

Canadian adventist

# Messenger

may 2013



# Rocks, horses, and 10 pounds of nuts

Eastern Canada Youth for Christ in Newfoundland

**PLUS** Help for Rwandan farmers (p. 2)  
CAM catches up with Clarence Baptiste (p. 10)  
Coast to coast Canadian church news (p. 28)

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“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.—John 14:3, ESV”



## Traveling

My GPS has a feature that I really appreciate. Once I put in the destination, the screen tells me approximately when I should arrive. It considers such things as traffic, construction and speed limits. Usually, it is quite accurate.

Sometimes the GPS chooses a route that I wouldn't have taken—a longer route that takes more time. Then I get a little restless; I want to get to where I'm going.

A few days ago in Battle Creek, Mich., a group of us reflected on the 150 years since the establishment of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. We heard presenters speak of the faith and urgency of those who founded our movement. As I listened, I thought, “they would be surprised that we're still here.”

Ever since Jesus told us about it, those who believe in Him have been anxious to get to see Him again. I guess this was on Peter's mind when he wrote, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9, ESV). I think I understand the feeling.

At times it feels like the GPS has us on the long way home. Things like the events in Boston, the death of our grandson, broken relationships and so much more make me wish that Jesus were already here. But Christ has a plan, and as with the routing on the GPS, we're still on course even when it doesn't seem like it.

While we're still on the journey, we as Adventist Christians need to be focused on the Word and on Witness. To have a deep faith in Christ and to be able to share that faith in a secular world is what Jesus has in mind. So many today need the hope and wholeness that you and I can share. ■

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

## Messenger

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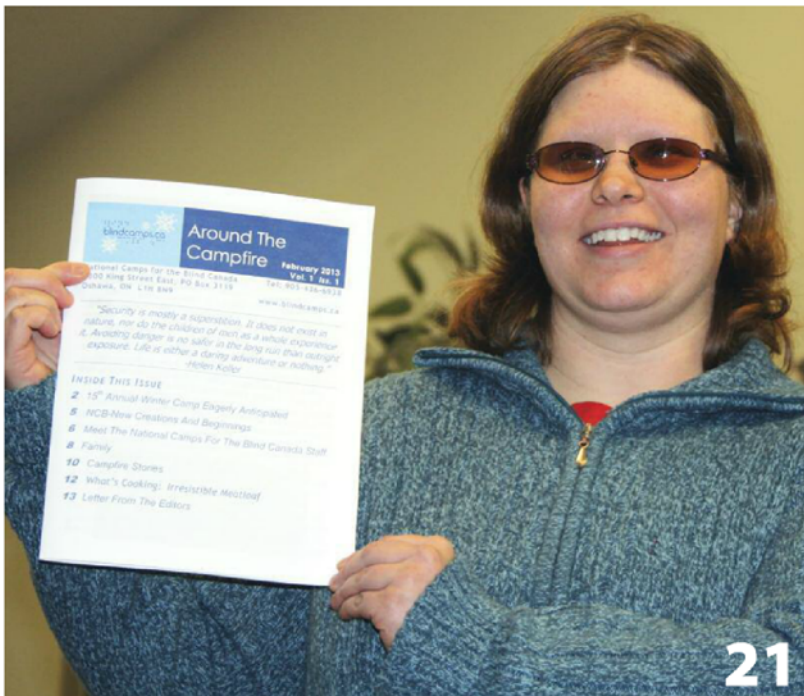
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Cover photo, l. to r., back row: Katherine Passamonte, Anthony Kern, Cassandra Kern, Michael Appiah, Jason Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Daniel Cho, Marc Marcos; front row: Deeric Williams, Mirriam Middleton, Benjamin Middleton. Cover photo (inset): Marc Marcos. Background photo: Thinkstock.



Mukashyaka, is one of 36,480 women, men and children worst hit by an increasingly harsh climate in Rwanda who are participating in ADRA Canada's agriculture project there.

## Harsh climate change in Rwanda leaves farmers struggling against the land

Mukashyaka sat in a circle with a small group from Gatsibo District, Rwanda, as a guest from ADRA shared news of an agriculture project about to start in her community. Her husband was a teacher in the local primary school, but Mukashyaka calls herself a peasant farmer. So her interest was piqued!

She'd been trying to grow food in a harsh climate and found her yield was not good. "I wished I could increase it, but I didn't know how," she explained, disappointed.

"ADRA told me that I can learn skills to get a bigger yield from my crops. What they said filled me with hope. I realized I could have extra food to sell in the markets to earn money for my family," Mukashyaka said longingly as she thought of her daughter and three young sons.

She was thrilled to be chosen to join the ADRA project. "With the training ADRA provided, I learned how to create a kitchen garden, how to prevent erosion, how to effectively control pests and how to apply new skills in the form of permaculture [a technique being used to grow food using less water]," she shared. Now she is eager to learn more and teach others what she's learned.

Mukashyaka has set some big goals for her crops—and her life. "I wish to be the first to do permaculture in my farms. I hope the skills I learned will help me have

larger crops. Also, I want to improve my family's nutrition and diet. And by harvesting rain water, my family and I can bathe and wash better.

"To me, ADRA means an organization that helps communities improve their well-being," Mukashyaka stated. "ADRA is doing good to the communities, helping people in distress. I thank the donors for supporting ADRA in improving people's lives."

While Mukashyaka is happy to be part of this project, she still sees great need all around her. "Many people should receive this training in other communities," she noted. "What I learned in this training is so important. So many more desperate people need help. I ask ADRA to support more people!"

The farmers in her community face droughts, unpredictable seasons, increased storms and heavy rains. The communities also lack arable land and water for irrigation, and their natural resources have been subject to extreme destruction, particularly in the form of deforestation as well as soil erosion and exhaustion.

The project will introduce or strengthen activities such as

- kitchen gardens (using permaculture) and nutrition training;
- tree planting to help prevent soil erosion, provide firewood, promote re-forestation, reduce flood risks,

extend soil moisture and protect crops;

- money management, job skills, literacy and leadership training to increase and strengthen vulnerable women in community decisions.

In Rwanda about 57 percent of the population live below the national poverty line. The population of Gatsibo and Kayanza consists mostly of Rwandans who have returned from the 1994 genocide after spending almost two decades as refugees in neighbouring countries. The project will pay particular attention to the most vulnerable families, namely those families with women as the main providers/leaders; with children under five; with people living with HIV, AIDS or a disability; or with elderly people.

The training that Mukashyaka has benefited from is a project the Canadian government granted to ADRA Canada. The project will assist the 36,480 women, men and children who have experienced the most adverse effects of an increasingly harsh climate. The 15-month project, valued at over \$2.6 million, requires ADRA Canada supporters to contribute \$400,000. ■

*As told to Josephine Dusabe, ADRA Rwanda Health & Nutrition Coordinator and written by Michelle L. Oetman, ADRA Canada Donor Relations Director*

# Be Persistent

"God is looking for that man or woman who will pray on, hold on and press on."

**H**ow do you handle God's silence? Don't you wish that you could go through life with God whispering in your ear day after day? When God seems silent, do you stop praying? Do you give up on asking for His direction? Do you give up on that lost person you've been praying for? Do you give up, thinking that you are wasting your time? How do you deal with the silence of God?

Perhaps you have fasted and prayed over something for a long time, and God is silent. All the things your pastor told you would work don't work! So do you stop praying then? Is that the point where you say it's not worth it?

We have much to learn from the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15. She was persistent. She knew that if Jesus didn't answer, there would be no answer. She also knew that if Jesus couldn't do it, nobody could. So she "kept on keepin' on."

You and I need to learn this lesson of persistent prayer, the kind of prayer that says, "Lord I know that only You can help me. Only You can heal me. Only You can lift me up out of this mess." Persistent prayer. You see, our God isn't just another solution. He isn't just another helper. He isn't just another problem solver. He is the only solution. He is our only help. He is the only problem solver. God may not always change our situation, but He will make us able to bear it.

God is looking for His children who will say as did Jacob, "I won't let you go until you bless me" (Gen. 32:26, CEB). God is looking for His children who will stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. God is looking for that man or woman who will pray on, hold on and press on. God is looking for the people who, like the three Hebrew worthies in Daniel 3, will look at the fiery furnace of their lives and say, "I will never give up!"

God is looking for persistence in our prayers and in our faith!

James 5:16 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (KJV). Beloved, don't ever stop praying! Don't ever stop trusting! Be persistent! ■



*Wayne Culmore is the president of the British Columbia conference.*

Get moving!

# T33nTa1k



***My church is full of people who have no life and don't do anything outside of the church service. Help!***

Well first of all I don't believe you. If no one in your church did anything outside the church service you wouldn't have a church to go to. Having said that I can sympathize with you. You go to church, sit, everyone else sits, stands, sits, kneels, and sits some more, while people up front say things that vary between interesting and inspiring to painfully boring and irrelevant.

Now think about it, while you are thinking these things you too are sitting, which means you are probably not as alone as you think you are. There are likely others who want more. Now here you have to ask yourself a serious and honest question. Do you want more for yourself or more for others? Do you wish church had more to offer you or do you wish you and your church were doing more for others?

If it is the latter, I can help, if it is the former you need to realize that you are as guilty as those you are looking at and judging. I am going to assume it is the latter and you are just bursting to make a difference for Jesus in the place you live. Several years ago I read about a 6 year old boy who heard in his school that kids like him in sub-Saharan Africa didn't even have clean water to drink, not because the water wasn't there but because they didn't have the resources to drill wells. Children were dying. 1 in 5 didn't live to be 5 years old. You can read the whole story here: [readersdigest.ca/magazine/ryans-well](http://readersdigest.ca/magazine/ryans-well).

If a 6 year old boy can do what he did, then you too can make a difference. Don't limit what God can do through you by what others may or may not be doing around you. Imagine where we would be if Jesus had only done what the majority was willing to do. Also remember God is only asking of us what we can do. You do not know the circumstances, abilities, or challenges of most of those you worship with. You also don't know what they are doing between Sabbaths. My advice to you is to pray and ask God what He wants you to do. It may be raising money for wells in Africa, it may be regular visits to a lonely senior, it may be volunteering at a local food bank, something as simple as doing chores for a person in your community who needs the help. If you are feeling restless and "bored" it is likely God is challenging you to get up and get moving! When I was a young teen we wanted to make a difference and a lady in our church helped us get going. We formed a little group, called ourselves The Ambassadors and started doing things in the community like washing windows and raking leaves for seniors. I look forward to hearing about what God is going to have you doing! You may be the Ryan God has been waiting for ...

Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ.

—1 Peter 1:17–19, NKJV



## Fancy Goldfish

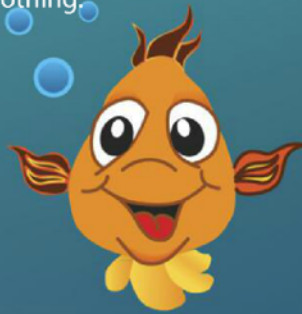
While eating our meal at a restaurant recently, our family enjoyed watching a tank full of fancy goldfish. I'd never seen such a variety of colours and shapes before. There were mostly black fish with bright orange markings. There were mostly white fish with bright gold spots. Some had frilly fins and others had bulging "crowns" on their heads. These goldfish were spectacular.

The fish were beautiful to look at. After watching a while though, I realized the fish really weren't doing anything but swimming back and forth. One fish would swim down to the bottom of the tank, pick up a pebble in its mouth and spit it out again, but other than that, the fish just swam around all day, accomplishing nothing.



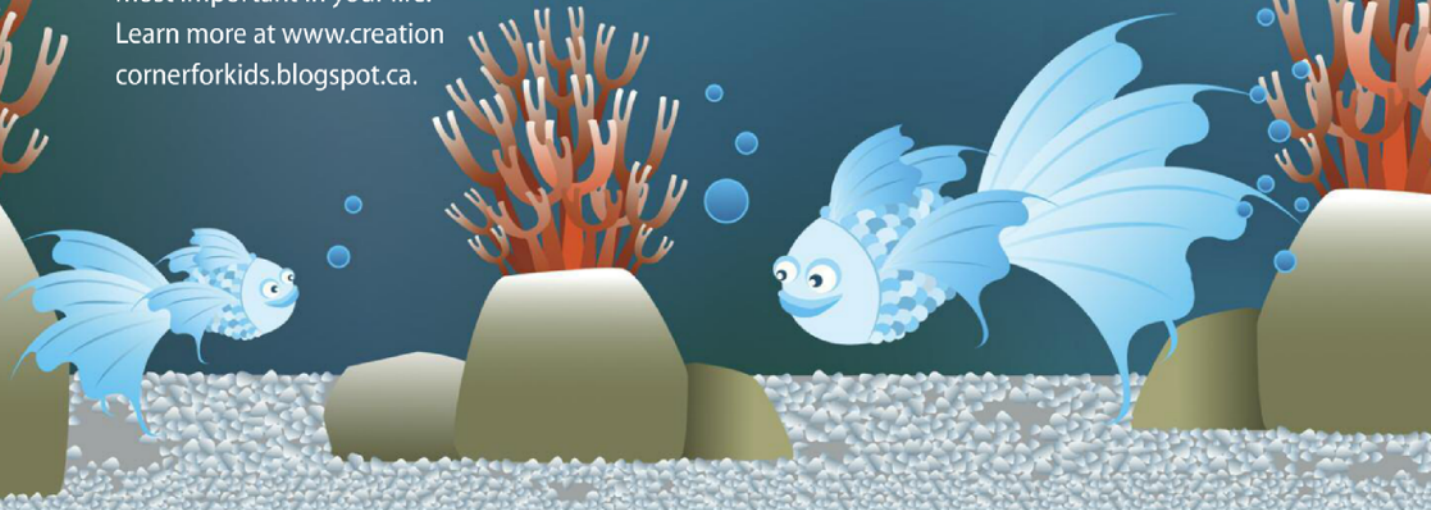
### Do it!

Do a time inventory. Keep track of how you spend your time for one week and see what it says about what is most important in your life. Learn more at [www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca](http://www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca).



### Think about it.

What are you accomplishing spiritually each day? Are you growing more like Jesus? Are you enjoying your time spent with Him more and more each day? Or are you as aimless in your spiritual life as those fancy goldfish in the tank?



# pursuing dreams

Three different paths that all converge  
at Canadian University College.



Heidi Mallard and Robert Greaves

**FOR SOME IT SEEMS** as if it was only a short time ago they stepped onto the Canadian University College campus for their first time—eager and maybe a bit nervous of what was to come. A few years later, after countless tests and papers, these graduating seniors of 2013 are looking forward to the next step in their life journey. Whether it is to become a pastor or teacher or to transition into medical school, the past four years on the hilltop have shaped their lives forever.



For Heidi Mallard, an elementary education major, the path to becoming a teacher was a growing discovery and not what she might have dreamed about early in her life. After being a part of a mission trip in her last year of high school, she discovered that she enjoyed teaching. Her newfound interest eventually turned into a passion for teaching. The joy of helping a child and being a part of their self-discovery is one of the things she enjoys about teaching.

"Seeing the spark of 'Oh, I got it!' in the children's eyes and watching them grow in learning is such a wonderful sight to see! I love to teach and serve. Teaching has both. It is so much fun getting to know new students and develop close relationships. Not only do they learn from me but I learn from them as well. I love creating different ways to teach new concepts and ideas and then to watch the students discover the problems and find solutions. To be a part of a child's path in life and growing is an awesome privilege!" remarks Heidi.

Her passion for teaching is fed by her professors, who encouraged her along the way. "You only need to sit in on one class to know how much he (Keith Leavitt, associate professor of education) loves his teaching career. He has really shown me how important it is to love teaching in order to accomplish great things. You need passion and you must love your job. We aren't here for money! This is a dedicated job, and he shows his strong dedication daily." Shortly after graduating, Heidi will make her way to her new place of employment, at Peace Christian School in Chetwynd, B.C., where she will put into practice all she has learned over the last few years.

Carol Conceicao, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biology, wasn't even considering going to university. She had a longing to go straight to work in the mission field, but after prayer and counsel she decided to make the trip from Ontario to Alberta to attend CUC. She always enjoyed her science classes and put her efforts toward becoming a doctor. Carol still longed to become a missionary but hopefully equipped with a medical degree that she could use to help heal people not only physically but also spiritually.

In the fall Carol will continue on to Loma Linda University to complete her next step in becoming a doctor. She chose Loma Linda University over other schools because she wanted an environment that believes in focusing not only on physical healing but also on all aspects of healing of the patient—emotionally, mentally and spiritually. She credits her success to the support she received, alongside her classmates, from professors like Laurence Wong, professor of biology at CUC. "My advisor, Dr. Wong, has been a huge help to me and has mentored me throughout my experience at CUC. There were times when I was just so stressed that I would go and talk to him with a couple other students and he was always able to find something encouraging to say. He has been a big support to me throughout my undergraduate experience and has really encouraged me to pursue my dreams," states Carol.

For Robert Greaves a change of careers was how his CUC journey began. A calling to the ministry saw him move his family



Carol Conceicao

out West so he could attend CUC and begin the journey to becoming a pastor. A few short years later his journey has come full circle as he makes his way back to Ontario this summer, where the Ontario Conference has called him to serve as a pastor. Robert has made his presence felt on the hilltop, being involved in Hobbema ministries and prison ministries, among many other things. His few short years at CUC have shaped his current and future ministry. Robert remarks, "The school's motto is 'Think, Act, Believe.' CUC truly embodies all three virtues. You are challenged to expand your mental horizon. To believe in God and his plan for humanity and to act in ways that bring you and your community closer to his plan."

Three different paths that all converge at this university. Three different journeys with one common goal. All these students hoping and praying that their decision to be a part of this close-knit family will help them in the pursuit of their dreams.

Between the classes taught and wisdom shared, one thing stands out as being the most important in why this campus is here. For Carol, Heidi and Robert, it is what they learn beyond academics that keep them going. It is that faith-based learning that provides them the opportunity for discovery of a greater path.

Carol remarks, "I learned a lot of practical things while I was here at CUC. I learned how to study and how to focus and apply myself in order to achieve the results I wanted. I really learned who I was, here. I discovered confidence within myself that I didn't know I had, and I learned to accept and be myself in any circumstance, regardless of what people may think. I discovered myself and I discovered God here. I know now more than ever that He will be with me wherever I go next and that I can rely and trust Him to get through the next challenge I will face in my life. 'Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4).'" ■

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

# Where Are They Now



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

*Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.*

**Messenger:** *Where did you grow up?*

**Clarence Baptiste:** I grew up in Trinidad and Tobago. When I was 20, I became a literature evangelist there. It was exciting. My first day was very successful. Later, I became the associate publishing director for the South Caribbean conference. I enjoyed it.

**M:** *When did you come to Canada?*

**CB:** I came to Canada in January 1969. I became a literature evangelist in Montreal, and colporteur there, but at the same time, I had the opportunity to go to school for French for 20 weeks. Then, in August of 1969, I went to Kingsway College.

**M:** *What were your memories of Kingsway College?*

**CB:** I came to Kingsway College as a mature student with my wife, Beryl, and two sons. We both graduated in 1971. It was very interesting meeting all the different people at Kingsway. It was a nice, warm community, and the teachers were great. When we graduated, we went straight to Andrews University.

**M:** *What was the motivation behind pursuing a degree in theology, as well as your studies in counselling?*

**CB:** I always envisioned being a pastor,

from the time I was very young, and so I started preaching early on. They would always ask me to preach at youth meetings because I was very adept at it and I wanted to. It was a wonderful experience.

I graduated in 1973 from Andrews with my bachelor's degree, and then I went on to do a Master of Arts in systematic theology and counselling. That's where I got my first taste in counselling. Beryl said to me one day: "Why are you doing all these theology courses? You should do some courses in sociology, social studies and counselling." I took her advice, and so I owe it to her, for the counselling work I do now.

**M:** *Is there a connection between pastoring and counselling?*

**CB:** When you're a colporteur, you go to people's homes, you sit down and you talk with people. In those days they really trained you well on how to communicate. So when I colporteur, I learned a lot. Now, when I became a pastor, I recognized that there was a similar connection between the two, because as a pastor, I was also going to people's homes, sharing the gospel and working to win souls. Now that I'm a counsellor, people come to my office, and I go to their homes, and I counsel. It's the same work.

**M:** *How might counselling be an effective evangelistic work?*

**CB:** I preach a sermon called "How to win a soul without using the Bible."

In my view, you cannot do any proper counselling without understanding the principles of counselling. So I am able to use these principles without necessarily stating that they are from the Scriptures. I get away with it by saying that most people have a need for a higher power; and most people agree with universal, eternal principles, such as love and peace.

**M:** *What are some of the churches that you have served as a pastor in Ontario?*

**CB:** In Ontario I have been pastor of the Toronto East, Smyrna and Newmarket churches. I have also served as a chaplain at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

**M:** *Tell us about the Mount Royal church you helped grow in Saskatchewan.*

**CB:** Mount Royal church was about six years old when I transferred there. At the time, we were renting a church. I told the congregation, in a sermon, that we needed to make it our commitment to put the church building fund to good use and maximize the amount.

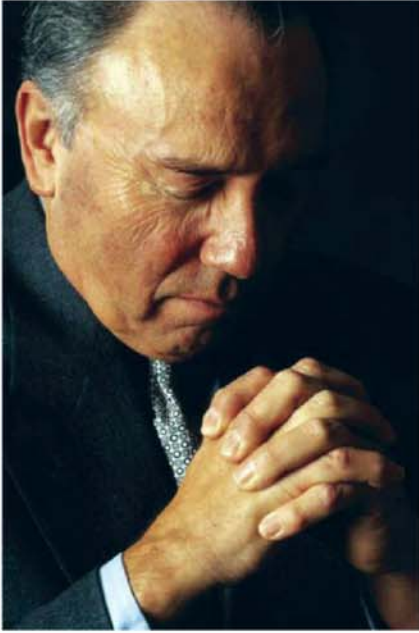
We were able to raise a lot of money to go towards a new church building.

A miracle took place, and we were able to buy a church and repair it. When I left, there was still quite a bit of money left in the church account.

**Messenger:** *Where are you now?*

**CB:** I live in Toronto, and I am working as a psychotherapist counsellor, as the director of A1 Counselling Centre. ■

# Larry's Campmeeting Gift



Campmeeting was coming, and each year Larry gave an evangelism offering to the Lord. This year he wanted to give more. Puzzled over what he could do, he remembered some good ideas in *George's Tree*.<sup>1</sup> Looking through his copy, he came to the section "Listed Securities Gifts." That's it; I am going to give some of the shares I own, thought Larry.

Larry learned he should not sell his shares to make his donation; rather, he should transfer his shares directly to his local conference. He contacted his stockbroker and the conference's Planned Giving director for assistance, and to be sure of Canada Revenue Agency approval.

The fair market value of Larry's donated shares was about \$4,000 and they cost \$2,000. The difference was a Capital Gain of \$2,000. If Larry had sold his shares before donating them, half of this gain, \$1,000, would have been taxed at a 50% rate, resulting in a Capital Gains Tax of \$500. However, since Larry transferred his shares to a Registered Charity instead of selling them, he had no Capital Gains Tax to pay. He could use the tax receipt from the conference to help reduce his other taxes.<sup>2</sup> Larry was pleased he was able to increase his annual campmeeting gift in such a tax-efficient way. ■

<sup>1</sup> Request your free copy of *George's Tree* by calling 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, or by emailing [legal@adventist.ca](mailto:legal@adventist.ca).

<sup>2</sup> The example here is general in nature and is not meant to take the place of professional financial or legal advice.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE  
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH IN ALBERTA  
AND AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

*When you get to heaven, what  
three things do you want to do?*

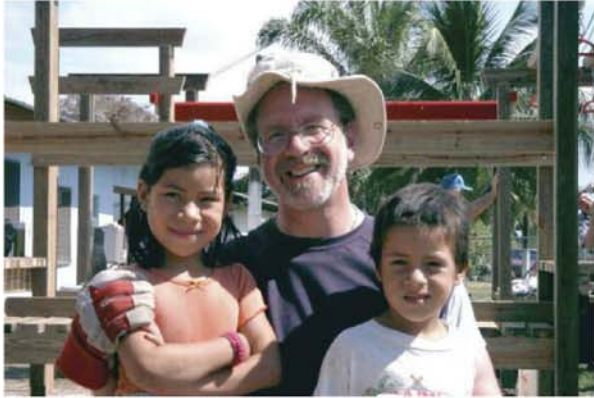
**Faye Geates:** Visit other worlds; meet people who have provided me with guidance and support throughout my life; and play an instrument in an orchestra.

**Marcia Hill:** Sit at the feet of Jesus; sing in the choir; meet family and friends, and have lots of hugs.

**Andlaine Joseph:** Sit on Jesus' lap, and just place my head on His chest and hear his heartbeat; ask the citizens of the other worlds and the angels about their experience watching us in our interactions and spiritual struggles; play like a little child with the animals.

# Apocalyptic “Disinterest”

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; *does not seek its own*, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth; bears all things, *believes all things*, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails” (1 Cor. 13:4–8a, NKJV).<sup>1</sup>



Ron Sydenham with two orphan children at A Better World project site.

It was an extremely hot day, above 40 degrees Celsius, and here we were on this island where there was, we discovered, a Muslim school and a potential space for a medical clinic. Nicole and I were experiencing our first A Better World trip to Africa, and each day brought new insights and opportunities to serve in a developing country. Eric Rajah continued to inspire us each day with his ability to connect with local needs and plan with them on how we could all invest together in making their community what they wanted it to become.

Because the Muslim school was a bit of a last-minute detour, we had hastily bought some school supplies and set forth to introduce ourselves to the principal. As we walked through the playground, we were intrigued by the tall palm tree that was “smack dab” in the middle of the soccer field, wondering if this was to teach “heads-up” soccer!

We were warmly welcomed and treated like royalty as we were allowed to tour the school. As I “snooped” around, a peculiar thought seemed to come out of nowhere. Should we be helping a Muslim school? (It was November 2001, just a few weeks after 9/11.) Is this a wise way to invest our funds? As I shared my thought with Nicole and had to actually verbalize it, I realized how narrow it sounded and that this was going to be a life-changing moment!

Jesus healed 10 lepers (Luke 17:12–19) *knowing full well* that only *one* would come back and give glory to God, and that it would be *one not of the house of Israel!* He healed without strings attached.

“To the appeal of the erring, the tempted, the wretched victims of want and sin, the Christian does *not* ask, Are they worthy? *but*, How can I benefit them?” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 22).

“When love fills the heart, it will flow out to others, not be-

cause of favours received from them, but because *love* is the *principle of action*” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 38).

Why do I give? To whom should I give? What am I “expecting” this gift to accomplish? Is it OK to have strings attached to my giving? What kind of strings? Months later, while reviewing the hundreds of photos we had taken and seeing again the grateful smiles of the children at the Muslim school, it came to me. As an ambassador of God’s kingdom, I am called to be *like Jesus* everywhere and to give with “disinterest” as He does.

“Disinterested benevolence” and “disinterested love” are expressions often used in the Spirit of Prophecy when speaking of Christ’s generosity. The word “disinterested” grabbed my attention, as it seemed weird and out of place, until I looked it up. “Freedom from self-seeking and personal bias, impartiality” was how the dictionary defined it.

“We need far more *disinterested benevolence*”. *Often* we shall be called upon to *sacrifice* in order to help those who are in need, and we should do this cheerfully, glad for the privilege to follow the Master” (*Review and Herald*, Oct. 17, 1899).

“You should cultivate benevolence, which will bring you more into harmony with the spirit of Christ in His *disinterested benevolence*. You need more human sympathy. This is a quality of our natures which God has given us to render us charitable and kind to those with whom we are brought in contact” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 56).

This meditation cannot afford the space needed to fully develop the concept of disinterested benevolence and its application to how we are called to serve today. However, as we walk through the new year and we think of new beginnings, let us always remember to join Jesus and reach out to those who can never pay us back in the traditional sense. Let’s get adventuresome and find new and creative ways to demonstrate Christ’s love to those in need, wherever they may be, and not impose conditions that are rooted in our own insecurities.

While we prepare to meet our soon-coming Saviour, let us remember that “love in action” plays a vital role for God’s remnant people. “Thus (quoted Matthew 25:31, 32) Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the *scene of the great judgment day*. And He represented its decision as turning upon *one point*. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their *eternal destiny* will be *determined* by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and suffering” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 637). ■

Ron Sydenham is the chair of A Better World and senior pastor of the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta.

# First Impressions

## Communicating God's Best in the Church

**RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TEXT MESSAGE** from one of my church leaders: "I am visiting another church today. First impression: the usher was washing out a mouse trap in the sink!"

When people first walk through the doors of your church, what do they see? Does the sight of a clean, well-organized building welcome them, or do they see a junkyard?

When I first started pastoring New Hope Adventist Church, I was absolutely appalled by the appearance of the church inside. Every single closet and open space was piled high with equipment, high chairs, strollers, used desks and boxes. In fact, the coat room had become a hazard of sorts, with so many things strewn throughout. During the first couple years of ministry, we spent numerous hours and a handsome amount of money pitching the junk and making the space suitable for unchurched people to attend.

### THE TALE OF TWO MALLS

There are two major shopping malls in my town. Each mall, while only a few miles away from each other, are vastly different. Even though both of the malls have similar stores, each projects a different image. The Laurel Shopping Mall is rundown, old, and is barely up to date with its furnishings. The Columbia Mall is updated, clean, bright, and caters to young families. Many of my friends who live in Laurel drive past their own mall to make their purchases at the cleaner, customer-friendly mall in Columbia. The Columbia Mall has done an extraordinary job understanding who their customers are, what they like and how comfortable they want to be during their shopping experience.

### GOD DESERVES THE BEST

The purpose of having the church look suitable is two-fold. If we are going to attract people to membership, we must create an open environment that is conducive to new people. Visitors should

be greeted with up-to-date, clean furnishings. The second part of this scenario is to remember we are attending church for one reason only: to worship God. When we are in the presence of God, we must give Him our best. When Solomon built the temple, he spared no expense! Take a closer look at the design, architecture and furnishings of the temple that was to host the holiness of God. "So Solomon built the temple and completed it. He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of juniper" (1 Kings 6:14, 15, NIV).

**HERE ARE SOME BASIC SUGGESTIONS** to improve a first-time visitor's experience while honoring God at the same time.

**What does your parking lot communicate?** When a person drives up to your church for the first time, what does he or she see? Is there a clearly marked sign indicating the entrance of the church? Is the lawn and parking area well manicured? I recently attended a church where the parking lot was so neglected, it was dangerous to drive and walk on it.

**Do you have a "Pastor's Parking" sign and designated parking?** If so, I would ask your pastor to change that sign to a "First-time Visitor" sign. In fact, I would encourage to you add five to seven more of those signs, depending on the size of your church. Most pastors are the first to get to the church on Sabbath morning. I would highly recommend every pastor to park in the farthest spot, allowing the "favoured" spot to remain available to a visitor.

**Ministry Leaders' Parking:** Many dedicated ministry leaders arrive early and leave late because of the volunteer commitments they have on Sabbath. Oftentimes by the time a visitor drives up to church, much of the available parking is already gone. Each week we

encourage all of our leaders who are serving on Sabbath to park behind the church, making the prime parking spots available for visitors and families with young children.

### What do your signs communicate?

When a person walks in the front door for the first time, is he or she greeted with updated signs that are clearly displayed throughout the church? Where can a visitor find the bathroom, coatroom, children's room, parents' room?

### What does the furniture say about your priorities?

Is your church the landfill for members' used furniture? I sometimes receive phone calls by well-meaning church members who want to donate their 30-year-old couches to the church. "I am sure the youth could use it." My typical response has been, "We only accept brand-new furniture, because God deserves the best."

As you prepare your church for new visitors, remember, you are also preparing them to encounter the presence of God. Help them experience His wonder and majesty in the best form possible. ■

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*Dr. Rajkumar Dixit is pastor and evangelist. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.*





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# app review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

**App:** GC Youth Ministries

**In Brief:** Are you an Adventurer or Pathfinder leader or a parent of an Adventurer or Pathfinder? Then this is an app for you. The GC Youth Ministries app is a good tool for the Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs, for both leaders and parents. It includes an alphabetical listing of the available Adventurer awards and Pathfinder honours as well as the awards/honours listed by category. When you open an award/honour, you see a picture of the patch, a list of the requirements, and some basic helps for teaching it.

**Wow Factor:** Quick and easy reference for Pathfinder/Adventurer leaders and parents on award requirements.

**Meh Factor:** Requirements for some of the awards differ between the North American Division and the General Conference.

**Developed For:** General Conference Youth Ministries

**Price:** Free

**Works On:** Android, iOS

**Link:** <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



## Our Prayer Life

*Many Christians have a longing in their hearts for a more effective prayer life. My heart longs for this as well. How can we best address this longing and desire?*

Some years ago, while I was pastor of the College Heights church in Alberta, I had an experience that enhanced my prayer life. At our church we hosted a prayer seminar for the community led by Dick Eastman.<sup>1</sup> It was biblical, in-depth and presented the most comprehensive understanding of prayer that I had to that point in my life.

One text presented was revolutionary to my life. It was the words of Jesus in Gethsemane to His sleepy disciples, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matt. 26:40). I heard Jesus saying to me through those words, "When I am agonizing over a lost world, could you not spend an hour with Me each day in prayer?" I have sought to fulfill that in my life. Not every person may thrive on exactly 60 minutes of prayer; what's important is quality time with God every day.

Every person's prayer life is different, because everyone's relationship with God is unique. However, there are certain

ingredients that can make our prayer life more vital.

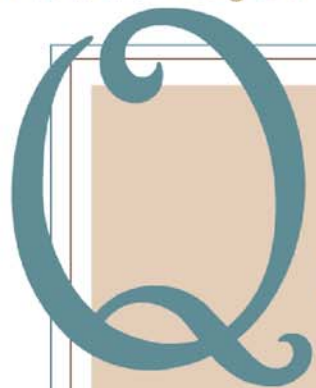
Many have found that reading God's Word serves as a good start to their prayer time. It fills their minds with God's thought and counsels for the day. Next, one can follow with the many aspects of prayer found in the Bible: praise, waiting on the Lord, watching, confession, thanksgiving, petition, intercession, supplication, listening, singing, and praying the Word.<sup>2</sup> The objective is not to try and use each one of these every day but, rather, to ensure that we tap into a more rounded prayer life and to be blessed by different forms of prayer according to our need.

May we together explore how to experience new heights of spirituality in our walk with God. ■

*Don Corkum is prayer ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and church planting coordinator for the Alberta Conference of SDA.*

<sup>1</sup> Dick Eastman is president of the organization Every Home For Christ and originator of Change the World School of Prayer.

<sup>2</sup> If you would like more information on each form of prayer mentioned here, consider reading a couple of the many helpful books on prayer. I recommend Dick Eastman's book *The Hour That Changes the World*, which speaks about these different expressions of prayer. Ellen White's book *Prayer* is also outstanding.



BY STAN JENSEN



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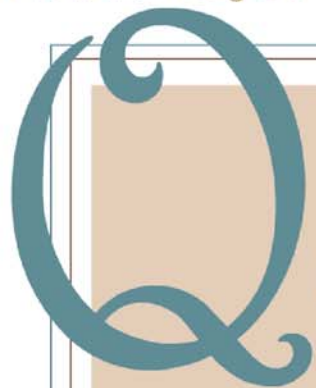


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# Coming home

*Reflecting on why I left the church at age 15, I believe my interest in the church waned when we were no longer actively involved, when we as children felt that we no longer had a role.*



Nadine Brown

*Jesus came into the world* as a baby to save the world, and my baby changed my life. Coming home to church is not coming home to a building but coming home to Jesus.

During my childhood in Jamaica, Friday evenings were special because we would prepare for the Sabbath by selecting our Sabbath clothing (only worn on Sabbaths or special occasions); and we would polish our shoes while listening to music, such as Jim Reeves's "I Come to the Garden Alone"—still one of my favourite songs.

Sabbaths began with our hair being put in ponytails with our special ribbons, and walking or driving to Beverly Seventh-day Adventist Church (my grandparents, I was told, had given the land to the church).

It was there that I decided to join the church when I was 10 years old.

Spending time with family is a big part of my Sabbath memories, and our grandmother made the best meals, beautiful sandwiches on thick "Hardo" (Hard Dough) bread and followed by frozen Jell-O or cake.

Once I came to Canada, my favourite memory of our church, East Toronto, is that we were truly a family; most of the members were recent immigrants to Canada, so we could all relate. I thoroughly enjoyed being an active part of the church, such as when we went Ingathering using tin cans. We smiled and laughed when we found \$1, \$2 and the occasional \$5 bill in our cans. We were happy counting how much money we had raised

and knowing that we were helping others. Our earliteen group was very involved in ministering at nursing homes, having picnics in the park, singing on Sabbath afternoons and going to Lake Simcoe for Sunday picnics on a chartered bus.

Reflecting on why I left the church at age 15, I believe my interest in the church waned when we were no longer actively involved, when we as children felt that we no longer had a role. Because we were no longer participating, the majority of us stopped attending when our parents could no longer force us to attend.

Then, finding myself single and pregnant at 24, I promised God, as did Hannah in 1 Samuel, that I would dedicate my child to Him. My prayer was, "If You give me a healthy child, I will bring him up to know You." My wish was for my son to know God and be raised as I was raised, knowing the peace that "passeth all understanding" when you truly have faith and trust God. My mother demonstrated this faith as I witnessed God meeting her needs; even as she was dying of cancer, she quoted Psalm 34:7: "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

God did His part and gave me a healthy son, Geoffrey. I went to different churches and found my niche at Immanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church. There both Geoffrey and I were nurtured and blessed by incredibly loving people who did many acts of kindness, which are recorded in our hearts forever and in the books of heaven.

The following are some of the acts of kindness I will always remember:

- One particular elderly gentleman always brought a banana or treat for Geoffrey every Sabbath. He who would put some money in an envelope and give it to me at Christmas time, saying, "Please get something for your son." Several years ago when I saw him and thanked him for all he had done, I was so sad to discover that he had dementia and could not remember.
- The Sabbath school and Pathfinder leaders nurtured Geoffrey and me, ensuring that we were welcomed even before our names were officially on the "church records." What a role our Sabbath schools can play in ensuring that each and every visitor as well as members are loved and nurtured.
- I was also blessed by simple yet powerful unasked-for acts of service done consistently; for example, there was a gentleman who saw me, a young mother with a lot of bags and a sleeping child, and would seek me out and assist me in taking the baby or the bags to the car.

I am now 54 years old and can say that Jesus is my best friend and is always by my side. I count it a privilege to have been involved with many wonderful church

families Immanuel, Kendalwood and, currently, College Park. At College Park, I am currently assisting my son Edmund (age 14), who has his first "official position" in the library on a monthly basis and is involved in the hospitality ministry. I want to use my skills and talents to help others increase their knowledge as well as my own knowledge of God through ministry.

What a magnificent change would occur in our churches if Jesus truly lived in the hearts of all our brothers and sisters. Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me" (The Message).

The fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" is the main reason that I returned to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Having attended other Sunday-keeping churches on occasion, I can say that the Sabbath is the difference between ours and all other churches and will be the distinction at the end of time. My advice if you want to come home:

- Remember that Jesus said in Matthew 13 that the wheat and the weeds would grow together until the time of the harvest.
- Focus on what you can do to build up the church.
- "This is the only race worth running." As did Paul, run hard to the finish, believing all the way, until "all that's left now is the shouting—God's applause!" (2 Tim. 4:6-8, The Message)

That baby is now 30 and has walked away from church, but in my heart I know that God remains in his heart. God is working with him and he will be back, just as I came back. "God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears" (Phil. 1:6, The Message).

May individuals in our churches remember the children, youth, middle aged and seniors who have left and reach out and bring them back with compassion, love and kindness. Forget the criticisms, but let your heart break as Jesus' did when He considered His lost sheep. "When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. 'What a huge harvest! he said to his disciples. 'How few workers!'" (Matt. 9:37, 38, The Message).

Within our unique giftedness that God has bestowed upon us, let us do our part to encourage one another in the church and seek for those who are missing and keep doing everything in our power to keep them, being Jesus' hands on earth by continuing to lift Jesus up so that we can spend eternity in heaven with Him. ■

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*Nadine Brown is a project leader who has worked in both the pharmaceutical and banking industries. Within the church, Nadine has worked in various areas, such as women's ministries, teaching and co-ordinating small groups, as well as greeter and hospitality roles.*



Dana Rae



# Parkview Profiles

*Coming to Parkview Adventist Academy was the best thing that ever happened to her.*

Parkview Adventist Academy wasn't Dana Rae's first choice for an Adventist high school, but her parents knew living in the small town of Smokey Lake, Alberta, that she was not getting the academic background she needed to become the medical doctor that she hoped to be someday. Her public school consisted of about 400 kids, Kindergarten through Grade 12. There were only 23 students in her class.

In public school, Dana Rae never concealed the fact that she was a Christian. Her peers knew that she was an Adventist. One day her social studies teacher asked the class what the most important freedom was, and she spoke up and said, "Freedom of religion." Her teacher was so surprised that he didn't know what to say.

From the moment she stepped onto our campus in Grade 10, she loved it here. She remarked that it felt like a family, with the deans as one's parents; everyone looked out for everyone else. Looking back now, she says that coming to PAA was the best thing that ever happened to her.

PAA stressed academic achievement and accountability. Her grades went up and she sensed that she was learning so much more than she had in her small class back home. She had always loved studying human biology; nursing was in her blood, as both her parents and several extended family members are nurses. She loved biology classes with Mr. Saylor, who took the time to explain things that weren't in the textbook. He also had meaningful worships. Mr. Spent was a fantastic math teacher. To her it seemed as if her teachers were there because they loved the students; they are not there for just a job and a pay cheque.

But what caught her by surprise was when she took a speech class with Pastor Steve Reasor and found out that she loved preaching. Her spiritual life took on new meaning as her decision changed from becoming a physician to becoming a pastor. Being a part of the speech class and, eventually, Dauntless (PAA's touring ministry group) made Dana Rae move out of her comfort zone. January 27, 2012, sealed the deal. She was at Break Forth and had heard Ann Graham (Billy Graham's daughter) speak. That night she couldn't sleep. She spent the night in prayer. Her desire to be a physician dissipated and she knew she had to go into ministry full-time.

Dana Rae is currently finishing her first year of religious studies at CUC. It's something that many girls don't do even today, and especially not straight out of high school. She says that she is enjoying her theology classes and digging deep into Scripture.

Looking back, she knows that while the medical field is in her family, she was always meant to be a preacher. As a child she'd write sermons and preach to her parents on how they could be better parents, and she would dream of writing and selling her sermons online.

PAA is a school that is committed to helping each student discover his or her potential, purpose, and passion. Dana Rae has come to PAA and now sees a world of opportunity opening up before her, and she is excited about being a vessel of God. ■

*Pattie Reasor Communications,  
Parkview Adventist Academy*

# Around the Campfire

Let's meet "Around the Campfire," shall we? Roast some marshmallows, reminisce and share stories, maybe even exchange a recipe or two! Well, perhaps not quite like that, but at blind camps, we do have literal campfires—and campfire times.

"I remember the night we sat around the mid-winter bonfire last year. Everyone was there together keeping warm, laughing and enjoying themselves as we roasted giant marshmallows. It was a refreshing bonding experience," said John Abreu.

One thing is certain: there is always lots of singing, mingling, laughing and storytelling at both! Precisely the reason for such a catchy title for the newly developed blindcamps.ca quarterly newsletter, "Around the Campfire"!

Timing is everything, and as we discover over and over again, God shares with us the importance of perfect timing. Just take a look at Ecclesiastes 3. Needless to say that the vision of creating a newsletter purposed to reach patrons from coast to coast, keep sponsors "linked-in" and keep everyone updated came to fruition early this year when "Around the Campfire" was launched in three formats: Braille, large and regular print. "We have been working diligently to develop a newsletter that we hope will warm hearts, inform, inspire and unite the blindcamps.ca family year-round," said Marie Rutter.

Though I oversee this great project, the main editors, contributors and creators of "Around the Campfire" are two patrons: Marie Rutter and Natalie Fougere. Marie, chief editor, is equipped with an "arsenal of experience, including manuscript editing for a published author and writing a number of articles for various publications." On the other hand, Natalie, assistant editor, brings her own skills to the table as a freelance translator, specializing in research, text translation and Braille transcription. "This is a very exciting journey for blindcamps.ca and we are thrilled to be involved. We hope you enjoy this newsletter enough to share it with friends and loved ones," said Marie.

As Pat Page, executive director, stated in the April donation appeal letter, "the word believe is full of great meaning! The first thing that pops into my mind is that I believe in God. God is the supreme power and Creator. He loves me. He loves you. He loves those who can see and those who cannot. I believe. I believe in our blind campers ... and when campers believe they can, they step out in faith and try. They now believe in themselves. Their lives are changed because they believe."

Yes, we believe "Around the Campfire" will touch lives and



inspire many. We believe that it is important to spread the word about the amazing programs and services of blindcamps.ca. We believe that more blind and visually impaired people, young and old, will be transformed through our camping programs.

Jesus believed, and He asked many to believe: "Don't be afraid; just believe" (Mark 5:36, NIV); "Everything is possible for one who believes" (Mark 9:23, NIV); "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would" (Matt 8:13, NIV).

We believe that "we can and will be the shining candle in the darkest night," said Pat. Join us and believe! ■

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



# Rocks, horses, and 10 pounds of nuts

Eastern Canada Youth for Christ in Newfoundland



Ever get that feeling where God  
is calling you to do something?

In the summer of 2012, Cassandra and I set out to join a number of young people with Eastern Canada Youth for Christ (ECYC) on their maiden local mission trip to Newfoundland.

## SPOILER ALERT

This isn't a story where hundreds of people will get baptized at the end, but it's a story of how God showed up, or so we thought.

Have you ever had 10 pounds of cashews in your pantry? We did, and we only intended to have one pound. Communication is important, and sometimes because we're young, we muck it up. This mishap, however, which included a number of other 10-pound bulk products, was the first testimony of God's blessing. He gave us a patient pastor. Some days were great, but over a month-long period, there are some days when you question whether or not God is at work. Pastor Jason Williams encouraged us, sharing his past experience as a colporteur, some of the challenges that Newfoundland brings in terms of gospel ministry, and how God has led in his and his family's life throughout all of it. Having a pastor who works with young people in spite of their faults is priceless.

And that's where the rock comes in.

Newfoundland, the rock—as in the first type of ground that Jesus mentions in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. Over 100 years after the three angels' messages were brought to this part of the coast, there are now only a few hundred active church members in Newfoundland that bear the name "Seventh-day Adventist," and most of them are in St. John's. It seems fitting that this province is called the rock, even if it is for other reasons than the aforementioned one. If you want to sow seed in Newfoundland, remember, the ground is rocky.

I recently watched a movie called *Warhorse*, and this scene comes to mind where the father of the human protagonist is forced to plough the most infertile, rocky ground on his farm. The father, a

poor farmer, has to do this because he foolishly spent all of his family's earnings in outbidding his rich landlord for the possession of a show horse (the movie's namesake). This horse is not a workhorse, but the farmer's rent is due, and the only way this humble Scottish family will avoid having their new horse, along with the rest of their land, confiscated is if they are able to plough the piece of rocky land. This land, if cultivated, will provide enough income for the family to keep their possessions. And in dramatic fashion, just as the landlord is coming to see if this patch of land is fertile enough so that he can collect on the debt that he is owed

(with interest, mind you), just then the son of the farmer is able to inspire the show horse into a transformed work horse. Together they break up the rocky ground and sow the seed, in a rainstorm, no less. The farm is saved.

That's how Newfoundland was last summer. We heard about the church statistics, we heard how hard it was to sow the seed, etc. Some of us wanted—and I wanted—a great harvest, but we realized we weren't there for the harvest. We were there to join the workers in breaking up the ground and to sow the seed where it was freshly broken.

I began with writing that "God



Anthony and Cassandra Kern hand out health literature door-to-door in the rain.



**Newfoundland missionaries have morning devotion before the day begins.**

showed up,” but Cassandra and I realized, just as Jacob did at Bethel, that God didn’t show up; rather, “truly the Lord was in this place and I did not know it.”

We often think if we go on some adventurous mission trip that God is going to show up, but we forget that He is omnipresent, and that He is already in that place before we get there.

When we realized what God was doing, we had peace. We did a health expo and evangelistic series. And yeah, we wanted more people than were actually there to show up for both events. They didn’t, but the people we did get were remarkable. The one person who came and wanted to be baptized didn’t even live there but was just visiting her sister, who had brought her along.

While knocking on doors to promote the evangelistic series, my wife and I were forced to knock on a door to ask for cover in an intense wind and rain storm. That door just happened to be that sister who had showed up for the first night of the series but had failed to come out the second night.

Speaking of knocking on doors, Newfoundland was the kind of place where you knocked on a door to do a survey with someone, as you do, but then

ended up on the person’s couch or at his or her kitchen table. Cassandra and I got to pray with sick people in their living rooms, bring joy to men and women who were lonely just waiting for someone to come by and share in a conversation with them. Not to mention, there were tons of people interested in the Bible, interested in the message we had. If only we had the time and number of workers needed to follow up with them.

I realized then that we’re not much different than that show horse I mentioned. We weren’t, as we are, built for the work that is set before us. But the Son comes along and equips us for that work. We only have to believe that He can do it. And He will give us the time and the number of workers needed.

“And He said to them, ‘the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’” (Luke 10:2, ESV).

And that’s what Newfoundland was; it was the beginning of a work of young people who aren’t that radical on their own, being radically equipped by a radical Saviour (that’s a lot of radicals).

Now for the appeal ...

If you want to participate in a local mission trip and have Jesus equip you, along with other young people, go to [easterncanadayouth.org](http://easterncanadayouth.org) to find out more (and hopefully sign up) for an upcoming mission to Manitoulin Island in Ontario.

Remember, as it is written, “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1 Cor. 3:7, ESV). ■

*Anthony and Cassandra Kern are married and living in Lacombe, Alberta.*

*Anthony is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Religious Studies student at Canadian University College and Cassandra is Administrative Assistant to the Division of Arts.*



**Cassandra Kern and Katherine Passamonte sync a BMI scale in preparation for the Health Expo.**



# Spotlight

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

## Scripture Songwriting Contest

**T**his month marks the official launch of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first National Scripture Songwriting Contest across Canada! Are you ready?

You may have heard that this contest is open to all ages and all Canadian citizens; yes, this is true! But if you, like many others, are still pondering the idea and have not yet taken the initiative to write a song, submit it, and get involved, perhaps hearing the list of prizes will be just the incentive you need to take that next step! And here it is, the list of what will be rewarded to the top three submissions:

Prizes include (but are not limited to),

**First Place:** 500 Dollars; a special gift prize package provided by Chapel Music; an interview on Rise Radio 1380 AM (heard by a potential 3.5 million listeners daily); a feature Music Spotlight article in the *Messenger* magazine; and a feature spotlight on the front page of the contest website, with a stream of your winning song.

**Second Place:** \$300; a gift provided by Chapel Music; a mention in the Music Spotlight article in the *Messenger* magazine; and a feature on the contest website, with a stream of your second-place song.

**Third Place:** \$200; a mention in the Music Spotlight article in the *Messenger* magazine; and a feature on the contest website, with a stream of your third-place song.

And what about the judges? Every good contest needs a list of reputable, knowledgeable and honest judges, and that's exactly what we've put together! In no particular order here is a brief description of each person who will be listening, critiquing and choosing the top three entries.

**Stan Jensen:** Born in Alberta and now residing in Oshawa, Ont., he is the communications director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (which he thoroughly enjoys). Musical instrument: percussion. Favourite instrument: cello. Stan has been selling and promoting music within the church for decades. He began his work with the church at the Adventist Book Centre.

**Evaldo Evicente:** Originally hailing from Brazil, now living in Oshawa, Ont., he is the head of donor relations and the music department at It Is Written Canada. Musical instrument: piano and voice. Evaldo worked extensively with Adventist Christian music in Brazil, recording, producing and marketing! He's no stranger to the Christian arts.

**Daniel Stojanovic:** Born in former Yugoslavia, spent 21 years in France, three in Austria, five in the United States, and finally made his way to the loveliest country of all, Canada, in 2007. Daniel is the VP of Administration of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Favourite Musical Instrument: violin. Aside from seeing the world, his work has involved church administration, education, radio ministry, Bible research, evangelism, choir direction, and musicology.

**Naomi Striemer:** Born in New York, raised in Nova Scotia. Naomi is a singer, songwriter, producer, author, speaker, radio host and writer of this column. Musical instrument: voice and piano. She has worked with Carlos Santana and Randy Jackson, but the highlight was making the choice to leave it behind to pursue Christian music ministry full-time.

Now that you know who we are, we want to know who you are! Say a prayer, open the Word of God and let the words and melody begin to flow. I encourage first-time songwriters to go forward boldly and remember, the main purpose of this Scripture songwriting contest is to praise God and find a more intimate connection with Him. For He is the great author of song and music, and He has given us the very ability to use it to His glory to worship and honour Him.

For more information, please visit [www.scripturesongs.ca](http://www.scripturesongs.ca) to see the full list of rules, regulations, and details for uploading your submission. ■

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*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.*

[www.naomistriemermusic.com](http://www.naomistriemermusic.com) and [www.naomiradio.com](http://www.naomiradio.com)

**Contest Rules And Regulations:** Deadline to submit your entry for this contest is 11:59 p.m. EST on Aug. 1, 2013. Contest is open to any Canadian resident; up to three entries per person or group. All entries will be considered and the winners will be selected by a panel of judges before the end of August 2013. Prizes are: First Prize—\$500, Second Prize—\$300, and Third Prize—\$200. Winners will also receive prizes from Chapel Records. Employees of the SDACC and those in their household are ineligible. The SDACC, the Canadian Adventist Messenger, and their employees are not responsible for any failure of electronic equipment or computer transmission or network connections; inaccuracies of information, for technical or human error in the processing of entries, including data entered by contestants. The SDACC reserves the right to modify or cancel all or a portion of the contest for any reason.



## SCOTT MACDONALD'S

comfortable office is warm, inviting, and decorated with an eclectic array of pictures, posters and small gifts his students have given to him over the years. During this interview multiple students popped in and out of the office to ask questions, drop off English homework, solicit advice and bargain for extra time to complete assignments. It set the stage for the following revelations.

A former student at Kingsway, Scott now teaches here. He recalls, "Kingsway College is very important to me. This school transformed me and has given me so much."

Scott came to Kingsway College from London, Ont., as a junior in 1984.

As a very shy and reluctant student, Scott was not involved in extracurricular activities—though he did

enjoy living in the dorm and making what turned out to be lifelong friends. Scott remembers "shy[ing] away from large groups and having to 'fight' to be social."

But Betty Bayer, Scott's English teacher at the time, mentored him and thus coaxed him out of his shell. Her approach included humour, much encouragement and repeated suggestions that Scott should explore his boundaries and not limit himself.

As a result, Scott ran for Yearbook Editor in 1986. Scott had to subject himself to running a campaign and a public election—and the student body voted him in. To top off the year, Scott received the "Service Not Fame Award," which recognizes the student who has gone out of his or her way to help others. Scott found out, years later, that it was Betty Bayer who had nominated him for the award! It is one of the mementos hanging in his office today. "That is the remarkable part of Kingsway College: an introvert was aided in exploring extroversion to find balance."

After graduating from Grade 12 in 1986, and Grade 13 in 1987 (both from Kingsway College), Scott wanted to secure his financial future by pursuing a career in medicine by enrolling in University of Western Ontario. After a while, however, he started to have second thoughts about becoming a doctor because he realized that he had been motivated by the pay and job security. He realized he wanted to make a difference elsewhere: in the classroom.

His positive experiences at Kingsway giving him confidence, Scott switched to a four-year English Honours B.A. program at McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ont. After graduating in 1994, Scott obtained a B.Ed. at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ont., in 1996.

Scott went on to teach and serve as acting principal at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy in Calgary for one year, and then on to nine years of teaching English and science in the public school system.

In 2007, God once again opened doors for Scott, and he returned to Kingsway College to teach English.

It was an exciting time to be back at Kingsway, as Scott was working with some of his former teachers.

Coming back to Kingsway as a teacher 22 years after graduating as a student meant that Scott came back to a slightly changed campus; he immediately noticed the new administration building and fitness centre.

"Despite the changes on campus, though," says Scott, "the spirit was still the same."

"Having worked in public schools with huge groups of children, ... I found it increasingly difficult to connect with the students. Here at Kingsway, with the smaller class sizes, there are more opportunities to connect with students outside of the classroom, like going on a choir tour or working on the Cedar Sentinel, the school newspaper.

"I witness to my students here. My role isn't just about school work or after-school programs. There is also student coaching and mentoring. I realized the value that Kingsway College has to offer and how lives are touched here. It is the continual work of God through the teachers interacting with the students."

Scott is taking the Kingsway College spark and passing it on. ■

*Jennifer Parent is the development coordinator at Kingsway College.*

# Future Pediatrician Speaks Out



Rebecca Kennedy

Rebecca Kennedy, Grade 8 student at the Ottawa Adventist Elementary School, dreams of becoming a pediatrician so she can help children to become well and stay well. It has been her dream since Grade 3 when she read all about what the work a pediatrician does. Rebecca has been attending the school for nine years.

She has three siblings, one of whom graduated last year from Ottawa Adventist School with high honours. No doubt, Rebecca's parents have taken a serious approach to their children's education and see Adventist Education as an investment and as preparation for service to others in this world here and now, and to prepare for a future with Jesus. This is one of the 10 goals of Adventist Education.

When asked what she appreciates about the school, Rebecca stated a number of things very clearly and without the slightest hesitation. It was evident that she appreciates the Bible lessons taught and the way teachers integrate faith with the students' learning. She believes that along with what her parents teach her at home, she has learned at least two important lessons at school: that she must stand up for Jesus no matter what it takes and that her behaviour should be a witness to all those with whom she interacts. She enjoys the devotional thoughts shared in every class period and the opportunity to pray to God and ask Him for help.

Rebecca's favourite subjects are

mathematics and science, both subjects she is going to need for medical school. Another thing she appreciates is that her teachers encourage team work among the students so they can learn to cooperate with one another. Students are taught that it is important to respectfully understand others' points of view, and she is convinced that working with others in the classroom helps to sharpen the mind of each student who is engaged in the activity. She also said definitively that her teachers have been good and positive role models for her and the other students at Ottawa Adventist School.

Coached by Pastor Elizabeth Pule, chaplain of the Ottawa Adventist School and associate pastor of the Benjamin Church, Rebecca recently demonstrated one of her talents when she preached at the Benjamin and Nepean churches for focus-on-education days. She acknowledges the assistance given to her as well by her teacher Mrs. Paulette Terrelonge and her parents. As we witness what is happening in our world today with so many young persons being killed prematurely, some because of bad choices, what a blessing to have Adventist schools where our children can be taught to seek and love God. That is one of the values that Rebecca affirms about the school: opportunities to "learn a lot" about God.

I could tell from Rebecca's responses that she is a no-nonsense kind of person, and I am confident that she will achieve

her goal of becoming a pediatrician so long as it remains her goal. She is a pleasant and warm young woman who loves Jesus, her parents, her church and her school. She believes that every child from a Seventh-day home in Ottawa should be enrolled in the Ottawa Adventist School and that those children who do not attend the school are missing out on a good quality education and an opportunity to study more about Jesus as well as learn lessons from the Bible stories.

Ottawa Adventist Elementary School is a JK-8 school with a Kindergarten program that is bi-lingual. The students read, speak and sing in French. The school also offers extended French to Grade 4 students. For an Extended French Program, students must be taught French as a second language and at least one other subject in French. At the Ottawa School the second subject is social studies.

You go, Rebecca! We will pray that God will help you to fulfill your dream and achieve your goal by His grace and with His blessing. Keep your mind focused on Him and your energies determined to surmount any and all difficulties and distractions that may come your way and your success is assured. Thanks to the Kennedys for their support of and dedication to Adventist Education. ■

*Janice Maitland is the superintendent of schools for the Ontario Conference.*

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## Alberta

# The OneProject Chicago



As I walked into the Westin hotel, I heard melodious music being belted out. The music resonated with me and I was naturally led into the conference room. To my amazement, I saw hundreds of people, young and old hands lifted high singing in in unity and unison praising and worshipping God.

The place was packed with sincere worshippers who believed it was Jesus only, Jesus all. Japhet De Oliveira, co-founder of The One Project, stood up and gave a Christ-centred message, lifting up the supremacy of Jesus. It was no longer about the non-essentials, such as music, dress or worship style; it was purely about Jesus, the power of His life.

Alex Bryan, senior pastor at the Walla Walla University Church, gave a 20-minute dynamic thought-provoking message entitled the "Third Way." He

highlighted the fact that there are two familiar extremes in Christianity, Left versus Right, Conservative versus Liberal, Roman versus Pharisee, but Christ is the middle way. Bryan then asked an important question: "How do we move from a well curve to a bell curve where a vibrant middle creates a healthy vibrant church life?" When we focus on Jesus and lift Him up, He bridges the gap between the divide. After Bryan spoke, he then received and addressed questions from the audience that were being sent in real time via text messaging.

The audience then turned from looking at the speaker to looking inward around the table. Each round table was filled with people, young and old, from all over the world. A facilitator navigated through a group of questions relating to the message. Around the table were many answers, but most of the conversation left

more questions than answers. I truly felt Christ's presence, a sense of organic community and a real sense of acceptance and belonging, even though there were a diversity of opinions and ideas.

Timothy Nixon, chaplain at Andrews University, challenged the listeners with a message, "Hens and Chicks." Nixon underlined the fact that hens don't need chicks, but chicks need hens; without the hen there would be no chicks. In essence, he was describing the relationship between Christ and His followers. Christ is the one in charge, not His followers; Christ is the leader, and we must follow him in all He does. Christ exemplified servant leadership all throughout His life and ministry. We must first be willing to follow Christ in order to be true servant leaders.

Chaplain Nixon went on to say boldly that ministry is not about ascending the

denominational ladder but really about stepping down the ladder to servant leadership. Nixon was then interviewed with a series of questions about his presentation via real-time text from the audience.

The round-table discussion picked up again with full force. People were reflecting, questioning, answering and sharing their personal ideas. It was interesting to see the group dynamics as each person around the table passionately expressed his/her thoughts in such vivid and animated ways.

“When we dreamed up the OneProject, the love for Jesus was overwhelming. When we prepared for each gathering, His love was overwhelming. When we experienced the gatherings, we got to bask in the presence of His overwhelming love,” says De Oliveira, co-chair of the OneProject board. “Our gatherings follow a really simple process. With 20-minute reflections on Jesus, followed by our immediate live responses and then the facilitator-led table recalibrations. As did Ellen G. White, we find Jesus to be the desire of the ages—every age—

including this one. We desire His love, His truth, His leadership.”

By the end of the OneProject, one thing was sure: it was Jesus only, Jesus all.

Currently, we are working with De Oliveira on having the OneProject come to Calgary, Alta., in February 2014. As the OneProject prepares to make a stop in Canada, I believe it will be a huge blessing to have such a powerful spiritual gathering on Canadian soil. ■

—Lyle M. Notice, associate youth director of the Alberta Conference

## Cornerstone Community Seventh-day Adventist Church

# The Cross—Our Compass Home

*Ephesians 2:19, 20, NIV: “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God: and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.”*

January 12, 2013, was a high day in the Alberta Conference as the Cornerstone Community Seventh-day Adventist Church (formerly Calgary Remnant Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship Company) was the first to be accepted into the sisterhood of churches in the Alberta Conference for 2013.

We glorify God for this significant achievement in our history. Eighty-four members strong and now under the leadership of visionary pastor Wallin O’Connor, the Cornerstone church is poised to be the leader in unified outreach spanning all sister churches in Calgary.

Cornerstone was founded by evangelist Fay Mullings and her husband, Milton Mullings, through a home Bible study group. The Lord stayed true to His word, and through the faithfulness of the members of the Bible study group, coupled with the blessings of the Holy Spirit, the group began to grow. All praise, glory and honor to God who has led us this far in our journey with Him. As in Acts 2:47 “... and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

In preparation for this momentous day, the team worked tirelessly to fulfill this segment of our goals. This could be seen in the transformation on our rented space to a sanctuary of worship and praise, then to a banquet hall and then back to the praise and thanksgiving portion of the program.

Our platform was transformed with a wealth of combined knowledge and years of experience in ministry: Ken Wiebe (Alberta Conference president), Larry Hall, George Ali, Lyle Notice, Keith Samuels, Keith Richter, Don Corkum, E. L. Natufe, John Masigan and our very own Wallin O’ Connor.

Our guest speaker was Joseph Bulgin, a well-loved pastor

from the Ontario Conference. We were blessed with music from our praise team and the Cornerstone Community Church Choir under the direction of Dwight McFarlane.

After the spiritual feast, we were treated to fine dining catered by Lidia Camara; though of Portuguese descent, you would wonder if she grew up in the Caribbean, as she embellished our palates with an array of dishes from a menu of fine Jamaican cuisine.

The evening program was an expression of praise and thanksgiving as we were treated to an artistic display of praise from the youth group “Unshackled” from the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church and majestic singing from the Perez family. There was also another timely message from Pastor Bulgin. We were truly blessed.

We sincerely thank the Robert McClure United Church for allowing us to share their home over the years. We are very grateful for the partnership we have.

Though we are truly delighted at our accomplishment of becoming a church, our work has just begun. We look forward to working in our Lord’s vineyard.

To whom much is given, much is expected. As we share our visioning, it is our goal to have a space of our own in the near future, where we will be able to fully enhance our programs and provide much needed support in the community.

We also express our thanks to our sister churches and many friends and visitors who came to share this special occasion with us.

We pray that God will continue to lead, guide and enrich us as we seek to continually do His will. ■

—Delores McKenzie



## Sylvan Lake SDA Church Holds Health Expo



The Personal Ministries department of the Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church kicked off the new year by stepping out into their community. Throughout the previous year they went door-to-door gathering information on the spiritual needs of the home. They felt that they wanted to do something more for the

community by also sharing with the physical needs of the community.

On Jan. 6, 2013, they set up the Health Expo in the church and invited the members to participate. This gave them a chance to work through the program before actually taking it into the community. The Health Expo was

set up in the HJ Cody gym, our local high school, on January 10 and again on January 13. Students along with the community were invited to go through the stations.

As the students visited the stations, they were excited to see the results of each test given and encouraged their parents and teachers to go through the exhibit. The stations included measuring one's weight and body fat percentage, biological age, blood pressure, relaxation massage, personal consultation, and as a bonus, each person received a bottle of water.

Then on Jan. 18 and 19, the church hosted a Healthy Choices Seminar led out by Darlene Blancy, who is a nutritional consulting practitioner with a PhD in nutrition and who has published four cookbooks and a cleansing handbook.

Finishing the month of health, on January 27, the church hosted a cooking class and vegetarian banquet. Darlene also facilitated this event. These events were well received by the community. ■

— Penny Marcinyk

## Three Miracles in Edson

On the Sabbath of Feb. 9, 2013, the church was full in Edson as the Whitecourt and Peers group had joined us for a baptism.

We had two people prepared for baptism—both were miracles. The first was a lovely lady who was recently widowed, Brenda Sinclair. She had been watching Doug Batchelor for 15 years. She had met two of the Peers members on a sleigh ride at the beginning of the new year and, in the course of the conversation, found out about Peers Company. Brenda was invited to attend church the next Sabbath. She came, told us her story and said that she wanted to be baptized and that she knew everything Seventh-day Adventists believed. She had even been keeping the Sabbath in her home for some time.

The next miracle was a man who wanted to be re-baptized. We watched



L to R: Pastor Brian Bechthold, Brenda Sinclair, Passcel and Elmer Dubois.

as this man grew spiritually over the last year and was transformed.

But we also had another man at church who was from Mayerthorpe, Elmer Dubois. We had visited this man a few times at his home. He has one leg and wears a prosthesis, so other members who live in Mayerthorpe bring him to church. A bright spot in Elmer's life is his nine-year-old son, Passcel, who attended church with him for the first time that day. During the children's story, we saw

Passcel rush up to the front to be with the other children. He had such enthusiasm and was so excited to be joining the other children.

Just after we all witnessed the wonderful baptism of the two candidates, Brian Bechtold, pastor, made an appeal as he always does before leaving the baptistery. Up jumped little Passcel, so excited, saying, "I want to be baptized, I want to be baptized!" The dad said he had been sharing Jesus with his son whenever he could.

So Passcel was baptized along with the other two baptismal candidates. Tears were in the eyes of the congregation. After the baptism, gifts were given, and not being prepared for Passcel, we gave him a single rose. He carried that rose around like it was a treasure. Someone asked him if it smelled good. He put the rose to his little nose, took a deep breath and said, "It smells like God!"

Yes, we witnessed three miracles! ■

—Denise Bechtold

## British Columbia

### Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church World Day of Prayer

On March 1, 2013, approximately 100 people from various faith communities entered the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kelowna, many for the first time, to celebrate the World Day of Prayer, which is typically held on the first Monday of March every year. This year the Seventh-day Adventist Church was host to this group of individuals who represented Lutheran, Catholic, Anglican, Evangelical and Adventist congregations in our area. What a beautiful way to make friends with those in our community and to enter into a service of prayer with them!

Each year a different country of the world is chosen to be the host country and the needs and challenges of women in that part of the world are emphasized and supported through our prayers and offering. This year's program had been prepared by the women of France, who chose the theme: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Referring to the strangers and foreigners and aliens, not only in France but in each of our faith communities, our speaker, Don Melashenko, from the Rutland church, quoted that well-known statement by Edwin Markham: "He drew a circle that shut me out—heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle and took him in!" It was a very fitting conclusion to his presentation.

Musical numbers by a ladies' trio and the Scuka sisters with their varied musical talents were included in the service and were much appreciated by everyone. Ladies representing their particular church participated in reading the prepared script, which included selections such as that found in Matthew 25:31–40, where Jesus says, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Following the service, a luncheon was served in the Rutland church's fellowship hall, which gave ample opportunity for us to mingle with those in our community whom we might never have met otherwise. What an opportunity to break down barriers and make new friends! ■

*Donna Rose, communications secretary,  
Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church*



Scuka sisters



## Fraser Valley Adventist Academy's Warm Soles for Warm Souls



The grade 4/5 class at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy has been working hard raising money to buy warm socks for people who are homeless.

They more than met their goal of raising \$1,000 to buy 100 pairs of socks. They were able to purchase 127 pairs of socks and 26 pairs of gloves.

On Dec. 17 the students and their teacher, Robyn Wettstein, delivered the socks and gloves to several organizations that help care for the needs of homeless people. The students wrote little notes and Bible verses to pen on each pair of socks.

They named their project “Warm Soles for Warm Souls.” The students are overjoyed with the success of their project and have experienced the joy of service. They will continue to pray for the recipients of their gifts. ■

—Karen Wallace, principal



## Romanian-English Intercer Ministry Celebrates 15 Years of Activity!

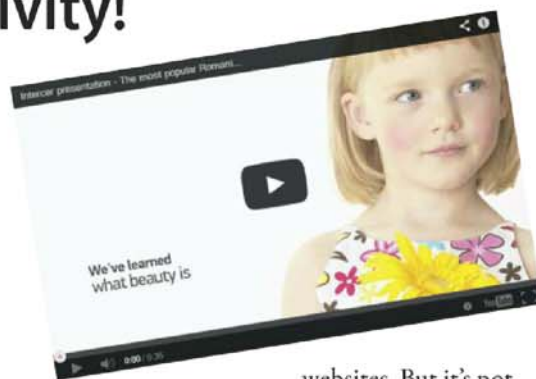
In early June 2012, Intercer celebrated 15 years of activity! Intercer started as the first-ever Romanian Adventist website, and today Intercer has a network of biblical websites that continue to be the most popular Romanian Adventist websites, with a monthly average of 60,000 unique visitors.

Intercer activity started from zero in 1997. In 1996, I was my local church host for the Net '96 satellite seminar and I found out about the “It Is Written” Adventist website (iiw.org). Then I was able to visit it for the first time in 1997 after an Internet connection was introduced at our work. Then I managed to access the Internet from friends and later from home. At that time dial-up was quite expensive for an individual user. (By the way, my wife, Rozalia, was baptized in 1996 after the Net '96 series.)

In the summer of 1997, we began the creation of the first Romanian Adventist

website. This was the website for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in my hometown of Slobozia, Ialomita, Romania. The idea of creating an Adventist website came when I read the article “Internet and the Gospel” by Octavian Lupu. Then we continued our activity through our newly created Intercer Non-Profit Organization, known also as Intercer. “Intercer” is short for “Internet to Heaven.”

We did not get a single salary for the first 12 years of our activity. We received donations, but these were not enough to support the ministry expenses. So we also personally contributed to cover all ministry expenses, including paying third-party providers and so on. Since 2009, we tried to build a self-supporting system to allow us to continue to maintain and develop new features for our



websites. But it's not easy through these tough times, and we have been getting only a partial salary since 2009. If we didn't continually volunteer, the ministry would have stopped long time ago.

We want to thank God for His help all these years. Also we want to say “Thank you!” to our co-workers, sponsors, collaborators and website visitors! <http://bit.ly/ZdosQv>

—Lucian Mihailescu, president, Intercer ministry in Romania and Canada

# The Gospel and the Three Angels Vancouver Island Campmeeting

May 24-26, 2013 at Nanoose Bay Pentecostal Camp Site  
2531 Nanoose Beach Road, Nanoose Bay, B.C.

For more information, please email R. Rud, pastor, at [4.rud@shaw.ca](mailto:4.rud@shaw.ca).



**Ben Maxson**  
Senior Pastor, Paradise  
Adventist Church,  
Chico, California.

## Newfoundland

### Bridges 101

Three years ago, Randy Noseworthy, of the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church, attended a workshop based on a book by Ruthie Jacobsen. The workshop was entitled "Bridges 101." Randy came back from that workshop determined to build bridges within his community. And build bridges he did. He set up a committee and went to work, showing God's love in a practical way. When asked what appealed to him about the program, Randy replied, "If you don't want to witness, don't know what to say, don't like talking to people, don't have much time, don't have any money ... then this is the program for you."

Randy and his team go about the community wherever the spirit leads them: police stations, fire stations, university campus, bus stations, government offices, nursing homes, and radio stations. These are just a few of the places that Randy and his team have shown up, surprising people with a bag of fruit, a health magazine, and a card that reads, "From your friends at the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church" on one side, and "Showing God's Love in a Practical Way" on the other.



**Randy Noseworthy "Showing God's Love in a Practical Way."**

They have done everything from climbing on a bus to give fruit to the passengers, to dropping off a bag of fruit and a card to the Premier of the province. They have set up on a busy walking trail, on a hot day, to serve cold water and watermelon. "We have had some wonderful responses from people and some great conversations," says Randy. "It's a

great way to meet people."

If you find yourself in St. John's, keep your eyes open for Randy and his team. You could spot them anywhere showing God's love in a practical way. ■

— *Gail Dempsey,*  
*communications director,*  
*St. John's church*

>> **SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of Mar. 31, 2013, there are 456 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,617,384. There are 74 loans with a value of \$19,459,173.

For more information or to make a deposit, contact Girly Quiambao—[quiambao.girly@adventist.ca](mailto:quiambao.girly@adventist.ca); 905/433-0011.

## Quebec



# Denise Nadeau celebrates 30 years of service at the Quebec Conference office

**Emile Maxi:** Denise, tell us about your childhood.

**Denise Nadeau:** I grew up in a nuclear Catholic family who lives in a small village. On my father's side, the family had lived there for five generations and on my mother's side four generations. I've always had uncles, aunts, grandparents living close-by, as close as on the same street or on nearby streets. It's still the same today with the addition of one brother and some cousins.

If you are in trouble, they are all there to help you. But if you do something wrong in their sight, like changing religion, the whole neighbourhood will know about it. I grew up in a loving and stable home where I learned good Christian values. My parents are still in love even after 57 years of marriage. My brothers and sisters are married and following in their footsteps.

**EM:** How did you end up working at the Quebec Conference office?

**DN:** I had been looking for a job since September 1981. We were in the midst of a financial crisis. The interest rate on a student loan was 14.87 percent and mortgages were negotiated at 20 to 23 percent. The rate of unemployment was also high. Considering that my monthly income was only \$115 and my student loan payment was \$75.33, I really needed to find work.

In August 1982, Jean Leclerc and Jean Septembre were going to Alberta, and they invited me to go along with them to look for a job in the West. I expected things to get better, because by that time, I was speaking both French and English, but my search was to no avail.

God had other plans for me. One day I got home from another fruitless job search, and someone told me that I had a call regarding employment. I was surprised because it was Thursday evening and I knew that the offices are usually closed by then.

Nevertheless, I tried to reach Pastor Gordon Gray, but the telephone was always busy because I was calling at the Adventist campsite. When I finally got him, he asked me if I was interested in working at the Quebec Conference. Of course, I said yes. He wanted me to come to CUC for an interview with the Quebec Conference president, secretary and treasurer the following day. They were there for the year-end meetings. I went there. They

made it clear that if ever I was chosen, I would have to return to Quebec on my own. After looking at my finances, I realized that I had to leave right away. When I reached my parents' home, I only had 25 cents in my pocket.

It was only on Jan. 3, 1983, three months later, that I started to work at the conference. It was a part-time position at first. When I got my first pay cheque, I realized that it would not be enough for me.

That same night I prayed. During an executive committee meeting they offered me a full-time job. And it wasn't until a few weeks into my position that I learned how God had intervened to give me that job.

Since coming to the conference to serve as treasurer, Pastor Gordon Gray had been looking for a secretary. The incumbent had to be a Quebecer because there was none at the conference at that time.

He spoke to Pastor Denis Fortin, a Quebecer, to find out if he knew someone for that job. He told him yes, but that person was in Alberta looking for a job. Since the administrators were in Alberta, they found my number and contacted me. It has now been more than 30 years since I first started working for the Quebec Conference.

**EM:** In what departments have you served as secretary?

**DN:** When I started to work at the conference, I was mainly the secretary to the treasurer. I also filled in as receptionist.

Over the years I've also been the secretary to the executive secretary, the Publishing department, Church Ministries (Health, Family Life, Pathfinders, Youth, Sabbath school, Personal Ministries), Education, Communication, Community Services, Stewardship. I also helped with *Il Est Écrit* (It is Written) to open the mail and do shipping.

During my first year at the office, I was also in charge of the Adventist Book Centre (ABC), which was in its infancy, at the reception. I placed orders, sold books and so on.

Throughout the years some departments have evolved, namely the Family Life department that regroups the ministries of men,

women, children, pathfinders, eager beavers, and little lambs.

The only positions that I have not served in are those of secretary to the president, Religious Liberty, and Ministerial Association.

**EM:** What does it mean to work at the conference office for 30 years?

**DN:** Working at the conference office has been a blessing to me, and I am confident that it's God Himself who chose me for this position.

Some periods were more trying than others. But being convinced that God placed me here and that He will make all things well, made my life easier. That's what He did. It is true that we have more work, compared to the other fields of North

America, because we have to translate some documents every day, but it is also a blessing because we learn a lot of things.

I have worked under 10 different conference presidents, each one with a different leadership style. I have seen a good number of pastors come and go; some have been transferred, others have died, and still others have been fired. We must always remember that although it is God's church, it is led by people; therefore, it is not perfect.

When leaders or pastors make mistakes, God always finds a way to bring things back on track. God willing, I intend to keep on working at the conference office until my retirement.

—*Emile Maxi, communication director/  
vice-president for administration,  
Quebec Conference*

## Ontario

### A Brand New Addition

With a desire to connect with and reach people for Jesus, Bowmanville Seventh-day Adventist Church recently welcomed a New Year addition to their church family: a brand new Sabbath school class for individuals in the 20–40 age range. However, participants need not worry, as there won't be anyone checking IDs at the door.

The purpose of this class is threefold: (1) to reach those who are new to the faith, (2) to foster a real Christian experience for those who want to re-ignite their faith and (3) to promote spiritual growth for those who are solid in the faith. The ultimate goal is for participants to draw closer to Jesus and to one another as they are disciplined by Him.

Class facilitators want to make this a comfortable place for members and visitors alike to bring their friends, relatives, neighbours and acquaintances who have no current connection with the Seventh-day Adventist faith. This is why there is designated time for (re)connecting, worshipping, sharing, growing and serving.

Regardless of where individuals might be in their faith experience, the In Step With Jesus study guide series, which leaders use as a focus for the class, is relevant to all. This quarter's study guide is entitled The Journey Begins. The beauty of this study is that "beginning the journey with Jesus puts us on the path toward becoming



**L to R: Jackie and Roland Kielbasiewicz, Jonathan and Denisa Zita (front), Cindy and Ken Allison (back), Hollace Simmonds, Lori MacDonald, and Keri O'Connor.**

like Him." As well, each lesson provides spiritual and practical applications as individuals learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in daily life. Fun and engaging discipleship activities for the family are also included online to supplement each lesson.

"At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He challenged a select group to become "fishers of men." This simply meant He expected them to bring others to the beautiful truth of a relationship with Him." Thus the resource In Step with Jesus has been prepared to help individuals

have a closer walk with Him and to equip them for discipling others who, in turn, will want to do the same as they grow in their relationship with Christ.

If you are interested in using In Step With Jesus study guide to launch a similar Sabbath school class in your church, please see the [www.instepwithjesus.org/](http://www.instepwithjesus.org/) website for more details.

In the meantime, please pray for this class, as well as for the opportunity to lead others to Jesus.

—*Jackie Kielbasiewicz,  
Bowmanville SDA Church*

# SDA Church in Canada

■ Joan Morgan, who volunteered with VOAR in the past and was a great supporter of the station, passed away suddenly on April 20, 2013. The staff at VOAR are saddened by her loss.

## VOAR Volunteers are Invaluable

VOAR relies on the help of our volunteers. During Volunteer Week April 21 to 27 VOAR recognized two of our long-time volunteer heroes, Don Morgan and Phyllis Pearcey.

Don first volunteered with VOAR as a teenager. Don spent his working career in the printing and publishing business at Morgan Printing Company, Robinson-Blackmore, and Creative Book Publishing. During his retirement years, Don has been active on the VOAR Management Committee, serving as chairperson of the committee for six years. Don has recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to his wife, Joan.

Phyllis has served for 50-plus years.

Phyllis's entire family has volunteered with VOAR, so her caring heart truly is part of her DNA. This former teacher and school principal is a vibrant volunteer hero who has shared her unique strengths with committed dedication.

VOAR station manager, Sherry Griffin, says, "We thank Don and Phyllis for a lifetime of commitment to VOAR Christian Family Radio."

If you would like to become a VOAR volunteer, you can contact us at voar@voar.org. ■

*R. Brian Matthews,  
VOAR chief engineer  
bmatthews@voar.org*



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

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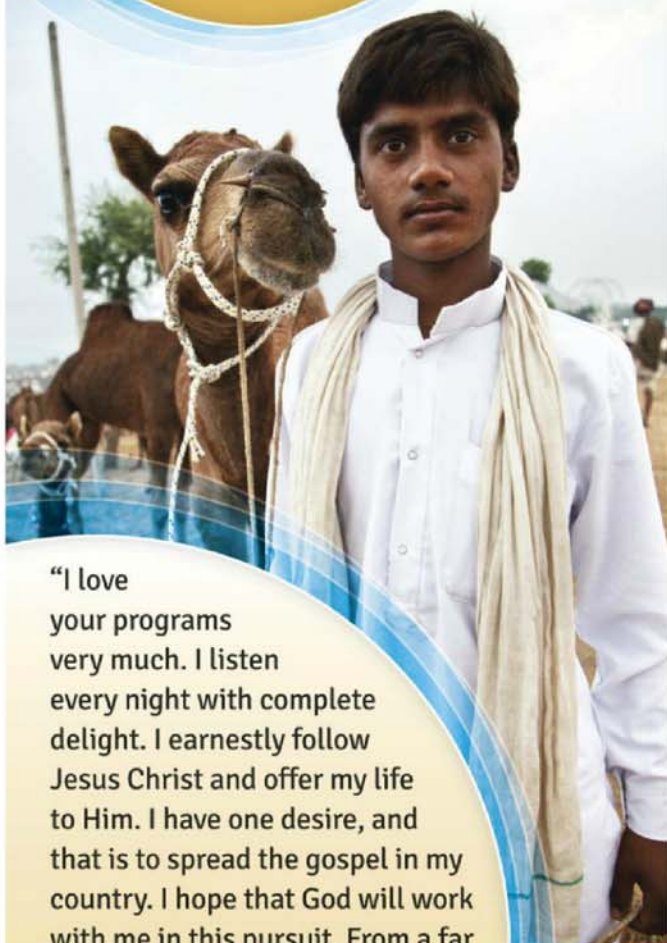
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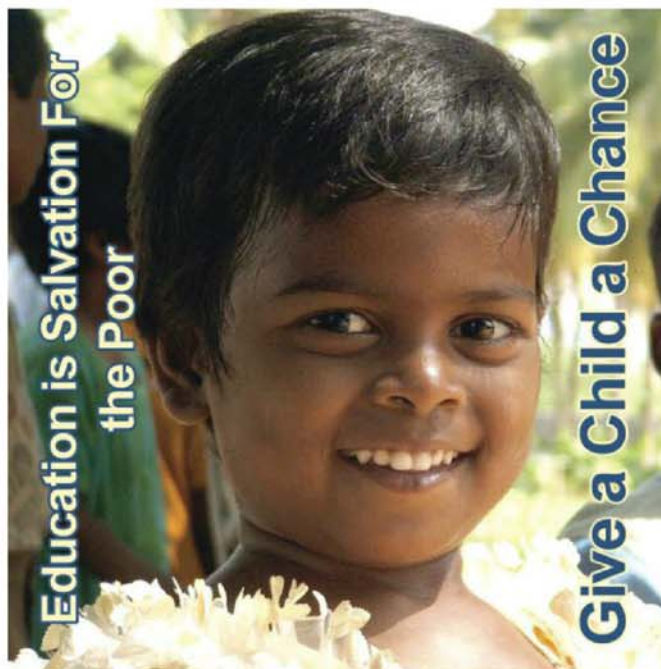
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**Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
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remembering our roots, and looking to the future. If you cannot attend but would like to share some memories of your time here in the past, please email [jackmcculley@shaw.ca](mailto:jackmcculley@shaw.ca), or phone 250/474-6520. (5/13)

**If you have graduated from, attended or ever worked at Kingsway College** or Oshawa Missionary College, please come and join us for the 2013 Alumni Homecoming, May 10–12, 2013. 2013 is a special year, as we celebrate 50 years of the Kingsway College name and 50 years of Branson Hospital School of Nursing Graduates. There are many exciting events planned for everyone, including a Friday night Vespers concert performed by King's Herald's, a Sabbath sermon by Gordon Pifher, Class of '65, the Alumni Banquet and much more! There will be plenty of opportunity to reunite with former classmates, friends, and faculty on the campus of Kingsway College, which has meant so much to so many. For more information, please visit the Alumni Homecoming webpage on our website at <http://kingswaycollege.on.ca/web/> where you will find the entire Alumni Homecoming weekend schedule, or to speak to someone live, please call 905/433-1144, ext. 211 or 212. Hope to see you on campus, May 10–12, 2013! (5/13)

Lisebye Luchmun. She is now a member of the Acadian Peninsula Company/Maritime conference.

**Christie MacArthur** was baptized in Saint John, N.B., on Oct. 27, 2012, by Courtney Dookie. She is now a member of the Maranatha church.

**Jennifer and Joey Swinimer** were baptized in New Minas, N.S., on Nov. 17, 2012, by Jacques LeBlanc. They are both now members of the New Minas church.



**Legal Notice**

**Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference)**

Notice is hereby given that the 57<sup>th</sup> Regular Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) will be held at Camp Hope, Katz, British Columbia. Camp Hope is located on Highway 7, approximately 10 kms. (six miles) west of Hope.

The General Meeting of the Regular Session will begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2013, in the Camp Meeting Pavilion.

The agenda of the Regular Meeting will include: (1) Election of officers for the ensuing term, (2) Appointment of the Board of Directors, (3) Appointment of the Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee, (4) Transaction of other business as may properly come before the Regular Session.

The Constitution provides for representation from each church within the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) on the basis of 1 (one) delegate for each church without regard for membership, plus 1 (one) additional delegate for each 50 (fifty) church members or major fraction thereof, based on the membership as of Dec. 31, 2012.

*Wayne Culmore, President  
Wesley Torres, Vice-President  
for Administration*

nursing home. It was a day spent with family and friends, filled with joyful reminiscing of Gordon's exuberant years, via DVD slideshows, personal stories shared by some of the guests, as well as the singing of some of Gordon's favourite hymns. A display of old license plates reminded us of the nearly 40 years Gordon operated the Mountain License Bureau in Hamilton, Ont.

Gordon has a daughter, Lorrie Dixon, and son, Allan. He also has four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

**Dorothy (Dolly) Jewkes** of Victoria, B.C., celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 27, 1913. Dorothy is a



member of the Victoria church. In her teen years, Dorothy worked for the painter Emily Carr's sister, Alice. Alice was a teacher and had a boarding school. Dorothy has three children; Dayle, Jeanette and David; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Announcements**

**Crawford Adventist Academy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**—Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dhall@tadsb.com); Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248 or [jgamez@tadsb.com](mailto:jgamez@tadsb.com). Visit our official website [www.tadsb.com](http://www.tadsb.com); follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook 'The official TJA/CAA Alumni Group.' (5/13)

**Rest Haven Church 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** We invite all of our friends and former members to join us on June 29, 2013, to help us celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our "new" church at 9300 Willingdon Road, Sidney, B.C. We are planning a weekend of worship, fellowship,

**New Members**

**Ravin Anderson** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Dec. 22, 2012, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Cole Roblin** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Dec. 22, 2012, by Brian Hawes. He is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Valerie Palacios** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Dec. 22, 2012, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Adam Graves** was baptized in Fox Point, N.S., on Dec. 22, 2012, by Dan Wilson. He is now a member of the Fox Point church.

**Antonia Dorey and Hope Dorey** were baptized in N.S., at Camp Pugwash, on Aug. 4, 2012, during campmeeting. They are now both members of the Oak Park church.

**Tania Friolet** was baptized in Miramichi, N.B., on Dec. 15, 2012, by Lisebye Luchmun. She is now a member of the Acadian Peninsula Company/Maritime conference.

**Anne-Marie Simon** was baptized in Charlo, N.B., on Jan. 5, 2013, by

**Births**

**Carter Webster Fraser** was born on Jan. 3, 2013, to Emily and Ryan Fraser of Indian Harbour, N.S.

**Carsten Robert Belz** was born on Oct. 30, 2012, to Glenn and Stephanie Stewart-Belz of Spring, Tex.

**Birthdays**

**Gordon Kaytor** of Stoney Creek, Ont., celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sept. 26, 1912, at Heritage Green

Dooks; brothers, Daryl (Penny) Dooks, Larry (Lori) Dooks and Gary (Lori) Dooks; three grandchildren.

**Lillian (née Hatcher) Dicks** was born Dec. 3, 1926, in St. John's, N.L., and died Jan. 7, 2013, in Seaford, Ont. Lillian and her husband, Richard, were head chefs at Kingsway College cafeteria in Oshawa, Ont., from 1981–1992. They were loved by a lot of students who were away from home and boarding at the school. Lillian is predeceased by her brother, Donald Hatcher, sisters, Olive Hatcher and Phyllis (Edward) Pearcey, and stepsons Paul and Marvin. Surviving: husband, Richard; sons, John W. (Lorri Anne) Moore and Jeffrey L. (Pamela) Moore; stepson, Leonard (Clare); daughters, Laura (Gordon) Hoggart, Kendra (Bird) (Darell) Gallagher, Cheryl (Bob) Strohm, Wendy Moore and Penny (Bill) Osborne; stepdaughter, Laurie Packett; brothers, William Hatcher and George (Rita) Hatcher; 23 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

**Steve Fortney** was born Aug. 7, 1927, in Winnipegosis, Man., and died Dec. 7, 2012, in Winnipegosis, Man. Steve was a lifelong member of the Winnipegosis Seventh-day Adventist Church. He faithfully served as head elder for many years. Steve is predeceased by his wife, Mary; brothers Bill, John, Carl and Metro; and his sisters Anne, Lena, and Evelyn Moshenko. Surviving: son, Dennis of Calgary, Alta.; daughters, Brenda (Ira) Mayne, of Yakima, Wash., Louise (Jeff) Winter, of Lafayette, Ore., Ruth (Chuck) Malin, of Columbia, Md; brothers Jake (Vicky), of Lacombe, Alta., Mike (Marjorie), of Perdue, Sask.; sisters Mary Williamson, of Vernon, B.C., Jenny (Bud) Barter, of Bowmanville, Ont., Zana Natyshen, of Calgary, Alta., Lily (Roger) Graham, of Guttenburg, Iowa, and Bea, of Loon Lake, Wash; six grandchildren.

**Artena Rosella Weller** was born April 10, 1912, in Hanna, Alta., and died Jan. 13, 2013, in Vancouver, B.C. Artena was a long-time member of the Oakridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, served as the Sabbath school secretary for 10 years and loved to sing in the choir. She is predeceased by her brothers, Arthur, Benny, Edwin, Rueben and Loren, and sisters, Esther and Phaby. Artena is survived by her sister, Alice.

**Hebert Koehn** was born Dec. 13, 1930, in Jagow, Germany, and died Oct. 31, 2012, in Fairview, Alta. Herbert loved his church and served as home mission leader in Belloy and deacon in Peoria-Smokey Seventh-day Adventist churches. He is predeceased by his brother, Werner Köhn, and sister Gertrude Köhn. Surviving:

wife, Elfriede; son, Charles (Kathy), daughters, Lorie (Larry) Ramey, Dorothy (Dan) Merklin and Irma (Dale) Gordey; sister Ursula Köhn; seven grandchildren.

**Hazel Kay Matheson** was born Nov. 27, 1920, in Clive, Alta., and died Oct. 2, 2012, in Vernon, B.C. Hazel served in India, with her husband, Warren. Hazel served as a nurse, both overseas in India, as well as a pastor's wife. Their last appointment was the Cherryville, Silver Hills, district in the B.C. conference. She is predeceased by her husband, Warren. Surviving: sons, Murray, of Calif., Lester (Leona), of Ind., Douglas (Michelle), of Ore., and Gerry, of Wash.; daughters, Margaret (John) Ham; brothers, Tom (Zelma) Kay, of Lacombe, Alta., Ernie (Evelyn) Kay, of Oregon; 10 grandchildren.

**Annie (née Werk) Miller** was born Nov. 14, 1913, in Hatton, Sask., and died Feb. 10, 2013, in Lacombe, Alta. Annie and her mother became Seventh-day Adventist through the influence of The Great Controversy sold to them by a colporteur. Annie was an alumni of Canadian Union College (1946, and a nursing graduate from Glendale Sanitarium in 1949). She served in denominational institutions—Rest Haven, B.C., Branson Hospital, Ont., and Sunnyside nursing home, Sask., until retirement. Even at the age of 99, her focus was on Jesus' soon return. She is predeceased by her husband, Lawrence; stepson, Duane, of Toronto, Ont.; and stepdaughter, Elaine (Martin) Padilla, of Redmond, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Carol (Don) von Gunten, of Lacombe, Alta., and Jenna (Del) Spenst, of Lacombe, Alta.; stepdaughter, Shirley (Everett) Tetz, of College Place, Wash.; nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

**Bonnie Eileen Willinger** was born Oct. 26, 1925, in Edmonton, Alta., and died Dec. 14, 2012, in Kelowna, B.C. Eileen was a faithful follower of God and was a very active member of her church. She was well-known for her musical abilities and held many offices over the years. She was also well-known for her gift of hospitality and opened her home to many visitors. She loved children and taught piano lessons for over 50 years. She is predeceased by her husband, Frank; brothers Robert, Phillip and Francis Patterson; and her sister, Sadie Brown. Surviving: sons, Harvey, of Rosedale, B.C., and Allen (Ruth), of Vernon, B.C.; daughter, Barbara, of Kelowna, B.C., brother, Clifford (Romi) Patterson, of Peterborough, Ont.; seven grandchildren.

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**Fountainview Academy is an 80-student boarding school** nestled in the beautiful, pristine mountains of British Columbia. Leading young people to Christ is our first priority. We are currently seeking a main girls' dean for the 2013/2014 school year. If you have experience that would benefit you as a **girls' dean**, please prayerfully consider submitting your résumé to Michael Dunbar at [mdunbar@fountainview.ca](mailto:mdunbar@fountainview.ca) or Fountainview Academy, Box 500, Lillooet, B.C. V0K 1V0. 250/256-5400 (7/13)

**Thinking of what to do this summer?** How about attending Eastern Canada Youth for Christ's (ECYC) fifth annual conference: "Something Better": "For what is man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26). The conference will be held from Aug. 15-18. Register online at: [www.eastcanadayouth.org](http://www.eastcanadayouth.org). For more information, please email us at [info@eastcanadayouth.org](mailto:info@eastcanadayouth.org). (7/13)

**Fountainview Academy is an 80-student boarding school** nestled in the beautiful, pristine mountains of British Columbia. Leading young people to Christ is our first priority. We are an accredited school with excellent facilities and a promising future. Fountainview Academy operates with a dedicated team of staff and administrators. We have an opening for: **accountant**. Please contact Becky Chen at [bchen@fountainviewacademy.ca](mailto:bchen@fountainviewacademy.ca), or 250/256-5400. For maintenance manager, head girls' dean, cafeteria manager and stipend religious volunteers (boys and girls dorm), please contact Elaine Roque at [eroque@fountainviewacademy.ca](mailto:eroque@fountainviewacademy.ca), or 250/256-5400. (7/13)

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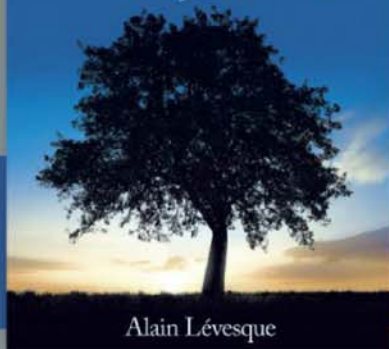
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**OUR COVER STORY**

**THIS MONTH**, features a group of young missionaries that went on a mission to Newfoundland and Labrador. So for this month's column, we decided to take a look at Newfoundland and the work that was done in the past by our church. We found a few interesting tidbits of information. Take a look!

**Newfoundland**

Last October I proceeded north to visit the out-stations where some of our Sabbath-keeping brethren are. My first call was at Englee, where I found the little company of good courage. On account of the schedule of the mail steamer, I was compelled to stop here two full weeks. I attempted to hold meetings for outsiders, but the prejudice was so strong, no one would attend. Just previously two of our brethren had been fined for Sunday work; this, together with the prejudice that had

This above item is an excerpt from a news story written by C.H. Keslake, and published in the May 8, 1912, issue of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. Here the writer details his encounters with prejudice, bad weather and high seas.

The item on the right is an excerpt from a news story written by M.N. Campbell, and published in the Oct. 18, 1932, issue of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. It is a report of the annual meeting of the Newfoundland Mission.

already existed, led the people to remain away. However, I did what I could in visiting and selling our literature. From Englee I went to Shoe Cove, where one lone sister resides. I found her of good courage. As there were several places I had planned to call at I purposed to stay there only until the bay steamer came which would have been in a day or two. But bad weather set in which delayed the steamer, and I had to stay longer than I had expected. While there I held meetings in the home of Sister Welshman, which were more or less attended. I also visited and sold our literature. Anxious to continue my itinerary, I attempted to get to Nipper's Harbor by way of La Scie, but the snow at Shoe Cove was so deep that, even with dogs, I was unable to get away. I could do nothing until the steamer came in two weeks. When I did leave, it was so rough the captain refused to let the mail boat come ashore. I was forced to go out in a small punt with the waves so high that we were completely hidden from the view of those on the steamer and on the shore. We were compelled to watch our chance for getting on the steamer when our boat should be on the crest of a wave. It was rather hazardous, but we got on board safely. Because

**NEWFOUNDLAND MISSION**

Office Address: 106 Freshwater Road, St. John's, Newfoundland  
Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer, S. G. White

**The Newfoundland Meeting**

THE annual meeting of the Newfoundland Mission was held at the capital city of St. John's, September 25 to 29. The weather was ideal. Bright, warm, sunny days were the rule during that period.

Elder Crager, from the General Conference, Elder Reiner, Missionary Volunteer and Educational secretary of the Canadian Union, with the writer and Brother Perrin constituted the general help for the meeting. We took the steamer from Halifax at the close of the Maritime general meeting, and spent two and a half days on a stormy sea, sailing to St. John's. All of us were down with *mal de mer* on the voyage, and were pleased when we found no boat would bring us back in time, and had to take another route for the return trip.

A cordial welcome awaited us in Newfoundland. The church was packed to its extreme limit at the evening and Sabbath meetings, and the word spoken was effectual in its working. Several of the addresses were broadcast by radio, and word came that many, not present at the meetings, were deeply impressed with the sermons. A genuine interest prevails in St. John's which is bound to bear fruit as it is followed up.

Newfoundland is Britain's oldest colony. Her people are largely engaged in the cod fisheries, and so are a hardy, independent people.

The education of the children is in the hands of the churches, which are subsidized for their work by the government. Thus the children's training is in more or less of a religious atmosphere. The churches of America had a similar opportunity in the earlier days, but they let the opportunity slip, and the government was compelled to take that responsibility. Seventh-day Adventists maintain a school of lower and academic grades in St. John's, and employ three teachers, besides operating a smaller school in one of the outports.

The third angel's message has gained a permanent foothold on the island, particularly in St. John's, where we have a church of 170 members, a church building, and academy, and a residence for the superintendent belonging to the mission. The problem of reaching the people living in the outports or fishing villages that dot the extending coast line of the island, is one that is in the course of solution. These villages are not on a railway, and must depend on occasional calls from vessels engaged in coastwise traffic to maintain contact with the outside world. During the long winters they are shut in to themselves, although many now possess radios by which they keep tab on events. The mission owns two boats for use among these villages.

The island is a British dominion, having its own national government and parliament. It is in no way connected with Canada politically, but is closely allied with that dominion commercially and in culture. The country is suffering severely from the world depression, and great destitution is evident among the laboring people. The same dangers threaten as are evident in stronger political units. Men's hearts are failing them for fear, there, as elsewhere. But they are struggling manfully with their problems, and we are moved to admiration for their pluck and patience.

Newfoundlanders are proud of their country, and they have much upon which to base their pride. It is a fine land, and its people are warm-hearted, courteous, and generous. All honor to that noble island and its splendid people!

The above is an excerpt from an article titled: "Newfoundland the Beautiful," written by M.N. Campbell, and published in the Oct. 18, 1932, issue of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. In case, you were planning to make a trip to Newfoundland anytime soon, this article serves as a tour guide. It details the geography, history and tourist attraction spots of the province. You may find this story, or any of the others on this page, in their entirety at <http://docs.adventistarchives.org>.



## from the editor

# Sabbath Celebration

Earlier this year, I was gifted a trip by the Israel government to visit their country. What a wonderful experience that was.

While I was there, I was very inquisitive with a few of the Israeli citizens that I met, on how they kept the Sabbath. Many told me that they do not “keep” the Sabbath, but rather they “celebrate” it. The main meal was on Friday evening after a day of preparation. They were eager to go to the home of an appointed relative—often the matriarch of the family—for Sabbath dinner, and they would have so many wonderful and happy traditions.

During the meal, prayers of blessing were given by the men for the attributes and talents of the wives and hosts. The same goes with the children, where prayers and praise of thanksgiving, came forth to rejoice, over their achievements and the fact that they are part of the family. Activities of their week were shared and nothing negative was expressed. The tradition of breaking bread among other things, was repeated, to remember how God had led them in the past. Even the non-practicing Jews reflected with fondness on the gathering of their family on Friday evening, to celebrate the Sabbath and to strengthen the family connections.

Does your family have traditions that can be remembered with fondness? One of the things my wife, Zelda, and I did for a while was have the children light a candle when they were ready for the Sabbath. In reflection, I wished we had kept that going.

One rather conservative father used to bring doughnuts home on Friday.

I thought that was a bit over the top at the time, but I can see that his children are all active members today. Another father I know, practiced a Fish and Chips Friday. This is remembered with fondness.

“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God.” (Hebrew 4:9) NIV.

Please send me an email, if you have traditions that you remember fondly about celebrating the Sabbath, and we will share them with our readers. ■

Stan Jensen, editor  
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan". The signature is stylized and fluid.