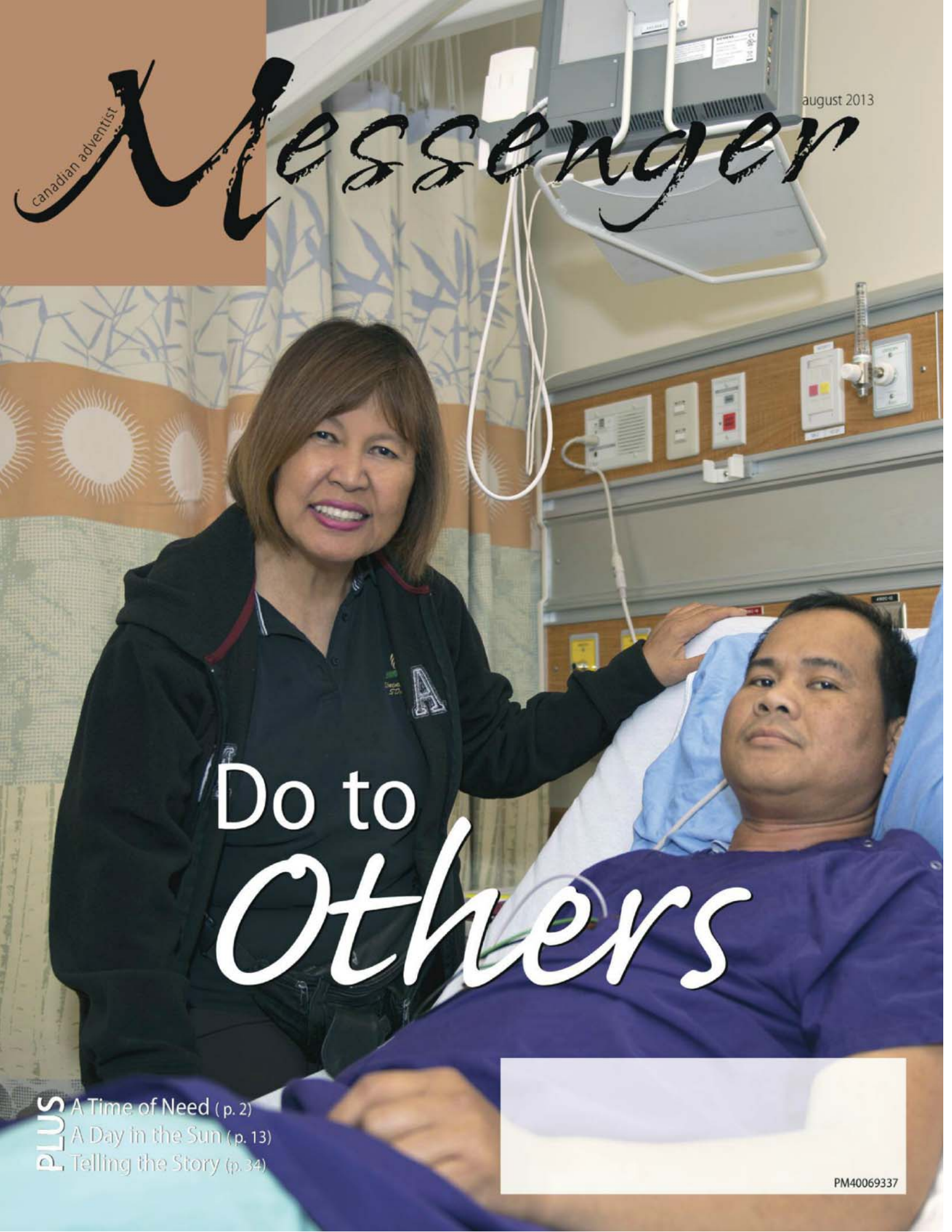


canadian adventist

Messenger

august 2013



Do to Others

PLUS A Time of Need (p. 2)
A Day in the Sun (p. 13)
Telling the Story (p. 34)

“Just a few days ago, I stood in High River, Alta. ... The losses were great, and the disruption of life was overwhelming.”



A time of need

Just a few days ago, I stood in High River, Alta. With me were several old friends and a new one, a local physician. Together we observed the devastation caused by flooding. The losses were great, and the disruption of life was overwhelming.

High River was just one of several communities greatly affected by the recent flooding in Alberta. It was the most accessible one during my journeys. Local members, pastors and Alberta Conference leaders quickly responded to the immense needs in various places. Following my visit, ADRA Canada leaders spent several days evaluating conditions and working alongside other agencies to provide relief.

The flooding in Alberta and the more recent loss of life and destruction in Lac-Mégantic, Que., have prompted an important conversation: how should Adventists respond to times of crisis in our Canadian communities?

This made me think of a story Jesus told. “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead” (Luke 10:30, ESV). Certainly, here was a crisis. Jesus goes on to speak of the lack of care shown by religious folks, and the unexpected help from the Samaritan. Through this story, Christ teaches how those who know God respond to a need that they become aware of.

Many of us today have willing hearts but do not have a plan when it comes to disasters. Wouldn't it be wise for us to work on that? Recently, some of our conferences in Canada have begun training and equipping willing Adventists to respond in times of emergency in their communities or wherever needed. That seems good to me. And I wish that there might be even more of us who have prepared to respond in crisis. As a family, or as a church, wouldn't it be well to think of how to work alongside others to relieve suffering?

Ellen G. White puts it this way: “In the story of the good Samaritan, Christ illustrates the nature of true religion. He shows that it consists not in systems, creeds, or rites, but in the performance of loving deeds, in bringing the greatest good to others, in genuine goodness.” (The Desire of Ages, p. 497).

Will you join me in preparing to help others in times of need? ■

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



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ADRA Canada volunteers dig in to help Alberta dig out



An ADRA Canada volunteer carries out trash from a flood-affected basement

Ed and Dorothy's home has stood for over 90 years, including the 23 years they have lived there. But in June, it saw destruction like never before as floodwaters rushed through Calgary and surrounding areas and their home in High River.

Fortunately, ADRA Canada volunteers poured into their muddy basement too. With the volunteers' help, little by little, bits of their life and long-standing home (destroyed personal items, dry wall, insulation, and framing) were bagged up and thrown in the trash.

As the ADRA volunteers toiled in their basement, a friend of Ed's from a nearby town showed up to help. "I know Ed would have helped me if the situation was reversed," he said. "Anyway, I could have never ever looked him in the eye after this if I hadn't come to help."

ADRA volunteers helped Rakia's family business, too. Her High River shop had been in the family for 35 years, and the loss felt devastating. Three hours into the effort, the volunteers had cleaned out four, foul-smelling rooms filled with soiled equipment, supplies and lots of slippery mud and dirty water. When they bid Rakia's family farewell, the family expressed their deepest appreciation to the ADRA Canada volunteers.

ADRA Canada volunteers have been on the ground since the flooding occurred:

- The Garden Road Adventist Church housed a group of 60 youth travelling by bus who could not go to their destination because of the flood.
- Thirteen ADRA volunteers from Canadian University College also made a trip to Morley Native Reserve to unload and sort donated goods and pack food hampers for displaced victims.
- ADRA volunteers ventured out to High River, one of the hardest-hit places. Lorraine and her husband, Don, met them when they arrived at their home. The ADRA volunteers sorted damaged material from their flooded basement and helped with the massive job of breaking down dry wall and hauling it to the dump.
- Seven ADRA volunteers from Bridgeland Church Pathfinders made a trip out to High River. The family they helped slept better that night knowing that the debris that could have caused mold, mildew and other health hazards was removed.
- More than 130 ADRA volunteers who gathered at the Bridgeland Adventist Church were deployed into the streets of Calgary in the form of four task-specific groups.
- More than 65 ADRA Canada volunteers arrived in High River to continue to help the town dig out of the mud and devastation. In coordination with Red Cross, the seven ADRA volunteer teams were assigned to seven homes. The Red Cross provided safety orientation, protective gear and tools. Volunteers helped vulnerable people empty the mud and detritus filling their basements. They also lent a hand to a church and a small business. Mark Johnson and several other local Calgary pastors had previously visited the devastation of High River alongside local MLA Daniele Smith.

To assist survivors of devastating flooding in the Calgary, Alberta, area, ADRA Canada committed \$10,000

toward an initial response. The Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is coordinating the response and also contributed \$10,000.

"We are staying in close contact with the Alberta Conference as they continue to liaise with the Canadian Red Cross to assess our involvement in any additional response," stated James Astleford, executive director for ADRA Canada. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the flooding," he added.

There's still much work to be done. Although insurance coverage and provincial grants will help many people, the ADRA Canada volunteers filled gaps and provided a human touch.

Uniformed in ADRA Canada T-shirts and caps, the volunteers received considerable interest in ADRA and the church behind this no-strings-attached humanitarian.

When I think of the Adventist Church's response to those affected by the Calgary floods, I'm reminded of Ed and Dorothy's friend who showed up to help and said, essentially, that he would never have been able to *look Ed in the eye* after the flood had he not come to help Ed out.

You see, God talked about our eyes too: "If anyone has material possessions and *sees* a brother or sister in need but has not pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with *actions*" (1 John 3:17, 18, NIV, emphasis added). Does our world *know* that the Adventist church will be there? That they can count on our compassion and our action the way Ed and his friend can count on each other? Can you look our affected neighbours—in Calgary and around the globe—in the eye? ■

Written by Michelle L. Oetman (donor relations director, ADRA Canada) with on-the-ground reporting contributed by Lyle Notice (Alberta Conference, Community Services), James Astleford (executive director, ADRA Canada) and Anita Odondi (Emergency Management director, ADRA Canada).

Peace, Unity and Faithfulness

Arriving for the first time to a wedding, a little girl asked her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness, and this is the happiest day of her life." The little girl thought about this for a moment, and then asked the question, "And why is the groom wearing black?"

The times we live in are very challenging for families. The family unit, instituted in the Garden of Eden, has gradually become the target of legislative, ethical, social, and financial pressures, and Christian homes do not seem to be exempt.

The stability of the family unit, however, is profoundly important, because, as Ellen G. White says, "The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 15).

Where do we find the solution to this fragile yet most essential institution? In the message of God's Word. Here are three important principles from the book of Ruth for a healthy family life.

FAMILY AS A PLACE OF PEACE—Naomi followed her husband to the valley of Moab. After some good years, the disease took the children and her husband. She decided to go back to Bethlehem. The blessing she pronounced during the farewell to her daughters-in-law is very important: "May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband" (Ruth 1:9, NASB).

Families exist for peace. Unfortunately, because sin has marred all that is good, the ideal of love too often turns into a life of misery. This is unacceptable for Christians, who should always be working for reconciliation, without forgetting that, as Thomas Merton said, "peace demands the most heroic labour and the most difficult sacrifices. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience."

FAMILY AS A PLACE OF UNITY—Ruth's statement of faithfulness has become a motto for all believers: "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16, ESV).

The home should not be a place where the cultivation of intolerance is allowed. It is a school of mutual respect.

If God created humans to be unique, different from one another, why should we categorize people and thereby live with the wrong concept of unity? Philippe Louveau explains it as follows: "To identify others as different from us, and identically valuable, is a never fully completed work. Such dynamism of Christians finds its inspiration in God. Only in Him can we discover the fullness of diversity, as well as a perfect acceptance of others."

FAMILY AS A PLACE OF FAITHFULNESS—Ruth decided to follow Naomi in all circumstances. Her readiness to serve and faithfulness were limitless: "if anything but death parts me from you" (Ruth 1:17, ESV).

It is true that two elements can particularly hurt a marriage: physical violence and the transgression of the seventh commandment. As for physical abuse, the laws in democratic countries are unambiguous: no tolerance for those who raise their hands against their spouses. Acting contrary to the legislation would be both illegal and in contradiction with God's will (see Eph. 4: 31, 32). Therefore, we advise all those who are in such situations to leave the unsafe atmosphere of a physically abusive home. On the other hand, adultery requires prayer and love. Although the Bible gives the right to divorce in the case of an immoral relationship with a third person, many have witnessed incredible blessings as they have understood the power of forgiveness and turned a new page under new conditions of true faithfulness.

Dear friends, we need to stand strong in favor of solid Christian families, as the message for the end of time requires of us (see Malachi 4). Therefore, invest in those who are so dear to you. "But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers" (1 Tim. 5:8, NLT). Spend more time with them. Cultivate love. This is the only way for our homes to be symbols of peace, unity and faithfulness. ■

Daniel Stojanovic is the vice-president of administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Canada.



Stuck in the middle

T33nTa1k



***My two best friends hate each other and I'm caught in the middle.
What can I do?***

You are undeniably in a tough spot but also in a place of opportunity. Let me share with you a story from the Bible, and see if you can draw any wisdom from it to apply to your own situation.

First of all, relationships can be tough for so many reasons. We are all different, which means that what is obvious to me may seem crazy to you. What is fun for you might be painfully boring to me, etc. Here is the story:

"Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.' Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches" (Acts 15:36-41, NIV).

So we have a story similar to yours. Barnabas is you. He has two best friends, and those two can't get along. In this case, Paul is mad at Mark because Mark bailed on them on their last missionary journey. The solution in this case was for Paul and Barnabas to part ways. It is important to note that the Bible does not say this was God's solution; it simply says this is what they chose to do. I can assure you that while spending time apart in relationships is sometimes necessary, it is never God's ultimate solution. God wants us all to learn to love and appreciate one another.

Your two friends have something in common: you. There is something in you that is attractive to them both, which means they aren't as different as they may think they are. First, I would try and figure out what is making them "hate" each other and see if a solution can be found. If that doesn't seem possible, I would be direct with both of them and tell them they are both equally important to you, and that if they can't get along, then you will have to spend time with them separately.

Do not allow either of them to put you in a position of choosing one over the other. If they try, you may have to sever that relationship and love them from afar. Most importantly in all of this, remember that only God can change hearts, heal hurts, and cause enemies to become friends. Don't do or try anything without first praying earnestly for both of your friends and for wisdom for yourself. Whatever you do, and whatever happens, be true to God first and don't compromise your own values to please either of them. I'll be praying for you!

Creation Corner for Kids

Darwin

A lady leaving a furniture store near Toronto was surprised by a small monkey running across the parking lot. The cute little rhesus macaque was wearing a just-right-for-him winter coat and a diaper.

The monkey's name is Darwin. It was against the law for his owner to have him, because the monkey is an exotic animal, so the authorities sent Darwin to a place where he can learn how to be a monkey. But Darwin's owner is fighting to get him back.

Think about it.

A judge will have to decide where Darwin gets to live. Darwin can't decide for himself. Even if he could talk, he would likely be confused about who he is, because he's been living like a human being, copying the behaviour of his human owners.

Sometimes we seem to be confused about who we are too. Instead of behaving like God's children, we sometimes do the things Satan wants us to do. When we lie, say unkind things about others and use our words for hurting, we are not acting like our real Father in heaven. We're acting like His enemy.

Do it!

Let's pray that God will help us always think and say and do what He wants us to think and say and do, so that everyone will know who our Father is.

To learn more about Darwin and the rhesus macaque, visit www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."—John 5:19, NKJV

Rhesus
Macaque



CUC students preach in Guatemala



CUC team in Guatemala.

"Anytime I needed to fulfill God's purpose, He came through. Anyone who wants to experience the true power of God's grace, the hardship that comes and how He steps in: do these mission trips." —Michael Hall

HE WAS SICK AND THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM HOME in another country and continent. In an hour, he would have to get up in front of a church and preach. Michael Hall, a third-year religious studies major, didn't know what to do but pray. Miraculously, he instantly felt better and was able to travel to his church and deliver God's Word. Immediately after, he felt sick again and made his way back to his hotel room and bed. Michael noted, "Anytime I needed to fulfill God's purpose, He came through. Anyone who wants to experience the true power of God's grace, the hardship that comes and how He steps in: do these mission trips."

Michael was part of a group from Canadian University College in partnership with ShareHim ministry that traveled to Guatemala to conduct a 16-day evangelistic campaign. The group consisted of 10 students led by CUC president, Mark Haynal, and team leader Julio Davila, a 2013 religious studies graduate.

CUC's partnership with ShareHim started in 2001 and continues to provide students with practical experience outside of the classroom. Haynal emphasizes, "CUC was established over a 100 years ago with the primary purpose that young men and women would get an education that would equip them to go out and be of service, to share their faith in whatever capacity they choose, and that mission continues today." The team was based in Flores, Guatemala, with the individual sites scattered in and around the city. The team members went to their individual church sites alongside translators for those who did not speak Spanish. Morning worship on the rooftop of their hotel provided a chance for the team members to debrief and share their experiences with each other.

The meetings for the most part went smoothly, but the team members had to spend some time adjusting their sermons, as the material they had was just too long. Add in the adjusted time for translation, and the sermons were going well over the appropriate time. In addition to adjusting the sermons, the students also had classwork to attend to. Daily reports had to be written and emailed to Bruce Boyd, assistant professor of religious studies, who was back on the CUC campus.

During the 16-day evangelistic series, each of the students had their own unique experiences. Frank Unger, a second-year religious studies major from Ontario, was told he would be preaching at a community centre and was surprised to see a site that barely had any walls with a dirt floor. As he preached, dogs, cats and chickens wandered through the area. Despite all of the distractions, Frank was able to make a real connection with those who came.

Enock Okwaro, a third-year religious studies major from



The baptism at Lake Peten Itza.

Tanzania, was surprised when only seven people showed up the first evening after he was told to expect between 100 and 150 people. He decided that he would visit the community an hour before his meeting every night. He was touched by the people he met, and the home visits became one of the highlights of his time in Guatemala.

After 16 days and 19 sermons at each site, the group was privileged to be part of a baptism. In total, God blessed the evangelistic series with 46 baptisms, 36 on Sabbath morning at Lake Peten Itza. Enock Okwaro and Julio Davila were honoured to take part in the baptism ceremony. They were both surprised to be asked, but after finding out that they were ordained elders, the local pastors needed all the help they could get.

The baptisms touched the students, especially Michael. "It was definitely a beautiful thing to see," he said. "It honestly changed my mind about the Adventist message. It's reaching people. People are hearing and accepting it."

Enock was touched to be a part of the process, but apart from practicing in the CUC swimming pool with Bruce Boyd and fellow classmate Julio, his experience was limited. But when asked, he agreed and was blessed and amazed to be a part of it.

The experience of a new culture, new people and preparing 19 sermons in 16 days left a lasting impression on the students. For Joe Steele, a third-year religious studies major from B.C., the people there left him with the greatest impression. He says, "For me it was the people. I think if you get the chance to do this, take it, because God will have some divine appointments, people He wants you to meet and to learn to love, whom He wants you to share His gospel with. If you get the chance, you have to go." ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

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

Fitzroy Maitland: I was born in Grenada, the island of spice with everything nice. I am the third of nine children and the first boy in my family. I had four brothers and four sisters. But since then, I have lost one in death.

M: *Can you share a little about your family life?*

F: Thankfully, I was born into an Adventist family. My mother and father took us to Sabbath school faithfully, so we know what it is to be nurtured in an Adventist home. We know what it is to wake up to have worship at 5 a.m., and then help our parents get ready for early morning chores, before getting ready for school. Our parents believed in giving us a good foundation.

M: *Where did you study?*

F: When I finished at Grenada Boys Secondary School, I went on to study theology at Trinidad Union College. I felt the Lord was leading me in that direction.

M: *Tell us about the churches you helped plant in Canada.*

F: In March of 1981, I came to Canada. In that first evangelistic series, held in

Toronto, we baptized 135 souls. It was the first time that over 100 souls were baptized at an evangelistic series in Canada. I think I came at a time when the ground was ripe and ready for someone to come and reap it.

We planted a church called Kingston Road (later called Beulah, then joined with another church to become Shiloh). We also planted Berea church, and years later, Agape Temple church in Pickering.

F: *What service positions have you held in Canada?*

When I came to Canada, I began as the pastor of the Toronto East church. Subsequently, the Ontario conference asked me to be the conference evangelist. I have also served as the personal ministries/Sabbath school and stewardship director, and the ministerial director at the Ontario conference.

M: *Describe your thoughts about the Philadelphia church congregation finally owning their own church building.*

When I got to Philadelphia church, they had already been renting for a long time, about 11 years, actually. After searching, praying, fasting and doing everything that we could have, the Lord opened the door for us. On December 15, 2011, we claimed ownership of the Scarborough church building that we'd bought. Last year, we celebrated our 20th anniversary.

M: *What is the most noteworthy moment that you can recall over the years?*

One that has been etched in my memory, is the death of my son. Soon after we came to Canada, we lost our youngest child. He had a brain aneurism that suddenly erupted, and in three days, he died. The loss of a son at the age of eight was something that traumatized us.

I remember preaching at the funeral. I told the church members that I'm not preaching because I have to preach, but because I want to preach. I did it because I believed that I ought to be a role model in ministry. God gave me the strength to do that. And so I preached, and we buried him. Years later, people were still asking about that sermon. In fact, when my treasurer lost his 19-year-old child some years later, he said, "Can you preach that same sermon that you preached at your son's funeral for us? Because we can still recall the comfort that it brought us." So it comforted me and it comforted them, and we all were comforted.

M: *Where are you now?*

We are continuing ministry. My wife, Janice, continues in her own professional role as superintendent of education at the Ontario conference, I pastor at the Philadelphia church. We believe that evangelism is the lifeblood of the church. That's what Philadelphia is all about. The church of brotherly love. We try to live up to our name. Teaching people how to share God's love. Not just saying it but acting it. So Philadelphia: hopefully in name and experience.

Nana's Grand Piano



Nana sat at home one Sunday morning skillfully playing her cherished grand piano. "Where have my career years gone?" she mused, but the screen door banged before she could answer her own question. Her son and teenage grandson had come to help her pack.

"What will you do with your piano, Nana?" asked her grandson, Cody. Nana shook her head sadly. Downsizing to fit a senior's apartment called for many hard decisions.

"I know," suggested her son, Roy. "Our church board just voted to accept a piano for the primary room in our new church building. So I've been thinking there's plenty of space on the new sanctuary platform for an organ and your grand piano."

"And bonus, Nana," interrupted Cody, "you'd still be playing it Sabbath morning and lots of other times, too."

"I even know what to do," said Roy. "It's called a Gift in Kind donation.¹

First, we ask the church board to accept the gift; second, we get a professional written appraisal of the piano's value; and then, if all goes well, the church issues an official charitable receipt for the piano's appraised value, and the church owns a grand piano to use for many years to come."

"That was fast!" exclaimed Nana, her head spinning, "but I think I like it. We'll talk soon. In the meantime," Nana smiled, "Let's get packing!" ■

¹Gifts in Kind (non-cash gifts) are gifts of property of various types. A gift of service (voluntarily using your skills) does not qualify. For more information, contact Canada Revenue Agency or your conference Trust Services & Planned Giving director.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE NORTHWINDS CALGARY, PONOKA, AND
WARBURG CHURCHES IN ALBERTA, AND THE
ENDERBY CHURCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

*A fire is coming that will destroy your home.
You have one hour to gather together whatever
you like. What would you take with you?*

Sarah Wallace: My pets, violin, purse (with ID cards and passport), photo albums, laptop, study Bible, old books (ones out of print or expensive), my writing (stories, poems), clothes and CDs/mp3 player.

Salena Dubyna: My pet, passport, most of my clothes, coat, books, photos, blankets, flashlight, winter boots and matches.

Kristine Geddes: My pets, purse, important documents (passport and ID cards), laptop, study Bible, clothes, books, camera, cell phone and mp3 player/iPod.

Emily Magdampze: My clothes, money, food, first aid kit, Bible, hymnal songbook, car keys and my cell phone.

"It's about giving girls hope and letting them know that people from a long way care," said Gouchie. "Sometimes girls in developing countries feel so isolated."

Alberta Run Builds Three Classrooms in Afghanistan



For the past four years, runners set off from the start line at Lacombe's Canadian University College to raise money for girls' education in Afghanistan. This year alone the entrants who participated in The Co-operators Freedom Run raised nearly \$15,000 to build two classrooms.

Azalea Lehndorff and Faith Calaminos founded the event in 2010, and since then the event has raised \$50,000. Lehndorff, a former student of CUC, is committed to seeing 100 classrooms built in the country where girls face enormous challenges in getting an education. The 100 Classroom Project is under the banner of A Better World Canada, an international development organization founded in 1990 as part of the College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe.

Lehndorff hopes to see two girls' schools built this year, which would bring the total of classrooms to 48.

This year, the money raised from the Freedom Run will go towards the building of a new high school in Qanchughra. The existing school made completely of mud has space limitations, so some students are using the hallway or are being taught outside in tents. There are also problems with snake infestation, as well as termites. "We were asked by the rural community leaders to

help, because they are committed to sending girls to schools," said Lehndorff.

Race director Sandi Gouchie believes the fundraising effort is so worthwhile. "It's about giving girls hope and letting them know that people from a long way care," said Gouchie. "Sometimes girls in developing countries feel so isolated."

Several people at the event wholeheartedly believe that their contributions will make a big difference within the war-torn country. Unicef USA reports that school girls can face militant attacks, a lack of adequate facilities and teachers, and their own parents' reluctance to break from tradition that says they should stay at home.

Angie and Dan Sydenham, members of the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lacombe, brought their three children along, including youngest entrant, four-year-old Ayla, to the Freedom Run. Angie

said they're huge fans of A Better World Canada co-founder Eric Rajah, so they want to help out in any way they can.

Darcy Stingel, promotions director for Sunny 94 radio in Lacombe, volunteers with the Freedom Run each year because he said it's a good way to build a positive legacy within Afghanistan.

Lehndorff said she's noticing changes to girls' education. More girls are staying on through Grade 12, in part because parents feel that their children's school has become safer.

Hearing about such improvements is good news for Warren and Sara-Jane Schnoor, who run the Co-operators Advantage Insurance Group. It sponsored the run for the first time. Initially, they got involved to help out with A Better World Canada's projects in Kenya prior to learning about the 100 Classroom Project. "They've had some small sponsors for this run before, but we'd like to take it to another level," said Warren Schnoor. "The Afghanistan project is a really worthwhile cause and we want to see Azalea achieve the end goal." ■

Laura Tester travels with A Better World and is a freelance writer for newspapers.

A Day in the Sun

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near” (Heb. 10:25, NLT).

LAST MONTH I TOOK A SABBATICAL to Europe with my family. We were staying in a small village called Saint-Jean-du-Gard, which is in southern France near the Cevennes Mountains.

Early one morning I drove down the mountain into town to attend a Protestant church. I assumed everything would be closed, because it was church day, Sunday. As I entered into the centre of town (there is only one traffic light, so you can figure out how small the town is), things were bustling. People were out shopping for fresh produce and baguettes. The coffee shop was jam-packed as people chatted with one another and read the newspaper, enjoying the glimmering sun.

Seemingly about 200 feet apart from each other are the Catholic church and the Protestant church. I visited the Catholic church first. It was dark. There was a sign on the entry door advising people to enter through the side doors. As I walked inside, it was quiet, and the room was lit with one candle. There was a couple, the only people in the church, sitting on the front pew, heads bowed, eyes closed. After 10 minutes they stood up, walked over to the candle, put some coins in a small slit in the offering box and left. I followed and mimicked their actions. *Perhaps today is do-it-yourself church*, I wondered.

As I exited the Catholic church, I was confronted by the bright sun and the fresh air blowing on my face. I was back to reality as I heard laughter and chatter surrounding me by the coffee drinkers who crowded

around the local restaurants only steps away from the church.

I walked over to the Protestant church. The front doors also were closed. There was a note with instructions on the door similar to the Catholic church. I followed the instructions and walked around the side of the building and found a door ajar. As I entered, I realized I had come in through the basement. There was a young boy, perhaps eight years old, sitting in a vacant Sunday school room that may have been filled with a dozen children about 100 years ago. The boy sat with his back toward me. He was watching a TV show on a small DVD player, his babysitter.

I walked up the steps and found the sanctuary. The sermon had already begun. I entered in from the back. There were 10 people in attendance, all of them around 70 years old. The floor hadn't been washed or waxed for years, it seemed. The pews were most likely original, maybe 400 years old. A small bouquet of flowers, too small for the altar, was displayed in the front. The sermon was in French. I sat quietly. A song was sung. No piano or instruments. Just feeble voices singing. After the song, we partook in communion.

As I sat in this small Protestant church, I was sad at first. Perhaps a little depressed. This small French town is famous for the Protestant movement that occurred during the 16th century. The common people had fought against Catholic oppression and remained true to their convictions. Many of the people fighting in the resistance

had climbed up the mountain and made their camp in the hills, in fact next door to the house I was staying in. Saint-Jean-du-Gard had a strong Protestant legacy. How did this area, once known for fighting for their religious freedoms, turn into a place where only a dozen people met for worship?

A great deal has been written about the post-Christian era and secularization of America. (In fact, I wrote about this in my book *Branded Faith*). Some noteworthy authors such as Brian McLaren and Leonard Sweet have warned that America is headed where Europe has already entered, a post-Christian era.

It was during communion on this particular morning, as I was eating and drinking the emblems, that my depression faded. Yes, I was disturbed that there were a hundred-fold more people partaking in their own sacraments outside in the courtyard with coffee and baguette in hand than those of us who were inside the church. Yet, my heart grew warm for a moment. I too was sharing in the tradition of communion—symbols of the blood and body of Jesus—with fellow Christians. These elderly worshippers were doing just that—worshipping God. How are you worshipping God? ■

Rajkumar Dixit is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Christian Era. He is the pastor of the Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.



COME TO ME



Words by God —Matt. 11:28, NIV

Have you ever felt as if you've talked God's ear off? Maybe you've asked Him for help so many times that you think He's tired of hearing about it?

I was talking to God the other night, feeling as if I'd gone over that subject too many times and wondering if He was tired of it too. When I looked up into the sky and saw the moon, just how bright and bold it was, it reminded me of this verse:

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isa. 40:28-31, NIV).

Our energy may be gone. We may have exhausted our resources and possibilities in anything or everything—even in what to do with life. We may feel discouraged, perhaps even thinking that God would become tired of hearing from us again and again or that we need to "fix it" on our own this time. But it says that God doesn't grow tired or weary. He understands the problems we face and He knows our hearts better than we know ourselves. Psalm 139 says that before a word is even on our tongue, God knows it completely! But He still wants us to come to Him and talk with Him.

God does not grow tired or weary from you, me or any of us. He does not grow tired of taking the disappointments, stress and baggage that we surrender to Him. God is not weary in the battles and struggles we face. He does not tire of "holding us up." God will not walk away from us and never gets tired of us. He holds us up in the midst of our chaos, and He promises to never leave. What an absolute relief! Within the mess He still sees the beauty of each one of us. In whatever challenge we face, God wants to be our strength and our peace. His open invitation always stands: "Come to me ... and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28, NIV). He never tires to hear from us.

Be Blessed

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



refresh with Tia



Watch "Come to Me," by Jamie Grace on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/RBaQaj>





review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

App: Mission 360°

In Brief: Mission 360° is the new official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, featuring stories of missionaries around the world from remote villages to big cities. The app downloads a digital copy of the magazine and gives you an easy-to-use format where you can read the articles, set bookmarks and share screenshots with your friends. Some articles feature videos and links to websites and blogs for further reading. "Mission is at the very heart of the church. ... It is my prayer that Mission 360° will serve as a wonderful resource and encouragement as we carry out God's mission everywhere around the globe." — Ted N. C. Wilson, president, Seventh-day Adventist Church.¹

Wow Factor: Wonderful stories of faith and God's leading in an easy-to-use format.

Meh Factor: Only available on tablets.

Developed For: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Price: Free

Works On: Android, iOS

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



1 Editorial page, Mission 360°

The Church—a House of Prayer

prayer life

Prayer should undergird every aspect of church life.

Jesus said that it was God's design that the temple be a house of prayer for all people (Mark 11:17). The church today replaces the temple as the place where God's name is honoured and uplifted. Should not our churches be centres of prayer?

To be a house of prayer means more than offering formal prayers in our services. Prayer should undergird every aspect of church life. When powerful praying takes place, miracles happen and transformations take place.

In today's secular society and with our western world's preoccupation with postmodern thinking, formal religion is often marginalized. However, there is a craving for spirituality. Having our churches as centers of prayer to bless the members and the community gives them renewed appeal. The prayer emphasis can accompany other aspects of ministry.

Having a praying church is not just a good idea; it is the foundation from which everything else flows. In her book *The Prayer Saturated Church*,¹ Cheryl Sacks gives a picture of a praying church. Here are some of the marks of a praying church:

First, members have a strong devotional life and invest time

praying for others.

Second, they understand who God is and how they can relate to Him through prayer.

Third, leaders model the importance of prayer before the congregation.

Fourth, prayer permeates total church life and is not viewed as just another program.

Fifth, high priority is placed on corporate prayer meetings.

Sixth, investing time in God's presence results in humility, unity and Christlikeness.

Seventh—and the most distinguishing mark—the presence of God fills His house.

In future articles we will share more on how a church can be a house of prayer. In the meantime would it not be a good idea for your church to set a goal to become more powerful as a house of prayer? ■

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

¹ Cheryl Sacks, *The Prayer Saturated Church* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2004).

Parkview Profiles

Reegan Holdal

*Adventist Education—
Giving Kids Opportunities!*

Reegan Holdal was a typical loud-mouth, speak-his-mind-always-in-trouble student from ECS to Grade 10. If Reegan was in the building, everyone knew it!

But during Grade 10, everything started to change. He started attending Parkview Adventist Academy, and during the school year, he joined a group of PAA students who went to Camp Whitesand in Saskatchewan to help re-side some of the cabins. There he met Kevin Kiers, the new youth director, and got hired as camp staff that summer. He worked there for the next three summers. While on staff there, he learned to appreciate getting help from other people. During his maturing process, he realized that he didn't know everything and that it was OK.

Also in Grade 10, he joined Pastor Steve Reasor's preaching class that eventually morphed into Dauntless. He learned to preach to kids, peers and adults. Reegan said that it was hard to get up front. Even after three years of being in Dauntless, he would get very nervous. But if you were in the audience it was not easy to see. Reegan's off-the-cuff way of speaking looked easy and well-planned. Being in Dauntless forced Reegan to be a part of a team. He had to learn to take a back seat to his also very talented peers. He learned to respect other people's gifts, and it got him actively involved in church, something he values highly.

At school, Reegan had never been an A-student. He had to work hard to earn all of his credits to graduate,



even to the point of repeating Grade 12 biology. At PAA the standards are very high; there are no easy A's. But Reegan, with the help of his parents and teachers, persevered. When he was around friends who went to public school, he could tell that he had a deeper grasp of school work than his peers. That built his confidence.

Reegan graduated from PAA last spring, and looking back on his schooling, he's glad he stuck with Adventist education. Reegan is pursuing a career in the trades, and he knows he can do it because he's done harder things in school. Attending a highly academic school like PAA forced him to learn to study. At the tender age of 19, Reegan has already made a big impact on the next generation! ■

*Pattie Reasor Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*

Spotlight

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

often share the story of professional Christian songwriter Juan Otero during my concerts. We became friends while writing one of my songs, —“Beauty of Life.” Juan opened up and told me his conversion story.

Juan grew up in foster homes after running away from his mom’s at an early age. Unfortunately, many times the foster homes were more cruel and abusive than the home he had run away from. He went from one location to another hoping to find a silver lining. It never came.

In his teen years, Juan found solace in street dancing and even auditioned for a tour to be a dancer. It was for the Christian contemporary band DC Talk, and he got the job; he was hired!

Through the weeks and months that followed, something happened each night during the concert. The music and the words were drawing him in. Juan couldn’t believe there was a God who could love him unconditionally and wipe his past clean. It was on this tour, through the influence of the band members and the words in the songs, that Juan gave his life to Christ.

Sometimes it is easy to regard music as the decoration to a service. Not much thought goes into it: maybe a song before the sermon at an evangelistic series, or three hymns leading people to sit down for the divine service. But these songs, especially their words, are tools, powerful tools, to melt a heart, to lead a soul to Jesus. I cannot express how often I have heard someone tell me that they accepted Jesus as their Saviour because a friend brought them to a Christian concert. We have a strong and powerful tool right at our fingertips.

This month marks the end of our nationwide Scripture Songwriting contest. I hope you, or someone you know,

participated and found a closer walk with God in the process. Perhaps you have a story to tell, like so many before you who have written scripture-based songs. I encourage you to write it down and share it with others in such a way that they can find a blessing. Don’t stop because the contest has ended!

When Robert Robinson (1735-1790) was eight years old, his father’s death meant that his mother would have to continue raising him all by herself, which was challenging because—intelligent though he was—he was a very strong-willed child. When he went to London at age 14 to become a barber, he continued to get into trouble; his life was soon filled with drinking and gambling.

Three years later, when he was about 17 years old, Robert and some friends thought it a great idea to amuse themselves by going to an evangelistic meeting (held by George Whitfield) and making fun of the presentation. However, the words Robert heard spoken impressed him deeply.

It wasn’t until three years after the evangelistic meeting, on Dec. 10, 1755, that he finally decided to accept Christ as his Saviour. And he soon decided to become a minister. Another three years later, he was scheduled to deliver a sermon at Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England, when he was impressed to write “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” to go along with his sermon. In 1813, Asahel Nettleton composed the music for this very well-known and widely published hymn.¹ ■

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

www.naomistriemermusic.com and www.naomiradio.com

For questions, comments or to suggest an artist, band or choir, please email naomicontact@aol.com.

¹ Connie Ruth Christiansen, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, the Song and the Story: Composer Robert Robinson Writes Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” *ShareFaith: Creative Solutions, Passionate People*, 2013, <www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Music/hymns-the-songs-and-the-stories/come-thou-fount-of-every-blessing-the-song-and-the-story.html>.

Living a life of selfless generosity—Lyla Gray

Photo credit: Andy Magbago.



Do to

others

by Rosendo Cuizon



Lyla Gray¹ is a faithful member of the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church. Many of her friends and acquaintances who are her networking contacts have lovingly called her Mother Teresa for her philanthropic heart. Lyla ministers to people who have been victims of unfortunate circumstances, especially with contract workers from her home country, the Philippines. Known as OFWs, or Overseas Filipino Workers, by their government, these people send remittances to their families back home, benefiting the government. These workers, mostly caregivers, domestic workers, skilled and general laborers, arrive in the country with very few contacts and are subject to many misfortunes with little or no social skills to overcome these adversities.²

Left: Lyla visiting a Filipino patient (in Canada as a temporary foreign worker) who had emergency bypass surgery at the University Hospital in Edmonton.

¹ Some names have been changed to protect privacy of individuals.

² Most of the materials for this article were adapted from "Celebrating the Kindness of Strangers" by Erlinda Dolly Tan, first published in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, November 18, 2012, and from the *Philippine Hiyas* (December 2012, writer not published). A few details and stories have been left out for brevity.

In her deep sleep a sudden flash of light across the bedroom walls woke Lyla momentarily, and her half-opened eyes caught a glimpse of the plaque propped up in her dresser. A stream of consciousness marched through her thoughts: check my to-do list in my computer desk first thing in the morning; don't forget an appointment with the reporter from the local *Philippine Daily Inquirer* at the Tim Horton's coffee shop across the strip mall. What questions is she going to ask? Would this be a good move on my part? Would it advertise my name and bring in unwanted results? She whispered a short prayer and pulled the warm sheets over her shoulders to bring her comfort, if only for another couple of hours.

Reporter: Ate³ Lyla, I have heard from the many newcomers to our city of your generous spirit in helping them out in their time of need. What compels you to do such unselfish acts?

Lyla: This is what I call a snowball effect. I helped one person initially, and from then on, for 20 years now, my telephone hasn't stopped ringing; People call asking for assistance with just about everything—even which bus route to take to get from point A to point B, which car to buy and even finding a rental apartment. You'd think that I was running an agency for everything and for all things.



Reporter: There's no denying that you have accommodated people in your one-bedroom apartment not only for short stays but also for extended periods of time. This is something that would inconvenience many of us, certainly myself. How do you deal with this?

Lyla: You know, after my second divorce I vowed not to live in a house, because of the many demands that a house brings. I thought living in a one-bedroom apartment was all I needed, as I didn't want any company. However, I just couldn't turn down a request from one lady who was thrown out by her employer because of some disagreement. She had neither friends nor family in the city. When I met her in the mall, she looked desperate and destitute for a place to stay, and I thought accommodating her temporarily would alleviate her stress.

Reporter: And she ended staying with you for a few months. Now you have two sofa beds in your living room. Can you describe the kind of people you have since taken under your shelter?

Lyla: [with a short laugh to ease her tension] You can say that it's mostly OFWs, people who land in the city and need some orientation on how to complete necessary documentation and network with their prospective employers; I ensure that they are comfortable and looked after even after they have established themselves here.

Reporter: You do all this for free, and single-handedly? I learned that you also housed some undesirable characters that would really scare the best of us.

Lyla: It comes with the territory. So far, I have managed to call the police—like when this guy refused to move out after I caught him using drugs and inviting a female friend over without my consent. Another time someone had a mental breakdown and became unmanageable, but I called the local mental health crisis team, and they were able to take care of her.

Reporter: But these are just the tip of your concerns. I also learned that your place has also become a hospice of some sort to those with terminal illnesses.

Lyla: A few times some caregivers were diagnosed with cancer shortly after finding a job. These people have no family ties in the city, so it fell on me to drive them to their doctors' appointments and other follow-up treatments. Fortunately, my retirement time allows me to do these things; I just can't turn away from these compatriots without assisting them in their dire need.

One case involved a man who was gravely ill and was deeply concerned for his family back home. I sent a general email to my contacts asking for monetary donations, and the response was very positive. When this man died, I was able, as promised, to bring his ashes back to his family in the Philippines (airfare courtesy of my accumulated air miles). When I got there, I was overwhelmed to witness their situation. Whatever money I brought, both donated and his own, was partly spent fixing their modest abode, and the remainder was applied toward his children's education. These are the things that bring fulfillment to my humble work.

Reporter: I see here that you are an active member of the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church. Would this be one good reason why you are able to do this philanthropic activity?

Lyla: Honestly, I don't know how I manage to do all of this, but of course God is my Boss, so I get a lot of help from Him. I'm thankful that I have a lot of friends who come to my assistance. Because I have lived in Edmonton the last 45 years, I have established lots of contacts. Take, for example, that Filipino buffet restaurant across this mall. Every Thursday they call me to pick up leftover food from the day's cooking. They know that I house people who could use these meals.

One time I sent an email asking for household items to furnish a new apartment

Left: Lyla holding a 4-month-old baby. She accommodated mother and son for 10 months.

³"Ate" (Ah-tay) is an honourific Filipino word generally used to address an elder sister and/or someone perceived to be an older female acquaintance.

for some newcomers, and the response was so great that I had to tell them to stop the donations. People are just responsive when you tap their resources.

Reporter: You know that your name was brought to my attention because of the numerous stories I hear from our OFW compatriots. A couple of them wrote me to nominate your name for a civic award in the Philippines. Of course, that would be on top of the recognition you have just received with the city's Association of Fund-Raising Professionals during their Edmonton's National Philanthropy Day, of which you were the only private citizen to be honoured for 2012. I will show you a couple of letters that I received.

This one is from Susan, a former hairdresser:

"When first diagnosed with breast cancer, I stayed in Edmonton's The Compassion House for 25 days for my radiation therapy. All this after my common-law partner dumped me. After my therapy, I lived off the kindness of strangers, moving often so as not to overstay my 'welcome mat'—until one of my hairdressing customers gave me Ate Lyla's phone number.

The first time I spoke to her on the phone I thought that she was of my age, as she sounded young. I told her my predicament, and the same day she came to pick me up. My first impression of her was that she looked like a well-to-do lady because of the way she carried herself and her hair was dyed. Besides, she was driving a big North American car.

Ate Lyla took me to her humble one-bedroom apartment, and at that time there were two other guys occupying the two sofa beds in her living room. I shared her bedroom for a month until I got a job in a town two hours away. After that job terminated, I went back to Ate Lyla's place for an extended period.

One thing I learned is that she has maxed out her credit card a few times just to help people out. Her philosophy is that there will always be another time to pay those bills, but others' immediate needs are of prime importance.

Because of her bigheartedness, I was inspired to do the same thing. I have since helped newcomers get settled in their



Lyla visiting an accident victim in her apartment.

apartments and accompanied them to the different government agencies for their documents, again with Ate Lyla driving us to those places, since she has a car to get us around easily. I pray that God will continue to give Ate Lyla the strength and endurance to help people of the same predicaments as mine."

And here's another one from a certain Gerald:

"I'm grateful to God that I was a recipient of Ate Lyla's generous heart. I arrived in Edmonton in 2008 as a contract welder. However, not too long after I started, the company decided to lay off workers, including me. My initial plan was to return to my home country, but I later decided that staying in this country would be a better option.

My immediate problem was for accommodations, because being new to the city did not afford me the means and the social contacts to provide me a place to stay. Fortunately, I ran into a recent recipient of Ate Lyla's hospitality, who gave me her phone number.

After contacting Ate Lyla, she immediately took action and agreed that I stay with her temporarily. She picked me up from where I was staying, although we hadn't really met or previously known each other.

During my stay with her, my misfortunes seemed to compound. First, my grandchild contracted pneumonia, which almost cost him his life. Then my mother had a stroke, which cost us in the thousands of pesos.

Since I was the only breadwinner, everyone relied on me for financial aid—while I was unemployed, no less. The only person I could turn to was Ate Lyla, who lent me the money, interest-free. I will soon be able to pay her back in full. I am grateful to God and to Ate Lyla for having the gift of compassion for individuals like me.

I have since learned that Ate Lyla is being considered for an award for philanthropy. This is long overdue. I learned that I am the 13th person in the last five years to have stayed with her rent-free. I have observed that her generosity comes from the heart, and she should really be commended for such unselfish acts."

Reporter: Of course, I learned that you did not limit your help to fellow Filipinos. Is anyone else presently staying at your place?

Lyla: [sighs] Thank God, the last two persons are moving out this afternoon after I found them jobs and other suitable accommodations. But I shouldn't speak too soon, as I don't expect to be alone for long. *Riiing, riiing.* [Her cell phone vibrates on the table] See? (A look of mock exasperation falls on her face as she picks it up to answer) Yes, this is Ate Lyla ... ■

Rosendo Cuizon is an active follower of the Mount Zion Filipino church in Downsview, Ontario.

worth the sacrifice



Pam Lister

AS I SIT IN MY OFFICE at the Adventist Book Center, located on the Kingsway College campus, I wonder about how my path through life has brought me to this place. In just hours, Kingsway's annual Alumni Weekend events begin. Many connections will be made and remade; laughter and even some tears will be shed as people meet again.

Looking back on my experience being schooled in Christian Education (from Toronto Junior Academy to Kingsway College), I am surprised by the challenges Adventist schools are facing in trying to fill the schools to capacity as they once did. Based on the Value Genesis studies reports out of La Sierra University, the problem is not, as many would like to conclude, academics. The studies show

sufficient evidence that on average our students repeatedly perform better on standardized testing than their counterparts in the public system. Statistics also continue to show that more students coming from Adventist schools continue

on to higher education than students from the public school system.

Regarding the price of Adventist

education, there is a well-known theory called the law of supply and demand. If a school is functioning at capacity, the cost of educating a child would naturally come down due to the efficient use of resources. As it is, some schools are functioning inefficiently because they are not filled to capacity and are, therefore, pushing the cost per student higher. If more people made the commitment to Adventist education, the cost of educating each child could be reduced.

Adventist teachers are very committed to teaching, guiding and mentoring each child, not just for this world but for eternity. If you consider eternity as the time frame for ROI (return on investment), the current cost per child is insignificant.

My parents had three children in Adventist schools back when salaries weren't what they are now, and I know that they went without so that we could attend. The public school was just across the street, but they knew it was right for us to have a Christian education.

When my daughter was young, I was a single parent who couldn't afford the Adventist Academy, so my mom paid for her right through to Grade 12 (that was her retirement she put toward Christina's education, before her own needs). When it came time for my daughter to choose a university, I felt in my heart that she belonged at Andrews University. I decided that it was my job to provide the best Christian education I could for her, so I sold my vehicle and almost all my belongings and moved back in with Mom and Dad—not an easy decision to make as a grown child who was used

to my own space.

The choice was set: I could afford to live on my own and drive my truck, and not be economically impacted, or I could choose to send my daughter to a Christian university. Some would say I made a huge sacrifice; some wouldn't think twice about doing the same, or even more. Some people may think I was foolish, and I am sorry that they would feel that way. I guess it really isn't a sacrifice when you love someone and want the best for them. Yes, we should be wise and plan for the future, but shouldn't we include the spiritual health of our young people as part of planning for eternity?

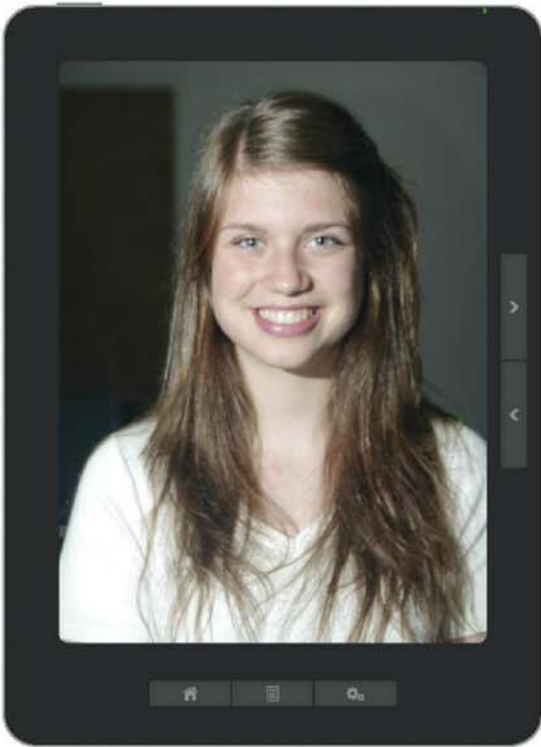
I am just a mom who knows it isn't easy to send kids out every day into the world and not worry about them. Why wouldn't we want them to be in a school or on a campus where the Holy Spirit leads and guides the administration, the teachers and the mentors? Why is it that people who no longer have children at home continue to support the Adventist Christian schools with their sometimes meager pensions? What if all of us who do have school-age kids enrolled them in Adventist schools this fall? What if we didn't buy that new car this year? What if we stayed in the house that we have grown tired of for just a few more years? What if?

Despite my Christian education, I did leave the church for a number of years, but I came back. I came back because I knew—I knew!—in my heart that what I had been taught, the songs I had sung, the prayers that had been prayed over me while attending Adventist schools were the foundation of my faith.

Jeremiah 29:11 is my text, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (NIV, emphasis added).

What plans do you have for your kids? What plans do you have for their future? Are they worth the sacrifice? ■

Pam Lister, graduate of Kingsway College class of '81, and a graduate of life experiences.



Getting Connected

As I walked down the sidewalk toward the high school, I thought my heart might explode out of my chest and run home without me. Beside me strolled my friend, the only other person in my grade for several years of elementary school.

MY FRIEND AND I HAD RECENTLY ENROLLED in online school through West Coast Adventist School (WCAS), because the Bella Coola Adventist School only offers Grades 1 to 9. We had tried an online correspondence option previously, but we felt the need for more teacher direction and interaction. WCAS allowed us to sign in to classes every day to listen and participate as the teacher at Cariboo Adventist Academy instructed his/her class. Today, we were meeting everyone: teachers, other online students, and local students for the very first time.

When I walked through the door, a sea of new faces greeted me. I was sure I would be able to recognize a few of my classmates, as we had chatted online before and I had seen a few pictures of them. Unfortunately, most of the pictures they posted online did not accurately portray them, and as a result, I was feeling more than a little overwhelmed.

Someone showed me to a free locker, and as I shoved my overstuffed backpack into it, I heard a familiar voice. I turned around and did not see anyone familiar, but then the voice came again. It belonged to my Bible teacher, Mr. Rusk. I suddenly realized that I could recognize people by their voices, since I had heard them speak over the Internet every day, and then I could just match the voice with a face! For the first time that day, a genuine smile spread across my face. Just then a parent walked into the locker room with a few shy-looking students following closely behind her. She then began talking to someone else in the room, and I recognized the voice of Mrs. Brucks. Aha!

My little game was starting to give me some confidence, and I forgot about my nervousness. Just then a crowd of students entered the room all talking very animatedly; I knew these were the kids who actually went to this school. These were their teachers, their lockers, their school. I was just the kid whose name appeared on the SmartBoard (electronic classroom whiteboard) every day to join in. But just then, a boy from the midst of the crowd came gliding up beside me. He introduced himself, along with several of his friends, and they began telling funny stories and informing me that I was a neat person.

By the end of the day, I had been introduced to people from all over the province. We all had different stories and different reasons why we were doing distributed learning. It wasn't until I left to go home at the end of the week that I realized how much I had learned from the students and teachers at Cariboo Adventist Academy. They were the difference. I felt welcomed, accepted, wanted.

Isn't that the way all schools should be?

How all churches should be?

My school experience taught me about hard work, dedication and self-motivation. (It is easy for one to get distracted when school takes place on the Internet.) However, I feel that I learned a lot about my relationship with Jesus through it all. (And it also widened my friend base quite considerably!) Here's what I learned:

- Jesus is our teacher, helping us with any problems we might encounter.
- If we have a relationship with Jesus and connect with Him everyday, we will be able to recognize His voice in a room full of people.
- Jesus is welcoming and accepting; He wants us. ■

Laura Kozak is in her fourth year of her elementary education degree at Canadian University College and has served as a student missionary in Majuro. She is also a graduate of West Coast Adventist School, having completed her entire high school program through the online program.

Part 2 of the story "Reaching for the Gold" that appeared in the July issue of *Messenger*.



Margarita and Cliff during campfire at Blind Camp in Pugwash.

A True Paralympian!

Mikhail Gorbounov and Olga Narazenko are the proud Paralympian parents of a talented athlete by the name of Margarita Gorbounova. Many visually impaired campers and staff at Frenda and Pugwash have had the privilege of getting to know Margarita and her family by spending time with them during one or more Blind Camps since 2000.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1984, Margarita learned to cross-country ski at a young age. You could say she skied before walking! As a child, Margarita partook in her parents' daily training and routines, and she developed an attraction to the sport, because "winters can be very long and boring when you have to be stuck inside." As Margarita was born with congenital cataracts, her vision has been severely limited. Nevertheless, with determination and perseverance, like her parents, she pursues her dreams without hesitation.

Though her desire to be a part of competitive sports did not interest her until 2005, she knew what it would take to become a Paralympian and medalist. While at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Development Camp in Norway in 2006, Margarita finalized her decision to compete in the 2010 Paralympic Games. Her personal motto: "to be the best that I can be!"

By 2009, Margarita teamed up with Olga's former guide Robert d'Arras and was named to the Canadian Para-Nordic National Development Team. She managed to achieve seventh position at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. "My family and friends support me any way they can. I couldn't do it without them," acknowledged Margarita.

The Paralympics are similar to the Olympics, the major difference being that Paralympic athletes have physical and/or intellectual disabilities, such as amputations, blindness, cerebral palsy and mobility disabilities. Just like the Olympics, the Paralympics have Winter and Summer Games. The term

Paralympic is derived from the Greek preposition para, which means "beside" or "alongside." As such, the Olympics and Paralympics take place but weeks apart.

Paralympic competitors are people with the highest athletic abilities, not to be confused with the Special Olympics, which are open to children and adults with intellectual disabilities irrespective of their athletic abilities. Interestingly, the Paralympic motto is "Spirit in Motion," which refers to "mind, body and spirit."

In 1976, the Paralympics fully included categories for visually impaired athletes, and they hosted the first Winter Games, featuring visually impaired (VI) Alpine and Nordic skiing. VI athletes have a non-correctable vision impairment ranging from partially sighted to total blindness.

"Margarita and her family spend countless hours training, caring for her equipment and traveling to ski in numerous competitions across the country and abroad. Margarita is driven to continually push her limits and be her best. She is currently working toward attending the 2014 Winter Paralympics in Sochi, Russia," wrote Marie Rutter, editor of the Christian Record Services' newsletter, *Around the Campfire*. "Recently Margarita was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, honouring her outstanding representation of community and Canada."

Besides being a Paralympian, Margarita works for the federal government as a French-English translator. On occasion, with her husband, Cliff Martin, by her side, she leaves this beautiful Great North Country to spend some vacation time in Cuba. Quite often they even make their way to the breathtaking camp facility in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, to attend Blind Camp and lightly train in the fresh, salty air off the Northumberland Strait. Margarita encourages anyone considering going to Blind Camps to give it a chance. "You'll enjoy it and get to know everyone. The staff make you feel at home and welcome."

"And we boast in the hope of the glory of God . . . because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. . . . Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person. . . . God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:1-8, NIV).

Perseverance is a key factor in athletic success: Perseverance produces character. Character is the result of perseverance, which produces hope. In the world of athleticism, the hope is for gold. In the world of Christianity, it is the hope of Christ. It is a hope filled with peace, comfort, joy, and gratefulness. At Blind Camps we share this hope: While we are still sinners, Christ died for us and longs to draw us nearer to Himself. There is no greater sight then to see Jesus. ■

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

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.

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

It Is Written Seminar Baptisms in Saskatoon

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:19, 20, NASB). Beginning on April 19, the Pinchouse Drive and Mount Royal Adventist churches in Saskatoon joined forces to sponsor It Is Written, a world-renowned television program, to come and present a series of meetings called "Countdown to Life."

After the first three evening meetings, It Is Written speaker Bill Santos made an appeal via decision cards to the packed house audience. Given that we were only three evenings into the series, the result was amazing. More than 20 individuals indicated their desire to follow Jesus in baptism. Immediately the pastoral team set out visiting with these people, preparing them for baptism.

The following week during the continuation of the evening meetings, Santos spoke on baptism and again made an appeal through decision cards to the assembly. While there were repeats from the week before, there were others who for the first time indicated their interest in accepting Jesus all the way. Being the second and final week of meetings, it sent the pastoral team into a flurry of activities preparing those who indicated for baptism. That did not mean that the devil was not causing struggles for these individuals. The Scriptures tells us that, "Your adversary, the devil, prowls around



Pastors: Chris Arbeau, Ralph Ellison, Rick Harwood, Bill Santos; Baptismal candidates: Glen Jones, Andrei Rotaru, Reo and Sympathy Moyo, Cristina Juea Masiwa and Nalakui Mooleki, Mirela Rotaru, Katherine Luneng, Zinhle Dewa, Olivia Rotaru, Madalina Rota

like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Sure enough, folks were struggling with many problems, but God's strength prevailed.

On May 4, during the final Sabbath morning meeting, 13 of those attending committed their lives to Christ through baptism. As the baptism drew to a close, Santos could not let the meeting end without making yet another call to give others an opportunity to take their stand for Jesus. Praise God, for several people stepped forward in faith and decided that they too wanted to make their stand for Him.

On the following evening during the music program provided by It Is Written and other local talent, another baptism was conducted where three more individuals

either committed or recommitted their lives to Christ and were baptized. One of these individuals was a Ukrainian lady who was visiting Canada. She gave her heart to Jesus during these meetings and plans to go back to Ukraine and spread her newfound love for Jesus there, taking the gospel to "all the nations."

As a result of these meetings, even more baptisms are being planned over the coming weeks and months. We give honour and glory to God for all of His children who have dedicated their lives to His service. We never know what will eventually result from the seeds that have been sown. ■

*Chris Arbeau, pastor,
Mount Royal church, Saskatoon*

Spirit of Truth Community Church holds Health Expo



In March the Spirit of Truth Community Church of Regina, Sask., hosted a health expo, with the volunteer help of Hill Avenue church members.

We held it in a mall, in a vacant spot. The mall gave us the use of the space free of charge. The Brick lent us a massage chair at no charge, Safeway donated bottled water to give away, and Old Fashion Foods Health Store donated packets of trail mix.

Participants were able to journey through 11 different stations and learn about different aspects of healthful living. At the end, each participant was

given a printout indicating their age health-wise (in contrast to their actual age), and those who were interested were able to talk to one of two pastors, Ted Deer and Troy Guderyan, about spiritual health and trust in God. Many people left with wonderful resource material such as Bible studies, DVDs or CDs, as well as printed publications such as *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*.

It was a great success. We estimate that approximately 400 hundred people took advantage of making the rounds at

the different stations. We received many positive comments for hosting a wonderful and useful function. With much interest for future programs such as Bible studies, cooking classes, quit-smoking clinics, etc., we plan on having another such expo in the future. We were so blessed. A special thank-you to all who came out to help. Without everyone's help, it could not have been such a success. ■

Margaret Jackson, Spirit of Truth Community Church

British Columbia

Earth Day

On April 20, 2013, the Maple Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, with the help of Lynell Adams, participated for the second year in the Earth Day celebrations at Memorial Park. Free packages of seeds were handed out with the address and phone number of the church and a Bible verse. Signs were put up for those who may need help in

quitting smoking and for a vegetarian cooking class. Many people visited and one lady signed up for the cooking class.

Javier Guerrero Escalera and Alejandra Espinosa Valezuez had their membership transferred to the Maple Ridge church from the Spanish New Westminster church on March 16, 2013. Adrian and Olimpia Munteanu-Marin transferred

their membership from the Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church to the Maple Ridge church on May 18, 2013. Julia Munteanu-Marin transferred her membership from the Romanian Temple of Hollywood, Florida Seventh-day Adventist Church, to the Maple Ridge church on May 18, 2013.

Pastor Justice St. Hilaire conducted



Back row: Lawrence Brown, Timoteus Nagy (pastor), Ilana and Val McCartney, Norma Thorsen. **Front row:** Suzana Brown, Marion Makton, Eve Lewis, Marlene Bryon, Larry and Mary Moorcroft. Vicci Vieira cannot be seen.

evangelistic meetings, Revelation of Hope, after which six persons were baptized by Timoteus Nagy, and five were taken in by profession of faith. They all were accepted into the Maple Ridge church by a unanimous vote in a

beautiful ceremony on April 20, 2013.

On Sabbath morning of April 20, 2013, Pathfinder leader Lester Lorenson and Timoteus Nagy gave out certificates to four Pathfinders: Simrit Dodda, Giovanna Escalera, Abdial Sosa, Justin

Adams; and two Eager Beavers: Gerardo Sosa and Christian Escalera. ■

Trudi Charles, communications secretary, Maple Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church

SDA Church in Canada

VOAR to Upgrade Radio Repeater Sites

VOAR Christian Family Radio is moving forward on a plan that will see our radio repeater sites upgraded to the latest in FM transmitter technology. Our existing transmitters are over 10 years old and becoming expensive to maintain. The technology has changed a lot in 10 years. Our new transmitters will have an internal computer that will monitor all of its operating parameters. If for any reason

one of these were to change, the transmitter will email that information to VOAR engineering. This will give the engineer an instant message that something needs his/her attention. We can even use the transmitter to monitor our transmitter building for security violations. This would have been very useful in June this year when our Gander site was vandalized and put off the air for over a week. VOAR

will always endeavour to bring you quality programming through high-quality equipment. We are thankful for your prayers and support of our radio ministry. ■


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



>> **SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of June 30, 2013, there are 453 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,570,436. There are 73 loans with a value of \$19,208,259.

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



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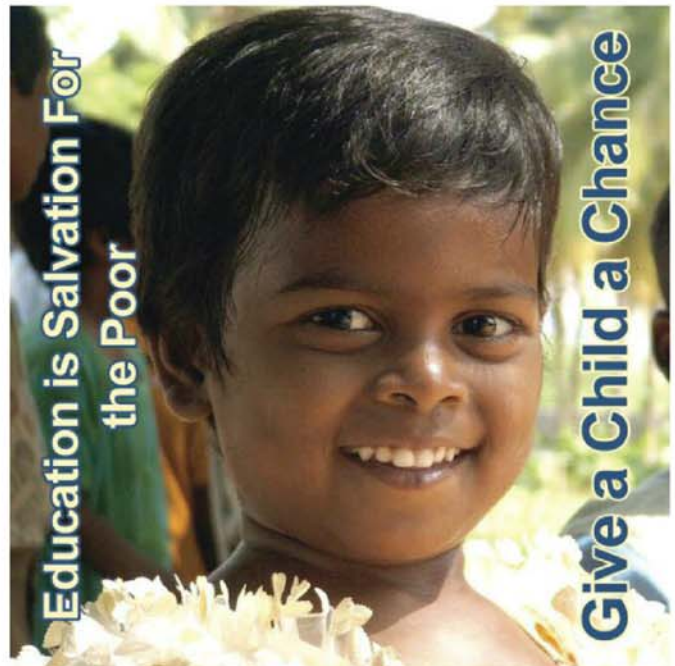
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The Acronaires have been on several service trips in the past, to places such as Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Belize and Jamaica. Ron Schafer has been coaching the Acronaires for more than 30 years and Eric Rajah, Co-founder of 'A Better World' has been hosting 'A Better World' trips for more than 14 years. He, and more than 2500 volunteers, have visited and served in more than 12 countries.

For more information contact :
Ron Schafer at 403-782-3381 ext. 4055
Or Eric Rajah at the number below.

Founded in 1990, A Better World is a Central Alberta-based, International Development Organization dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty in the developing world. A Better World is a mission of the Canadian University College Church.

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LET'S MOVE! DAY

Sunday, September 22, 2013



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Find resources and information at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org



Let's Move Day is an event of Adventists InStep for Life. It is sponsored by the North American Division Health Ministries Department in partnership with Adventist Community Services, Children's, Disabilities, Education, Family, Women's, Youth, and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, and the Ministerial Department.



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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- 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

Missing Members: The Ashcroft church is looking for the following missing members: Dan Derksen, Sara Derksen, Carole Leonard-Masny, Daria Masny, Dawn Sawchuk, Jason John Sawchuk, Dorothy Weihe, Peter Weihe, Robert Weihe, Erich Weihe. If you have information on how they can be contacted, please contact Laura-Lea Price, church clerk, 250/457-6651, or leaprice88@gmail.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.

■ Births

Blakely Dawn Demitor was born on April 11, 2013, to Devin and Tiffany Demitor, of Leduc, Alta.

Olive Grace Marcinyk was born on May 3, 2013, to Jason Marcinyk and Leanne Adams, of Red Deer, Alta.

Jesse-Rae Margaret McAfee was born on May 4, 2013, to Devon and Melissa McAfee, of Sylvan Lake, Alta.

■ Anniversaries

Harvey and Norma Bechthold celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 30, 2013. Sixty



years ago, on June 30, 1953, Harvey Bechthold and Norma Wetzel were united in marriage at Canadian Union College, College Heights, Alta. Harvey and Norma retired in Vernon, B.C., in June 2008. A family celebration will be held on Sept. 1, 2013, in Vernon. The Bechtholds have two children: Cindy (Brian) Brucks and Carmen (Bradley) Brousson. They have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Sheila (née Victory) Brown was born on Jan. 27, 1929, in West Indies, St. Vincent, and died Feb. 11, 2013, in Montreal, Que. Sheila served in the church choir for over 40 years. She also served as Sabbath school superintendent and as the Sabbath school teacher for the adults and Kindergarten students. Sheila is predeceased by her husband, Ben, and brother, James. Surviving: sons, Victor, of Toronto, Ont., and Trevor, of Montreal, Que.; daughter, Cheryl, of Harris, Missouri City, Tex.; sisters, Jean Burgin and Una Jordan; one grandchild.

Irene (née Remfert) Gieck was born on July 5, 1930, in Blumental, Russia, and died April 15, 2013, in Calgary, Alta. Irene was a faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout her life. In Poland, during the Second World War, at the age of 13, she courageously stood for the Sabbath truth. Her life was a quiet testimony of her faith in God. Irene is predeceased by her husband, Albert, brothers, Arthur and Erhart Remfert, and sister, Alice Knopp.

Surviving: son, David (Sheri), of Beiseker, Alta.; daughters, Ellen (JJ) Hutson, of Issaquah, Wash., and Betty (DJ) Jacobsen, of Beiseker, Alta.

Bertha (née Herzog) Herman was born on Mar. 17, 1937, in Sisters Falls, Man., and died May 20, 2013, in Creston, B.C. Betty was very active in the Alberta and Man-Sask camp-meetings, and served as their chef. Betty was active in her local Adventist church and in the community. She was also the ADRA leader in Creston before she died. Surviving: husband, Otto; sons, Randy, of Chetwynd, B.C., Barry (Joanne), of Kelowna, B.C., Merlin (Ronda), of Dixonville, Alta., and Daryl, of Dixonville, Alta.; daughter, Brenda (Tom) Reed, of Olympia, Wash.; brothers, Henry (Pearl) Herzog, of Michigan, and Ed (Bertha) Herzog, of Kelowna, B.C.; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edwin Dale Smith was born on Mar. 8, 1925, in Ruscom, Ont., and died Dec. 29, 2012, in Windsor, Ont. Dale, as he was known by the members of the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church, was involved in personal ministries. He frequently went door-to-door, inviting people to take Bible studies. As a result, many became followers of Christ. Dale is survived by his wife, Donna, and his son, Wayne; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

August Steinke was born on July 11, 1917, in Beiseker, Alta., and died May 18, 2012, in Wetaskiwin, Alta. August was totally dedicated to his God and his church, and he served for many years as head elder, Sabbath school teacher and later as treasurer. He was a conscientious objector during the Second World War, along with many other young men from the Adventist Church. August is predeceased by his wife, Lily, brother Lawrence, and sisters Delphi Versteegh and Rubena Bannister, of Kelowna, B.C. Surviving: sons, Ken (Evelyn), of Kelowna, B.C., Lloyd (Betty), of Langley, B.C., and Dallas (Karen), of Edmonton, Alta.; daughter, Gladys (Lorin) Wentland, of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; brothers Sam (Mabel), of Miller, Alta., and Melvin (Eileen); sisters Violet Schafer, of Wetaskiwin, Alta., and Leatha Ritchey, of Kelowna, B.C.; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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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.

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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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Regaining normal brain function is as easy as taking a couple teaspoons of Ambrotose powder each day! It increases cognitive function, memory, concentration, attentiveness and mood, while decreasing irritability. Who doesn't want ALL of these benefits, especially as we age? Great for kids too! Info doc at <http://library.mannatech.com/1071>; more info and ordering at www.mymannapages.com/LifeEnhancerAmbrotos. 6-month satisfaction guarantee. Get started today to reap the benefits of improved quality of life! Questions—call Viv at 866/270-6019 or email thegoodlife@litttleloon.ca. (9/13)

Do you like warm winters and friendly people? Are year-round walking trails part of your lifestyle? In Sooke, B.C., we enjoy active, warm church members who cater a hospitality lunch for their community each Sabbath. Outreach projects include cooking schools, youth groups, Dr. Nedley Depression Recovery seminars (one facilitator course offered free, if you want to help), and a literacy project now exists (certificate course available). If you need accommodation while searching for housing (new homes at \$339,000), we have that too. Come and see for yourself and consider whether we are not the friendliest church in Canada with the warmest climate. God bless your decision to come here. Call 250/642-6053, Juan de Fuca Seventh-day Adventist Church, Box 228, Sooke, B.C., V9Z 0S9. (8/13)

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.

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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. (7/14)

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)

Planning an evangelistic series or health seminar? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free 800/274-0016 and ask for HOPE customer service, or visit www.hopesource.com. We invite you to experience the Hopesource difference. (12/13)

End the "Battle of the Bulge" forever! Turn your "fat-storing switch" off with OsoLean. Halts hunger hormones and cravings, burns body fat, builds lean muscle and bones, and promotes lasting energy yet good sleep. No stimulants and effective for all ages. Get started today to look and feel your best. 6-month satisfaction guarantee. Video, www.navig8.biz/LifeEnhancer4. Questions? Call Vivian 866/270-6019, email thegoodlife@littleloon.ca. (9/13)

Country property—two parcels (160 acres each). Beautiful, pristine, forested and cultivated land. Abundant wildlife. Perfect for wellness centre, recreation, farm or just good, clean

country living. Located approximately 4 miles from the majestic Riding Mountain National Park. Three small churches within driving distance. Come discover and evangelize Manitoba (Canada's best-kept secret) \$180,000 per 320-acre parcel. Please call 204/638-9023. (6/14)

Do you want your children to have a quality Christian education but have no church school nearby?

We invite you to move to Rosthern, Sask., where we have a vibrant church school. Rosthern is a thriving community located within an hour of Saskatoon and Prince Albert. There are plenty of employment opportunities in the area. For further information, call Rosthern Christian School at 306/232-4299 or email Melanie at rosthernchristianschool.melanie@yahoo.ca. (9/13)

You Can Educate Orphans In African Adventist Schools!



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

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Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0 Canada

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

WWW.FreeAfricanChildrenthruEducation.blogspot.com

Good News!

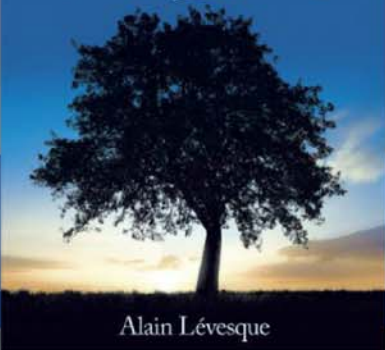


Join the growing number of Adventist churches who are receiving the official Adventist TV network, **Hope Channel**, in their community. It's the perfect way to help your neighbours, family and friends discover the Adventist Church. Hope Channel recently received CRTC approval and could soon be broadcast 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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To receive your FREE copy of GEORGE'S TREE, please email legal@adventist.ca with your name and address, or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078.



from the editor

telling the story of the Adventist church in Canada

I put down my favourite pen to answer the phone. Upon hearing the voice of a good friend of mine on the other end, I instantly recalled joyous memories of bygone conversations. With excitement he proceeded to tell me about a book he had just read and that he wanted to write a feature story on it for the *Messenger*. He stated clearly that this is something our church needs in these days and continued by saying the information in this book was going to connect the churches with the community without compromising the message we have been called to proclaim.

As the details came forth, I had to tell him I was not interested in the book he was so passionate about. I explained that there are a thousand books out there, and most have some great insights and ideas. Hundreds of magazines exist giving similar advice and wisdom. I went on to tell my friend that the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* is here to tell the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. We are the only magazine that exists for this purpose.

As one might imagine, he was rather disappointed. I encouraged him to implement the knowledge he had acquired from this source of information in his church and capture the transformation that takes place; I assured him we would love to feature that story—of how the applied ideas actually translated into the church's mission. After a short period of silence, he began giving reasons why he could not. I thought to myself, Everyone wants to give advice, but few want to work.

That said, we are looking for more stories to feature in the *Messenger*. Articles that do not just give simple facts and information but tell the story behind the story. Stories, not just of someone taking a stand for Christ, but of how that process happened. Not just stories of a 50th anniversary of a church but stories of interesting events that occurred at that church over 50 years to help further God's mission. Not just stories of baptisms but stories of what led up to someone making that most important decision.

Submit your article and help us tell the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Accepted edited stories will be published either in the printed *Canadian Adventist Messenger* or on our blog and Facebook. ■

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

SINCE 1874, THE MAGAZINE SIGNS OF THE TIMES HAS BEEN CIRCULATED WIDELY, "inviting readers to live as Christians in North American society" and emphasizing Christ's second coming and the prophecies and "signs" that indicate the nearness of this event.¹ Signs of the Times was first published as a weekly newspaper by James White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Signs of the Times is now published monthly by the Pacific Press Publishing Association. This month, we feature some past developments, as well as commentary from past leaders.



Readers of the
"Canadian SIGNS"
 appreciate its thought-
 provoking, soul-stirring
 messages

"North Hatley, Quebec
 January 10, 1944

"Dear Sirs:

"I have received a few copies of your paper and am proud to tell you that I believe it to be one of the best papers printed in Canada. It should be in every Protestant home. I am pleased with the September issue on the Temperance question, with Prince Edward Island mentioned. I also wish to mention the issue (Jan.) on cigarettes giving us some real facts.

"Who has been sending me your paper? I certainly appreciate their kindness. If I had one more copy of the September issue on Temperance, I would hand it out to my friends.

"I wish to subscribe for the paper. Inclosed find \$1.00.

Wetaskiwin, Alberta
 Sept. 21, 1944

"Sirs:

"To date I have received two copies of 'Canadian Signs of the Times' magazine.

"Now I have never subscribed for the paper but find that on the cover it has been paid for me until next July '45.

"Could you please tell me who paid for the subscription for me as I would like to thank them?

"Hoping you can give me this information,

Oct. 4, 1944, Vol 13. 07, p. 8. An advertisement promoting the 1944 subscription campaign in the hopes of getting more subscribers.

"SIGNS OF THE TIMES"

A letter just received from Brother Middleton, our veteran literature worker, brings the names of a mother and other members of her family who are keeping the Sabbath as a result of literature he has been sending them for the past number of years.

Our literature does bring people into the Truth. This is particularly true when it is sent out regularly and systematically and then followed up with the personal appeal.

This issue of the "Messenger" carries an announcement of our 1944 "Canadian Signs of the Times" subscription campaign. With the great percentage of the population of our conference living in rural and isolated districts, the "Signs of the Times" has a very special place in our literature evangelism program.

We want to see not less than 10,000 "Signs" coming into the homes of Alberta from month to month. This means an average of at least four for every church member. I trust every loyal believer in our conference will rally to the plan of a much wider circulation to this distinctly Canadian Seventh-day Adventist truth-filled magazine by becoming responsible for at least four subscriptions.

C. W. Degering

Oct. 4, 1944, Vol 13. 07, p. 9. This letter, from C. W. Degering, urges readers to make the effort to circulate this magazine widely. He encourages them to sign on at least four subscriptions.

*A message
 from our
 Union
 President*

Oct. 4, 1944, Vol 13. 07
 An excerpt from a letter, that appeared on the front cover of the Messenger, from H. L. Rudy, union president at that time, appealing to readers to subscribe to the Signs.

Just now we are placing before you the necessity of further circulating the CANADIAN SIGNS OF THE TIMES. This journal needs no introduction. Month after month many thousands of issues flow out from the press to all parts of Canada and Newfoundland.

The SIGNS is the leading Seventh-day Adventist missionary paper in Canada. It is a soul-winning agency of the first order. Always fresh in spirit and up to the minute on all important religious news, it fills many urgent needs, both from the standpoint of our people and those who are studying the truth for our times. The CANADIAN SIGNS OF THE TIMES should not only be read in every Seventh-day Adventist home, but in every home throughout our communities.

We appeal to you fellow believers in Canada and Newfoundland to double your subscriptions this year. Keep the SIGNS coming to your own home. Read it yourself and pass it on to a neighbor and friend. In addition to that, send it to others. Let us make October 14 to November 30 a doubly successful SIGNS campaign.

Yours for a larger Soul-winning Effort

H. L. Rudy
 H. L. Rudy, President
 CANADIAN UNION CONFERENCE S.D.A.

HLR:ir

Reduced Rates for the Campaign
 (OCTOBER 14 to NOVEMBER 30 ONLY)

70 cents per year
 Single subscription
 5 or more subscriptions each 60 cents per year

The above rates provide for sending the "SIGNS" to separate addresses anywhere in the British Empire.

¹ "More Than a Century of Signs," *The Signs of the Times*, Pacific Press Publishing Association, <www.signstimes.com/?p=about>.



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