here in Tibiri. To survive, many of us have to make the long journey across the border to Nigeria in search of casual labor. Sometimes we are able to get work, while other times it is more difficult and we return home empty-handed after months away from our families. Some of those who left from my village on this dangerous exodus fell prey to bandits and never made it back. As parents, we were always concerned about the future of our children. Would they be condemned to this type of existence?

Two years ago some people who said they worked for an organization called ADRA visited us. We had never heard of such an organization before. They told us that they could help us produce more food—and different types of food so that our children can grow strong and healthy and also so that we do not suffer from so many diseases or go hungry during the dry season. It all sounded too good to be true, and I have to admit, I didn't buy into it right away. What they explained to us was that we had to put in our time,



Yacuba (left) and Esperant Mulumba (right), show the produce from Yacuba's garden.

effort, physical strength and follow the various farming and gardening techniques they were to teach us. We also had to dig some wells. They would then provide us with tools, fertilizers, seeds and water pumps to ensure that our plants have a sufficient water supply.

Though I was skeptical, ADRA's regular visits enabled us to develop a bond of friendship. I started looking forward to their visits as we would exchange information and talk about the progress of the plants. As little plants grew out of the ground, I began to see the difference. This was amazing! I was now producing fruits and vegetables that I had only heard about before. What was even more exciting for my family was that we were now producing six different types of foods and we were doing all this in the dry season!

After the first harvest, we were eager to taste these new foods. I have to admit that, at first, they didn't taste all that great to me. My children, on the other hand, enjoyed the taste of these foods. Today in my home there's not a day when we do not eat fruits and vegetables from our garden.

Although all this is great, the true source of my joy and pride concerning this garden is that now, two years after the visit of my ADRA friends, I'm able to

feed my entire extended family. None of my relatives have to go hungry. You have to understand that in our traditions, the well-being of the whole family is the responsibility of each individual member. In addition to this, I have a surplus of food that I am able to sell in the market. On average I sell \$250 of vegetables in the local market every week. Though some weeks are better than others, I now have income that I can put to use when my children or wife are sick. I can also maintain my pump and purchase fuel to run it and keep producing more. I'm free from ever having to borrow money, beg for food or travel on the treacherous journey to Nigeria! And I cannot begin to express how much this project has changed my life.

I'd like to thank ADRA Niger and the Canadian people¹ for going out of their way to show solidarity with my village and the people of Tibiri. Your help has made it possible for my children to grow up healthy and for our entire village to come out of the horrible situation of having to beg for food, selling our livestock at throw-away prices or accumulating debts in times of drought. Yacuba ■

*Esperant Mulumba,
former staff of ADRA Niger*

¹ This project was funded by ADRA Canada supporters and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

The Journey Through Opened Doors

(Part II)

Each time I attend a camp, not only is there always something new for me to try, new people to meet and new friends to be made but, my relationship with God continues to grow.

Over the next couple years, as I attended more camps, I found myself wanting to know more of God and Jesus. I wasn't raised in a Christian home, but my parents gave me guidance on how to be a "good person," to believe in myself and to discover my own beliefs. As a young child, I briefly attended some Sunday school classes at a local church but found it difficult to follow along, as all the materials were in regular print.

As a regular camper of NCB, I thought it was time to utilize the large-print services I had heard about from the CRS reps and campers. The first item on the agenda was a large-print Bible. Ed was ecstatic to hear this and gladly explained the difference of all the translations available. He strongly recommended the King James Version. While we were having this discussion, he also went through the list of all the other materials available through Christian Record Services' library: magazines, Bible lessons and inspirational magazines. I was amazed at all the books and pamphlets available to me for free. I seized the opportunity and signed up for the youth magazine as well as a number of books. Soon I received a number of parcels in the mail with all this wonderful stuff to read. Little did I know at the time how much these would impact my life.

I soon found a pen pal in the *Young and Alive* magazine with whom I corresponded regularly. I found myself immersed in the *Coming Alive With Jesus* and later the *Staying Alive With Jesus* Bible studies. I hung onto the various books for some time. In my early 20s, I found myself struggling with various aspects of my life, and in perhaps my most desperate hour of need, a single booklet stuck out in my mind. I hadn't read it yet and I inexplicably gravitated to it at this time: *Your Ups and Downs* (no longer reproduced by CRS). This may sound cliché, but this literally saved my life. I read this book numerous times; it spoke to me.

While I was in college, 2004, I started attending the winter camp in Grayling, Mich., as a way to get active in the long Canadian winter months. Again, thanks to CRS-NCB, cost and transportation were almost completely taken care of. Because I live closer to the United States border than most other campers, it was arranged that the bus would make a pit stop in my home town of London, Ont. This became a convenient rest stop in subsequent years.

My first year of winter camp was like my initial summer camp experience, filled with a number of first-time activities: snow tubing, horse-drawn sleigh rides and downhill skiing/snowboarding at Challenge Mountain. Of course, I also participated in cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, strolling the beautiful



Marie Rutter and boyfriend, Johnm Guylaine, and David at Winter Camp 2012.

winter boardwalk, hands-on nature center and ample visiting with friends over hot chocolate. I not only got to visit with old friends but also made a number of new ones from various parts of both Canada and the United States. In fact, this is where I met the only other person I know with my specific eye condition: Jonathon Lewis. This is where I also met the always funny and entertaining Daniel Richards, as well as a few of the United States reps.

To date, I have attended 15 summer camps and nine winter camps. I look forward to attending these camps; they are the highlight of my winter and summer. I frequently tell friends and family about my experiences; some of the stories can get quite animated. I've also managed to recruit some campers, the most recent being my boyfriend, John, to winter camp and his sister to summer camp along with us. Once John got to witness what I raved about, he too developed an amazing connection to the CRS/NCB experience. Each time I attend a camp, not only is there always something new for me to try, new people to meet and new friends to be made but, my relationship with God continues to grow. NCB has changed and continues to change my life in glorious ways. I am eternally grateful. ■

Marie Rutter is a National Camps for the Blind camper. Visit www.ncbservices.ca for more on Marie Rutter's perspective: "Meet the Family & Interesting Side Facts".



Left: As a missionary, Mark has learned that the gospel is for people of all ages. Our health books are effective entering wedges for spiritual materials.

Above: Romina heads out to work a neighbourhood in St. John's, Newfoundland. Genuine smiles unlock doors and hearts.

Below, back row, l. to r.: Florian, Camille, Karla, Simonique, Amanda, Pamela, and Daniel. **Front row, l. to r.:** Nigel, Ciprian, John, and Jason.



The Personal Touch

“Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.” (Mark 1:41)

“I feed him, clothe him, pay his school fees and drop him off at his soccer practice on Thursdays. I give him an allowance and even sacrificed to get him an iPad for his birthday. With all of this, I just can’t understand why he doesn’t respect me or care about my feelings!”

While visiting homes as a literature evangelist, I have heard many parents complain about their children’s behavior. Although I have always tried to show care and concern, it never really affected me until I had my own children.

I hold my two-year-old daughter in my arms and ask her, “Do you know that Daddy loves you?” She teasingly says, “No,” but finally relents after a session of tickles. There are laughter and hugs, yet thinking about the future makes me afraid. I wonder what her response will be at age 16. I know it would hurt me if she could not affirm her love for me, but there is something that would bring me more pain. Will she be like so many of my church friends who have walked away from God and His love? Will she refuse to sing that song, “Yes! Jesus Loves Me,” because she’s just not sure that He cares or that He even exists?

As I reflect upon my own upbringing, I realize that there are quite a few factors that kept me from “going off the deep end”—the grace of God being the most important. But grace is not something abstract. It’s real and is most often manifested through people who live to touch the lives of others. There is much healing and strength in a touch. Of course, I am not just talking about the physical touch. When my father spent time with me or when my mother listened to my problems, that was the emotional touch I needed to bind my heart to theirs. The more touches, the more cords of love. The more cords, the harder it was for me to stray far. When everything in my life was a question, the respect I had for my father—not willing to break his heart—was the only thing

that kept me.

You may wonder what this has to do with literature evangelism. Does going door to door have anything to do with a personal touch? In fact, you may have thought that those who do this work do it only for money. Well, it’s true that the financial aspect is a motivator, but there is something more powerful than that.

A literature evangelist does not get paid to pray with people or to sign them up for Bible studies. He or she is not remunerated for taking the time to listen to the hurting, the lonely or even the addicted. If literature evangelists were there just for the money, they would not take the time to share with the people what God has done in their own lives, or invite contacts to church. But the caring literature evangelist still reaches out and touches lives because that’s the nature of the work. It’s about enduring one more rejection to meet that one receptive soul where he or she can leave literature about Jesus and make a difference by caring. If the literature evangelist is only there for money, people can smell it. But it’s amazing how many people open their hearts and homes when they come face to face with someone who truly cares.

Mark was a student literature evangelist from Andrews University. While knocking on doors, he met Sandie and shared with her some books to improve her health. Everything was going well until he showed her a book called *God’s Answers to Your Questions*. Upon seeing it, she got angry and exclaimed, “I don’t believe in God!” She then started drilling Mark with one question after another. “If God is so good, why did he allow me to get raped when I was a child? Why did he allow my husband to leave me for another woman? Why did he allow social services to take away my kids? Why is my life a living hell?”

She went on venting her pain for some time, using some very descriptive language.

She was hurting, and Mark didn’t know what to say. So he quickly offered a silent prayer and then said, “Sandie, I don’t know why you were abused as a child. I don’t understand why your husband left you or why they took your children away. There are many things I don’t understand, but there is something I know for sure. I came here to meet you this summer and to let you know that God loves you and He just wants you to come home.” Upon hearing this, Sandie broke down and cried like a baby in Mark’s arms. Through Mark, she came face to face with the compassionate, personal touch of God. Needless to say, she took the book and signed up for Bible studies.

Crystal, another literature evangelist, knocked on Tony’s door but was met with an angry rejection. She felt the man needed something, so she left a small *Steps to Christ* on the windshield of his car. Having gone a few houses down the street, she saw Tony running toward her. He was mad! “I told you I wasn’t interested! Why did you leave this book on my windshield?” He then started to swear. Now, I don’t want to leave the impression that everyone we meet gets upset, because it just isn’t so, but this is simply what happened in this case. Tony railed on for some time before he finally paused long enough to take a breath.

Crystal then looked at him through teary eyes and said, “I’m sorry, Sir. I saw that you were having a stressful day and I just wanted to leave a little peace in your life.”

Tony was quiet for a moment, and then invited Crystal back to the house. He opened the door and told her to look inside. “What do you see?” he asked.

“It’s empty!” she responded.

He went on to explain that he had just returned from a trip to find that his wife had left him and taken everything in the house with her. There were tears in his eyes. He then asked Crystal what else she



The following represents the work of the Canada Literature Ministry Representatives in the last 5 years:

72	Baptisms
624	Individuals invited and who attended some kind of Adventist meetings
10,715	Interests gathered for Revelation seminars, stop-smoking clinics, health seminars and correspondence Bible study courses (cards given to local Bible worker or pastor)
44,873	Prayers with and for individuals in the community
167,875	Spiritual or evangelistic literature and products distributed
297,301	Total literature and products distributed (including health and character-building)
2,328,432	Approximate amount of doors knocked on

Every year, approximately 100 missionary students work across the country. There are about 15 full-time literature evangelist missionaries who work throughout the whole year.

Every year missionaries partner with around 60 Adventist churches across Canada in reaching out to people in local communities from every major city across Canada.

had in her bag. He ended up getting all her books and also signed up for Bible studies. But it was the prayer that Crystal offered at the end that led Tony to the foot of the cross.

Someone once said, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” In a book called *Ministry of Healing*, it’s put this way: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’ There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time was given to sermonizing, and more time was spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. . . . We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit”

(*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

For various reasons, our church has greatly changed in the last 20 years when it comes to reaching out to the homes in our neighbourhood. Even Ingathering has almost disappeared as a community outreach emphasis. One dear old lady once said, “I know now what Revelation meant by the three angels flying in the midst of heaven. They must be three satellites spreading the good news of salvation by HopeTV, 3ABN and LLBN.” I had to smile at that one.

I am much in favour of media ministries. However, I believe their true effectiveness is more fully realized as church members like ourselves join hands with these ministries to follow up the interests, assist in the evangelism series and invite the people to other church-sponsored events. According to the above statement in *Ministry of Healing*, our method should always include mingling with others and coming close to people by personal effort. It is challenging to truly show sympathy

and win people’s confidence if I limit my understanding of ministry to media evangelism, or even to the philosophy of “letting the pastor do all the work.” In other words, we cannot sit back and expect others to “finish the work.” God still wants to use the average person like you and me. To effectively spread God’s love, our outreach endeavours must include the personal touch.

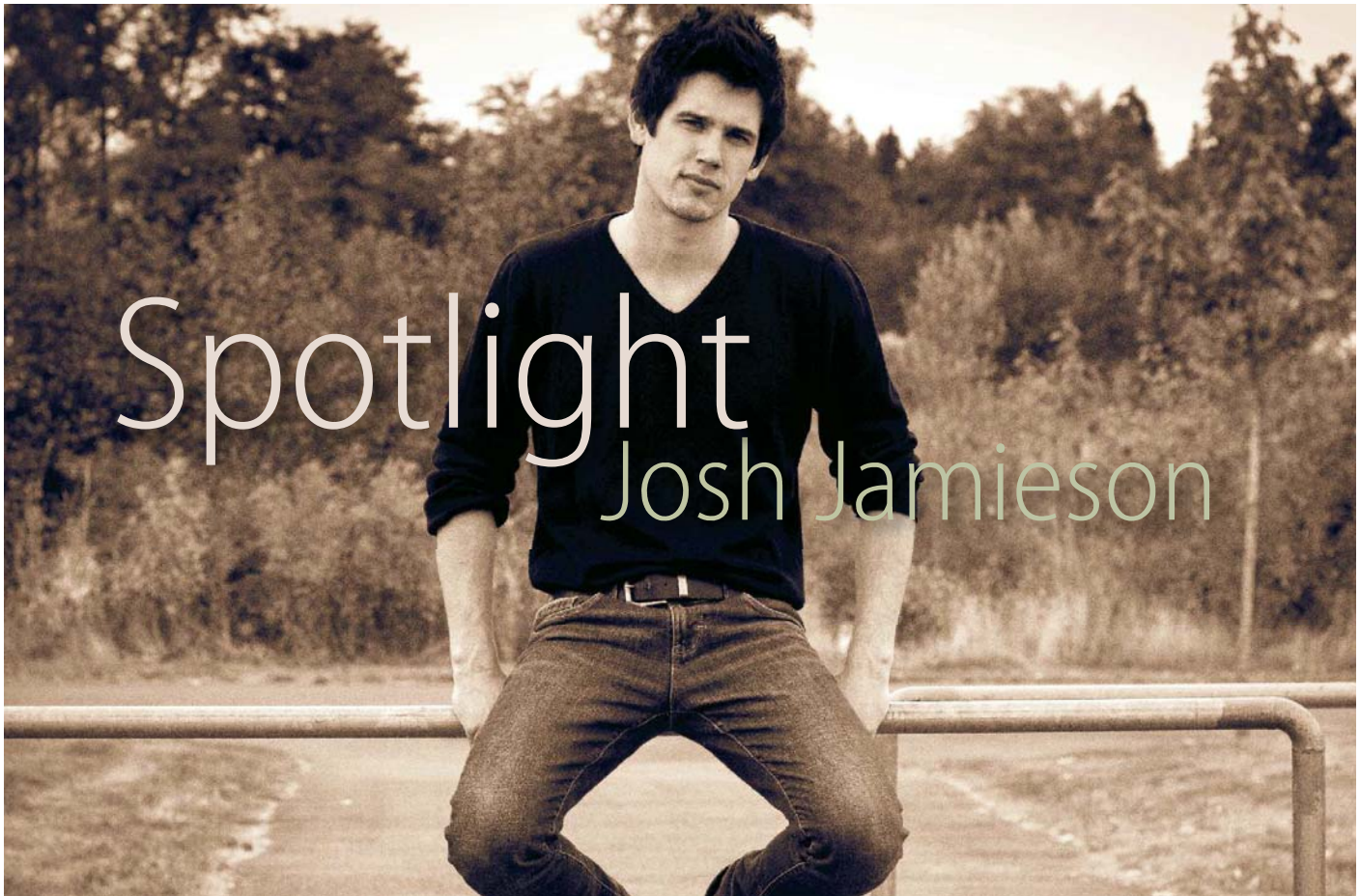
You may say, “People don’t want us to come to their doors. It annoys them.” I myself don’t particularly enjoy people coming to my door either. However, this society has yet to learn that life is not always about what I want, but rather what I need. If I was out there without a knowledge of God’s love, I would want someone to come to my door and endure my petty annoyances, seeking to make friends with me so I could get a chance at eternal life. Why? Because that might be the only chance I ever get. I personally know of whole families that are in the Church today because I did not stop to listen to that excuse.

Others may ask, “Is literature evangelism still relevant today?” For those of us who are out on the front lines, it’s like asking if the sky is blue. To those of us who meet and pray with people day after day—talking with people, listening to their pain and just being there—we wonder if there is a more needy work. Canada Literature Ministry is the only organization in Canada that consistently maintains daily visitations in local communities—offering prayer, literature and that most valuable personal touch on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I look at my daughter again. As she touches my cheeks and smiles, I begin to feel hope. By God’s grace, I pledge to take the time every day to bind her heart to mine. I will seek to reach out and touch her with love in all the ways I can. That way, maybe she will learn about God’s love and one day choose Him for herself. Wouldn’t the same apply in evangelizing our secular world today?

Dear God, teach me how to reach out and touch others for you. ■

Jonathan Zita is the director of Canada Youth Challenge literature ministry.



A few weeks ago I stood at my merchandise table in Oakville, Ont.. I had just completed my concert when a teenage girl approached me to express her love for music. It was her life; she knew it was what she wanted to do but until this very evening had no idea that Christian artists existed, much less, Adventist! It was revitalizing, and she joyfully conveyed that she had made up her mind; she would pursue a career in Christian music. I could relate because, like her, when I was a youth in the church, I was unaware that a world of professional, full-time Christian artists existed; I was under the impression that there was only one option—to pursue a music career outside of the church. But it doesn't have to be that way!

Let me introduce you to one young adult who is forging ahead to bring Christian music ministry to our Adventist churches in Canada. His name is Josh Jamieson, hailing from Aldergrove, B.C. He began playing guitar at age 9, and by 16, Josh was feeling a calling toward writing, playing, and leading worship music. It took shape during campmeeting that summer when he began singing his praise songs to peers at the youth building. "I felt like there was a need," Josh expressed, "and that not only I but my friends needed something. Music speaks in the same way a sermon does." And we see this throughout Scripture, with David being the most famous songster in the Bible, proclaiming, "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises" (Ps. 47:6, KJV).

Josh had been exposed to famous Christian worship leaders like Chris Tomlin at a young age. He admired their gift of music

in glorifying the Maker, and when he himself felt the seed planted in his heart, he went to Walla Walla University in Washington to obtain a degree in theology with the goal of graduating as a worship pastor, a term relatively unknown and unfamiliar within the Church here in Canada. Sure there are people who get up each Sabbath to lead song service or share special music, but they are volunteers. Even at some of the larger churches that have organized praise teams, most of the music staff must carry regular nine-to-five jobs in order to sustain a living. Using the gift of music full-time to reach souls and nurture both young and old is a foreign concept among most, although it is quickly growing into one of the most powerful ministries the Christian Church has.

Twenty-year-old Josh is pressing ahead. He has written, produced, and released an EP of four songs in the contemporary Christian style, available online at his website, www.joshjamieson.com. He is volunteering at as many Adventist churches as he can fit into his schedule, leading worship and conducting workshops. He believes that after he graduates, God will lead him to the right place where he can serve as a full-time worship pastor. My prayer is that we as a church community may begin preparing the way for Josh, and young artists like him, and be ready when their time comes to serve the Lord through music ministry full-time. ■

Naomi Striemer is a Chapel recording artist, speaker and author who owns and hosts a syndicated Christian lifestyle radio show that airs across Canada to an approximate 3.5 million daily.

I can't thank Him enough

I am grateful for the positive influence of Adventist education and for all those who gave, and continue to give, to make this blessing available to me and to so many others like me.

IT'S OFTEN WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON YOUR LIFE

that you can see God leading. As I look back, I can see how God used Adventist education to lead me to Him.

My experience with church while growing up was limited. I was baptized into the Anglican Church as a baby, attended the odd wedding or baptism with my family, and occasionally visited various churches and Sunday schools with friends. When I got to high school, I met a new friend whose parents didn't let her go to dances or stay out on Friday nights. At the time I thought they were weird and overbearing. One summer, as punishment for behaviour that seemed normal to me, they sent my friend to Camp Frenda to volunteer for Blind Camp. We managed to talk them into letting me go, too, and it was there that I got my first taste of Adventism. I saw teenagers who lived a very different life than I did, and they were happy.

When camp was over, my friend's parents decided to send her to Kingsway College and I was totally devastated. I begged my mother to let me go, too. I think she finally agreed just to make me stop begging. She really believed that they would ship me right back home because we had no money to pay for tuition.

I was excited but a bit scared. This was going to be my chance to start a fresh new life. At registration I remember going to see Greg Bussey in Student Finance and, looking back at it now, I know a miracle happened that day to make it possible for me to stay. I worked in the cafeteria to pay some of my tuition, but I know that God also worked through the donors to the Worthy Student Fund and through the Chatham Seventh-day Adventist Church who sacrificed so that I could attend, even though I wasn't a member of their church.

Every day at Kingsway brought new experiences, from FriChik to rules that were enforced, to part-time jobs. I joined the Aerials gymnastics team and loved both the gymnastics and the new friends I made there. Slowly, my life began to change. Simple things like chapel, teachers praying before class, vespers, church, being together with my new friends, led me on a journey to Jesus. My Aerials coach, Pierre Chartier, saw a leader in me and made me girls' captain in my Grade 12 year. Gary Dooks made Christianity so real that I wanted to know the Jesus he knew. Both of these teachers must have known my past but they didn't judge me. They accepted me for who I was and helped me to grow into what Jesus wanted me to be.



Jason and Brandy Perkins with sons, Joshua and Brandon.

Adventist education led me to Jesus. It also led me to the man who would become my wonderful husband. Our oldest son graduated from Kingsway in 2011, and our youngest is currently in Grade 11. I wouldn't send them anywhere else.

As I look back, I am grateful for the way God worked through others on my behalf, even before I knew Him. I am grateful for the positive influence of Adventist education and for all those who gave and continue to give to make this blessing available to me and to so many others like me. I can't wait to get to heaven to ask Jesus to fill in the parts of the story I don't know yet—the people and the circumstances He used to lead me to Kingsway and to Him. I have no doubt that He was leading—there is no other explanation—and I can't thank Him enough. ■

Brandy Perkins graduated from Kingsway College in 1991 and currently works as the administrative secretary for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Office of Education.

A New Beginning

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18



Angelique Orr speaking at her graduation.

ANN ENDED UP AS A SINGLE MOM WITH TWO SMALL CHILDREN AT

an early age. Her daughter, Angelique, was only two, and it was a struggle to make ends meet and find cash for the little extras for Angelique and her baby brother, Phoenix. Ann had some hard choices to make. Being part First Nations, it would have been easy for her to live on a reservation. But Ann was willing to work hard to give her precious children an alternative.

When Angelique was 11, her mom took her and her brother to a Revelation seminar in Edmonton put on by the Alberta Conference and Andrews University Seminary. The students had not planned a program for children, but when Pastor Steve Reasor saw Angelique and her brother sitting in the hotel lobby, he sat with them. He told them stories and played with them while their mother attended the meetings. By the time the meetings were over, Ann and her children decided that they wanted to give their

lives to Christ and be baptized. Their little family became a part of the Seventh-day Adventist family, and the best part was that Angelique had a Father again!

Life was still a struggle adjusting to the new choices they were making as a family. The summer Angelique was going into Grade 7, a church member took her to campmeeting and she happened to stop by the Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) recruitment tent, and they kept visiting the earliteen tent. She became intrigued by the idea of attending a boarding school where everyone was a Christian just like her. So when Angelique was about to enter Grade 10, Ann gave permission for her daughter to attend. Ann was concerned about the tuition costs, but with the help of endowments and scholarships for good grades and an on-campus job, the fees were manageable.

Angelique studied hard because she wanted to achieve her goals and dreams and to serve God in some way with the talents He had given her. Angelique had

always wanted to be a doctor because she loved to help people. At PAA, she was reunited with the school chaplain, Pastor Steve Reasor, and she joined his ministry group Dauntless. She also involved herself in other ministries, on and off campus, and filled several leadership roles during her three years at the academy.

Angelique Orr recently graduated from Parkview Adventist Academy with honours and is now pursuing a medical career. Her academic road still stretches ahead of her, but with prayer and her strong perseverance, she will finish and serve the Lord she has come to trust.

Endowments make Adventist education a reality for many students at all of our schools. Parkview Adventist Academy would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps students like Angelique fulfill their dreams. ■

*By Pattie Reasor, Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*

*Kingsway College
wants to make
fully devoted
followers of
Christ who help
others biblically
withstand the
final deception.*

Past Choices, Future Consequences



Not many can claim that they were born in Benghazi, Libya, or that they lived in Israel and Jordan, but Connie Solomon, history teacher at Kingsway College, can.

Connie's father, Pastor Bill Clemons, was the chaplain at the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Libya, and the president of the Israeli Mission in the 1960's.

Connie's Middle Eastern upbringing and her fond childhood memories of walking among Roman ruins and meeting Dr. Horn and his Andrews University archaeological team planted a seed that eventually developed into a passion for sharing knowledge about historical events, people and places.

Connie's family later moved to Canada, where Connie attended College Park Elementary for Grade 8, before enrolling at Kingsway College, where she graduated in 1982. She then went on to graduate with a B.Sc. from Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University. Connie is currently working on a Master's Degree in Education through La Sierra University to become better equipped to serve God.

Connie has been a lifelong learner and strongly believes in Adventist education. She teaches Grade 10 Canadian History, Grade 11 American History, Grade 12 World History and courses in Civics (which explore an understanding of the Canadian government and what it means to be a responsible citizen).

At Kingsway, Connie focuses on providing students with a deeper understanding of faith, learning and the importance of a Christian worldview, and history.

"History encompasses everything in our lives. The current events that are seen in the media today happened because of decisions that were made in the past. In that same manner, I tell my students that every second of the day, they are making their own history! Likewise, the positive choices they are making now will lead to

positive results in the future, leading them to be the people God wants them to become.

"For the ancient Greeks, the pillars of education were history and philosophy. The study of history was highly valued by the ancients for the guidance and practical applications it brought to those who learned from the past.

"The great thing about teaching history is that there is a lot of dialogue and exchange of ideas. As I discuss with my students the various historical events, I am also able to help them apply Christian principles to their exploration of history. The students always amaze me with their insight as they analyze history. When we dig into history together, we find wonderful parallels between the past and the present. We are then able to apply these ideas to our lives today.

"In addition, the students often share different, thought-provoking and exciting perspectives that I hadn't considered before. I can disprove the commonly held idea that teenagers don't think seriously about things; they really do!

"I feel privileged to be an Adventist teacher working in a Christian setting, where I can have a prayer and a devotional at the beginning of class, share my faith and be a part of the development of a Christlike character in my students as they pursue academic success. It is my wish and prayer that my students will grow in their Christian experience and use their gifts and talents throughout their lives and in their careers as a shining influence for the future." ■

Jennifer Parent is the development coordinator at 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.

Ontario

Reaping a Rich Harvest

"Unless we bathe our efforts in prayer," asserted our pastor, "we can't do much and will see very, very little success, if any." A silence fell on the room as members of the planning committee for our Youth Evangelism Campaign paused, letting the pastor's words sink in. It wasn't that this was not a praying church—it was. Members and even whole families led by our prayer ministries team came together regularly to pray for straying loved ones. Yet it was a timely reminder that we were looking for something more than just "business as usual." What we wanted was to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to help save our young people.

And so it was in that moment and with that realization that the 40 Days of Prayer Initiative was born. Its goals were few. We would pray for only three things: a closer walk with the Lord, a more focused prayer life and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that we might labour more effectively to save souls. For 2012 our emphasis as a church was our young people; evangelism was aimed at young people in the church, uninvolved attendees, those whose church connection might be slipping away, those who attend irregularly, youth with family problems, as well as any un-churched non-Adventist young people they were associating with.

To help us achieve our goals, we would use Pastor Dennis Smith's book *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming* and set up a prayer line for our church. We would structure our communal prayer times based on King David's example in Psalm 55:17, where we read, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." Based on this scripture and General Conference's 777 Initiative, we decided to unite as a church at 7 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. each day for 40 days—120 hours in all. But who would lead out? After much prayer, we began making calls. We asked our church elders to lead out in the devotional study of the book at 7 a.m., our prayer leader and her team to lead out at the 12 o'clock consecration hour and invited guest speakers for the 7 p.m. evening program. In consultation with Pastor Eustace Williams, prayer coordinator for Ontario Conference, we were challenged to "widen the net" and invite other churches and regions to join in. As we saw the Lord's plan and began making those calls, it was clear in the enthusiasm that greeted us that the Spirit of the Lord was moving. Emboldened by our success in obtaining commitments from pastors and prayer leaders from the Ontario Conference, we began calling all over North American Division. The Holy Spirit was moving and was about to do something



Georgia Tashlin in the baptismal pool.

spectacular and unique for His praying people here in Eastern Ottawa.

As we immersed ourselves in the 40 days of study and prayer, we began to see and to experience God's blessings among us. Scheduling conflicts and issues quickly melted away as members became engaged in the process that God, through His Holy Spirit, was taking us through. Word got around to other local churches; more books were ordered as we continued to pray and share with other congregations and invited them to take the lead where possible. Parallel activities such as specially targeted visitation by our pastor and elder associated with our Youth department and other young volunteers intensified. Many reached out, visited, and conducted surveys, while the church continued to come together three times daily to seek for the promised outpouring and to pray. Invitations, based on prayer for five individuals outlined in the book, began to go out. Phone calls were made; relationships restored. ■

*Peggy Ann Caesar, Bible Instructor,
Ottawa East Seventh-day Adventist Church*

Breakthrough on Manitoulin Island



The group from Toronto that came to assist with the community health program. Left to right: George Cho, Denis LeBlanc, Mia Middleton, Katherine Pasamonte, Alexandra Yeboah, Daniel Cho, and Daniel Saugh.

Manitoulin Island, dubbed the world's largest fresh water island, with a population of over 12,000 people and a mixture of surrounding native reserves, recently hosted an Abundant Living Seminar in the town of Mindemoya. The event was advertised in local newspapers and the radio station on the island, extending as far as Sudbury. Guest speaker Pastor Daniel Saugh shared information using a multimedia presentation and DVD clips from the very popular *Forks Over Knives* documentary.

Afterwards, the focus was on cooking demonstrations followed by a full-course, vegan meal, including dessert—apple crisp made with local organic apples and

locally grown and milled oats!

Assisting Saugh were a few youth members of Eastern Canada Youth for Christ (ECYC), namely George and Daniel Cho, Mia Middleton, Alexandra Yeboah and Katherine Pasamonte, who came to the island for the event. Joining in this time were Denis and Kris LeBlanc, of Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island. Denis, an accomplished musician, provided “homemade” music during the meal, and Kris helped plan, prepare and coordinate the meal as well as the vegan/vegetarian food demonstration.

Currently, we are the only Adventist family on the island, but it was recently discovered that there is a former Adventist

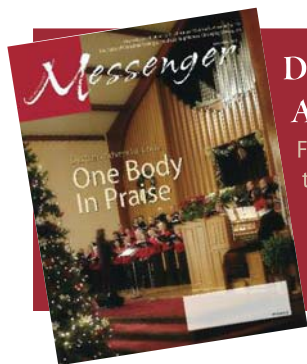
also on the island.

A few days after the advertisement was put in the local papers for the seminar, the local hydro company planned an interruption for the same day as the event. There would be no electricity from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but the group continued in faith and prayer and chose to keep the same date and time. All hands were on deck and worked to prepare for the occasion with no power for 6 hours. Precisely at 3 p.m. power was restored as people started arriving. Talk about a miracle!

Altogether 33 people attended the seminar and 20 remained for the evening meal, with a grand total of over 50 people cycling through the session, a record-breaking attendance for a large-scale community endeavor.

Following the dinner Saugh was able to answer questions posed by many curious and enthusiastic guests. Several Manitoulin Island residents were encouraged by this seminar event, and many more showed an interest in continuing by enrolling in cooking seminars to be held throughout the year. We hope to continue to build friendships and community partnerships with health outreach projects being planned for next year. The ECYC mission team is planning to come to the island and do a series of community and health-based ministries. If you are interested in coming to help, please contact us through the conference health or youth department. Please continue to pray that God will prosper the work here and point many souls to our Savior. ■

*Kris LeBlanc,
Manitoulin Island*



DURHAM ADVENTIST CHOIR

For anyone wishing to have the Durham Adventist Choir come to present a concert at their church, please contact durhamadventistchoir@gmail.com.

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

Alberta

Camrose Church Receives Miracle Blessing

For the past 11 years, the 30-member Camrose church has been renting space for Sabbath services from various congregations while fervently praying that God would bless them once again with their own building. In the past the Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Church has operated its own buildings on and off since the 1920s but has never been able to maintain a consistent presence in the community. Over the years, many faithful members have reignited the spirit of outreach in the community and built up a congregation only to have to sell their building as economic forces compelled many members to move on. Most recently, in 2001, the church was forced to relocate its aging building on the heels of a city expropriation. Unfortunately, the costs of meeting updated building codes proved to be too high, and the congregation was forced to demolish its beloved church building that same year.

Discouraged but not defeated, the congregation continued to raise funds believing in faith that God would one day restore to them a house of worship. In July of this year, a retired Pentecostal pastor who has faithfully attended our congregation for over 20 years advised us that the Camrose Calvary Pentecostal Church was being privately offered for sale. As it turned out, a number of other churches and organizations were interested, as the availability of church zoning has been severely restricted in Camrose in recent years. In faith our congregation voted to act quickly and was first to submit an offer of 1.15 million dollars, for which they had only \$400,000 in assets. A leap of faith indeed, especially since they only had 90 days to raise the remaining funds! Not to be deterred, members diligently and prayerfully set to work to make the substantial need known among friends, relatives and



The newly purchased Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Church.

former members. Sadly, we fell short by \$200,000 dollars as the deadline came and passed, and we regretfully advised Calvary Pentecostal that we would not be able to remove the financing subject to clause on the purchase.

As it turned out, this was not the first time that the Calvary Pentecostal and Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Churches had rubbed shoulders on buildings. Pastor Clayton Milgate of Calvary Pentecostal reminded us that back in the 1920s, they had rented and eventually purchased the Camrose Adventist Church for the sum of \$1,000. The tables had turned, and as we consulted our local church history, indeed it was so! Determined to make this work, Calvary Pentecostal first offered an interest-free loan for the outstanding amount. Unfortunately, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada advised that the added monthly outlay would be too burdensome for our small congregation.

Once again we offered our regrets. In a moment of prayer and reflection, Calvary Pentecostal realized that the church property had included an adjacent unused lot that was already subdivided. By removing it from the deal, they felt that they could sacrificially meet the \$901,000 that we had fundraised as the purchase price and conclude the deal.

Hallelujah! Thanks to God's miracle of timing and fundraising, the generosity and selfless giving of our friends, family and members, and the determination of Calvary Pentecostal's leadership to continue to bless our long history together, the Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Church is once again restored to prominence in this wonderful community. Many will be blessed with years of fruitful work among its people in anticipation of the coming of our Lord! Maranatha. ■

*Olaf Clausen, Pastor,
Camrose Seventh-day
Adventist Church*

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Nov. 30, 2012, there are 458 depositors with a total deposit of \$23,467,316. There are 75 loans with a value of \$19,368,339.

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

British Columbia

Love for a Lifetime

Camp Hope, B.C., was the destination for nearly 50 couples who gathered together for a Marriage Enrichment Weekend on Oct. 19–21, 2012. The main speakers for the event were Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, North American Division Family Ministries director and associate director, respectively.

The weekend program prepared the registrants for a relaxed time in Camp Hope. This was true, but the main purposes of the gathering were to enhance the marital joy in every couple's life and to promote the spiritual relationship that should exist between them and God. The presenters were highly appreciated; they spoke to the heart of every participant. The practical and spiritual applications of the seminars were a blessing to the couples, and the topics discussed were relevant to a marriage setting.

The subjects discussed included Marriage Destroyers, Men's and Women's Needs, The Art of Communication, The Art of Conflict Resolution and The Gift of Forgiveness. Drs. Consuegra won the confidence and the hearts of those who were present by their friendly smile, good sense of humor, for speaking candidly about the subjects, and most importantly because of the use of a sound theology and biblical foundations that supported their remarks. On Saturday evening a



Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, North American Division Family Ministries director and associate director speak at a Marriage Enrichment Weekend held at Camp Hope, B.C.

sumptuous banquet was prepared for the couples with candlelight and soft Christian love songs, which created a romantic atmosphere. That was a very special moment.

At the conclusion of the program on Sunday morning, Dr. Wesley Torres, B.C. Conference vice-president for Administration and Family Life director, led the group in renewing their marriage vows. It was a special moment, and many of them were touched. The concept highlighted that happy couples are more likely to have stable and happier families,

which in turn will result in a stronger and happier church that ultimately can exercise a convincing influence in their community. The couples embraced this important connection and were encouraged to live their lives as true followers of Christ, loving each other and reflecting His love to those around them. The participants' marriages were truly enriched during that weekend. ■

*Wesley Torres, VP
Administration/Family Life
Director, B.C. Conference*

SDA Church in Canada

VOAR—A message to their listeners and supporters

The management and staff of Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) wish all of our listeners a happy New Year. We look forward to bringing you the best in Christian family radio in 2013. You are invited to drop us a line and let us know how we're doing; we would love to hear from you. If your church has a news item

that you would like us to put on the air, let us know. You can also visit our website at www.voar.org and fill out a form with your church service information for our "Church Bulletin Board" or use our "Community Event" form for any dated event you would like us to get on for you. You can contact us by phone locally 745-

8627, long distance 1-888-740-8627 or by email at voar@voar.org. We thank you for your continued support of this Seventh-day Adventist-owned Canada-wide radio broadcast service. God bless. ■

*R. Brian Matthews,
VOAR Chief Engineer
bmatthews@voar.org*

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Science and Faith: Real Answers Seminar



Pastor Scott Manly speaking at the Science and Faith Seminar in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

“Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Revelation 14:7).

Our end-time message not only points us to the future (the soon return of Jesus) but also calls us back to worship our Creator. Yet many doubt the biblical Creation because of the theory of evolution.

The Moose Jaw church recently decided to host the nine-night seminar entitled Science and Faith: Real Answers on Nov. 16–24 at the local public library. The intent was to provide people with scientific evidences for believing the Bible (considering issues from mostly mainstream science media and high school biology).

For example, attendees took a brief look at the immense challenges to the idea of life arising out of the primordial soup (the seas and atmosphere as they existed on earth before the existence of life, consisting primarily of an oxygen-

free gaseous mixture); these challenges reveal that not only is it apparently impossible, but it violates Louis Pasteur’s famous Biogenic Law, which states life only arises from other living things. Participants of the seminar were left with the question, “Which takes more faith to believe—life arose in apparently impossible circumstances of a primordial soup, violating Louis Pasteur’s Biogenic Law, or that life on earth came about as a gift from the Eternal Life Source (God), which is consistent with Pasteur’s law?” Attendees received Bible study lessons for each night of this nine-night series, and on the last night they were invited to join the Moose Jaw congregation for weekly follow-up presentations at their church.

The Science and Faith: Real Answers seminar also looked at science concerning the origin of the universe, natural selection and mutations, the origin of humankind, what happened to the dinosaurs, and more, using these to teach about the

Great Controversy, the Messiah, the judgment, and more.

Of the 28 people who attended the seminar, 19 were non-Adventist guests. Some of these had previously attended the Moose Jaw Church’s health presentations (Depression Recovery Program, Full Plate Diet Program). Even the security guard took the Bible study lessons and a Bible, as well as invited a friend to attend. On the last night, halfway through the presentation, a gentleman came for the first time. After the meeting, he agreed to start Bible studies and asked when the church services are.

The Moose Jaw church is thankful for the wonderful response and looks forward to studying more with these people as well as continuing their programs for the Moose Jaw community. ■

Scott Manly, Pastor, Moose Jaw Church, Saskatoon

Canadian Native Advisory Committee



Hotel-Museum of the First Nations on the Wendake Reserve in Quebec City.

The Canadian Native Advisory Committee met in Quebec City this past November for their regular biannual meeting. The Canadian Native Advisory is composed of native ministry representatives from each conference across Canada, and their purpose is to advise the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada on policy and actions to facilitate ministry to the aboriginal people of Canada. The representatives are chosen by the conferences and are usually First Nations people or someone with experience working in that ministry. Every conference across Canada has at least one representative.

-
- SDACC president Mark Johnson
 - Maritimes Conference Corville Naugler
 - Quebec Conference Patrick Dupuis
or Ngoy Kyala
or Maria Lecroix
 - Ontario Conference Sharon & Jamie Johns
 - Man-Sask Conference Daniel & Gina Guiboche
 - Alberta Conference Peter & Vicky Ford,
Bob Spratt
 - B.C. Conference Brian Wahl &
Randy Elliott
 - Mamawi Atosketan Native School Gail Wilton
 - Native Ministries Coordinator Edward Dunn
-

The Native Ministries coordinator, Edward Dunn, tries to arrange for the committee to meet on a First Nations reserve somewhere in the vast territory of Canada. The recent November meeting was held at the Hotel-Museum of the First Nations on the Wendake Reserve. The Wendake tourism coordinator took the committee on a tour of some of the more notable places on the reserve. They went first to the GV Snowshoe factory (*see www.gvsnowshoes.com/eng/index.html*), the leading manufacturer of snowshoes in the world. There they saw how the various kinds of snowshoes were made and distributed. Next, they were taken to the school where students who had dropped out of school could finish their Grade 12 within a supporting First Nations cultural environment. The principal talked of their successes and showed the cultural activities the students were learning. There were many other businesses on the reserve, from car sales to banks, restaurants and craft shops, which provided employment for the residents. The committee members were duly impressed with the reserve and the kind people.

For Friday evening vespers, all gathered together in one hotel room to share their joys and challenges with one another and then spend some time in prayer.

On Sabbath the members of the committee split up and attended both of the churches in Quebec City. They were royally received and treated like long-lost friends, even though they could not communicate in French. Efforts were made to translate the Sabbath School lesson discussion and sermon into English for the visitors. Edward Dunn was informed of three families who were working for the various First Nations of Quebec, and one of the individuals, Maria Lecroix, a First Nations person herself, attended the meeting the following day. Maria was overjoyed to find out that her Seventh-day Adventist Church was working in an organized manner to reach her people.

Of course, the committee members did meet together for their meeting. They gave and listened to inspiring reports of First Nations work in Canada. The committee voted to translate the Native New Day Bible lessons into French for the thousands of First Nations people who cannot read the English version. They discussed the need for more Bible workers and the exciting new projects opening up, such as Sioux Lookout. Developing a new app for smartphones was discussed and approved so the First Nations youth could access the Adventist native resources. They spent some time dreaming and planning how they would like to see the First Nations work in Canada strengthen and expand.

After meeting for a full day, the members went to take in some history in Old Quebec City and the Plains of Abraham and how life once was.

Everyone enjoyed the experience, and the members looked forward to returning home with renewed vigor, insight, and inspiration. God is truly blessing the aboriginal people of Canada as they search for a renewed vision of their Creator and His plan for their lives. ■

Ed Dunn is Native Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Ordinary Places, Extraordinary Times



Photo by Jason Harral.

BY THIS TIME, THOSE LONG BROWN ROWS OF PICNIC TABLES UNDER THE front porch of the cafeteria were so familiar to me; I had cleaned them many times, moved them into storage for the winter, eaten countless meals on them, explained games to a host of campers while I stood on one of their benches. It's amazing how the everyday, ordinary places become places of such significance. Really, it's amazing how we everyday, ordinary people have been so privileged to be called and chosen by such an extraordinary God. So really, as it turns out, it's not a surprise that a clarion call from God came in the middle of a conversation over lunch at those tables.

The familiar place was the beloved Camp Whitesand, and I was talking with Pastor Roy Jamieson, a veteran of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, an inspiration and blessing in my life over my summers serving as camp staff there. We were talking about Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM). He was telling me a story about Clyde Morgan, one of the founders of AFM, who had begun his pastoral ministry in the Man-Sask Conference. Pastor Jamieson shared with me his sadness about Clyde not returning to Man-Sask from seminary, commenting on the fact that he would have been a great person, passionate about frontier missions and all, to start a powerful work in the North. And suddenly, so many

pieces come together for me at that moment; my face undoubtedly was a sad representation of the astonishment in my mind. Unbeknownst to Pastor Jamieson at the time, I had already had Nunavut on my mind. Allow me to explain: back at the campmeeting that announced that there would be a team heading up to Nunavut—the Nieshes and Manlys—I had been working at summer camp and thus had witnessed the announcement. Then 15 months in Benin, West Africa, happened to me, and I, fairly fresh from that paradigm-shifting, life-altering journey, was here now talking with Pastor Jamieson.

You see, Clyde, I was learning from Pastor Jamieson, had gone to Andrews. There he and a few others were inspired to start an innovative and new missions society for the Church—AFM. Just over 25 years later, I went as a student missionary and learned all about AFM's amazing cross-cultural missionary model and was filled with a desire to go to the ends of the earth for the sake of the call. And now after having already developed a strong relationship with the Man-Sask Conference through summer camp employment, I, a Canadian, was so wonderfully positioned to help grow the process of revealing Jesus to the Inuit people. I cannot say that I had every detail figured out at that moment, but I do know that God knows something

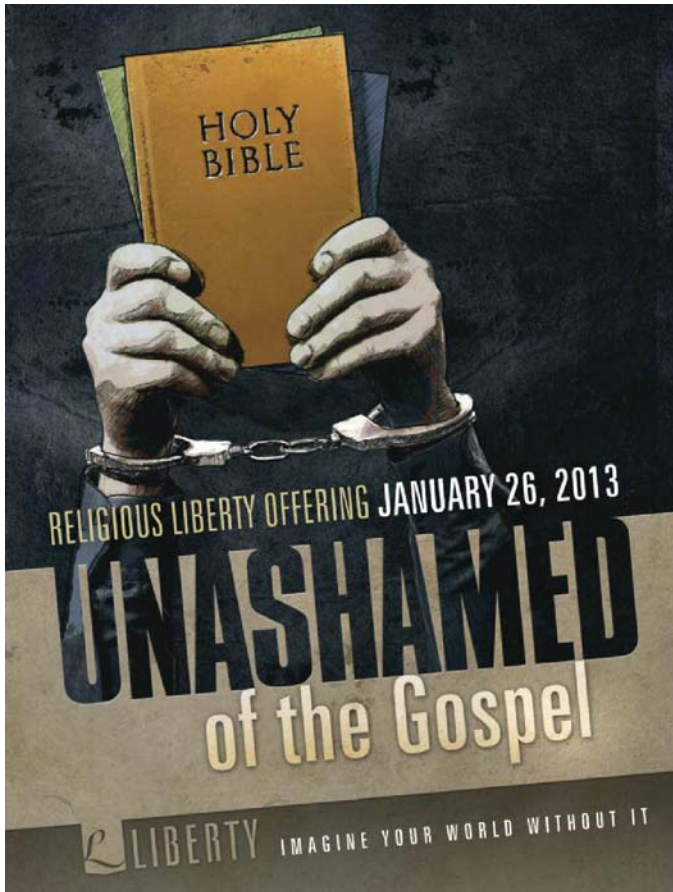
about timing!

After my conversation with Pastor Jamieson, I literally bounded from that picnic table back to my summer abode and typed up a project proposal that had been swimming in my mind all week. A year later after connecting with Ed Dunn, the Native Ministries director for Canada, and after several meetings with our church leadership, the goal to have a church planting movement among the Inuit people is moving forward rapidly (see www.afmonline.org/about/approach.php). I am glad to have been used by God as a catalyst in this whole process. Much is left to plan and prepare, so I solicit your prayers for the team already there, Bill and Lisa, Jose, and Ghadihela, and all those who will be joining them.

In these extraordinary times, let us remember the words of Peter and ask ourselves, what do we wish for? "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9, ASV, emphasis mine). ■

Eric Anderson is a student in Religious Studies at Canadian University College.

He grew up in Oshawa, Ont., but has been in Lacombe for the last 10 years. He is really in love with Jesus and is so glad for miraculous grace.



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■ **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)

The Calgary Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church is pleased to announce Reunion 2013. Saturday, May 4, 2013, is the commemoration of 40 years of service to its members and surrounding communities. We'd love to celebrate

this special anniversary with you. Meet and greet old friends and new. See how our dynamic church has grown! Space is limited, so RSVP early by visiting our website www.calgary-mountain-view-sda-church.com/ or call 403/247-7421. Let us know how many will be having lunch.

The Oakridge Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members:

Aranka Belezney, Colin O'Brien, Daisy Preisler, Debbie Eccleston, Debra Lee Eilers, Edwin Preisler, Fe Lim, George Kis, Girmay Keste, Graham Thomas, Hayle Lee, Jason Sommerville, Joan Fyfe, John Madill, Kuniko Ishikawa, Lorelei Sullivan, Nekkola Fox, Robert Armstrong, Robert Hartman, Ronald Knorr, Sharon Randhwa, William Hartman. If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact the Oakridge Seventh-day Adventist Church office at 604/266-6726, or email osda@telus.net.

The Surrey Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members:

Kris Abrantes, Ana-Liza Allen, Dwight Anderson, Yvonne Arboleda, Pauline Austin, Mark Baesa, Barbara Boszkowski, Valeriu Brojban, Dave Brown, Don Budlong, Laurie Budlong, Beth Butler, Charles Butler, Maja Carrington, John Cassells, John Chamberlain, Donna Chan, Douglas Chancey, Dylan Clarke, Bandler Costain, Terry Da Silva, Caroline Dela Cruz, Michael Di Ramio, Eric Donaldson, Tina Duglay, Elizabeth Elliott, Rita Gallant, Dale Gardner, Roneil Grant, Sheena Grant, Douglas Hill, Ray Hoglin, Gina Marie Jaram-Iglesias, Lorraine Jones, Heather Kaye, Emele Taive Korobansanga, Alan Major, Michael McGillivray, Rod McKinnon, Jacqueline Mary Michael, Ivan Miroslavljev, Justin Naherny, Andy Naumann, Lynn Nikolai, Edna Olson, Reynaldo Pantoja, Shaun James Paul, Glen Pedersen, Martina Pedersen, Nobert Penner, Raimond Penner, Ewa Porebski, Alan Sawchuk, Wendy Schermerhorn, Melissa Scott, Catherine Shea, Jennifer Spence, Andrew Spieker, Martin Spieker, Nadine Stanley, Eva Tothy, Margaret Turner, Brent Vader, Bryan Vader. If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact the Surrey Seventh-day Adventist Church secretary, Rae Weir, 604-591-2922.

■ **New Members**

ONTARIO

Cassandra Whitty was baptized in Kingston, Ont., on May 26, 2012, by

Daviceto Swaby. She is now a member of the Kingston church.

Dan Calder was baptized in Kingston, Ont., on Oct. 13, 2012, by Daviceto Swaby. Dan was baptized after attending the Creation /Evolution debate and the Prophecies Decoded evangelistic series in 2011. He is now a member of the Kingston church.

■ **Births**

Seth Michael David Kartik was born on February 22, 2012, to David and Melanie (née Pohl) Kartik of Kelowna, B.C.

■ **Birthdays**

Anne Woloschuk (née Voth) of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 27, 2012. A special



birthday celebration was held on Oct. 14, 2012, at Sutherland Hills Rest Home. The Keepers of the Faith quartet held a private concert in honour of Anne's 100th birthday. It was attended by many family and friends.

■ **Obituaries**

James Stephen Letniak was born July 23, 1918, in Loyalist, Alta., and died Aug. 15, 2012, in Coronation, Alta. James was a faithful member of the Loyalist church and served as head elder for many years. He also was actively involved and made contributions to many church committees, including the Canadian University College board, Alberta Conference executive committee, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada board in Oshawa. James had an unwavering determination to share his faith wherever he could through his conversations or his sermon video ministry. James is survived by his wife, Mary; sons, Ron (Connie) Letniak, of Consort, Alta., Lawrence (Debbie) Letniak, of Veteran, Alta.; daughters, Darlene

(Paul) Karmy, of Bursleson, Tex., Ellen (Bob) Bell, of Lacombe, Alta.; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Ruth Michael was born Nov. 3, 1923, in Baltimore, Md., and died Oct. 31, 2012, in Bradford, Ont. Marilyn worked for the Seventh-day Church in Canada (SDACC) as a secretary from Jan. 1, 1954, until Dec. 31, 1980. Marilyn also worked in secretarial positions at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Atlantic Union College, the Southern England Conference and the Ontario-Quebec Conference. Marilyn is predeceased by her husband, Darren, her brother, Charles (Helen) West, and her son-in-law Barry Fenton. Surviving: sons, John (Teri), Dale (Terri); daughters, Joan (Bill) Skwarchuk, Janice Fenton, Jeannine Teter and Jamie (Faye); eight grandchildren and three great-children.

Celeste Rubenia (née Whatley) Sidorko was born Feb. 6, 1920, in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay), Ont., and died Sept. 22, 2012, in Lacombe, Alta. Ruby served the church as a Sabbath school superintendent, Sabbath school teacher in the junior division, crafts instructor, vegetarian cooking school instructor and investment leader. She also worked on many Maranatha projects. She is survived by her husband, Nicholas; son, Wayne; daughter, Nancy; sister, Ruth; and brother, Ronald; and two grandchildren.

Lillian (née Ferster) Sorenson was born Nov. 2, 1934, in Melville, Sask., and died Aug. 30, 2011, in Collegedale, Tenn. Lillian was a keen student of the Scriptures and loved to share the good news of the coming of Jesus with others. Lillian is predeceased by her husband, Bob. Surviving: son, Kelvin Beaton, of Collegedale, Tenn.; daughter, Shirley Thomas, of Oshawa, Ont.; brothers, Ben Ferster, of Kelowna, B.C., and Emmanuel Ferster, of Abbotsford, B.C.; sister, Alma Liske, of Rosario Beach, Wash.; and two grandchildren.

Manfred Spieker was born Sept. 6, 1934, in Germany, and died Dec. 17, 2011, in Surrey, B.C. Manfred volunteered countless hours at his church in Surrey and at Camp Hope building plumbing systems. He also loved being a teacher with Ruth in Kindergarten class, lending a hand to the Surrey Pathfinders for more than 10 years and serving as a deacon in his younger years. Manfred is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters, Heidi (Brian) Elliott of Abbotsford, B.C., Charlott of Surrey, B.C., Ruth (Ken) Moeller of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, sons, Andrew (Mary) of Vancouver, B.C., Martin (Linda) of Vancouver, B.C., and

Sigfried (Erika) of Salmon Arm, B.C.; eight grandchildren.

Annie (née Hrenyk) Stoyanowski was born Oct. 10, 1913, in Samburg, Sask., and died July 21, 2011, in Vernon, B.C. Annie was a faithful member of the Saskatoon and British Columbia churches. During the last twenty years of her life, Anne knitted children's sweaters for ADRA. Anne is predeceased by her husband, Peter. Surviving: daughters, Edna Polak, of Calgary, Alta., Liz (Lloyd) Jones of Huntsville, Arkansas, Mary (Steve) Crombie, of Vernon, B.C., Jane Greenhow, of Penticton, B.C., Rose Gustafson, of Vernon, B.C., son, David (Sherry), of Penticton, B.C.; sisters, Kay, Martha, and Esther, brother, Daniel; 15 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

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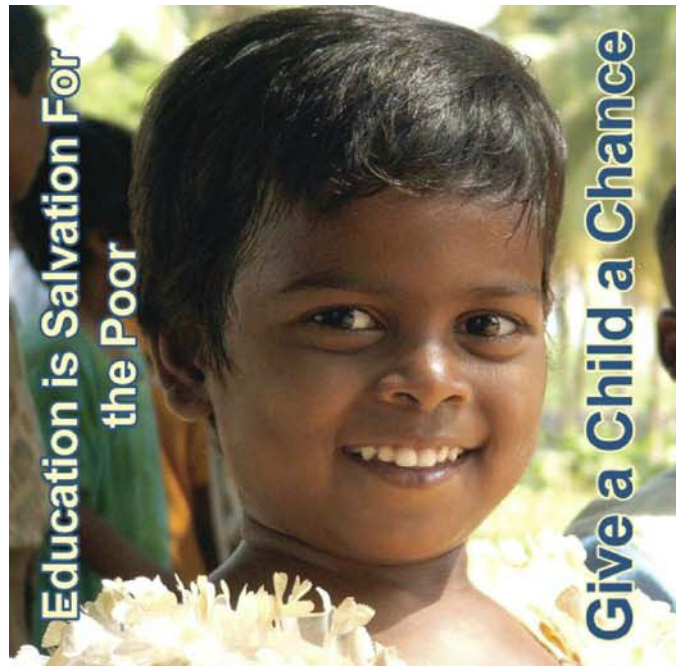



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from the editor

Spreading Hope

It is refreshing to start a new year; it is almost like we get a “do over”. Reflecting over the past year has shown me that 2012 was full of unexpected changes in my life.

I enjoyed living in Abbotsford, BC, and working at the British Columbia Conference. The administration and the entire team there were wonderful to work with and for. I really did not expect to relocate to Oshawa and become the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, as well as the editor of the *Messenger*.

I was praying for this outcome and was truly thrilled when the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approved the church’s official TV Network, Hope TV, a license to broadcast on any cable or satellite company in Canada. We recently completed the application to have the Hope Channel in Spanish broadcast anywhere in Canada. There were more positive interventions given to the CRTC for the Spanish Hope Channel than any other application I have ever seen on the CRTC website. We are expecting this to be approved in early 2013.

What about 2013? I am committed to expand the amount of Adventist Media that will be on the approved playlist in Canada. This would include the Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, and Hindi Adventist TV Channels. More will be applied for as time permits. The Hope Channel is an incredible ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we can thank God for the good work they are doing. (See www.hopetv.org for more information.)

Another personal goal is to reread some of my favourite Ellen G. White books. I find them more and more relevant and current.

In 2012 I had the privilege of visiting Israel, and I saw the places Jesus walked to. I never realized how much walking Jesus did. Visiting his traditional home, the synagogue in Capernaum where he would have attended, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem What an experience.

In 2012 my wife and I were thrilled to see my daughter, Alisha, and son-in-law, Sergio, and the most wonderful granddaughter ever, immigrate and join us in Oshawa. It has been a blessing to be able to spend time with my family. Indeed 2012 was a *great* year for me.

What about 2013? I certainly want to be able to do new things to help spread our message of hope. I would love to see more members across Canada contact their cable company and ask what it takes to have the Hope Channel on their product lineup. All of these cable companies have told me if there is a demand they will put it on.

I challenge everyone to do something new to share Christ in your hometown. Let’s all make a significant difference, not a zillion miles away, but around our block. Getting back to providing literature that vindicate the character of God would be an excellent start. It is a shame to see so much sitting on the shelves of the Adventist Book Centers while people are living without the joy and hope that only Christ brings.

As you prepare and plan for rebooting a new year, and taking care of His business, I pray that He will help take care of your business. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca



Sugar Bush in Quebec, Canada
Photo, Courtesy Dept. of Interior, Ottawa

Clearing off Our Debts Before Jesus Comes

By M. N. CAMPBELL

great undertaking, for it is in full harmony with His will that we shall "owe no man anything."

While we are clearing away our denominational debts, let us clear off our personal debts as well. While we labor to free the cause of God of this crushing weight, the Lord will help us to lift our personal burdens. That will be especially true if we make the interests of God's cause *first*. Elijah asked the poor widow to prepare a cake for the Lord's servant *first*, even though she had but a handful of meal and a little oil left. She carried out his request, and as a reward she was granted food and oil right through the dreadful drouth, "and the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail." 1 Kings 17:16. This was placed on record for our learning.

"The liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand." Isa. 32:8. So let us not reason that because we have personal debts we must pay them before we can help clear off the debts resting on God's cause. That is human reasoning. God's method is that which clears selfishness out of the heart. He wants us to make His interests *first* in our plans, and then He will see that we suffer no loss from it.

The liberal soul shall be made fat.

—○—
"He who talks much of what he has done is not likely to do much more."



THE DEBT-REDUCING PLAN is taking well with our people. The messages that come to us from individual members are very encouraging. They say, "We are with you in this undertaking 100 per cent." That sort of greeting fills us with courage. Church after church is falling into line, and by the end of March we hope to have every one signed up and the debt-reducing project well on its way to success. We are hoping to cut down our indebtedness by \$35,000 this year. That will be a great accomplishment in a time like this. It is to be hoped that every church member in Canada and Newfoundland will have a part in this good work, and in five years' time, if the Lord delays His coming that long, we hope to be out from under this burden. The Lord will surely help us in this

WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE OWING DEBT APPEARS TO BE INEVITABLE. Many Canadians use debt to finance the purchase of a new home or invest in education. According to statistics released by Trans Union, the current consumer debt levels in Canada have reached their highest level in nearly a decade, having increased to nearly 0.74 percent. What is the Christian approach when it comes to dealing with debt?

In this issue of the *Canadian Union Messenger*, the writer offers sound advice when it comes to debt. As we begin the new year, let's see if we can make it a priority to work on reducing our debt. It would be one less heavy burden to bear, and money, when invested, could go towards the needs of our church.

“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.”

John 12:23

february 9, 2013 | annual offering

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The Hour Has Come

let the Son of Man be glorified

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