

canadian adventist

Messenger

july 2013

I was in prison and she visited me

Karen Hayde, Adventist Chaplain,
Vancouver Island Correctional Centres

PLUS Where Are They Now? (p. 10)
Reconnecting with Jesus (p. 13)
Adventist Education Innovations (p. 16)



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“In a world of things quick and disposable, *eternal* has a nice ring to it, don't you think?”



Built to Last

I've been thinking about things we purchase nowadays and how it seems that they wear out so quickly. It seemed to me that socks lasted forever when I was a little fellow. And if they did begin to show some signs of wear, my late mother was quick to mend them. Not so today. Things just don't seem to last today as they did a while ago.

Recently, I walked down a street in Quebec City and once again saw a house that is over 300 years old. Of course, there has been maintenance over the years, but it was built to last.

This got me to thinking about so many things around us that just don't last. Relationships fall apart. Cars wear out. Clothing needs to be resized or repurchased.

Amid all this, God offers us something that doesn't wear out, doesn't go out of date, something that will last forever: His kingdom.

Most of us are content to buy for the short term, but Christ's message to the church is all about the long term. He encourages us to invest in lasting value. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy," He says (Matt. 6:19, ESV).

So as I decide how to use my time, as I choose what to read, as I think about watching that show on TV or online, I'm investing. I'm choosing either something that will last or something very temporary. In a world of things quick and disposable, *eternal* has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

Not long from now, even those things around us that now seem so permanent will be gone. But in their place, God has a plan that lasts forever. I like how He said it to Daniel so long ago:

"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever" (Dan. 2:44, ESV). ■

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Canadian Messenger

July 2013 Vol. 82 No. 7

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



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Deadlines

September issue **July 2**
October issue **August 1**
November issue **September 3**

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

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

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.



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62-year-old grandmother Rabiadou fled conflict in Mali to the bordering country of Niger.



Refugee families in Niger line up for a distribution of food provided by ADRA supporters. Each family will receive a three-month food supply of rice, millet, pasta, salt, beans and oil.

Mali families fleeing conflict turn to ADRA

Refugee grandmother sends her thanks for food from ADRA Canada supporters

My name is Rabiadou. I'm 62 years old and the mother of five children, as well as a grandmother. I'm a native of Gao, a region in Mali, Africa. In Mali, we usually make a living through animal husbandry, with the sale of our livestock as our main source of income.

However, recently things haven't been going that well for us, because of the reduced size of our cattle. It got even worse when militants settled in our community. In a short time, they turned our neighborhood upside down with harsh rules.

I became very fearful when I witnessed a man of about 30 years of age being publicly flogged. Shortly thereafter, my husband also lost his life while coming back from the market, which was in a town about 15 miles away. I was told that a group of young men attacked him in an attempt to rob the goods and money he had. He tried to resist them and received fatal injuries to his head.

When I heard what happened, I fainted. I had no idea how I would survive without him. The community mourned my husband's death. During the weeks after his burial, the shadow of fear hung over our home. With no

means to continue taking care of my grandchildren, and afraid of further mistreatment, I decided to make a drastic move along with my grandchildren to find refuge in Niger, a country bordering Mali.

We could bring only a few of our belongings during this long and dangerous trip. What we had of food and water we finished along the way. I found shelter with my grandchildren in the community when we finally arrived in Ayourou. Since our arrival I've been helping other women with housework, as well as pounding millet and sorghum. As payment for my work, I'm given food to take and eat with my grandchildren. But it wasn't enough. We were often still hungry.

When ADRA selected me as a beneficiary for their refugee food distribution in my community, our lives really changed. Since then, we are able to have three meals a day! I'm really grateful for the help I, and many other families, have received from ADRA.

Though we don't know what the future holds for us, I thank God for touching the hearts of those I've never met who were willing to help me and my grandchildren. Thank you also for not forgetting the

many other families who also have been receiving help from this project. ■

As told to Issoufou Garba (project field coordinator) and Patrick Sapken (program assistant and translator), ADRA Niger.

YOUR GIFTS TO ADRA CANADA'S DISASTER RESPONSE FUND ARE HELPING REFUGEES IN NIGER.

Due to conflict in Mali, there has been a sudden flood of people fleeing their homes. Some remain in Mali but many are seeking refuge in the border country of Niger.

Your gifts enable ADRA to provide a 3-month food supply to 450 Malian refugee families. Each month, the families are given:

- 20 kg rice
- 15 kg millet
- 15 kg beans
- 5 kg pasta
- 3 litres vegetable oil
- 500g salt

Thank you for your gifts to put food on the table for families who are fleeing conflict, leaving everything behind.

To learn more about this project or to support others in need like Rabiadou's family, visit www.adra.ca or call 1.888.274.2372.

EVERLASTING Power

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8, NASB

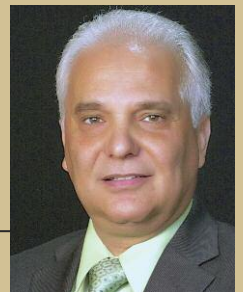
Jesus spoke these words just before returning to heaven after fulfilling His “Salvation Mission” on earth. The disciples were so happy to see and interact with their Master again following His crucifixion and resurrection. They wanted Him to stay with them to continue clarifying points they could not previously understand. Now Jesus was making these truths clear before their eyes, touching and changing their hearts.

What’s interesting, though, is that the disciples still needed to understand that Jesus’ mission was for His mission to become their mission. The whole purpose of that mission was to carry forward the message of the gift of salvation through the precious blood of Christ. What a blessing, but at the same time, what a challenge for Jesus’ disciples!

The disciples, almost right up until Jesus’ crucifixion, were fighting for human achievements and recognition because of their misconceptions about Jesus’ kingdom. They wanted power for themselves, while their Master was preparing them to be powerful channels of His power to others. They fought for human and transitory power, while Jesus envisioned giving them something of far greater value. Jesus’ mission was to enable them to pass on to others what they had wanted just for themselves.

Jesus was offering His disciples a spiritual power. This power can only increase when it is accepted and utilized in the way that Jesus offered. And this power does not centre on selfishness; it needs to be shared. This power is not temporal but everlasting. This power does not come from this earth but from heaven. This power cannot be hidden but can be clearly seen and manifested in the lives of those who have it (John 13:34-35). This power, rather than making one proud, will transform a person into a humble servant (Mark 9:34-35). This power does not promote any one person but becomes the cause for the redemption of humanity.

This same offer is presented to us today. Being a witness for Jesus allows Him to continue to mold and renew us every day to represent Him in the way He would choose. This means that He eagerly gives us the power to testify to everyone about what He has done in our own lives. We cannot keep silent, for we have to proclaim that the same power that has transformed us is available to others too. The beauty of Jesus’ offer is that the more we share and proclaim His Mission and the more we serve Him and others humbly and give Him the glory, the more powerful we become in witnessing for Him. Are you ready for the blessing? ■



Wesley Torres, vice-president for Administration,
B.C. Conference / Church Growth and Evangelism

Against the current

T33nTalk

Why is it so hard to be a Christian?

I get this question on a regular basis from teens of all ages right up to 99. Just last week in my grade 11/12 Bible class at Sandy Lake Academy two different students lamented how it is so hard to be a Christian, especially when others around you aren't living up to being Christian.

First, let me say that it is true: it is hard to be a Christian. It is hard to live for Jesus and like Jesus. Many years ago, I was a counsellor at summer camp at Camp Pugwash, which is right on the beach facing Prince Edward Island. The camp has a floating raft that we put out every summer and attach to an anchor to keep it from floating away. Well, one morning we looked out across the water and saw that the raft was much closer to PEI than it ought to have been. It had clearly detached from the anchor and was drifting away from shore. Wanting to be heroes, a few of us young guys jumped into a canoe and headed out. We tied on and tried to tow it back in, but it wasn't working. We called for more guys and extra oars. Soon we had two canoes tied to the raft plus guys on the raft with oars, all of us rowing for shore. We soon realized something very frustrating. If we rowed we made tiny progress toward the shore and if we took a break at all, we quickly with the tide. We were clearly

You are doing the same current. You are not only also placing yourself in a keen attention of Satan and churches and church schools prone to conflict than anyone have aroused by our allegiance we can't even see. The Bible darkness in the heavenly and blood (Eph. 6:11, 12).

Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan" the disciples to understand who the enemy really is and how he operates: through people.

So what do we do? Keep rowing. You will not only keep from drifting further away but also over time develop strength you never had before. When someone hurts you, remember it wasn't them but the devil hurting you through them. When you are tempted to do something you know is wrong, remember it is the design of Satan in that decision to push you further from "shore."

Most of all, remember this. You are not alone in your struggle against the storms of this world. The storms can be pretty severe. So severe we are tempted to think ourselves alone and hopeless to survive, but neither is true. Like the disciples on the lake thinking they were going to die, they finally saw—through a flash of lightning—the face of Jesus sleeping, and they cried out "Master, don't you care that we are dying?!" I'm not convinced Jesus was sleeping. I think He was just waiting to be called. You are no match for Satan, but Satan is no match for Jesus. The war will continue to rage until He returns, and you will lose some battles on the way. There is nothing easy about war, but keep rowing and keep your eyes on the Master of the Seas and keep calling out to Him.

Eventually, someone saw us rowing in our canoes trying to pull the raft and came to our rescue with a motor boat. Jesus' last promise in the Bible: "Behold, I come quickly!" ■



started drifting farther away going against the current. thing. You are living against the living against the current but position that is attracting the his minions. It is no mystery that and Christian homes are more else or any other group. We to Jesus a host of enemies that says we fight against rulers of realms and not against flesh This is the reason Jesus said to (Matt. 16:23, NKJV). Jesus wanted

Creation Corner for Kids

"I go to prepare a place for you."
—John 14:2

Bower Bird

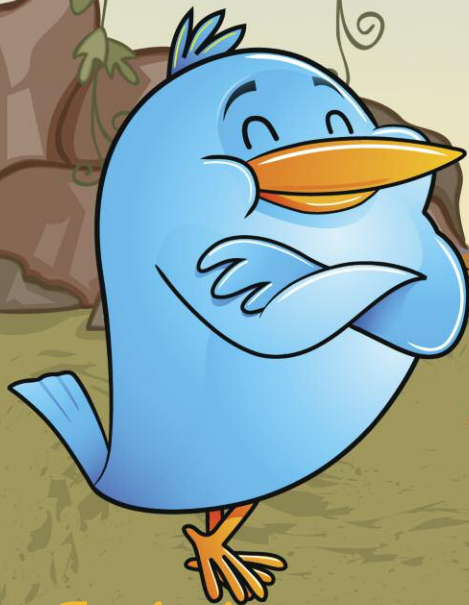
Bower birds are into architecture and home decorating. They build lovely dome-shaped homes with pillars for strength. They make thatched roofs from leaves and twigs. They install carpets of moss or leaves. Then they decorate!

Bower birds go "shopping" in the forest for pretty things to decorate with. They are very fussy about how they display their collections. Every nut, fruit or flower has to be put in just the right place.

Do it!

Are you doing your part to prepare for your heavenly home? Let's pray that Jesus will help us cooperate with His Holy Spirit as He works to sanctify us or make us holy. Let's spend as much time as we can getting to know Jesus better through prayer and Bible study. Let's search the Scriptures and learn all we can about what He has done to "prepare a place" for us.

You can learn more about the bower bird at: www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.



Think about it.

Why does the male bower bird go through so much trouble in preparing his home? Because he's getting ready to bring his wife to his home, and he wants her to be happy.

When I was young, I used to think the one thing that would make me happiest in heaven would be an endless supply of perfectly ripe bananas. Since then I've learned that heaven will be so much better than that! Jesus will be there to welcome us into His loving arms and share His perfect home with us. Living with Jesus forever will be more wonderful than we can ever imagine.

study tour to the lands of

Lotus and Buddha



CUC students and faculty in front of one of the twin pagodas in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

FOR THE 16 STUDENTS AND TWO PROFESSORS, the recent CUC Study Tour to the Far Eastern nations of Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam as part of two courses, in religion and biology, was action-packed and culturally delightful.

All three nations practice Buddhism, including communist Vietnam, which has adopted Mahayana Buddhism (compared with the Theravada Buddhism of the other two nations). All these countries are also richly associated with tropical forests that, in recent years, have invited global attention in relation to their protection, resource utilization and sustainability. These topics become the central theme for the study of tropical ecology.

The students were encouraged to observe four major components during the trip: culture, religion, economics and biology. These four are linked inseparably and play a major role in determining the well-being of the people of the nations.

The people in these countries are warm-hearted and friendly. The women of Myanmar could instantly be distinguished by the yellow-coloured Thanaka paste on their cheeks, worn as protection against the sun's radiation—a custom that goes back centuries.

Shut off from the rest of the world since its independence in 1948, Myanmar opened its doors to foreign visitors just about six years ago. Hence, the students of African heritage in our group were instant celebrities in the eyes of the public and were photographed as if they were from another world.

When we saw the daily life of the Thai people, the colourful ceremonial occasions as enacted in the Rose Garden show in Bangkok, our minds were drawn instantly to centuries-old traditions and arts, which continue to flourish even in the face of technocratic invasions of the modern world. The term Thailand stands for free people who have never in the history of the nation been subject to alien rule.

The Grand Palace and temple complex, known as Wat Phra Kaew, holds the famous Emerald Buddha. The wall murals of the temples depict the history of Buddhism, clearly showing the link between Hinduism of India and Thai Buddhism. The statues of Buddha, seen in multiple positions—sitting and meditating, standing, reclining and sleeping—inundated the palatial site. It is believed that their abundance manifest the omnipresence of the spirit of Buddha.

The overnight train journey from Bangkok to the northern town of Chiang Mai was restful. We trekked in the morning to the vicinity of Doi Inthanon National Park near Chiang Mai. Everyone had a rare privilege of a ride on an Asian elephant and realized soon that this is the ideal way to see the forest. Following the ride we had a bamboo rafting experience on a small river while the joyful villagers on the banks of the river splashed water on the participants as the rafts moved along.

We had ample opportunity to witness the villagers' starkly simple life, yet there was joy on their faces.

The following day we set out to reach the summit of the Doi Inthanon National Park, the highest point in Thailand. We saw the National Observatory and the thick jungle associated with it. Continuing our journey, we went to see the famous twin royal pagodas built in commemoration of the birthdays of the king and the queen. Many visitors came to worship with lotus flowers and incense sticks.

A short flight from Yangon to Bagan brought us Myanmar, a land of splendor and glorious history. Situated on the banks of the Ayeyarwady River, Bagan is a mystic land dotted with over 4,000 pagodas. Standing on a pagoda at the height of about 90 feet and watching the sunset over this arid land of about seven



CUC students kayaking in pairs in Halong Bay, Vietnam.

square kilometers was a spectacular, once-in-a-life-time experience.

Bagan, formerly known as Pagan, was the cultural, economic and political epicenter and capital of Burma from the seventh to 13th century. The agricultural lands that surround the pagodas once supported the ruling class and the citizenry, but years of utilization has rendered the land less conducive to agriculture, it appears. However, growing tourism brings new life to this landscape and economic benefit to the people.

Life in Bagan is as simple as it has been for centuries. Horse buggies and bullock carts are still a mode of transportation for people. The architectural uniqueness and beauty of the pagodas, temples (such as Gawdapalin and Ananda) and small-sized stupas cannot easily be put into words.

Yangon is a thriving metropolis with several skyscrapers and a network of long, clean roads that prohibit motorcycles. The major attraction of this city is the Shwedagon pagoda, believed to be over 2,500 years old, built centralizing a treasure chamber that houses eight hairs of the Buddha. The pagoda, completely covered in gold, has had layers of gold continually added to it since it was built. It was truly enthralling to walk barefoot along its corridors and watch scores of devotees paying homage to the statues of Buddha.

Beautiful Vietnam was the final destination. After visiting the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi, we headed southwest to spend a day in the rainforest, Cuc Phuong. It was amazing to watch the Asian gibbons, langurs, and monkeys of that region. Our next stop was Tam Coc, a beautiful small town set idyllically amid scores of limestone hills, paddy fields and rivers.

Especially memorable experiences were bicycle riding on the rice paddies' flanked roads and riding on a canoe under caverns and through lotus-covered rivers.

Perhaps the most memorable event of all is our time spent on a cruise ship in the scenic Halong Bay. This inlet in the Vietnamese Sea has over 1,900 limestone islands, uninhabited by people. We went on a kayaking trip, visited a large naturally formed cave and had a Tai-Chi stretching exercise in the early morning. Overall, our visits to the three nations were truly educational in every sense and equally very joyful, giving us a lifetime of memories. ■

Dr. Paul S. Ramalingam is a professor of biology at Canadian University College.

Where Are They Now



Romi and Cliff Patterson

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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, *Messenger* Staff Writer.

Messenger: *Your early years were spent in Alberta. What was it like growing up there?*

Cliff Patterson: I was born on a farm in Alberta. I grew up there. Those were the Depression years, but we always had enough to eat. I was the youngest of six children. Those days, in the early war years, the soldiers had all gone off to war, so there was always plenty of work available for any kid who wanted to work. So I did all sorts of jobs.

I came home from school one day, and there was a rather new car in the yard, and there was a community public health nurse who informed my father that he had to go away; he had been diagnosed with tuberculosis. The result was the farm chores fell on my mother, my two sisters and me. He was sent to the TB sanitarium in Calgary. That's what they did in those days; they isolated them. I was probably about 9 or 10. I grew up in a hurry.

M: *Tell us about the work you did, while in the role of bindery manager at Kingsway College.*

CP: When I took the bindery over, there were many challenges. The Lord blessed, and I was able to turn it around immediately. I ran it as if it was my own business. I would open the bindery doors in the summertime

at around seven o'clock in the morning, and lock it again at five o'clock Friday evening, and I was on-call 24 hours. Then I was given a small press to run, as well. My staff soon learned not to tell me, "We've always done it this way." So the result was I changed how we did a lot of things. God was with me.

M: *During your time as secretary-treasurer for the Maritime conference, you were also ordained for ministry. Was this unexpected at all?*

CP: I got the call to the Maritimes and served there for four years. While in the Maritime conference, I was ordained. Back then the administration was often ordained. At the time, I was having Bible studies with a young couple. We had so many interns that they really needed another ordained man in the conference. We had only three men at the conference; one of them worked in publishing, and he was not ordained. So that just left the president and me. God was guiding the steps all the way through.

M: *You served in the Eastern African Division of ADRA for quite some time, as a field secretary and director. Was it difficult for you to leave Canada and move to a foreign country to serve?*

CP: We lived in the city of Harere; it was a beautiful city. I never found it to be a hardship. You had some change in culture. I would say there was a bigger

culture shock coming back. You went grocery shopping there, and it was very easy. The only decision was whether to buy or not to buy.

I found the people there very friendly.

M: *What differences might there be between handling money for ADRA abroad versus here in Canada?*

CP: We did not have trained accounting people over there. In our ADRA program, we had a difficult time having trained local people. The big difference would be the lack of education in treasury matters. One of the other challenges was government bureaucracy. However, this is changing.

M: *With all this work you've done in treasury, are there any significant lessons about managing money that you have learned?*

CP: There's no policy to beat honesty. People always knew where they stood with me. I'm always open, frank and upfront. And the other thing I learned is to depend on God, and He will get you through.

M: *Where are you now?*

CP: I'm retired and I live in Fowlers Corner, Peterborough. We have a nice house right on Lake Chemong. My daughter has just moved from the States and lives in the upstairs portion of the house. ■

Dave and Sue's Super Tax Credit



"Dave, come see this," Sue called from the kitchen table where she had the newspaper spread out.

"What's so interesting?" Dave asked, leaving his Jays game for a minute.

"This story explains a new Canadian 'First-Time Donor's Super Credit.' Have you heard about it?"

"Well, yes," Dave replied. "I read about it a while ago. It gives new donors a one-time extra 25-percent tax credit for cash donations up to \$1,000 maximum. The Super Credit is intended to get people like us started in charitable giving."

Sue smiled and continued, "I'm reading that this new Super Credit applies to gifts on or after March 21, 2013. Since we joined the church in May, and we're returning tithes and offerings, we should have enough receipts to claim the Super Credit on our 2013 tax return."¹

"You're right. And I think I'll explain this to my brother John. Even though he's not a church member, he could begin to give to ADRA, for example, and keep his receipts each year until he has \$1,000 in donations. That way he'll maximize the Super Credit, because it can only be used once. I must also tell him that although donation receipts can be carried forward five years, 2017 is the last year to use this tax credit."

"And don't forget," Sue added, "This credit is only for people who haven't made a donation since 2007."

"Don't worry, honey," Dave answered, "John is right there with us on that one." ■

¹Canada Revenue Agency, "First-time Donor's Super Credit," Government of Canada, March 27, 2013, <www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2013/qa01-eng.html>, accessed June 3, 2013.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE AGAPE TEMPLE, NEW LIFE,
AND AJAX/SALEM CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

With the sun going down so late, how do you keep the Sabbath interesting?

Rhonda E. Brewster-Johnson: Get out in nature and enjoy it.

Alexandra Alvir: I like to recall hymns, as well as take my children and tell them stories of things that happened to me when I was a child.

Sarai Alvir: Play Bible games on the computer.

Pansie Gray: I keep the Sabbath interesting by going for hikes on nature trails and looking for wild flowers in the spring and summer. Also, I look for all the different kinds of birds and other things that God has made.



Ultimately, Rajah said, the model of ABW exists with one goal in mind: to inspire others.

A Better World Global Humanitarian Day



ABW Peter and Kathy Lacey. Kathy was the guest speaker at humanitarian day.

When I read A Better World's (ABW) stories in the *Messenger* every month, I am always incredibly blessed. It is quite touching to hear of how the ABW volunteers are passionately championing social justice and ministering to the needs of others in several countries all over the world. A Better World's vision breathes such life into the words of Christ in Matthew 25. The images connected with these lively scripture words leapt off the pages and stirred my soul.

So when I was invited to attend A Better World's 23rd Annual Humanitarian Day Service, I was overcome with joy.

The service was held on April 13, 2013, at the College Heights Church, in Edmonton, Alta. I was encouraged to see some of the community initiatives that were being led out by some of the people involved. Witnessing this allowed me to reminisce about God's goodness, love and mercy. I am so thankful to serve a God who takes ordinary people and gives them the ability to do extraordinary things for His glory.

Eric Rajah, co-founder of ABW, has many innovative, out-of-the box ideas. Rajah has many grand achievements and does his work in an absolutely phenomenal way.

The entire model of ABW revolves around a community focus. Initiatives are specifically tailored to the needs of the community. Rajah's model allows for members to become truly engaged in the work, often being able to visit project sites after the project's completion. Ultimately, Rajah said, the model of ABW exists with one goal in mind: to inspire others.

"Our mission statement does not talk about projects or about

money," Rajah said. "It simply says we exist to inspire other people, and that's a huge, hard work to live by."

This was the basis for the Humanitarian Day service. Participants were given a chance to talk a bit about the projects they had become involved in through A Better World.

The service included a performance by the Ihana youth choir and the Rosedale Valley Strings orchestra, highlights from A Better World, and the award recognition for the A Better World Citizen for 2013.

The citizen award went to Joan Stevens, a teacher from Sunshine Hills Elementary School in Delta, B.C. Joan Stevens and the students of Sunshine Hills raised \$25,000 to build a medical clinic in the Sudan. Kathy Lacey, Red Deer Citizen of the Year 2011, gave a presentation on the importance of giving and the benefits of what a life of service could entail. Her entire presentation was framed from a non-Christian perspective.

I found that this indirectly gave more weight to following Christ's teachings, many of which emphasize the need for sharing not only your possessions but also your time, resources, and especially your heart, with others. Christ advocated for the poor, needy and oppressed countless times during His earthly ministry.

I am pleased that ABW was able to dedicate the day to showcasing stories of people doing such wonderful things for humankind, especially in catering to the needs of "the least of these" (see Matt. 25:34-40).

As I listened to their stories, I became enraptured, and my thoughts turned to the One who is truly deserving of the credit and honour.

It is only by the grace of God, who is love, that we can truly meet the needs of the impoverished and suffering child. He is the one who hears our cries and give us peace and rest for the weary soul: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28, NIV).

The work that A Better World is doing is something the whole church should not neglect. "We'd like to see more of this happening, and for other churches to get involved in their community. The Humanitarian Day exists to fire up our church members, excite them about what we're doing, and make them feel proud," Rajah said. "The main thing is that church members understand the mission." ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer.



I received a Facebook message from a church member. This is what it said: “Pastor Kumar, thanks for your sermon last week. I really want to follow God, but I must be honest: I am drowning! I need some help to reignite my spiritual life. Can you relate?”

RECONNECTING WITH JESUS

Here are some things you can do to reconnect with God. Some of these ideas aren't new. However, they may be just what you need at this time.

START BY READING THE GOSPEL OF MARK.

This is the shortest Gospel (only 16 chapters), and it is action-packed. This book is written to a largely non-Jewish audience who didn't know Jesus personally; therefore, the author often explains Jewish traditions. Mark writes this biography of Jesus based on personal interviews he conducted. He wanted to address the fact that Jesus was accessible to everyone. There are a couple themes that you will notice when you are reading this book. Notice how many times the words, “and immediately” appears in the gospel. The book of Mark is fast-paced and should leave the reader breathless.

GET A READABLE BIBLE TRANSLATION.

Over the years I have used the New International Version (NIV) for my personal study. However, recently I have been using the New Living Translation (NLT) and the Common English Bible (CEB) in my preaching, which rank at reading

levels slightly lower than the NIV. The NLT was translated in such a way so that when read aloud in public, it would have a delicate cadence.

Invest in a Bible translation that works for you and your reading level. Do some research and take some time to read and compare passages across various contemporary English translations and choose one. In addition, pay the extra \$20 and get a Bible (of your chosen translation) that includes study notes. These notes will explain details and context for the serious student.

FIND A SMALL GROUP STUDY.

Reading the Bible with a group of other believers will challenge you. Some people are disciplined at exercising alone, while some people are motivated and rejuvenated in a group setting. In the same way, your small group members will reveal insights from their own personal study that you may not have noticed. This group will also keep you accountable. If you begin to backslide, your small group friends will be there to hold you up.

START A PRAYER JOURNAL.

Have you ever felt depressed and wondered if God has ever answered your prayers? It's natural to feel this way. We have very short memories! By keeping a prayer journal, you will be able to track your prayer life and see how God has blessed you. Keep a designated place in the back of the journal where you can record answered prayers. If you are a techy, download the prayer application at <http://prayernotebookapp.com>.

I am interested in hearing what you do to stay connected in your spiritual journey. Send me a message on Twitter or Facebook. I'd like to read your story. ■

Rajkumar Dixit is a pastor and evangelist. Beginning in August, he will be the pastor of the Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian World. You can reach him @kumardixit on Twitter and Facebook.



THIRSTY

Words by God —John 4:13, 14, NIV

Things had gotten tense in Judea between the religious leaders and Jesus and his disciples, so He decided to head out for Galilee. Now, there's nothing unusual about this—except they went through Samaria to get there. In those days, the Jews and Samaritans hated each other, mostly because of religious and political differences. The racism between the two was bad enough that neither would go through the other's territory when they traveled. Instead they would go around, even if it added days to their trip.

Jesus and His disciples had stopped at a well when they got into town. Jesus was pretty exhausted from the trip, so He sent his friends on to the market to get some groceries while He rested by the well. By now it was the hottest part of the day, and He sat down to rest.

As He was sitting there, a woman came by to draw water from the well. Why is this important? Well, in those days, the women would draw water in the morning or the evening because it was cooler. Also, they would usually travel in groups to the well because it was safer for them. So why had this woman come by herself to get water in the middle of the day? A little further in the story we find out this woman had been married five times and she was currently living with her boyfriend. Even by today's standards, that's pretty messy. So chances are she came to the well alone because she was an outcast and the other women in town wanted nothing to do with her, or maybe she chose to come to the well during a less busy time of day in order to avoid any contempt or derision.

Whatever the case, she was unsatisfied and unfulfilled with her life, an outcast because of her choices. But Jesus saw her; he saw her brokenness and her heart. He wanted her to know she was worth His time and not invisible. And, Jesus wanted her to have real life, more than she had ever experienced before.

Jesus said to the woman, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13, 14, NIV).

What Jesus was saying is, "You've been looking for satisfaction and fulfillment, always coming back empty and broken. Let me be that life you've been searching for; let me fill you with the love that you long for so that you will never be thirsty again."

Jesus wants to give us abundant life. He wants to fill the empty and broken places in our lives with His love. He wants us to not have to go from place to place looking for fulfillment—but to look to Him. John 10:10 says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (NIV). Do we let Him have that? Do we allow Jesus to have those places in our lives so He can have the room to fill our hearts with that abundant life, so that we never thirst again?

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 18 years old and a first year college student. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



refresh with Tia

Watch "The River," by Meredith Andrews on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/mXURY8>





review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

App: Spirit Renew

In Brief: SpiritRenew is designed to provide you with spiritual renewal through inspirational stories, devotionals, health tips and more. The app organizes the articles into categories (Dear God, Life Notes, Healthy Living, Spiritual Growth, Stories of Faith, and Families and More), or if you prefer, you can browse the recent articles list. Updated weekly with new articles, this app is always providing new content aimed at providing timely, positive and practical inspiration. If you find an article that you want to flag for future use, you can bookmark it to easily find it later.

Wow Factor: Regularly updated inspiring articles.

Meh Factor: Easier navigation would be a plus.

Developed For: Pacific Union Conference

Price: Free

Works On: Android, iOS



Link: <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>
(<http://adventistmessenger.ca/app-reviews>)



prayer life

The Secret Life of a Godly Man

So the door to my shop is about 100 feet from the back door of my house. Of course, it seems much farther in the dead of a southern Alberta winter. But today the sun is shining and a brisk wind is blowing through the fresh green grass of spring, and the walk from our back door to the shop seems all too short.

We are packing for a five-day prayer conference in Red Deer, Alta. As I step out to the shop to fetch a video cable for the trip, I breathe in the cool spring air and pray, "Jesus I love You. Please help me to be faithful to you. Help me to love You more." I find myself a little embarrassed to write this, as it is such a personal and intimate process, but since we are here and because I know it to be a vital process, let me share more.

Just a few days before, I was standing in line at a tire shop and noticed a beautiful young woman who was rather immodestly dressed. As I turned my gaze away I prayed, "Help me, Jesus, to be faithful to You."

At 4:30 in the morning the following day, I was sitting by the bed of a dear old saint who was dying and not expected to make it through the night. Her two daughters were getting a bit of sleep as I watched for any change in her breathing. About an hour before that, we were all awake and the two sisters were chatting about their mother. I was praying, "Lord what shall I do? What should I say? Please give me guidance and wisdom to

minister to this family."

Earlier today I was thinking about retirement and praying, "Dear Jesus, give me the self-control and wisdom to handle my money well and prepare for retirement."

These prayers are not spoken aloud but silently sent up moment by moment. This, I have discovered, is the secret life of the man or woman of God. This is one of the keys to victory over sin. It is the result of the death of self-confidence and self-reliance. And the most important point is that it—or rather, He—works. He answers those prayers. He gives victory. He gives wisdom. He gives guidance as to when to speak and when to be silent. This is not a psychological ploy. It is not a trick. The thoughts or prayers have no power in themselves. Simply put, God answers the fervent prayer of the contrite heart, thus destroying the need for physiological ploys and mind tricks.

Is this kind of secret prayer life not your experience? Why not ask Him now to make it your experience? This constant habit of prayer and self-distrust unlocks the unlimited stores of God's power and wisdom. ■

Virgil Cove is a pastor and revival and reformation coordinator for the Alberta Conference of SDA.



INNOVATIONS

in Adventist Education

the **Messenger** in conversation
with **Lloyd Robinson**



Lloyd Robinson is the superintendent for schools in the British Columbia Conference. He has an MA in Administration and Supervision from Andrews University and over 35 years of education work experience. He has worked in both Adventist and public schools as a teacher, guidance counsellor and principal in Ontario, before moving to the B.C. Conference. His past experience also includes one year as an accreditation and administrative consultant to an international school in Bangkok, Thailand. Earlier in his career, he also served as a principal of a small school in the Canadian High Arctic. He is a B.C. Minister of Education appointed member of the Independent School Certification Committee and a current director on the Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) board.

MESSENGER: During my time serving the B.C. Conference, I saw many innovative things in the Education department. I'd like to ask you about two of them. First, you worked things out for people to be able to get charitable receipts for most, if not all, of the tuition paid to put our kids through our Adventist schools in British Columbia. I know that doing so required using language and terminology that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) agreed with and understood.

LLOYD ROBINSON: The receipts are written based on a complicated formula that has been accepted by the CRA and used by many Christian school organizations across Canada since the late 1970s. The formula basically separates the tuition paid for secular education from the tuition paid for religious education and activities.

The charitable receipt is for the religious portion. Although we as Adventist teachers integrate our religion into every aspect of the curriculum, we are able to clearly show specific time percentages of religious activities.

M: How many dollars worth of receipts have been written every year for this?

LR: We began the program in 2001 and average about \$1.5 million in receipts written per year. This is a huge assistance in making Adventist education more affordable.

M: The other incredible event was to make Adventist education accessible to every Adventist child in British Columbia by launching a government-approved Internet-based school. How did that

work? What Grades are covered?

LR: When we began in 2006, we started as an elementary school. It was very important to us that we take small steps to ensure a top-quality education before expanding the program to cover more complex curriculum. We currently offer the full K-12 education experience. For the 2013/2014 year, we will also be offering high school classes for adults who have not graduated.

M: How many children have enrolled in that?

LR: The reporting of enrollment depends on how the students are counted. We have full-time students as well as many who are cross-enrolled with another school. We have had almost 200 students enrolled for at least one course in the

school, but if we use eight courses as a typical full-time load, we have as many as 80 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students.

M: Are they all from British Columbia?

LR: The majority of students are in B.C., but we have students in other provinces and other countries as well. Because of our size, we have the infrastructure to offer a budget-friendly Adventist education alternative for students across Canada not able to attend a traditional Adventist school.

M: Are they all Adventist?

LR: Although we have a few students from non-Adventist backgrounds, our primary focus is to offer an Adventist education alternative for our B.C. constituents regardless of their physical address.

M: Who is the principal of the school?

LR: Our principal, Lee Richards, has a strong commitment to Adventist education backed by years of school administrative experience. He has a passion for distance learning. His administrative team includes Clarissa Long and Kent Rusk, who serve as elementary and secondary vice-principals.

M: What does it cost?

LR: For British Columbia residents there is no tuition charge. Students outside of B.C. are charged a minimal fee. Some conferences are willing to help with these costs for their members where no school is available and who desire an Adventist education.

M: Do children in public school have the option to take just some of the classes?

LR: In B.C., students in the high school program have the privilege of taking classes from any school of their choice. This means, for example, that Adventist students in a public school can take our Bible courses for credit toward graduation.

M: Like so many other Adventists, I appreciate it when someone is willing to step out of the box and do innovations within our church. I know that trying something new can mean facing opposition and overcoming obstacles, so I personally appreciate the willingness and courage you took to press forward and help our kids have a more affordable chance for Christian education. Interested in having your child have more affordable Christian Education in Canada? Email: Principal Lee Richards at wcasprincipal@gmail.com for enrollment details. Website: www.wcasdl.ca. ■



WCAS student Dilon Desautels doing math.

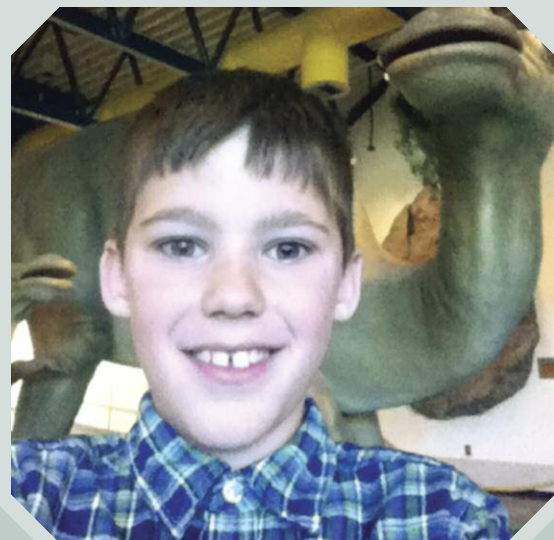
"I really appreciate the West Coast Adventist Distance Learning School for many reasons, but three stand out above the rest:

1. We live in a community where there is a Seventh-day Adventist Church, but no Adventist School, yet my children are still able to benefit from strong Adventist Education, free of charge.
2. The teachers and staff are flexible with time schedules and give us the freedom to work at our own pace and take time off to travel when it is convenient for us.
3. Spending quality time with my children and protecting them from ungodly influences that are out in the world, while they are still very young and impressionable is important to my husband and I.

—Christina Desautels

"Our family has been with West Coast Adventist School (WCAS) since the time of its inception seven years ago. Now David has just finished grade 4 with WCAS. David loved the school books, his on-line classes, and all the extra-curriculum activities he did: Rocketry, Dinosaurs, Drive Through History, Electronics, Volleyball, and many others. David even took skiing for eight weeks as part of his school program. We love homeschooling and WCAS for the ability to excel, the freedom to spend more time on the subjects we enjoy and the possibilities of having great family bonding times!

—Lana Kapiniak



WCAS student David Kapiniak on a field trip.



Interviews with the staff of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC)

The person hired just before I was asked to serve at the SDACC was Almyra Hodder. Almyra and her husband Gary, have served in a number of conferences in Canada. She is the person I go running to when I need someone to have the opening prayer the mornings when I have a worship talk. It always seems like she is talking with a close friend when she prays, and I appreciate that so much. This month, as part of our series of staff interviews, Messenger features Almyra.

EDITOR: How long have you been working at the SDACC, what do you do, and what is your favourite part of working here?

ALMYRA: I started working at the SDACC on Oct. 26, 2011, so not quite two years. I work in the Health Benefits Department as secretary. I open the mail, count claims, file, answer questions pertaining to claims, set workers up with gym membership. My favorite part of working here is answering the phone and hearing a familiar voice or name from the past. Having lived in eastern and western Canada, I encounter this a lot.

EDITOR: How does working here differ from other places you have worked?

ALMYRA: Work here is definitely different. It is so nice to start our day with worship and praying for those needs we have been made aware of. Each day we uplift a different conference or entity or person within the office. So at several times throughout the year, every administrator, teacher, pastor, member, student, is lifted in prayer.

EDITOR: Have you always been an Adventist?

ALMYRA: I have not always been an Adventist. I grew up in Creston North, N.L., and even as a young child was very actively involved in church life. We were members of the United Church.

There were a number of people who came into my life that began my journey to Adventism. Pastor Victor and Nettie Gill were sent to Marystown to begin a work

there. Mrs. Gill started a story hour for us kids in their mobile home, then VBS in the summer. When they moved on, Pastor Dennis Wysong came and built on the work of Pastor Gill. During his time I was able to attend summer camp and meet what seemed like lots of Adventists. I knew then that I wanted to be like these people.

Shortly after this Lawton Lowe came to do a series of meetings, and I was baptized along with my mom. This is were I first got to know my husband. He also attended these same meetings and was baptized. During the next five years our love grew, and on June 10, 1982 (Gary's baptismal date), Pastor Lowe came back to that same little town and performed our wedding service. The second best decision of our lives! The first, of course, being our decision to follow Jesus.

EDITOR: Tell me about your children.

ALMYRA: We were blessed with five amazing children. Shawn, our oldest, just graduated from Memorial University in Newfoundland. Natasha graduated from CUC in April and is busy planning her wedding to Ron Reimche; Josh will begin his second year of paramedic school in September; Tyson, his second year at Durham College in Millwright; and Stephanie just finished Grade 10 at Kingsway College. As they enter into their adult years, we so enjoy our times of family togetherness.

EDITOR: I understand your husband is a pastor; how does that add spice to your life?



Gary and Almyra Hodder, centre, surrounded by their five children:

ALMYRA: Being married to a pastor certainly has added a lot of spice to my life. Shortly after his baptism, my husband left for CUC. Upon graduation and our wedding, we found ourselves at Central church in Edmonton. That was a scary moment for sure; I was just 19 and a pastor's wife. Yikes! That year was a challenging one for me, but when we left there after two years, we had been so blessed to have been a part of this church family. We have enjoyed many years of service to this church, and memories from our Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Medicine Hat, Brooks and St. John's church families are dear to our hearts.

Presently our church family has grown to include the College Park family here in Oshawa. There never seems to be a dull moment and you never know from

day to day what the day will bring, such as a phone call that can change your plans for the rest of the day. We do have the assurance that no matter what comes our way, we have an awesome God on our side!

EDITOR: Are you interested in sharing any exceptional moments about being an Adventist?

ALMYRA: I think for me the awesomeness of being an Adventist comes in that no matter where we go, we have a family. So many times we have been blessed to have a visiting person home for lunch, a stranger at first, but after only a short time together, a new brother or sister in Christ.

EDITOR: Do you have a favourite passage that you could share with the Messenger readers?

ALMYRA: I have two special texts. Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil." And Isaiah 41:2: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Such an awesome promise to know that no matter what we go through,

He will be there beside us.

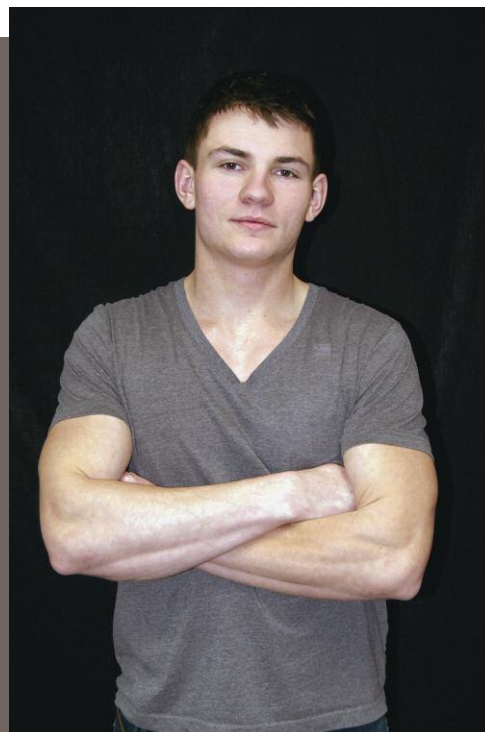
EDITOR: What words of encouragement or counsel would you give to a new Adventist?

ALMYRA: To our new family members, I would encourage you to stay close to Jesus, get connected with someone in your church and use your talents to make a difference. A simple smile or hug can really make a difference to someone going through a rough time! ■

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

Parkview Profiles

"It's easier to learn here. The students want to learn, and the teachers are available for me whenever I need help."



Brandon Baxandall

Brandon grew up attending non-denominational schools. He finished high school at a drop-in program while living in Yellowknife, NWT. It was a Christian program where he could drop in at his convenience, do a module and then leave. However, he intended to do the school work as fast as he could without actually having to really learn the material. Brandon managed to finish with a diploma, but as he looked for career opportunities, he realized his education was lacking.

He decided to move back home with his mom, who lives in Alex, Alta., (a 35–40 minute drive to Lacombe), and he attended one semester at Lacombe's Composite High School to do upgrading. He found it difficult to break into the friendship groups there, and it was difficult to get help from the teachers in the large classes, and so he continued to struggle in school.

His mom suggested that he try out Parkview Adventist Academy. At 20, he was a couple of years older than his peers, but he quickly found that the students were very friendly and the teachers were always willing to help. He felt comfortable, even though he was somewhat older than his classmates.

That Brandon came to finish his upgrading on a

Seventh-day Adventist campus was coincidental. Nobody in his family had ever heard of Adventists before. He likes the values that he sees on PAA's campus and is open to our belief system. He said he isn't baptized, but he is interested in studying the Bible and can see himself making our church his church.

While talking with us, he said, "It's easier to learn here. The students want to learn, and the teachers are available for me whenever I need help."

One surprise that Brandon did not expect, when he arrived at our school in the fall, is that Adventists believe in health. Brandon enjoys fitness and is very active. He makes good use of the 9,000 square-foot weight room on campus, and he said the trainers are always willing to answer questions, even though they work privately and he isn't paying them.

He wants to pursue an undergraduate degree in biology and then pursue medicine or pharmacy. With his now good grades in classes such as physics, he's hoping that his goals will come to fruition. ■

*Pattie Reesor Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*

Look for Part 2 of this story ("A True Paralympian") in the August issue of *Messenger*.

Reaching for the "Gold"! —Part 1

Paralympians Mikhail Gorbounov and his wife, Olga Nazarenko, have never ceased to apply their athletic knowledge while continually striving for excellence. This dedicated couple live, breathe and invest all their energies into proper nutrition, exercise, training and resting. Never do they slack off, not even when they go on vacation or attend an NCB summer program—well, perhaps only a little! Lately their main focus has been to assist and support their Paralympian daughter, Margarita.

In 1984, Mikhail and Olga were blessed with a beautiful baby girl. From her infancy, Margarita was taught the value of healthy living and diligence. As parents they pursued their dream for the "gold" while raising their only child. It didn't take long for Margarita to recognize the value in tackling similar goals.

Their story is one of perseverance, commitment and athletic success, and it all began in the 1960s while Olga was attending a special school for blind children in Russia. This petite lady of four feet nine inches developed a passion for cross-country skiing, running and swimming. Since her debut as a teenage athlete, Olga has won several medals in competitions around the world, including two gold medals in the Paralympics in 1990 and 1992. At the time, the Paralympics received little recognition in Russia¹, and Olga, wanting to follow her dream, moved to the Great White North in the late 1990s to compete for Canada with Mikhail as her coach and interpreter.

A runner and cross-country skier, Mikhail also won gold and silver medals in Canadian and European championships. He is a world record holder in the 800-metre track for visually impaired athletes and has completed 25 international marathons. Mikhail is a registered reflexologist and massage therapist, which has come in handy numerous times. In addition to his career and devotion to help Olga and Margarita with their athletic goals, he has been a track and field coach, sports instructor and assisted the national ski team in training prospective guides.

One year after their arrival to Canada, Mikhail, Olga and Margarita were introduced to National Camps for the Blind. In the summer of 2000, this athletic family of three attended Blind Camp at Frenda, and a few years later, they attended the Pugwash Blind Camp. Much to everyone's surprise, this Russian family would rise early in the morning, set out for a daily five- to 10-kilometre run, participate in the most high-energy activities and enjoy every minute of their experience at camp. Needless to say, their determination, self-confidence and tenacity have made a great impression on many campers and staff alike.

In the June issue of *Around the Campfire*, chief editor Marie Rutter wrote: "Margarita vividly remembers the first year she



Margarita horseback riding in Pugwash, N.S..

Paralympians Mikhail Gorbounov and his wife, Olga Nazarenko, during the banquet at Blind Camp in Pugwash.



attended Camp Frenda—she instantly fell in love with the relaxing and warm atmosphere created by campers and staff, saying, 'It feels like a different world with lots of positive people charged with good energy.' Margarita expressed her greatest thrill is horseback riding. 'The thing I love most about riding horses is the freedom I feel when the horse is running. The connection I feel with the horse ... to have them easily follow my commands ... it's an amazing feeling.'

Of course, for this young 28-year-old adult, there is another reason the camp came to hold a special place in her heart: that is where she met fellow camper Cliff Martin, who later on became her beloved husband.

Though most of us are not athletes, one thing is certain: as Christians we are reaching for more than gold. We long for God's wisdom and understanding. "But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? ... It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed out in silver" (Job 28:12–18, NIV). Like Mikhail, Olga and Margarita, we must daily exercise our faith and persevere for God's wisdom and understanding. ■

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

¹ However, in 2014 Russia will be hosting the Paralympics for the first time.

A woman in a dark blue police uniform with gold buttons and a shoulder patch stands in a grassy area next to a tall, intricately carved totem pole. The totem pole features various figures and symbols in black, white, and red. In the background, there is a large body of water, a white fence, and some buildings under a cloudy sky.

Karen Hayde, Adventist Chaplain,
Vancouver Island Correctional Centres

I was in prison and she visited me

“Karen is a gifted minister. Her work at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre is an outreach that brings Christ’s blessings to the inmates.”

—Ken Schander, pastor, Victoria church

“Karen has an amazing relationship with the guys who are incarcerated. She loves them as does Jesus, and they feel that love. She makes the Bible come alive for them and they love it. She can talk some of their language and they respond. I have been a part of several church services at the jail that have brought me to tears. It’s so real and raw, without the pomp! God is in the house—the big house!” —*Darlene van Appelen, Finance Department, Nanaimo Christian School.*

On April 28, 2013, one brave inmate at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre took his stand to be a witness for Jesus by being baptized. Twenty inmates gathered around to observe something most had never seen before.

This wonderful event was facilitated by Chaplain Karen Hayde. Four months ago, the young man asked Hayde what baptism was all about and said that God had impressed baptism on his mind over and over again; in fact, he said, “God won’t leave me alone!” Over the next four months, Hayde carefully studied the Bible with this young man, teaching him the truth about a wonderful God who longs to save him. A date was set. Pastor Karen continued to work and pray for God’s angels to protect this brave inmate and for the Holy Spirit to fill his heart with love.

In March, I received an email inviting me to come to witness this wonderful event. Chaplaincy has been a passion of mine for the 23 years of my ministry, and to hear of a baptism in prison made my heart throb. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada had requested me to work with a team to develop a manual for chaplaincy in Canada. This initiative, still under way, is to encourage young men and women to consider chaplaincy as a ministry career.

Although Canada is taking its first steps to formalize chaplaincy within pastoral ministry, chaplaincy began in the Adventist Church first at Battle Creek College (ca. 1875), then Battle Creek Sanitarium and other Adventist health care facilities. The Second World War prompted a few Adventist ministers to venture into the military services as chaplains. In the United States, nearly 100 Adventist clergy now serve as military chaplains, providing pastoral care for Seventh-day Adventists in military services. In Canada, the number of Adventist clergy serving in the Canadian Armed Forces is

less than a handful, but interest in serving in that field of ministry is growing.

The first Adventist chaplain for a correctional institution started serving in the California State prison system in 1959. Currently, over 350 Adventist clergy engage in chaplaincy ministries across North America. Several hundred others engage in various chaplaincy ministries in other countries. Currently, Karen Hayde (Nanaimo Correctional Centre) and Oliver Johnson (Edmonton Maximum Institution) are the only full-time Adventist chaplains working in corrections. Also, Pastor Karen is the only female Adventist chaplain in all of North America working in corrections.

Preparation for me to attend this service included filling out various identification forms and police checks—a lot of paper work for a few hours of ministry and celebration! When my wife and I arrived at Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC),

we submitted our identification at the front gate and waited for Chaplain Karen to escort us to the chapel. The chapel is a sacred space in prison, a place where inmates can come to receive spiritual guidance and support. For the inmates, the chapel, and chaplain’s office, is a place where they can share with the chaplain their fears, struggles, and hopes. The chapel at NCC is about 800 square feet with rows of chairs in front of a wooden pulpit, and above it hangs a handcrafted cross—both made by past inmates. A piano in the corner and a guitar on its stand testified of music being part of worship. When we arrived in the chapel, we were met by eight volunteers, who quickly gathered in a circle to pray that God would fill this sacred place with heavenly beings.

Moments later, the first group of 20 or so men arrived. Each inmate was met by a volunteer and welcomed to the service.



A large laundry tub filled with water serves as the prison baptistry.



“Karen preaches the Word, counsels the hurting, encourages the lost and uplifts the downhearted. She brings the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit into an otherwise dark and dismal place. ... She supports those who are trying—sometimes for the first time—to become honest with themselves. In a word, she models Jesus!”
—Bill Purdy, Christian Chaplaincy volunteer, Nanaimo Correctional Centre

Karen took her guitar and led out in singing praises to God. Afterward one of the volunteers introduced and led prayer time. Listening to the heartfelt prayers of the inmates was a blessing to me. They prayed for one another, for their families and also for themselves.

Karen provided an experience in worship. She illustrated her message by sharing the story of Baalam and how God used a rebellious prophet to bless His people. The story came alive in a modern setting that held the attention of everyone. One inmate had his Bible open and was following along with the story and several times bust out with “That’s it; that’s what it says!” Chaplain Karen Hayde assured each inmate that “despite sins committed to you or by you, God has a plan for you to live life more abundantly—to the fullest full.” She challenged each inmate to live in Him, by Him, through

Him and for Him. Worship service closed with the singing of “Amazing Grace”—the “jailhouse version,” as the inmates called it.

After a short time of refreshments and fellowship, the correctional officer arrived to escort the group back to their unit. Within a few minutes another group arrived, including the baptismal candidate. Once again we sang, prayed, and worshipped.

When Hayde came in with her baptismal robe, she welcomed everyone to “the NCC edition of Say Yes to the Dress,” alluding to a recent popular reality TV show. She was accompanied by a young man also dressed in the “the dress”! By that point everyone present knew something special was happening.

Standing before his fellow inmates, this young man called by God responded with an affirming yes to the vows Hayde

read. What a witness! Then a trip to a big laundry tub filled with water. Everyone in the room who witnessed the baptism (and surely all of heaven!) cheered and clapped with joy. What a blessing! After the baptism an invitation was given to the others to take the same step. Three more men stepped forward wanting to prepare to take their stand for Jesus.

The evening came to a close with the volunteers holding hands as we stood in a circle of prayer praising God for the battles won. We were also asking God to place a hedge of protection around those who had made their decision to follow Jesus into the waters of baptism. As we walked toward the gate, two inmates came to the fence to say goodbye once again and share that one of them had accepted Christ and wanted to talk to Chaplain Karen.

The inmates, staff and families at Nanaimo Correctional Centre are Pastor Karen Hayde’s church. Just like any church pastor, she has individuals who function as deacons, elders and other volunteer leaders, all assisting in sharing the gospel message and shining His light into a place where helpings of darkness and hopelessness are served often.

The work of a chaplain is a spiritual work in ensuring the spiritual well-being of those in his or her care. In addition, it is a social work of building community and hope in God’s name. The work of a chaplain is also a ministry of presence, being His hands and feet, and often the only representation of Jesus the ministry recipients will meet.

A true saying goes, “Every chaplain is a pastor, but not every pastor is a chaplain.” Thank you, Karen, for the great work you do bringing honour and glory to God and His church! ■

Brian Hawes is the pastor of the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church in B.C., and the executive advisor to the Interfaith Committee (IFC) for federal prisons in Canada.

I am an Anglican priest and was Karen’s mentor in the early days of her time in corrections. ... She lived out her Seventh-day Adventist roots with God’s grace and always demonstrated a compassion for incarcerated individuals. Her sense of humour, quest for justice and equal treatment of all without judgment are all assets that serve the people and God fully.”

—Rev. Lon Towstego, Rector of the Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, Victoria, B.C.

Spotlight

Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada

Scripture Songwriting Contest



There are many ways we can praise God—prayer, speech, action, the written word—but I often choose music. When my favorite devotional books have been read too many times, and the words seem to have lost their meaning, I reach for my favorite song and allow my worship to begin.

Science has demonstrated that listeners adopt the energy and mood of the song(s) they listen to. If it's sad, suddenly the listener feels lethargic; if it is spunky, suddenly the listener feels empowered; and if it is uplifting and spiritual with all praise turned heavenward, suddenly the listener feels a deeper communion with God.

After all, listening to music, according to neuroscience, is one of the most complex things you can do. Listening to music not only makes a deep impression on our emotions, feelings and mood but also has one of the deepest connections to our memory. Because the brain becomes so completely engaged while listening to music, the song in a given situation is, in many cases, what a person remembers most vividly about that situation later on.

In case you haven't heard, we, as a church, are conducting an exciting scripture songwriting contest across Canada that includes all ages—and this is the last month of the contest! The prizes, rules and regulations are available at www.scripturesongs.ca.

What is it that we are looking for? you might ask. Words, music and melody composed as a song that can be used to praise God! Just like the songs we know and love that were inspired by the Scriptures and personal experience. Many of us are familiar with hymns and the Bible texts they allude to:

"The Solid Rock," inspired by Matthew 7:25, 26

(Chorus)

*On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand*

"Joy to the World," inspired by Luke 2:10
(verse)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!

"Holy Holy Holy," inspired by Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8
(verse)

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty,
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee!*

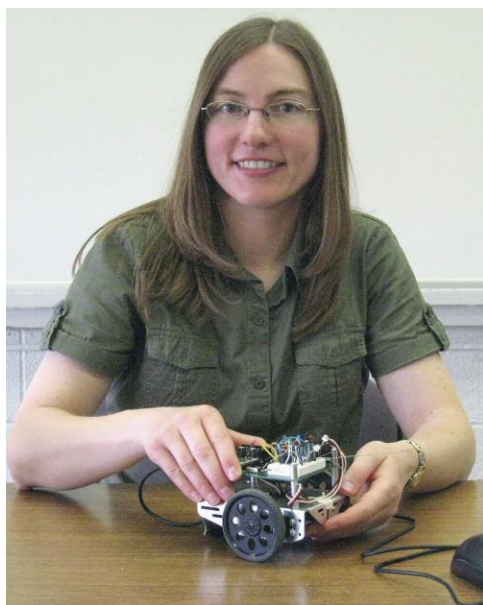
Today contemporary Christian worship music reflects the same concept. Take a few minutes and listen to songs such as "East to West" by Casting Crowns (based on Ps. 103:12), "Holy Is the Lord" by Chris Tomlin (based on Isa. 6:3; Neh. 8:10), "Your Love, Oh Lord" by Third Day (based on Ps. 36:5, 6), "You Never Let Go" by Matt Redman (based on Ps. 23:4; 1 John 4:18). And there are countless others!

Now it is your turn to mold your favorite scripture verse, chapter or book of the Bible into a fitting song that you can use to praise God! Tell us what the scripture means and how it relates to you—in song!

We can't wait to hear your submission! ■

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.

the drive to teach



Margaret Russnell

MARGARET RUSSNELL teaches mathematics and computer engineering and directs the Drama Club at Kingsway College. She is loving, patient, and strongly dedicated to Christian education.

Margaret began her education in public school on the prairie plains of Saskatchewan. For seven years she excelled in academics and sports. When her family moved to Ontario, Margaret had her first taste of Christian education at Grandview Adventist Academy. She then attended high school at Kingsway College and then Andrews University. In these Adventist schools, she was influenced by her teachers' spirituality and learned that there was more to education than academics and sports. She values those teachers who have greatly impacted and influenced her life, specifically her English and science teachers while attending Kingsway College.

Margaret found that public school focused primarily on success in academics and sports, while Adventist schools also provided excellence in academics and focused on building relationships, particularly with Jesus Christ. She believes that "the biggest asset of Christian education is establishing a relationship with God, so one can grow spiritually with Him and be competent in the world." A major factor is the school environment. The spirituality and character of her teachers inspired Margaret to become a teacher herself. That way she could, in turn, make a positive difference in the lives of her students. Her goal has always been to come back and teach at Kingsway College.

We are grateful that God led Margaret back to her dream school, giving her the opportunity to achieve her goal. She has been a significant influence in many students' lives here at Kingsway College. She recalls a previous student who was diligent, hard working, and always pushed for more by doing all the questions in the math book, not just the ones assigned. Years later this student returned to visit, something all teachers appreciate. "Having a former student return for a visit must mean that I made a difference in her life, and that's a nice feeling," says Margaret.

Academically and spiritually, Margaret longs to find the "Aha" moments in every student. Her most memorable moments at Kingsway College are starting a Drama Club in 1998 and a computer engineering class in 2003.

Highlights of Drama Club include their performances of musicals such as *Joseph*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She describes such endeavors as "a bonding of the arts": choir, band, and drama. "We worked together to make it happen, and that is something I'm sure they all will remember."

This year, the Drama Club performed *Baggage Claim*, a play focused on the spiritual message of giving one's burdens to Christ, which resonated with both audience and participants. "This year, I saw people crying, and that means the message touched their hearts. No one really knows what someone is thinking, but we know a message was received, and that's what matters most."

Many of Margaret's colleagues were surprised that a math teacher would be interested in drama; usually it is the English teacher or someone in the Arts that would take the lead in this type of club. Nevertheless, Margaret observed similarities between a drama production and her robotics class. A robot needs all the elements of the STEM acronym to function: science, technology, engineering, and math. Similarly, a drama team requires teamwork and the cooperation of many elements in order to succeed.

Through the years Margaret's central theme has been to help her students find Christ in Christian education. Knowledge of Christ can be carried into any career field, and becomes part of everything one does.

Margaret's dedication to Christian education keeps her busy. It's no wonder that her favourite text is "Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28, NKJV). ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.



Zachary Loxdale with his sister, Julia.

Worth it

Human beings are impressionable and are surrounded by a multitude of influences—good or bad, positive or negative—every day. Most young people can relate to three predominant influences. The first is family, those who raised them; the second is friends, those they spend their time with; and the third is school.

One can easily argue that the first two, family and friends, could prove more influential than the third, and I would tend to agree. But when you consider the fact that the average 18-year-old high school graduate has spent around 83 percent of his or her past 12 years in schooling, it forces you to think. What has that individual learned at school? How did teachers treat that individual? What obstacles did that individual overcome; what were his or her successes? Was the student's school experience worth it?

If you had asked me when I was little what I wanted to be when I grew up, I would have answered with “gas station attendant,” “garbage man,” or “coal miner.” But currently, I am in the secondary education program at Canadian University College with the goal of becoming a high school teacher in a Seventh-day Adventist school. Some might disagree, but I believe that I have set my sights high. There are a lot of reasons I want to be teacher and a lot of reasons why I want to teach in our Adventist schools. But the main reason definitely has to be because of my experience in them.

My educational career started out in

homeschooling and then progressed to a small one-room church-school in Prince Edward Island. At this small school we had very limited resources, but what we did have was a faithful teacher and our self-sacrificing pastor. These leaders believed in Adventist education and believed in us. We made the best out of what we had and learned that fancy facilities and the latest technology aren't what educates. Instead, we experienced firsthand that hard work and perseverance is what it takes to grow.

The next stage brought me to Sandy Lake Academy in Nova Scotia. It was a larger school with more opportunities and new challenges. I loved my time there. Great friends, great teachers, and great administrators made it a fantastic experience. It was within Sandy Lake's walls that I learned about responsibility, service, and what a practical Christian life looks like. Currently, I am enjoying and thriving in my third and latter educational stage: Canadian University College.

There is nothing like a Christian university campus. At CUC, the professors and administration are both committed to Christ and to providing the best education they can. There are ample

opportunities for athletics, leadership, service, and ministry. Prayer is a norm before classes, events, and at sports games. You can see the school doing their best to put Jesus into everything—which truly is the point.

I look at my experience in the Seventh-day Adventist school system as invaluable. It was worth it. These schools reinforced what it means to be an Adventist. Not always in an upfront manner, but through their influence, a rhythm of commitment to God was set in our hearts. As I have grown up in our education system, I was surrounded by, yes, some bad, but my memories are of the overwhelming good. I have had the opportunity to make Jesus my best friend, and I am becoming a Seventh-day Adventist teacher so that I can do the same for others. We have one goal as Christians, and that is to tell everyone about Christ. Thank you Fair Isle Adventist School, Sandy Lake Academy and Canadian University College for sharing Him with me. ■

Zachary Loxdale will be entering his third year at Canadian University College this fall. At any given time, he can be found walking in the woods.

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

Alberta

Youth/Young Adult Week of Prayer

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.— 2 Chronicles 7:14



A couple months ago, I was looking at the Youth Ministries Department's website and noticed that there was a global week of prayer for youth and young adults. Personally, I have been richly blessed by prayer and realize the need God's people have for prayer, and I wanted to bring this to my church. I was also inspired by this statement: "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. It is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer" (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121).

So this year, from March 16–23, Red Willow Community Church in St.

Albert, Alta., had its first youth/young adults' week of prayer. The week was a huge blessing for those who attended. The theme for the week was "Justice and Mercy," and personally, I was greatly challenged and blessed by the evening devotionals and prayer time.

We began each evening at 6:30 with our theme song for the week, "Heart of Worship," followed by the devotional and discussion and some united prayer time. For those who are not familiar with united prayer, it follows a prayer format encouraged by ARME Ministries, which begins with adoration and praise, then moves to confession, followed by supplication and ending with thanksgiving. This format allows anyone who feels moved to pray, and the prayer is between one to three sentences, as not to intimidate anyone who feels uncomfortable praying for long periods of time.

The devotions for each evening were humbling. I remember being challenged every night, because the message went

right to the heart. As Christians, we are not called to be served, but to serve. We are to follow Jesus' example. He isn't so much interested in all the prayer meetings we have unless these things lead to action. James 2:26 tells us that, "faith without works is dead." When we come into contact with Love itself, in the form of Jesus Christ, we should be changed and desire to do the things that He did. After all, Jesus' work on earth was to help the suffering, poor and oppressed and to bring the Good News of the gospel. It is Jesus' desire that we continue the work that He has started, not because it is something we feel forced to do, but because the "love of Christ compels us" (2 Cor. 5:14).

I encourage every church to have a week of prayer. It brings people together and challenges us for revival. It is truly a humbling and spiritually growing experience. ■

—Michelle Sevcik, student and Campus Ministries leader, Edmonton, Alberta

Prayer + Free Advertising = Overwhelmingly Positive Nutrition Class

Leduc SDA Church finds the formula for a successful outreach.

Two passionate leaders, plus fantastic volunteers, and a message that is increasingly in demand, can be nothing but successful. That was the case on March 10 when 34 community and church members met for three hours at Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church in the afternoon to learn the whys and hows of vegetarian/vegan nutrition and cooking.

In total, 27 food samples and recipes were provided to the attendees after a 20-minute nutrition information presentation. The response was overwhelmingly positive and the next class, which as yet is unscheduled, has 21 individuals enrolled.

Mrs. Vanessa Dudar utilized Facebook, Kijiji, email, the city calendar page, websites, local newspapers, flyers on bulletin boards, and the Leduc church website to get the word out. The Leduc Nutter's store supported the class with in-store advertising and donations of food items, and several gift certificates that were used as door prizes. She was also able to have a feature article written in the local newspaper, bringing in people from communities within a 70-kilometre radius of Leduc.

"Leg work is involved, but it's free advertising," said Vanessa. "Why would we pay money to advertise?"

The presenters and volunteers must decide between having a second presentation in the near future "while the interest is hot" and having one again in the fall, as planned.

"We have something to offer," says Vanessa. "We must share what we know and sometimes take for granted!" ■

—Linda Steinke, Communications, Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church

Outreach in Rimbey

This spring the Rimbey Seventh-day Adventist Church was a true hub of activity. It started off with our pastor, David Beaudoin, now reassigned to Stettler. Pastor Dave, his lovely wife, Sheila, and their two children, Joshua and Julia, will certainly be missed; our loss is Stettler's gain. We are certain they will be a blessing to them, and we will keep them in our prayers. Pastor Beaudoin has always had a great focus on evangelism, and the members in Rimbey wanted to keep that momentum going.

To start off, Bill Spangler did a workshop from March 5–12 called "Walk Thru the Bible" at the Rimbey Christian School, a multi-denominational Christian School. With Kindergarten to Grade 9 as well as staff members, there were over 80 participants. It was well received by both staff and students—so well, in fact, that we are looking forward to hosting another one for the greater Rimbey community in the near future.

On March 22 we hosted a "Weekend Health Retreat" held at the Rimbey church led by Darlene Blaney, PhD, NCP. It was a great time of learning on the importance of healthy living and eating. The Rimbey Review columnist Trenea Mielke attended the Sunday vegetarian cooking demonstration, and it resulted in a full-page article for all in the Rimbey area to see.

Community exposure in both events was tremendous, and as with "Walk Thru the Bible," we have started planning another health retreat, as the feedback has been very positive. We have heard numerous times from people who truly regret having

missed the first one.

Bill Spangler also hosted his "God Dilemma," a live event that explores the basic questions that affect every person on the planet. It ran for five consecutive nights April 2–6 at the Rimbey church. The event brought in quite a number of people for the occasion, with some coming from as far as Edmonton.

Once the event was nearing the end, Bill felt the importance of carrying on the message, and after consulting with the local members, it was decided that on the last night of the presentation he would invite those who were present to come and meet for Bible study for the next month on Tuesday nights. A surprising number of attendees came to the first Bible study. Bill has a warm, friendly and nonthreatening approach to preaching the love of Jesus. It is quite evident that Bill's deep love for the Lord is so inviting that when people hear him speak, they want to hear more of what the Lord has to offer.

Rimbey is also looking forward to getting the VOAR radio station up and running. All has been approved with the Town of Rimbey and the CRTC. It's just a matter of a few wrinkles to be ironed out, and it should be airing soon.

We would like to give special thanks and praise to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for without Him none of this would be possible. ■

—Darrel Hamonic, communications director

British Columbia

Everyone Has a Story

The British Columbia Conference Island Campmeeting took place in Nanoose Bay on May 24–26, 2013. The camp, which is located right on the ocean, is a highlight for those who live on Vancouver Island. Young and old gather to hear messages of hope and have their hearts lifted heavenward.

The youth program was especially a blessing to those who came this year. Tia Lawrence, the youth speaker, shared with over 100 young people that God wants to be intimately connected to our lives and how He wants us to share our experiences with others, no matter where we are in our story and relationship with Him. The youth shared in small group discussions, prayer, testimonies and song services.

Young people from all over Vancouver Island contributed their talents through music and leading in praise and worship. Port Hardy youth performed special music. Glo, an all girls' praise group from Sydney, B.C., led two praise sessions as well as performed a mini concert on Sabbath evening. Also this year, Deer Lake School from Burnaby, B.C., came to perform and participate in the program.

Sabbath was the highlight of the weekend. The day started off with an energetic praise band from Deer Lake, followed by a worship thought and discussion groups. Deer Lake shared their ministry of music and spoken word with both the youth and adults alike. In the afternoon the youth participated in a service project. Over 12 garbage bags of donated men's clothing was sorted and folded for the Nanaimo Correctional Centre prison ministries. As the young people worked, they heard stories of how Christ changed people's lives while they served time in jail.

Afterward the youth prepared for a fun evening of games and activities. Ramona MacKenzie, the youth coordinator this year, organized the young people and many excellent volunteers in an exciting game of Amazing Race. Everyone was placed into teams and raced through challenges ranging from scavenger hunts to water balloon tosses. Laughter could be heard throughout the camp as the young people and the volunteers got to interact and know one another better.

Later on that evening, the praise group from Resthaven church performed a mini-concert for the youth. Following that, Deer Lake performed a dynamic gymnastics show. Students flipped and cartwheeled across the blue mats, soared high into the air off of mini-trampolines, and built impressive human pyramids. To close off this energetic evening, two bonfires were



built on the beach and enough marshmallows and s'mores supplies were handed out to satisfy the hunger of the young people present.

This campmeeting weekend the youth focused on their story and on God's story. By interacting with, learning from, ministering to, laughing with and sharing their talents with one another, more of their own story was written. Another chapter was added in their autobiography. God cares about each aspect of our lives, whether we are roasting marshmallows around a campfire or leading out in praise. Our testimonies are valuable and worth sharing.

As the youth were challenged to share their story, the question is set before you: what's your story? ■

—Kristin Pazitka, teacher, Grades 2-4,
Avalon Adventist Jr. Academy

The Mayans: Beyond Statistics



Building the church.

Forty-three percent of Belizeans live below the poverty line, but its southernmost region of Toledo is the poorest and least developed of the provinces. Many of the people there are Mayans, who continue to live in rural farming communities with weak infrastructure and little to no electricity. They grow enough to feed their families and find work elsewhere when they can. Unfortunately, there are few jobs, and many do not have the level of education required to find better-paying ones.

Most people succumb to the strong societal pressure to marry young and have many children. In addition, education is costly. Students receive government support until Grade 10, but in Grade 11 they must pay for their education themselves.

Visiting the Mayan village of Santa Cruz, we witnessed firsthand what these people sacrifice to go to school, and it shocked me. We stayed at the local Adventist high school, and there I got to know some of the students. On my first day, I met Louisa, who was so petite I assumed she must be my age or younger. When I asked her, though, she surprised me by saying she was 24. I couldn't believe it. She told me she had not wanted to marry and had rejected several suitors, realizing she wanted to finish high school so she could pursue a respectable career. She was attending the school on scholarship and hoped it would be enough to get her through university. Apparently, this isn't unusual. Many young adults return to high school after several years; the school's oldest student is 28 and in grade 11.

Another thing I learned is that the Mayan people are extremely dedicated. Louisa and several other students would go to school at four o'clock in the morning and not return until five o'clock or so in the evening. They lived

about two hours from the school by foot, so they would often walk several kilometres and then spend the rest of the time waiting for buses.

It was the same way with church. Every evening at our evangelistic meetings, there was a woman with nine children who walked two hours to be there. She was always there before us and always closed up behind us before walking another two hours home in the dark.

Even the children inspired me. Each night there would be about 30 or 40 of them, and many came without parents. Most were Catholic or Nazarene, and there was one boy, Orlando, who faithfully attended our series as well as the church services with his three sisters. He was about 11, and I took particular note of him during Sabbath school because he was one of the few people who tried to sing the songs we taught the kids. He was such a wonderful participant, in fact, that he was selected to play the part of the man beaten by robbers on the road to Jericho, a part he played with great enthusiasm.

During the two weeks I was in Toledo, I learned more about the people and their way of life than I ever could have from statistics or Wikipedia. I heard their stories, and I saw them in action. And what I gained from the experience is more than I can express in words. The Mayans are open to God's Word and want to hear more. The young people are eager for an opportunity to improve their lives, and many are already planning to return as teachers to their high school one day. If there's anything I learned about the Mayans of Toledo, it's this: they have infinite potential. ■

—Stephanie Septembre, Grade 12,
Fraser Valley Adventist Academy



Children waiting for our program.

Who's Outside Your Gate?

Mission Dominican '13: Deer Lake School's Journey

He was the boy who waited outside the gates of the orphanage—the one the other kids called “boy with no shoes.” He had lost his only pair while working in deplorable conditions to support his family. He was afraid to set foot into the orphanage where we were holding Vacation Bible School because he had been rejected by so many, even by the local school, because of just that—his bare feet.

She was the 13-year-old girl who had just lost everything in a fire. Despite the circumstances, she arrived at the orphanage every day, her face radiant with a beautiful and contagious smile. She was the children's leader at her local church and knew the true meaning of happiness. She had the kindest heart, wanting to give to others even if she herself did not have much.

They were the ones who, in the face of unrelenting heartbreak and poverty, were survivors of cholera outbreaks, chronic shortage of potable water and who, without medical treatment, suffered daily from parasites and diseases. Many of these children had lost parents to the tsunami in Haiti. Many worked all day without a meal awaiting them at home. All were yearning for love.

We were the ones blessed with an opportunity to be in the Dominican Republic. There we read the hurt in people's eyes, saw their physical and emotional pain, and had a glimpse of the impoverished lifestyle forced upon them. However, we were also the ones who had been given a chance to share a tiny fraction of our God-given blessings, giving them at least a ray of hope for the future.

As soon as we saw that little shoeless boy standing outside the orphanage gate reluctant to come in, we all took off our own shoes. “It's OK!” we said. “No shoes necessary!” The corners of his mouth turned up cautiously, and he slowly stepped inside. We gave him money for new school shoes so he could go back and continue his education. But I'll never forget the look on his face when both my friends, Karl Abuan and Angel Solomon,



Karl Abuan and Angel Solomon giving the boy his shoes.

presented him with their own shoes, right then and there. By a strange coincidence, the shoes that Angel offered up were too big for her and yet fit him perfectly. It appeared as if the Holy Spirit had encouraged Angel to pack these shoes from Vancouver (she had been reluctant!) and they were also the pair she randomly threw into her bag on that day of the orphanage visit. Although the shoes were already quite worn, the boy's face lit up with a full-blown million-dollar smile.

We witnessed tears of joy streaming down the face of the young girl's mother whose shack had burned down as she received a quickly gathered hat-load of pesos. With tears in her eyes, she shared her personal story, comparing herself to Job who had lost everything but still remained strong in his faith. She believed that God had planned the occasion of our visit and struggled to show her thankfulness to our group for giving her and her family hope.

We worked passionately in the blazing sun each day to build a water filtration system that would provide the local villagers with fresh water. We gave our souvenir money to buy groceries for

families living in shacks, assisted in medical clinics with local doctors and nursing students from Southwestern University, and tried our very best to show the orphanage children a glimpse of God's unending love.

I saw a little bit of Jesus not only in my Deer Lake and Southwestern family but also in the Dominican people as well. They showed me who God really is, a loving Father who will clothe us when we are naked, will accept us for who we are and will meet our needs when we fully rely on Him.

After coming home and sharing one another's stories and miracles, I recognized how we all had changed in our outlook on life. I would encourage everyone to have a similar experience. However, it is not necessary to travel outside your own country to lend hope, love and charity to those in need. A wise person once noted that everywhere we go is a mission field. Similar to the shoeless boy, someone close to you may be outside the gate, patiently awaiting a guardian angel to guide him or her toward a better future. ■

—Ivah Lumalang, Grade 12 student, Deer Lake School

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

The Leader's Journey

In harmony with the desires of the general constituency, our conference officers and staff recently conducted regional meetings in Regina, Winnipeg and Saskatoon. Attendance exceeded our expectations, and I was proud of our leadership and staff who answered questions and provided support to local church leadership.

The Friday evening plenary session set the tone for the meetings, and leaders were challenged to intentionally address their spiritual walk with God. Accepting the call to personal and congregational transformation truly is “an inside-out process,” and I encouraged all to model balanced, Spirit-empowered lives. We wrestled with ways and means to maintain the integrity of our message through new Spirit-directed approaches to ministry.

Jeff Potts, our conference executive secretary focused on chapter 2 in Acts and challenged us to model our efforts after the example of the New Testament church. Pastor Jeff reminded us of the characteristics of the early church, and much discussion ensued. The desire to be a biblical community of grace was bathed in prayer as we upheld promises of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy.

In the afternoon plenary session, Abednigo Mandalupa, our conference treasurer provided an engaging message and encouraged us all to be faithful to the call of God. In practical terms, we were called to develop a reflective lifestyle whereby our prayers would lead us to faithful action, patterning the example of Christ. The presentation was strengthened with the use of Scripture, Spirit of Prophecy quotations, and statistical information, which was both informative and instructive.

The evening meeting opened with a presentation by Richard Williams, our youth director, who drew our attention to some of the stark realities facing today's young people. As an estimated 70 percent of youth are now exiting mainstream Christianity, we need to intentionally focus and actively engage to protect and

preserve the faith of youth and young adults.

Shad Lehmann, our director of education gave a motivating and interesting report that underscored the value of Adventist education from a personal and statistical perspective. He noted the need for the general membership to become more intentionally involved in our schools. The alignment of ministries and homes is an essential component that we must address if we are to effectively transmit religious values to upcoming generations.

Sunday's sessions included ministry modules led by conference staff who focused to meet the needs of the local church. Workshop options included Evangelism/Church Growth, Treasury, Clerks, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, Youth Ministry/Pathfinders, Education, Communications, Family Ministries, Health Ministries and Information Technologies.

We are grateful for the efforts of local leadership and the officers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

(SDACC), whose combined efforts made these meetings effective. While the SDACC leadership proclaimed powerful messages of “hope and wholeness” during the worship services, the local churches hosted the events and provided meals and accommodations.

As I have reflected upon the blessings received over the course of these meetings, I have become increasingly convicted of our need to properly align the resources of the conference in support of the local church. We must find ways to move beyond the boundaries of our current efforts and join God as He leads us to better receive the harvest that He is preparing. Ours is not a secular corporation and we must model and lead within the certainty of God's will. At the conclusion of the meeting, earnest prayers ascended pleading for the outpouring of God's Spirit as leadership renewed their individual commitments to the advancement of Christ's kingdom. ■

— Ron Nelson, Man-Sask
Conference President



Abednigo Mandalupa's presentation at the Saskatoon regional meetings.

Ontario

Jim Sharpe Passes Away



Besides his love of the Lord and his family, Pastor James Stanley (Jim) Sharpe loved music. Throughout his life, Jim carried with him a pad of paper wherever he went. He just never knew when the Lord would inspire a song. Sometimes they came fast and furious; other times he would be in a drought. His songwriting surpassed 2,000 songs. At heart, Jim was a poet. He saw things in life that few noticed. From the dramatic to the dull, from the serious to the hilarious, from the weak to the strong—Jim wrote about them all. Nature, both God’s nature and humanity’s nature were described with a syllable and cadence that only Jim could see.

For years Jim and his wife, Bonnie, travelled up and down the shores of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and New Brunswick sharing the love of Christ in song. Not only on the east coast but also western Canada heard their melodious voices ascend through the mountainous provinces and the prairies. They were inseparable. They lived life with passion and commitment. Together they recorded many of Jim’s songs. Those recordings are Jim’s legacy, and only in the New Earth will we know the full extent of their witness as people upon hearing answer Christ’s call. He always said, “The Lord and I wrote them together.”

Jim was born on Aug. 24, 1949, in London, Ont. As a young man he attended Kingsway College in Oshawa. It was there that he met Bonnie Buchanan. Together they faced all of the trials and sorrows that life brings us here on earth. Their faith in ministry, in people and in family never wavered, even throughout Jim’s illness. After a brilliant effort, Jim’s fight was over on Feb. 9, 2013, in Oshawa, Ont. His song “Keep the Faith” reminds us all of the importance of remaining true to our own mission that the Lord has called us to.

Jim is survived by his wife, Bonnie; daughters, Andrea and Erica; and two grandchildren, all living in Courtice, Ont.; mother, Shirley Fisher, of Hampton, N.B.; his siblings, Sandra Ladouceur, Bill Sharpe, Bob Sharpe, Pat McFarland, all living in Windsor, Ont., Wayne Sharpe, of Cambodia, and Clarence Sharpe, of Hampton, N.B. ■

—Barry Bussey, College Park SDA Church

Making Connections

Jesus said, “Do you love me, Peter?... Take care of my sheep.”

The ministry of connections is an important ministry in any church. The first impression church visitors receive is a deciding factor as to whether or not they will return. No church can minister to them if they never come back. The friendliness people experience through our hospitality ministry is not the only reason they return, but it is a major contributing factor.

I can illustrate this point with a personal experience. When traveling on business, I went to church on Sabbath.

The cab driver who drove me to church was friendly, but I noticed he had a bad smoker’s cough. During our conversation he told me that he had helped to build that church in the 1960s. I encouraged him to return, and he said he thought that it would indeed be good for him and that he would do it soon. That day once I was inside the church, no one talked to me before, during or after the service—I felt invisible! My heart ached thinking about the day that cab driver would walk into that church. Do you think he would

ever return if his visit was to be anything like mine?

According to Chris Walker, a Presbyterian evangelist and principal writer for Evangelism Coach (www.evangelismcoach.org.) churches must cast a vision for growth, not only in numbers, but in impact. To accomplish this vision, we must view church visitors as guests, a gift of God. Some may be believers and followers of Christ looking for a place to use their gifts and talents in service.

The Connections Ministry at College



College Park Church's Love Feast, a special lunch held in honour of all newly-baptized and transferred members, organized by the Connections Ministry.

Park Church (CPC) was created seven years ago to not only properly receive visitors, but to go beyond a simple hello in the lobby. We increased the number of returning guests by becoming their friends. Once a year all newly baptized and transferred members are part of a dedication service that is followed by a Love Feast—a special lunch in their honour.

If you wish to enhance your ministry in welcoming guests, I suggest that you

expand the definition of greeters and hospitality to Connections Ministry. Tap the potential of these new members to bring even more guests. Accept Jesus' calling to get involved and change the world one guest at a time.

Social media is a tremendous tool to reach out to church-seeking souls in the virtual world. Research shows that at least 174 million people in North America will use the Internet for faith-related reasons this year. Make your website

user-friendly, updated and relevant. Use YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Make a promotional video of your church.

You may be a small group or congregation, but think about this statement attributed to Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

—*Tannia Amorim,*
Connections ministry,
College Park SDA Church



Resources

Visit www.collegeparkchurch.ca/connections to learn more about Connections Ministry at College Park Church and see our promotional video and testimonials: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_OrGO5AGmXW70-tgMFFYsQ.

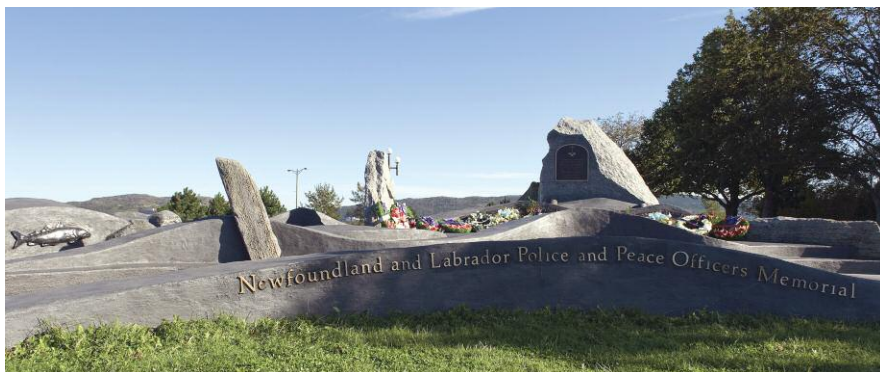
Become our friends on www.Facebook.com/ConnectionsMinistryCPC-SDA. To get the right tools and ideas to start or revamp your ministry, visit www.evangelismcoach.org/resource-links-for-church-hospitality-committees.

>> **SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of May 31, 2013, there are 454 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,641,900. There are 74 loans with a value of \$19,489,422.

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

SDA Church in Canada

VOAR Broadcast Honours Police and Peace Officers



For the past 15 years, VOAR Christian Family Radio and the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church have teamed up to broadcast live the Annual International Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service.

On Wednesday, May 15, of Police Week, VOAR broadcasted this special

memorial service to remember those who have laid down their lives in duty. The service, although focused on the Peace Officers who have served in Newfoundland and Labrador, has touched our listeners as far away as British Columbia. Some even took the time to phone us to say how much they appreciated hearing

this special broadcast.

Station manager, Sherry Griffin, says, "VOAR is honoured to share in this opportunity, along with local dignitaries, clergy representatives and the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church [host], to formally express our appreciation for the dedication of Police and Peace Officers." VOAR is always happy to hear from you. We can be contacted at 709-745-8627, 1-888-740-8627 or via email at voar@voar.org. We are thankful for your prayers and support of our radio ministry.

God Bless. ■

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




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Jon and Denise Nichols
ASSOCIATE BROKER & AGENT

Good News!

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





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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 submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements'.

■ Announcements

The Winfield church is looking for the following missing members:

Mark Atherton, Steve Barta, Kathy Barta, Dennis Boutaud, Marlene Boutaud, Michel Boutaud, Richelle Boutaud, Lillia Karmarnovich.

If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact Lenna Cordett, church clerk, 250/766-4266, or lcsda@yahoo.com.

■ Legal Notice

Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Thirty-third Constituency Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-third Constituency Meeting of the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will take place on Friday, Aug. 23, 2013, beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing to Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, concluding at 5 p.m., at College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1164 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H9.

Purpose: This constituency meeting is called for the purpose of receiving reports for the past four years, to elect officers and directors of

departments, to consider proposed updates to the Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session.

Regular Delegates: The Bylaws provide that regular delegates to the session be chosen as follows: one delegate per church, without regard to size of membership, and one additional delegate for every 100 members or major fraction thereof.

Delegates at Large: The Bylaws provide that delegates at large are as follows: All employees with credentials and ministerial licenses issued by the conference, members of the Ontario Conference Board of Directors, members of the Bylaws Committee, board members of the SDACC who may be present, and member(s) of the Executive Committee of the North American Division as nominated by the said committee.

Organizing Committee: Notice is hereby given that the Organizing Committee will convene at College Park Church, 1164 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H9 at 9 a.m., on Sunday, July 28, 2013. The Organizing Committee shall appoint: (1) the Nominating Committee; (2) the Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; (3) other committees as may be necessary.

"Each church represented at the quadrennial constituency meeting shall choose from its chosen delegates and its delegates at large, or empower the said delegation to choose representative(s) to serve on the Organizing Committee based on church membership as follows: One (1) if less than three hundred (300) members; two (2) if three hundred (300) to eight hundred (800) inclusive; (3) if more than eight hundred (800) members."¹

Nominating Committee: Notice is hereby given that the Nominating Committee will convene at the office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8, on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013, at 8 a.m. "The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to nominate: (1) officers of the Conference; (2) members of the Board of Directors; (3) directors of departments and services."²

¹ Ontario Conference Bylaws Article IX, 9:01, a.

² Ontario Conference Bylaws, Article IX, 9:02, h, 1, 2, 3.

■ New Members

Donald Lyle Glosser was baptized in Vernon, B.C., on April 20, 2013, by Steve Little. He is now a member of the Vernon church.

■ Births

Henry Liam John was born on April 16, 2013, to Brandon and Kayla Tumangday, of Oshawa, Ont.

■ Obituaries

Frank Bancarz was born on Feb. 19, 1924, in Goodeve, Sask., and died Feb. 23, 2013, in Simcoe, Ont. Frank was a longtime member of the Simcoe Seventh-day Adventist Church. Frank is predeceased by his brothers Tony, Thomas, Mike and Peter, and sister Katie Batt. Surviving: wife, Donna; son, Timothy (Ellie), of Ponoka, Alta.; daughter, Caroline, of Simcoe, Ont.; brothers Karl and John; sisters Anna Trynchuk and Mary Kuciuk; one grandchild.

Mabel (née Blakey) Brewer was born on June 8, 1921, in Maxwell, Ont., and died Mar. 27, 2013, in Whitby, Ont. Mabel had lived in N.B. for 17 years, where she learned of and accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message, and became a member of the Fredericton church. With the help of another Seventh-day Adventist, she started a branch Sabbath school that later developed into the present-day Zealand church. Mabel is predeceased by her husband, Theodore (Ted). Surviving: son, Johnny (Kathy), of Winston, Ore.; daughters, Judy (Norman) Howe, of Whitby, Ont., Linda (Claude) Bastien, of Windsor, Ont., and Susie Stamp, of Oshawa, Ont.; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Lorraine (née Schneider) Larsen was born on Sept. 4, 1931, in Merrill, Wis., and died March 4, 2013, in Abbotsford, B.C. Lorraine was a strong supporter of her husband, who pastored and was a departmental conference leader, secretary-union secretary, and conference president. Lorraine served as secretary for the British Columbia, Alberta and Lake Union conferences. She is survived by her husband, Herbert, and sons, Hebert Jr., Donovan, and Griegory; six grandchildren.

Bertha Evelyn (née Griffith) Pardy was born on Dec. 25, 1911, in Chatham, Ont., and died Nov. 22, 2010, in Calgary, Alta. Bertha taught in children's divisions, as well as served as a deaconess and colporteur for many years. She also provided many home-cooked meals to students who attended Kingsway College over the years. She is predeceased by her brothers, Garnet Griffith, Earl Griffith and Clair Griffith, and her sister, Jean. She is survived by her daughter, Louise; five grandchildren.

Arnold White was born on Nov. 19, 1925, in Parkside, Sask., and died March 18, 2013, in Hayden, Ida. Arnold began his ministry in Botwood, N.L., and pastored in several churches across Canada. He served also in education and youth work in Alberta and Ontario. He also pastored churches in San Juan. Though, he became ill with dementia, he would always remember the Bible verse that his wife would quote to him. Surviving: wife, Mildred; sons, Terry (Darlene), of Denver, Colo., Robert (Celeste), of Napa, Calif., and Richard, of Hayden, Ida.; brothers, Bill, of Victoria, B.C., Harry (Lenna), of Abbotsford, B.C., Wilson (Romana), of Abbotsford, B.C.; sister, Beatrice Hamilton, of Abbotsford, B.C.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ Tributes



Mrs. Cecilia Magsalin passed away peacefully in her sleep early in the morning of Dec. 23, 2012 at Rest Haven Lodge, Sidney, B.C., surrounded by her family. Fifteen days earlier, she celebrated her 99th birthday at Lakeview Christian School in Victoria, B.C., with her family, extended family members and many friends. For her birthday she received congratulatory messages from different dignitaries, including the prime minister, lieutenant governor general, B.C. premier, opposition leaders, mayors and MPs alike.

She was born in Munoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, on Dec. 8, 1913. She was predeceased by her husband of 40 years, the late pastor/evangelist Pedro S. Magsalin, one of the early pioneers of Adventism in the Philippines.

Mrs. Magsalin was a very faithful and tireless servant of the Lord, who served in various capacities as a literature evangelist for over 40 years. It's been said that if you were to somehow gather all the books and magazines she sold, they would fill up to three of the Adventist Book Center (ABC) trucks packed solid, back-to-back. She also served as church treasurer and church secretary, Sabbath school teacher, Dorcas leader, health lecturer, and Voice

of Prophecy leader and, best of all, a mother.

Cecilia served with her husband as her Bible worker in the mornings and as a colporteur in the afternoons. She was a member of the Canadian Bible Society and loved meeting people, young and old alike. She was not ashamed to tell them about Jesus and gave them religious magazines on the streets, airports, ferries, or wherever she saw opportunity. She faithfully fulfilled her prayer ministry assignment given to her by the conference president some years ago and had a long list of names she prayed for. She did this up to the last days of her life. She was also a silent philanthropist who helped deserving students, related or not, and helped many others who needed to be helped in any other way.

Cecilia accepted the truth in her teenage years. Two young pastors arrived in town to conduct a "tent effort." One was Pastor R. R. Figuhr, who became a General Conference president, who also baptized Cecilia. The other was a young Pastor Pedro Magsalin. They met again during WWII, and Pastor Magsalin by then was twice widowed. They got married, and that's when she began working alongside him for 40 years.

She is survived by her daughter, Lorena, of Sidney, B.C.; son Honesto (Mollie), of San Diego, Calif.; step-children, Ester Carramazana, of Munrovia, Calif., and Raquel Asuncion, of Silang, Cavite, Philippines; half-sisters, Lydia Pantin and Angelina Carbonell, both of the Philippines; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brothers, Pedro Balicano and Jeremias Balicano; and sisters, Veronica Malipot and Magdalena de Gracia. She is now sleeping in the Lord and is awaiting His wake-up call.

■ Advertisements

Save a life: Kidney donor urgently needed. Our sister has kidney failure and is in need of a kidney urgently. We are hoping and praying God will bless our sister with a donor. Please contact Beryl Nicol at Kidneydonor2012@yahoo.ca, or 604/946-1174. (12/13)

Start Your Day with Hope is a collection of short stories and thoughts that point readers to Christ and His love. Over the years Dr. Wayne Beaton has witnessed miracles and learned lessons about family, faith and God. Those lessons spurred him to write down his thoughts, so that others may gain a blessing from the treasures that are hidden in the Word of God. Available at ABC and many other bookstores. (8/13)

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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 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 behenfountainviewacademy.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, or 250/256-5400. (7/13)

Sunnyside Adventist Care Centre in Saskatoon is seeking a dynamic, conscientious and spiritually minded individual for the position of Director of Care. The position is a diverse/multi-faceted role responsible for the care of our 97 residents by guiding and coaching a staff of 80 in keeping with the mission, principles of care and organizational principles of Sunnyside.

Our ideal candidate has the following competencies to manage his/her department: B.Sc. or master's degree in nursing, 5 years management experience, eligible for nursing licensure in Saskatchewan, ability to promote quality of life for residents, a passion for change, gerontology, mentoring, coaching & evaluation skills, excellent written and oral communication skills, self-directed, above average organizational, time management and MS Office skills, conflict management, delegation, stress management, building teams, continuous quality improvement, creating a safety culture, achievement oriented, quickly grasp new concepts, comfortable working with the elderly and bringing a sense of fun to the workplace.

We offer an excellent compensation and benefits package. If you would like to join us in fulfilling our mission of "Caring for our Community as Christ would," please send your cover letter and resume ASAP to Randy Kurtz at admin@sunnysidecare.ca. (9/13)

Thinking of what to do this summer? How about attending Eastern Canada Youth for Christ's (ECYC) fifth annual conference: "Something Better". The conference will be held from August 15-18, at Tyndale University. Join ECYC and other young Adventists across Canada as we discuss God's better plan for romance, sexuality, careers, spirituality, meaning, purpose, and life in general! Experience revival in your walk with the Lord. God has something better for you; learn what it is this coming August! Register online: www.eastcanadayouth.org. (7/13)

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Authors wanted. Have you written a children's book, life testimony, story of God's love, or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800/367-1844 ext. 3, or email publishing@teachservices.com, for a free manuscript review. (7/13)

You're invited to the 2013 Maranatha Volunteers International Convention (Roseville, Calif.) This free event features speakers from around the world, and musical guest Steve Green. September 20-21. Register at www.maranatha.org. (9/13)

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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 an accredited school with excellent facilities and a promising

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Northeastern Ontario Campmeeting

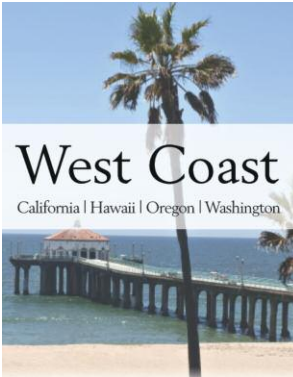
Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2013 at Camp Noronto in Monetville, Ont.

Information/Registration:
inezrichards@hotmail.com;
www.neocampmeeting.com.

Please register by Aug. 15, 2013



Richard M Davidson
Professor, Old Testament Interpretation,
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Matthew 16:26

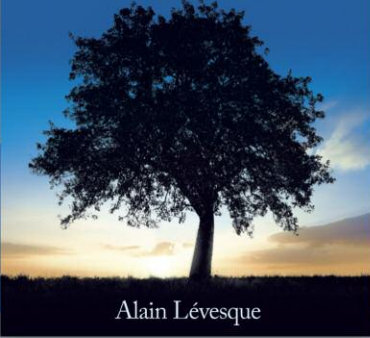
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from the editor

Growing stronger

As we enter our campmeeting season, I reflect upon my first campmeeting.

I was in my early 20s, a brand-new Seventh-day Adventist, and the only Adventist among my family and friends. I was alone when I took my stand, and I still rejoice over that decision. I would not for a moment exchange what I had lost for what I have found.

Making my way northward on my motorcycle from Calgary, Alta., I passed Bowden and turned west. From there I headed out to a provincial campground on a dusty, dry road. One more left turn, a stop sign, then a right turn and I arrived at Camp Bowden.

I had longed for this day. Anticipating powerful messages and stories of changed lives; I was not disappointed at all. Baptisms were planned, and I was going to be there to watch others do what Elder Kaytor had done for me a few months earlier.

I remember the anticipation and excitement. I was going to see thousands of people who had already made the same decision I had made. I remember saying to myself, “We are a strong people!”

And indeed we are, and we have become stronger and stronger. On the average Sabbath, there are approximately 25,000 people who take their stand and are baptized in an Adventist setting. In several countries we are the largest Protestant church. Our innovative medical work has opened doors in places we would not be able to go otherwise. Our religious liberty work has kept doors open in places that have been shut to other faith organizations.

Yes, we are still a strong people and getting stronger every day.

Relive the excitement of your first campmeeting. If it has been a while, book your vacation now and reserve your spot for next year because accommodations fill up quickly. It is well worth attending. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

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

Ontario-Quebec —

Youth Evangelism in Kendalwood Church, Oshawa

R. G. CHRISTIANSEN, Church Pastor

The Youth of the Kendalwood (Oshawa) Church conducted a Youth Evangelistic Effort in the church from March 17 to June 2. Wayne Jerome, Missionary Volunteer leader of the church led out, assisted by Linda Hopkins, the church's assistant Missionary Volunteer leader. The group was given guidance by Mr. Monte Myers, Dr. C. A. Morgan, and the pastor, Elder R. G. Christiansen.

The meetings were held each Friday night. They followed an intensive two-week series of evangelistic meetings conducted by Elder R. A. Matthews.

The young people put a great deal of effort into the programme. Each of the youth speakers took a full sermon topic for each evening, and a few took two full nights. Each programme was fully rehearsed before it was given publicly.

The attendance averaged about 100 each evening. Some non-Adventists were present each night. Many stu-



Missionary Leader with Two Participants—left to right: Wayne Jerome, leader of the Youth Evangelism shown with Olga McKoy and Jean Robinson.

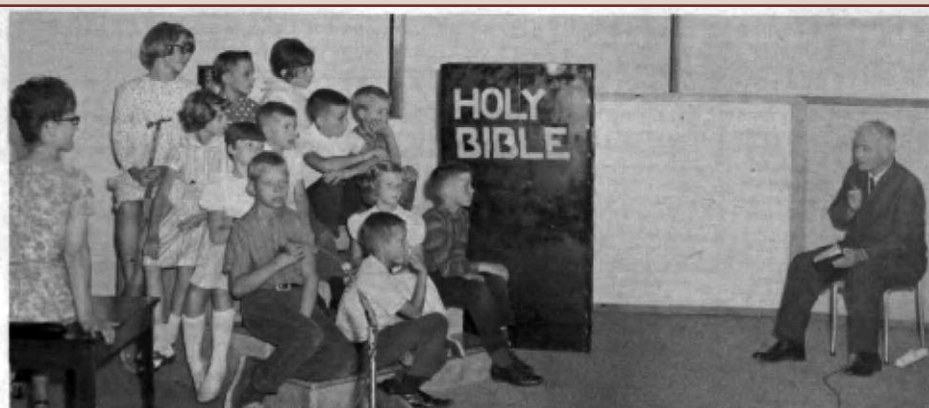
dents from Kingsway College assisted by bringing songs of praise in solos, duets, quartets and instrumental selections.

One young man, Robert Dukeshire, who attended the Youth Evangelistic meetings, was baptized July 15. He is now working at Kingsway College, and plans to enter the College this fall.



Participating Group of Young People with their Sponsors—front row, left to right: Lyndon McKoy, Bill Kolyenko, Wayne Jerome, Gary Wirsz. Back row, left to right: Monte Myers, Jean Robinson, June Robinson, Olga McKoy, Elder R. G. Christiansen, Sonja Brody, Linda Hopkins, Darlene Nugent, Dr. C. A. Morgan, Jeanette Nugent.

This article details a youth evangelistic series that was held at the Kendalwood church. Students from Kingsway College were also present at this gathering. Sounds like it turned out to be a blessing. See anyone you know? Aug. 23, 1967, Vol. 36, No. 18, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*.



The TV Bible School conducted by Mrs. Ann Gimbel was well received by the audience. Pastor Philip Moores tells the story of Abraham and Isaac during one of the daily programmes.

Here's a very special TV Bible school intended for children: they seem to be quite pleased. Aug. 23, 1967, Vol. 36, No. 18, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*.

Television programs that took place during the Alberta campmeeting week. As you can see, a large majority of the participants were young people. Aug. 23, 1967, Vol. 36, No. 18, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*.



Two special TV programmes were given during the week by Peggy Vert and her well-trained young people. Beautiful and colourful scenery was arranged for the programme by Pastor W. R. Vert's district members.

JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matt. 19:14, NIV).

This month we take a look at youth-oriented activities that took place in our past. Perhaps you will see some familiar faces.

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