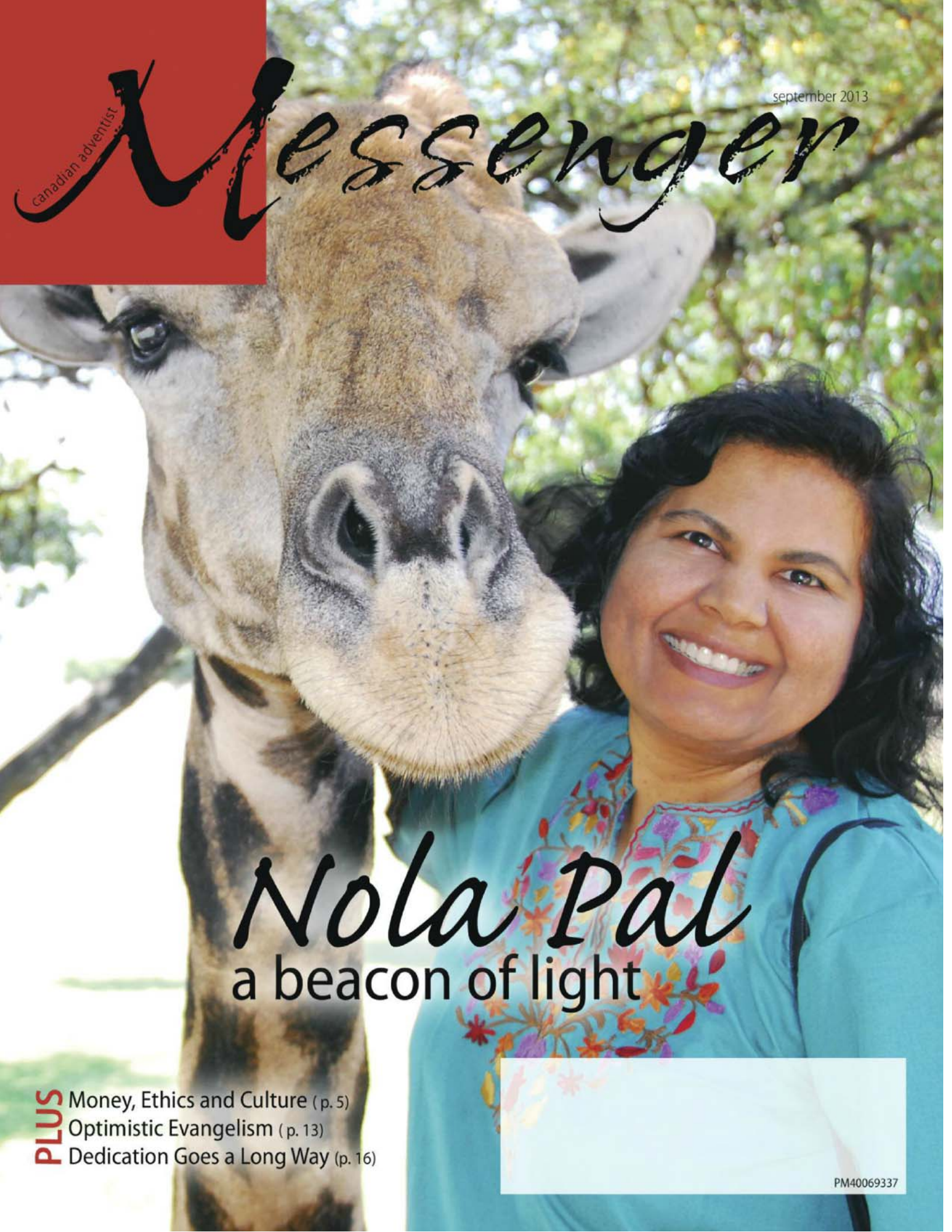


Canadian Adventist

Messenger

september 2013



Nola Pal

a beacon of light

PLUS Money, Ethics and Culture (p. 5)
Optimistic Evangelism (p. 13)
Dedication Goes a Long Way (p. 16)

PM40069337

“And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.—Matt. 14:23, ESV”



Living Like Jesus

Lately I've been thinking about how Jesus lived. So much of what we know of Jesus centres on His life among people. He was busy. Wherever He went, people surrounded Him. There were people who had no hope of being well unless Jesus healed them. Sometimes religious people who didn't like Him crowded around and posed questions that showed their spiritual ignorance. Other times we find thousands of folks captivated by His directness and simplicity, not willing to leave where He was teaching.

Jesus traveled. He moved by boat, on foot or by donkey. Even then He was surrounded by people. And as He traveled, those nearby heard Him speak about the kingdom, salvation and how to live a God-centred life in a world that is not an easy place for faith-based living.

In His public life, around people, Christ shows us how to live. People of faith live as did Jesus, within the crowd. We are not hermits, not isolationists. We may wish at times that we were, but that is not an option. The good news is that we, surrounded by those who are not at peace, can be serene in our connection with God.

And that brings us to the second part of the text: while Jesus was frequently in the middle of people, He never shortchanged the time He spent alone with God. While never neglecting connections with disciples or others He met, Jesus showed by example that solitude and prayer must also be a part of our day if we intend to experience a life of spiritual victory.

I've noticed that faith is a quiet thing. Mostly we don't have to advertise it. It speaks for itself. But a life of faith within the crowd can only come from the quiet time we spend alone with God as Jesus did.

What could the church accomplish if we lived as Jesus lived? ■

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

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WHAT'S INSIDE

September 2013



FEATURES

- 18 COVER STORY** Love, the Unspoken Language—Alexandra Yeboah, *Messenger* staff writer, interviews Nola Pal, finance director for World Vision Canada.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 2 HEART TO HEART** Living Like Jesus
- 4 ADRA CANADA** Manitobans Step Up for Cambodia Youth at Risk of Human Trafficking
- 5 PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE** Money, Ethics, and Culture
- 6 TEEN TALK** Believe
- 7 CREATION CORNER** German Shepherd
- 8 CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**
- 10 A BETTER WORLD** Helping the World's Less Fortunate Close to Home
- 11 PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES/ ON THE ROAD WITH BECKY**
- 12 APP REVIEW/PRAYER LIFE**
- 13 THE CONNECTED CHURCH** Optimistic Evangelism
- 14 PARKVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY**
- 15 MUSIC MINISTRY** Ron Nelson
- 16 KINGSWAY COLLEGE** Minnie Edison
- 17 EDUCATION** Schooling at its Best
- 22 NEWS FEATURE** Report from the 33rd Constituency meeting of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
- 23 NEWS**
- 30 ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 34 FROM THE EDITOR** Wanted: Hope Channel Champions
- 35 A BACKWARD GLANCE**

Manitobans Step Up for Cambodia Youth at Risk of Human Trafficking

New Employment Opportunities Curb Dangerous Migration to Cities



A young woman who is participating in an ADRA Canada project made possible by donations from ADRA supporters in Manitoba is learning new skills to operate a noodle business to provide an income for her family while staying in her own community.

In a community where the futures of hopeful youth were being snuffed out by human trafficking, Manitobans stepped in to provide opportunities for youth to ransom their future. Here's how . . .

Jorani was thrilled to be accepted as a village youth peer instructor for ADRA's Livelihoods for Life project in Cambodia. She has seen the crisis firsthand— young people leaving the village to follow the promise of work in garment factories or other low income jobs in the city. Many are never seen or heard from again. From those who have returned, she has heard the stories of how they had been tricked. There were no legitimate jobs waiting for them, only sexual exploitation and abuse.

The thing is, poverty is the root cause of human trafficking. When there are no income options, people in communities like Jorani's are prone to accept offers of employment for themselves or their

children in distant and unfamiliar settings. Unfortunately, the employment is not always what was expected or promised.

Through this project Jorani is helping her community increase income opportunities for young people that encourage them to remain in the village. Young farmers learn new farming techniques to expand their vegetable farm business. Others are launching new chicken farm businesses. A group of young women are learning to run their own small businesses by selling nutrient-rich noodles. Jorani also conducts youth night shows that help people understand the potential risk for those deciding to leave the village for work in the city.

"I know there will always be the lure of the city," says Jorani, "but thanks to Livelihoods for Life, our young people now have ways to support themselves and their families right here at home. And, if they

still wish to go to the city, they know about the risks and how to protect themselves."

The Livelihoods for Life project is funded through the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC). This funding is available to ADRA Canada only due to donations ADRA receives from our supporters in Manitoba.

This project will benefit at least 2,400 youth, at least half of them girls. ADRA is specifically targeting youth from families most vulnerable to migrating for "jobs," such as women, children and youth in rural and marginalized communities who are living at high poverty levels.

By the end of the project, ADRA hopes to have reached the following objectives:

2,400 students have an increased awareness about safe migration and human trafficking, including the training of 32 youth facilitators.

10 night show events are held to increase the awareness of 3,000 youth and children about safe migration and human trafficking.

400 persons who already migrated for work, and return home during the traditional festival, receive an education about safe migration and human trafficking.

10 groups of young women are operating noodle-making businesses and 38 families have new chicken or vegetable farm businesses to provide an income for their household.

Thank you, Manitoba supporters, for your gift that enabled ADRA Canada to receive the funding from MCIC to implement this project! What a different future these youth in Cambodia can have—all because Manitobans gave. ■

Karen Widdecombe, marketing and donor relations co-ordinator and Michelle Oetman, donor relations director for ADRA Canada

Money, Ethics and Culture

“How do we discern moral obligation when there’s no precise written policy for each individual case?”

Many years ago in Tours, France, I received a call from a non-Adventist couple who had lost their child. They were looking for a pastor to help organize a funeral service and minister to their needs. After the ceremony, they handed me a cheque, which I politely declined. “I cannot accept money for something I have already been paid to do,” I said. “My church ensures that I receive a decent salary. We practice tithe, and it is not appropriate for me to accept money for a service I have been ordained to do.”

Should I have received that cheque, since I travelled 200 kilometres and ministered to these people for many hours? Should I have received it and sent it to the conference? Or applied it to the evangelism fund?

In another instance, a grieved sister sat in my office and, with tears in her eyes, pleaded for the church to help get her non-Adventist husband out of a dire situation. She offered to sell a parcel of land to the church for 40 percent of its real estate value. Now, the property was nice and close to the place our church was renting. We did not have enough money to buy a parcel of land in this affluent city suburb. This was an opportunity—or was it? I declined the offer. We would never stoop to such a base opportunistic deal. What would this dear sister’s non-Adventist heirs deduce about our moral values?

Professional ethics compel every church employee to be very circumspect about receiving gifts or tokens of appreciation. I do acknowledge, however, that there are times when one should accept kind gestures of appreciation. But I have seen some individuals nudge church members through a “love offering” to compensate for the service they “generously” gave; unfortunately, magnanimity sometimes comes with strings attached.

Now, some church boards insist not only that it is okay to write a \$3,000 cheque to a guest speaker after a special evangelistic campaign but that it is culturally a must. I have challenged them: “Have you not already paid their travel expenses, hotel accommodations and other expenses? Why should you consider it a must to express your gratitude with a cheque while the guest speaker already receives a monthly salary to do exactly what they are performing?”

“You don’t understand our culture” is the candid response. “And this practice is so entrenched in some places in the North American Division.”

How do we discern moral obligation when there’s no precise written policy for each individual case? Are we to simply follow what some have been doing for years? Is there not a superior obligation for church employees when they are performing exactly what they are being paid for?

The apostle Paul warned the early church that a bishop should be “no lover of money” and deacons should “not [be] greedy for gain.” He wrote, “For the love of money is the root of all evils” (1 Tim. 3:3, 8, 6:10, RSV).

We live in an age of deregulation: let each corporation decide for itself. Should I, as a conference president, attend to more important issues and leave this matter to the “cultural ethics” of churches?

Now, dear reader, will you please help me with your comments? I want to start a serious conversation about “ethics that bow down to culture.” I hope I am not just making waves here. Please, write to dlatchman@sdaqc.org. ■



Daniel Latchman is the president of the Quebec conference.

T33nTa1k

*I keep praying for my dad to come to church with us, but he never does.
What can I do?*

As a son, a father and a pastor, I find this the most heartbreaking question I've been asked so far. Without knowing your family dynamics or circumstances I will do my best to give you a Bible answer that will bring you both comfort and hope.

One thing I am very thankful for in my growing-up years is that my little church valued children and youth. This was not the case when Jesus was here on earth. It was so bad that when mothers brought their children to Jesus the disciples assumed He had more important things to do and tried to send them away. Jesus was quick to both rebuke them and to have the children come right to Him. On another occasion Jesus was teaching, and just before he began the story of the lost sheep, He pointed to some children close by Him and said, "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the *face of My Father* who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost" (Matt. 18:9-11, NKJV).

There is a new paraphrase Bible called *The Voice*, which says it this way: "Make sure that you do not look down on the little ones, *on those who are further behind you on the path of righteousness*. For I tell you: they are watched over by those *most beloved* messengers who are always in the company of My Father in heaven. The Son of Man has come to save all those who are lost."

Now imagine your dad is the lost sheep Jesus is referring to. Some people may look down on your dad because they think he isn't being the Christian dad he ought to be. You may even feel tempted to be disappointed in him sometimes. Look at what Jesus is essentially saying: "I have assigned someone to watch over him and that someone has direct access to the throne of my Father." Amazing! Then He follows that up by saying His mission is to seek out and rescue or save your dad!

Then He tells a story to illustrate His point. He compares your dad to a lost sheep. The sheep left—either knowingly or unknowingly—the rest of the sheep. Maybe the sheep got distracted and the flock moved on without it noticing. Either way, the sheep soon discovered it was alone and had no idea how to find the shepherd or the other sheep.

Your dad may be distracted with life and not even yet realize he needs the Shepherd. Or he may realize it but not be sure how to find Him. He may be embarrassed to admit he has been wandering away from Jesus for so long. Whatever the case may be, it doesn't matter really. That is not the point of the story. The point of the story is the Shepherd. He knows your dad is not with the flock. Perhaps He first becomes aware there is a problem when one of the other sheep begins bleating. When a mother is separated from her baby in the pasture, you can't believe the crying she does. A farmer can't be unaware there is a problem. The Shepherd begins to count and comes up one sheep short. Not bad, really, to have made it through all the dangers of the open countryside and only lose one sheep. You'd think he'd be satisfied. Not this Shepherd. He will not stop until that one lost sheep is found. How long it took to rescue the sheep we are not told.

Here is my point. Jesus loves your dad with an everlasting love. He loves you with an everlasting love. When you talk to Him about your dad not being with you when you go to church and not praying with you at home and not appearing to love Jesus as you love Him, He hears you. There is an angel who has the singular job of watching out for your dad and reporting directly to God.

What can you do? Believe. Believe that the words Jesus said here are true. Search your Bible and find more promises to add to these. Jesus is already answering your prayer. Be patient. While you wait be careful to be doing whatever God is asking you to do. He may ask you to do something that appears to have nothing to do with saving your dad, yet that something may be the catalyst that makes your dad realize just how much he needs to be with the Shepherd. God is faithful. You can trust Him.

*"In returning and rest shall ye be saved;
in quietness and in confidence shall be
your strength."—Isaiah 30:15*



German Shepherd

One chilly day in December, some church people put up a nativity scene in front of their church. There was a plywood star painted gold. There was a plywood outline of Bethlehem's skyline. It was painted black to make it look like a nighttime scene. There were two plywood figures painted to be Mary and Joseph. And there was a straw-filled wooden manger with a plastic doll.

On Sunday morning, when the deacon arrived at church to open the doors and turn the heat on, he found a stray German Shepherd dog curled up in the wooden manger at the doll's feet.

Think about it.

German Shepherds are known for their intelligence. Early in the morning just before dawn, the lost dog had been looking for a cozy place to rest and had found the perfect place at Jesus' feet. Smart dog!

God calls you to rest in Him. He wants you to rest from your busyness. He wants you to rest and not worry. He wants you to rest and not try to save yourself. He wants you to rest and trust Him with your whole life. He wants you to rest and let Him be in control. Jesus wants you to be quiet and take your rest at His feet.



Do it!

What changes do you need to make in your life to rest in Jesus? Pray for help and courage to make those changes and find the rest Jesus is calling you to.

Learn more about smart dogs at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.

a major changing experience



Jacqui playing her guitar for the children.

SHE STOOD AT THE FRONT OF THE CLASSROOM looking at the faces staring back at her from the rows of desks. This was her classroom now and she had to teach. A few months earlier and a continent away, she was the student behind the desk waiting to learn. But she had made a choice to serve, to teach—to become a student missionary.

It was September, and instead of being with her friends and classmates entering their second year at Canadian University College, Jacqui McCarty was over 13,000 kilometres away on another continent serving as a student missionary at the Maxwell Adventist Academy (MAA) just outside of Nairobi, Kenya's largest city. MAA is an international school operated by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, East-Central Africa Division. The academy was started in 1947 in Nairobi as a school for expatriates living in Kenya and has since moved to Ongata Rongai, 25 kilometres from the centre of the Kenyan capital.

Inspired by her teachers when she was growing up, and wanting to move out of her comfort zone, Jacqui decided that after her first year of university at CUC she would head out as a student missionary. Her initial tasks at MAA included assisting the registrar, grading and tutoring. Shortly after the school year began, she was asked to take over the Grade 9 math class. Surprised but excited, she dove head-first into the new assignment.

"I was actually pretty excited, because I wanted to see what teaching was like. I was nervous, though, because I didn't know what to expect or how my class would respond to me," remembers Jacqui. Patience and assertiveness became skills that came out to the forefront as Jacqui navigated the learning curve of educating 13- and 14-year-olds.

The new challenge of teaching and not just assisting pushed her beyond her comfort zone into a newfound reliance on her

relationship with God. "The biggest thing I learned about myself is that I need Jesus all day, every day. I had to call on Him daily to help me get through stressful situations," recalls Jacqui.

Besides her classroom duties Jacqui also had the opportunity to be involved in the music program at the local church. Playing the piano, guitar, and singing kept her busy and continued to help her feel more at ease up front at church. This also filled the homesick feeling she had for the vespers and music programming at CUC.

Jacqui left CUC for her student missionary year as an English major. Her time in the classroom overseas provided her with the overwhelming feeling that she enjoyed being in the classroom not only as a student but also as a teacher. When she enters into her second year at CUC this fall, it will be as an education major, her first step to becoming a teacher. She explains, "I decided I want to be a teacher after realizing that I enjoyed being in a classroom. Obviously, there are aspects of teaching that are challenging and that I struggle with, but if God is calling me to do this, I know He'll help me along the way."

A year abroad as a student missionary changed Jacqui's life in many ways. A newfound passion for education is now guiding her into her future profession. But most important of all, she discovered a genuine need to rely on her relationship with God. "I think I grew much closer to God because I began to realize how much I really need Him. I began to read the Bible and pray more often because sometimes it was the only thing getting me through the day. God really helped me with patience and understanding through the year, and I really hope that this has followed me home." ■

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



The team of student missionaries serving at MAA.

Sometimes a great desire to help the world's less fortunate is found close to home.

Helping the world's less fortunate **Close to Home**



A BETTER WORLD CANADA, a 100 percent volunteer-run organization set up and governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, has successfully worked in international development for more than 20 years. Volunteers and sponsors have flown to places like Kenya, Afghanistan and Haiti to achieve better living conditions for the poor.

In the fall of 2011, Lacombe resident Ronda Ziakris approached A Better World co-founder Eric Rajah with the idea of having a greater presence in Central Alberta. Rajah was supportive and soon after Neighbours was formed.

"We want to help those who are marginalized beyond their control," says Ziakris.

Ziakris, special events and Neighbours project co-ordinator, assembled a core committee of dedicated volunteers, and together they helped complete Neighbours' first project in 2012. Through word of mouth, they learned of Doreen Latham, who was wheelchair-bound because of multiple sclerosis. Her son Troy was living in the basement, which suffered extensive water damage from severe flooding in 2011.

"The flooring had been pulled out and he was living in a cold

basement with cement flooring and mouldy walls," said Ziakris.

None of the flood damages estimated at \$60,000 were covered by property insurance. A minimal amount received from the provincial government's Disaster Recovery program was forwarded on to the project.

The word went out into the community to seek sponsors and volunteers. The outpouring was so strong it was inspiring. Businesses readily took on a task, including general contractor Darrell Stang from Eagle Ridge Homes. ABW planned to give a \$6,000 grant, but with donations of labour and materials, it wasn't needed.

Volunteers stepped up in big ways too. A tool club of male friends built the \$8,000 wheelchair-accessible deck using supplies donated by Timber Mart. Students from Red Deer's Gateway Christian School knocked down walls, hauled possessions to storage and assembled new furniture. Parkview

Adventist Academy, a Seventh-day Adventist Christian high school in Lacombe, helped landscape so that the yard was properly graded to avoid flooding. All the floor trim, plus the staining, was done through the school's shop class.

In total, volunteer labour provided Troy Latham with a spacious living room, wet bar, kitchenette, and new bedroom and bathroom.

"Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church very much embraced the project, whether it was through labour or donations," said Ziakris.

Following the success of its first project, Neighbours aims to do a large signature project each year in Central Alberta. This year it sought applications, and a family was chosen.

"The work abroad is so badly needed and you can never underestimate that, but having a local presence is also extremely important," said Ziakris. "So many people want to help out, but they don't always know how. This gives people an avenue." ■

Laura Tester is a freelance journalist and volunteers for A Better World

Don's American University Gift



"WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY," read the caller ID as Don, a retired engineer, lifted the receiver.

"Hello, Walla Walla University," Don grinned, thinking he was being funny.

"Hello, Mr. Jones," replied a youthful voice, "we're making our annual Phonathon call."

Don donated every year to his American alma mater, but he was feeling frisky today. "I can't give to you," Don smirked,

"you're in the United States."

"We can give you a tax receipt to use in Canada," the student answered politely.

"I was just teasing," Don admitted. "I'll send the usual or a bit more."

When the call ended, Don went straight to his *George's Tree Canadian Planned Giving* book. That kid could be right, mused Don, leafing through the pages. There it was, "Gifts to Universities Outside Canada," almost at the end of the paperback. Don settled down to read:

"Official Canadian charitable receipts may be issued by universities outside Canada with a student body that ordinarily includes students from Canada, provided these universities have registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and are listed in Schedule VIII of the Income Tax Regulations."¹

Don followed the suggestion in the book to Google "Prescribed Universities Outside Canada" and found ample information. He was happy to find Walla Walla University registered with the CRA. This time he would be more proactive in having his American university donation recognized in Canada. ■

¹Alain Levesque, *George's Tree: The Story of a Well-Planned Gift*, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada edition, 2012, p. 110.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH Becky

If the Lord came for supper to your place tonight, what is the one thing you would ask Him?

AT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS AND RED DEER CHURCHES IN ALBERTA AND THE ZEALAND CHURCH IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Kendra Hill: I would ask Him to give me guidance for the big decisions in my life. I would discuss my life with Him and ask Him what I should do.

Irma Hartley: To make me like Him.

Heather Furrow: For patience.

Zoe Brewer: For more people to come to camp and give their lives to the Lord.



review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

App: The Sabbath App

In Brief: Preparing for the Sabbath but not sure when sunset is? Travelling and want to know when the Sabbath begins where you are going? The Sabbath App shows you the sunset time for your current location, with the option to add additional locations. You can easily swipe between the locations you have set up to find when Sabbath begins. Also included is the ability to calculate sunrise/sunset times for any date at your current location, a collection of Bible verses relating to the Sabbath and the ability to set a reminder for the approaching sunset. Overall a simple app that helps you be ready for the start of the Sabbath.

Wow Factor: Makes knowing what time the Sabbath begins easy.

Meh Factor: When setting other locations, it misses many small towns.

Developed For: thesabbathapp.com

Price: Free

Works On: Android, iOS

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



prayer life

What's your name?

"As Christians we go around wearing Christ's name tag."

In her book *Completely His: Loving Jesus Without Limits*, Shannon Ethridge conveys a compelling illustration:

Imagine being invited to a party where people know your name but have never seen your face. Unfortunately, you can't attend, but a friend approaches you and says, "Why don't you let me go for you? I'll wear your name tag, and everyone will assume that I am really you."

Do you believe this person would represent you well? Would you trust her not to say or do anything that would discredit or embarrass you? Would you feel confident enough in her character to let her wear your name tag? It's a scary thought. But do you realize that this is exactly the kind of trust God placed in us? As Christians we go around wearing Christ's name tag.

When I first read this, I was struck with the incredible responsibility God has placed upon us. I couldn't proudly wear a name tag with "Jesus" on it without feeling very cautious about what I did or said. Yet God in His infinite wisdom saw fit that

this should be, because He knows the character of His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit. "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek. 11:19, 20).

So it's up to me to either seek the new heart that He is willing to give or risk misrepresenting Him. I'm not so proud as to believe that I'll never fail Him again, but I know Jesus' righteousness covers me and I can have trust in His divine power. "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord'" (1 Cor. 1:30, 31).

I don't know about you, but I need to pray. ■

Sandra Nelson, prayer shepherdess and Women's Ministries leader for the Man/Sask Conference

I had a scary dream. It was filled with dragons, beasts, hellfire, and a preacher. Oh, it wasn't a nightmare after all. In fact, it was last week's evangelistic sermon!

Optimistic Evangelism

Is it possible to share Jesus with a smile?

I have often wondered why the good news is often presented with fear and gloom. But is there a way to share the story of God's redemptive work in a hopeful, optimistic manner?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been using the same model of evangelism for over a century. A few years ago, a reporter from the *Rocktown Weekly*, of Harrisburg, Virginia, reported having received "a glossy tri-fold pamphlet entitled 'Discover Prophecy' in a vaguely menacing font with some flames roasting part of the headline" that had "emblazoned across the bottom a nightmarish painting." His report, reprinted in the *Spectrum* blog,¹ which included nearly mocking but honest impressions of the actual series (he attended), may reveal the public's general disconnect to our long-practiced evangelistic approach.

No doubt, scare tactics sometimes work, especially among a certain demographic group. However, there is so much more to the Adventist Church than prophecy and fearful representations of Revelation. Our church is hope-filled, and our message to the public should communicate this optimism! Ellen G. White warned not to prematurely instill fear into people about end-time events: "There is a time of trouble coming to the people of God, but we are not to keep that constantly before the people and rein them up to have a time of trouble beforehand" (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 180).

As you plan for your next evangelistic meeting, please consider the following suggestions. This is especially important if you are thinking about reaching secular individuals, who have been influenced by postmodernism.

Encourage a journey instead of proving you are right.

Traditional evangelism often focuses on how right the Bible is. In fact, preachers will often spend their pulpit time proving how they are right about everything! Secular-minded people are not looking for an absolute truth; rather, they are looking to begin a conversation. They don't intend to come to the end of the path once the evangelistic meetings are over. Instead, they are viewing this experience as a journey. How can you prepare them for an experience with Jesus?

Relationships are more important than charts, facts and diagrams.

Your pastor may seem like a mathematical genius with his or her

ability to calculate "prophecy math." While you may find this impressive, secularized people will be more impressed by learning how a relationship with Jesus can change their lives. God desires to be in a full relationship with humanity, so we would do well to focus on *why*, not only *when*, Jesus fulfills prophecy.

Focus on felt needs instead of judgmental behavior.

Most people are fully aware of their sinful nature. In fact, many people avoid church because they feel it is a judgmental environment. A *USA Today* article by Adelle Banks said, "Researchers found that almost three out of five young Christians (59 percent) leave church life either permanently or for an extended period of time after age 15. One in four 18- to 29-year-olds say 'Christians demonize everything outside of the church.'"²

What are the felt needs people are experiencing in your community? A felt need is an experience or feeling people are going through in their lives. Instead of focusing on the problems in our society, consider changing that judgmental behavior into an optimistic opportunity to connect people with the God who is able to heal and restore. Think about how you can explain God's desire for people to build healthy, loving relationships.

Talk about Jesus.

Our society is Jesus-starved. The average person knows very little about the historical Jesus. The public, including Christians, spend very little time reading the Bible. A 2012 LifeWay study revealed only 18 percent of Christians read their Bible on a daily basis.³

Can you envision sharing the basic stories of Jesus and how they relate to people's lives in a relevant manner? When I pastored at the New Hope Adventist Church, we never held an official evangelistic series in 10 years yet held the record for the fastest-growing church in our union, the greatest number of baptisms in our conference and the greatest increase in tithe (even during the recession). How was that possible? We focused on the optimistic message of Jesus. ■

Dr. 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.

¹Alexander Carpenter, "What the Public Really Says About Adventist Evangelism," (blog), *Spectrum: Community Through Conversation*, February 21, 2009, <http://spectrummagazine.org/node/1442>.

²Adelle M. Banks, "Study: Teens Leave Churches Seen as Judgmental," *USA Today*, October 7, 2011, <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/religion/story/2011-10-07/teens-church-christian/50689508/1>. See also David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church and Rethinking Faith* (Ada, MI: Baker Books, 2011).

³Russ Rankin, "Bible Engagement in Churchgoers' Hearts, Not Always Practiced," *LifeWay Research*, September 6, 2012, www.lifeway.com/Article/research-survey-bible-engagement-churchgoers.

Parkview Profiles



Maison and Sierra Leitch

... we have a chaplain instead of a police officer in our school.

There are stories on the news almost weekly across North America about trouble in schools. The reasons for this are a topic for another discussion, but they seem to be plenty. Of course not all kids or all schools have trouble but after a recent conversation with two of Parkview Adventist Academy's students, I was left pondering why our schools are different. Maison Leitch is finishing his second year at PAA and has just graduated as a senior. Previously he had always been in public schools but his family wanted to move to the Lacombe area because he and his sister, Sierra were getting close to the "college years" and they wanted to live close enough for both of them to live at home during those years.

Maison and Sierra were heavily involved in piano from a tender age and were often seen playing at church as well as singing up front. Going to public school it was difficult to be overly involved in school activities. Many of them either occurred on Friday nights or were not

appropriate for a Christian. In grade nine, Maison wanted to play volleyball but all of the games were on Saturday night and by grade 10, when the games were on Tuesday night, students often didn't have the skills to make the team if they hadn't played the previous year. Sierra missed out on her classmate's birthday parties because they were often on Sabbath. Even class trips often fell on that day.

Since coming to PAA, both Maison and Sierra have joined the men's and women's volleyball team and have had a chance to play against other teams in central Alberta as well as other Adventist Academies down at the annual tournament in Walla Walla. Sierra loves the fact that she can be involved on campus and doesn't continually have to worry if the activities will test her Christian morals. They have also had opportunities to be involved in music on the campus during chapels and worships and the divine service.

Maison recently commented to me that he really liked PAA because we have a chaplain instead of a police officer in our school. When parents wonder how they are going to afford Adventist Education, I ask "how can you afford not to?" No one has ever claimed that Adventist education is perfect but the experiences that are opened up for them and what they are not exposed to are priceless. ■

*Pattie Reasor, Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*



Spotlight

Ron Nelson

"Music and songwriting has kept my experience in the Lord fresh and vibrant."

Ron Nelson has never hidden his love for music under a bushel; instead he uses it as a tool whenever the opportunity presents itself. Even if it means singing at a rehearsal dinner on the eve of a wedding, something I, sitting next to my soon-to-be-husband at the time, vividly remember today. But there's more to his ministry than that.

Pastor Nelson, president of the Man-Sask Conference, was introduced to music at a young age. "Music was very present in our home. Some of my happiest memories are when Dad would play his button accordion and we would gather around, sing and bang pots just for fun. He had an old guitar, and I and my older brothers developed a deep love of music. My oldest brother, Chuck, played in a blues party band for years, and my brother Rick toured world wide as a professional musician. I always loved to play but didn't write music until I was baptized," shares Nelson.

The music continued for Ron throughout his ministry while he served as a pastor across the Canadian landscape with his wife, Sandra, and their children, often writing songs to accompany sermons. "I have always prayed for songs that would deepen conviction. I want music and words that God could use to encourage a deeper spiritual experience with Jesus."

When Ron Nelson got the call to fill the position of president, it was a prayerful decision but one both he and Sandra were happy to make, and the music would not be left behind. Even with the added responsibility and busy travel schedule, the inspiration continues, perhaps more now than ever before.

"My 'musician's hat' has been a source of comfort and balance that has enabled me to cope with the pressure of ministry and administration," he says. "For years now I have made it my practise to sing and play every lunch hour or after each meal. There is a story behind each song that would testify to the power and majesty of the gospel. Either a conviction that was revealed

through prayerful study or a ministry experience with someone. Music and songwriting has kept my experience in the Lord fresh and vibrant."

With a new album due out November 15 in the relaxing category of easy listening Christian folk (available at www.ronnelsononline.com), Pastor Ron is feeling joyful about the future of music within the church. "Music and worship in the scriptures was joyous and culturally appropriate. It was front and centre, and I believe that we need more opportunities for these gifts of the Spirit in our church. A song well played with heartfelt lyrics can be used of God to create an atmosphere for the Spirit of God to move among people with deep conviction. I have experienced this in concert. Secular people will listen to the message of a song but may not take the time to receive the word simply spoken. In this way music can be a powerful avenue to present the gospel."

And with this the call goes out to encourage our brothers and sisters, young and old, to use music as a tool of ministry. "I would encourage budding songwriters within the church to be faithful to God's call upon their musical ministries," says Nelson. "Let the music be a window to their own walk with God. Be transparent and commit the gift as an offering to Christ as a gift of grace to His people. Nothing in my life has been so rewarding. To love God and to be loved by God through this gift is a privilege and a blessing. Please don't hide it. Share it!"

Check your local listings, or the web, to catch Ron Nelson's guest appearance on the Hope Channel's *My Story, My Song*. ■

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.naomistriermusic.com and www.naomiradio.com

dedication goes a long way



Minnie Edison, Head Girl's Dean

"Kingsway College is my home, it is a wonderful place to be, the faculty and staff are wonderful people to work with, and the students are just awesome!"

"I TELL YA, BOY!" is one of the many sayings Minnie is known for at Kingsway College. Minnie Edison grew up in Newfoundland and has never lost her passion of working and spending time with children and youth.

Minnie's connection with Kingsway goes back to when her son, Jimmy, was applying to attend the school. She used to be a cashier, and she admits cleaning is one of her hobbies. She started as the work supervisor at Kingsway and through the years has held the titles of assistant girls' dean, head girls' dean, class sponsor, band sponsor, and many more.

Since 1985 to present day, Minnie has never lost her dedication to Kingsway College and the families we connect with. Currently, she is the head girls' dean, which, according to her, is the most meaningful position she has had while ministering at the school. "Parents trust you to be the dean, so I am like a mother away from home." If you are an alumnus or current student at Kingsway College, I am positive you too can relate.

Minnie believes that she was placed at Kingsway to serve a purpose. "He placed me here, and when He is ready to take me out, I will do just that." In the beginning she told herself that she would never be a dean; however, God moves in mysterious ways. She claims, "Kingsway College is my home, it is a wonderful place to be, the faculty and staff are wonderful people to work with, and the students are just

awesome! Being a dean is a blessing because parents trust you as being responsible for their child, and that means a lot to me!"

Minnie believes that Christian education is knowing that God loves us and holding to the importance of building a relationship with our heavenly Father. "It is essential to have a Christian education because we need to constantly be reminded that God loves each of us; we are all His children."

Before Minnie was baptized, she says she was unaware of who "God was." She is very thankful and praises God for allowing her to have met Him, leading her to serve at Kingsway College. She says, "It is important to have a Christian education, because I believe it helps keep us grounded in God. Most importantly, we learn how to forgive. ... Kingsway is a family, and a family that grows together, prays together and loves together. We will have our ups and downs, but in the end, we are a family—a family of God. I believe that every student is special in their own way."

Minnie loves her job. She says that she wakes up and looks forward to each day. She will never forget the first days as a dean. She recalls the first time a student offered to lead worship. Christine Piper and Susan Evans, two girls who took initiative of the situation to lead worship, left Minnie speechless. "These ladies have inspired me by teaching me the meaning of what it means to be a Christian—to be willing to serve when God calls you." These two girls are two of the many people who have been blessed by God's ministry through Minnie and the responsibilities He has entrusted her with. Class of 2009, my graduating class, had the privilege of having Minnie as one of our dedicated class sponsors as well. Thank you for everything, Minnie!

She holds John 3:16 dear to her heart, because God loves us all. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." ■

Ashley Arriola is the communication director at Kingsway College.

Schooling at its Best

My journey in Adventist education started in Grade 1, when my parents decided to homeschool me. After four years of schooling, my parents found out about PACeS (Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool), an online homeschooling institution. I was in Grade 5 when I joined.

So how does online homeschooling work? Well, you meet with a teacher and other students for online classes at a certain time each day. You use microphones to communicate with one another and occasionally webcams to see each other.

The year went really well, and I had a positive experience, but I wanted more social interaction, so I went to a nearby Adventist school for Grade 6.

However, I preferred homeschooling, so in Grade 7 I returned to PACeS. Grades 7 and 8 turned out to be some of the best schooling years I've had. I especially liked Schoology®, the website that my teacher used for organizing assignments. It doubled as an educational social networking site where students could post things in a stream—very similar to Facebook.

Last year in Grade 7, our family went to Panama for four months to visit my

grandparents. While we were there, I continued doing online classes and schooling. My teacher actually modified my workload so that I could have more time to learn Spanish and do other things while we were there but still learn all I needed to meet my requirements! This goes to show how versatile online homeschooling can be.

While in Panama, we visited various tourist attractions there and went to the beach nearly every weekend. In Canada we went on other field trips with our school board. Recently we went together with other families and teachers from PACeS to a place in Calgary called Heritage Park. At this site there is a museum with old artifacts and vehicles, a train, a grain elevator, a paddle wheeler boat, and many rides you can go on. We had a great time there.

Something I've really appreciated about my teacher, Danielle Rochford, in Grades 7 and 8 was that she begun each online class with a worship thought. That would set my mind on what was important so I could get through the rest of the day. In fact, our teacher gave each of us the opportunity to share a worship

thought with the rest of the class on a scheduled base. I seized opportunities like that, since I enjoyed it.

This year in Grade 8, we've had a week of prayer twice with two different speakers as well. Both Grades 7 and 8 would get together in the same online class to listen as the speaker delivered his message. He had his webcam on the whole time and we could see him very well. Additionally, we could send chat messages to him and he could respond. I know I was deeply enriched by these weeks of prayer.

I've been so blessed to be a student of PACeS this year. I'm looking forward to what next year holds.

I would highly recommend this institution for anyone who is looking for a good Adventist homeschooling institution. With the benefits of online interaction, the ability to access your classes nearly anywhere in the world, and the fact that you're following the curriculum of Alberta, PACeS is the way to go!

Andrew Hansen is in Grade 8 at PACeS.



Education Train Excursion — Andrew Hansen is in the center, 9th from the right.

Love

The Unspoken Language

Nola Pal, finance director for World Vision Canada, travels all over the world, connects with the people, and shows them what it means to love.



Nola Pal and Pia Reiersen (then director of ADRA Finland now working for ADRA Australia) visiting the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu in Cusco, Peru.

This isn't about me," Nola Pal says as she perches on her living room sofa in her Oshawa home. Her home is decorated with a wide collection of artifacts, portraits, and other souvenirs she has collected from her travels over the years.

Although she is working from home this particular Friday, her schedule is packed with the numerous tasks she must complete in her role as the finance director of the International and Canadian Programs (I & CP) at World Vision Canada. Yet, her eyes are bright, and an easy smile stretches wide across her face. She appears to be at peace.

"My wish is to lift others up through this," she says in reference to the story she will share, one that testifies of her service for others.

These words speak volumes about Nola's character. Her humble spirit and unassuming nature reveals itself in everything she does. In all the years Nola has served, it is quite evident that she has blessed many through her work.

Before serving as the finance director of World Vision Canada, Nola served with Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada (ADRA) as finance director for ten and a half years.

But there is no doubt that Nola has had a long journey.

As a child, Nola lived on the island of Viti Levu, the largest of the 340 islands in Fiji. Nola was the second to last child of seven children. Looking back, Nola says she was known to be quite a quiet child, an avid reader but yet quite diligent in her studies. And she was very much fond of the outdoors. "I loved climbing trees," she says. "Our house was on top of a hill, and there was nature all around."

In her childhood Nola possessed very little. There was no electricity or cable in her home, and she and her family would often have to resort to using firewood to cook food. Kerosene lamps were used for light. This made doing homework a challenge. Yet in the hour that it took for Nola to walk to school on the gravel roads of Fiji, Nola would often use this as time to study for an upcoming quiz or test. She would memorize her answers from the cue cards she used as a reference. "God was so good," she says. "By the time I got to school, I would memorize [the answers on those cards], because it was a long way to walk. And I would do so well."

Because of the meager conditions of Nola's upbringing, there were no toys for her and her siblings to play with. When Nola was four years old, her mother decided to make Nola a doll out of rags. It became such a special moment in Nola's mind, far more than the childlike excitement she would have expressed right then. Now, in her adult years, this still resonates with her. Nola says that her love and dedication for the underprivileged first and foremost, stems from her strong faith and devotion to God, but also from watching her mother.

"My passion for helping the poor was generated before I travelled to a first world. It stemmed from watching my mother's involvement with Dorcas or community services work and ever helping the poor," Nola says. "We always shared whatever we had with others, and I grew up seeing that and we were always happy."

As she makes her trips to countries all over the world—most of which are poverty-stricken—she often visits with a rag doll in tow, one of the many gift items she brings for the ADRA staff and people in these villages. "Many times I would bring [the ADRA staff] things such as oatmeal, cereal, cake mix—things they don't get there. The items for the villages [usually consist of] candies, soaps, cream, clothing, toys, shoes and books. My suitcase is usually packed, half of it with things to give away. It always comes out of my pocket. It's my way of connecting with them. And that's just a personal touch," Nola says.

While living in Fiji, Nola attended Fulton College, a tertiary institution for many of the South Pacific Islands of the time. There she completed both her elementary and high school education.

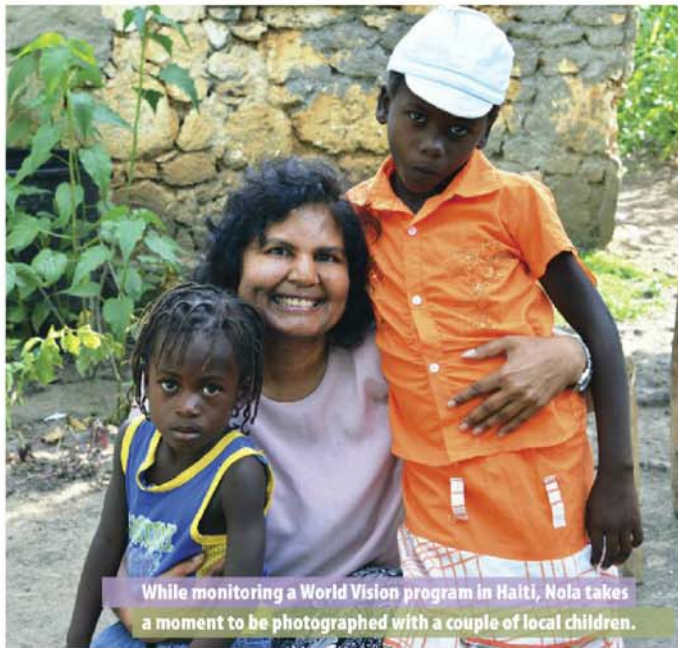
At the age of 19, Nola would come to Canada to pursue her studies. She completed her bachelor's degree at Canadian University College in education and business administration. From there Nola would move on to complete her master's in business administration at Andrews University.

From early on Nola had always had an interest in business. However, something that may have been lesser known, but was quickly discovered, was that Nola also possessed an interest to teach.

"People told me, 'You make a good teacher.' Maybe it was because I was comfortable speaking in front of others. When my teacher [from Fulton College] had to go for a staff meeting, he would put me in charge to manage the class," she says. "I loved doing that."

This natural love of teaching would eventually develop into something much more. While working at ADRA, she became involved in the finance curriculum design committee for the network. Later she would teach a master's program in international development at Andrews University as an adjunct professor, as well as compile a curriculum for organizational behaviour. Nola ended up being one of the field trainers who would go to different parts of the world to run trainings.

In November 1996 Nola started working with ADRA as the finance director. A large number of her duties included overseeing all of ADRA's finances. This



While monitoring a World Vision program in Haiti, Nola takes a moment to be photographed with a couple of local children.



Nola Pal stands with Masai chiefs in Kenya where she is monitoring an ADRA funded school project.



This little child gets some quality time with Nola who is in Tanzania monitoring a World Vision/World Food Program Food for Assets program (part of the Horn of Africa drought relief program).

gave her a large role in managing the finances and making sure they were in accordance with general, accepted accounting principles, as well as Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) guidelines. She would also monitor Canadian International Development (CIDA) funded projects and work to expand the budget by seeking out field grants for ADRA projects. As well, she was responsible for ensuring programs that ADRA had implemented in other countries were running smoothly. "What do I look at from a programmatic level? If in the progress report, it says that you have built five wells out of ten, I want to make sure that the five wells are in existence and fully operating and that people are benefitting."

The workload proved to be quite a challenging task, but Nola was always willing to go above and beyond that which was required of her for a cause she highly believed in.

"She has a passion for the poor and needy," Mareli Nunes, program accountant at ADRA Canada, says of Nola, who was her supervisor for two years. "Nola firmly believed in the work of ADRA."

In the year of 1997, Nola would visit Rwanda up until

2000, in the hopes of completing an integrated project, which included shelters for returning refugees, a medical clinic for the community, a water project, as well as the construction of three schools. During her visits Nola noticed that there existed strong cords of distrust in the community, even among blood brothers. It became a difficult task to reach out to a community that had built up walls. Yet, Nola worked hard to tear them down.

"It took a lot of the little things to connect with them. If I saw them laughing and talking, I would join in, just to break the barrier. I used to be the quiet person, but I needed to cross some barriers. It wasn't difficult, because of my love and passion for what I was doing. I wanted them to feel loved, to feel and see God's love. I wanted God to use me to touch their lives," Nola says. After the end of her visits, which would occur every year and at times twice a year, she had managed to get the villagers, even the staff there, to open up to her. At the end of each of her visits, they didn't hesitate to ask if she could come ready next time with more chocolates to give away.

It was during this time period that ADRA Canada received their first bilateral, this time in the amount of \$1 million. Nola says that the relationship with the government was favourable; it was at a time when funds were streaming in, and they received numerous requests to apply for grants.

In the time that Nola spent with ADRA, she did work in numerous countries in Asia, Africa, South America and many other parts of the world.

In 2008 Nola took a position at World Vision as the manager of budgeting and financial analysis. In less than a year, Nola was promoted from the manager position to the acting director position. Another year later, Nola was soon promoted to the position of the finance director of International and Canadian programs.

Working with a team of 16, Nola has full responsibility for the financial planning and management of World Vision's programs worldwide, and she also works to

ensure adequate funding support is provided so that high-quality programs can be designed and implemented at World Vision. Already Nola has conducted anti-corruption trainings in the West African country of Senegal; in Johannesburg, South Africa; and in Austria; as well as a leadership training for finance leaders in Bangkok and a national office assessment in Malawi.

Although Nola has been with World Vision for only five years and has worked just over three years in her role as finance director, she has already made quite the impression.

Patrick Asante, finance manager at World Vision Canada, thinks fondly of Nola. "It is difficult to think of her as just the director, because she is like a mother and a sister. She comes all the time and laughs with us and talks with us. Her presence is welcoming."

Often Nola will leave her work area and take her daily rounds around the office to visit her staff members. These visits become quite a special treat. "She comes and puts cookies on your desk," Asante says.

Charlie Fluit, CFO/vice-president of Shared Services and Finance, says that he recognizes Nola's hard work and dedication, but most importantly, he sees her kind heart and abiding spirituality. "Nola is a gentle, compassionate, humorous and caring individual. Her passion for overseas ministry is only surpassed by her love of people," he says. "She has strong personal integrity and a deep faith, which makes her a strong spiritual leader in our regular devotional life and meetings."

Nola Pal's past experience has also included working as the associate treasurer of the Ontario conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

One clear thing is that no matter what role Nola serves in, she takes the work that she does seriously. "For me, whether I handle finance for the church, ADRA or World Vision, all money is sacred. I make no distinction



Nola Pal and Kiersten Palipane visiting with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India during an ADRA project monitoring trip.

whatsoever. These are donated trust funds that are sacred for the purpose they are for," she says. Oliver Lofton-Brook, former executive director of ADRA, says this of Nola: "She is hard-working and not afraid to go the extra mile, and she is trustworthy in everything."

Ultimately, of all the places Nola has visited and all of the people she has interacted with, she has found that one thing speaks louder than everything else.

"I managed to always use my smile and my eyes to connect with the people in the villages. I want them to open their hearts to me, and I want to hear their hearts," she says. "We might not speak the same language, but there's always an unspoken language." ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer.



Wearing traditional Somali dress, Nola visits a World Vision clinic in Somaliland, Somalia.



At World Vision's World Food Program in Makueni, Kenya, Nola assists with the distribution of grain and hats with the group gathered there.

Ontario Re-Elects President and Treasurer and Elects New Secretary

Delegates Approve REACH Initiative



Left to right: Gary Hodder, Secretary; Mansfield Edwards, President; Ulysses Guarin, Treasurer.

Delegates overwhelmingly re-elected Mansfield Edwards and Ulysses Guarin as conference president and treasurer, respectively during the 33rd constituency meeting of Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, August 23-25, 2013 at College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa.

"I am deeply humbled by your confidence in me to serve God in this capacity for another four years," Edwards told delegates. "It is a privilege to serve with you, and I look forward to working with you so that, together, we may participate in and witness the fulfillment of the Gospel Commission in Ontario."

He expressed his gratitude to his fellow administrators, directors and office staff for their support but reserved a special "thank you" for his wife, Sharon, whom he introduced to the delegates as his "prayer partner".

The nomination of Gary Hodder, lead pastor of College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, and formerly president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Mission, as executive secretary surprised many delegates. The incumbent, Daniel

Linrud, had served one term. However, the delegates again overwhelmingly ratified the nomination. Gary Hodder was voted executive secretary.

The significant contribution of Daniel Linrud would not be overlooked. To the approval of delegates, Edwards warmly thanked Dr. Linrud for his service and contribution. Delegates demonstrated their appreciation for Linrud's service by standing and enthusiastically applauding him.

Ulysses Guarin was re-elected as treasurer for a fourth successive term. He too expressed his humility at being chosen as well as his appreciation for the confidence of the delegation.

The nomination of directors and the board of directors were presented in four partial reports. On Saturday night, as business resumed after sunset, the first report was received and what was termed Service Departments, which consisted of incumbents for the Communication /PARL, Information and Technology, Planned Giving and Trust Services departments, along with associate treasurer, were voted. These are Halsey Peat, Raveen Pal, Alvin Ram and Virene

Joseph, respectively.

Referrals were twice made regarding the nomination of directors and once about the composition of the board of directors. The change to the board of directors was quickly resolved, but the nomination of directors proved problematic. Of the six names presented in the final report, only three survived the referral to the committee. Of these, two were incumbents—David Schwinghammer (Stewardship and Worship) and Eustace Williams (Personal, Prison and Prayer Ministries/ BibleInfo.com). Jakov Bibulovic, pastor of Barrie Adventist Church, was elected as director for Church Growth and Evangelism. The positions of Education Superintendent, Ministerial director and Youth director have been left to the newly-elected board of directors to appoint.

Earlier in the day, incumbents Theodore Sargeant (ADRA representative/ Community Services/ Adult Sabbath School), Edwin Martin (Adventurers/ Pathfinders/Master Guides), Glenn DeSilva (Camp Frenda/Men's Ministry) and Joan Rogers (Family/Women and Singles Ministries) were elected.

The entire Sabbath services, starting with Sabbath School and leading up to supper, were devoted to sharing the message of REACH*. The afternoon was dedicated to a two-hour session that included break-out groups that assumed the role of a REACH Planning Committee in a local church. The objective was to help delegates understand fundamental principles of REACH and to experience the dynamics of planning for it.

The vote for the REACH initiative clearly sends a signal to the rest of Canada that every church in Ontario is committed to operate by the principles of REACH. ■

Halsey Peat is the Communication Director of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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Alberta

Teaching Girls and Boys How To Man Up



NBA Toronto Raptor Jerome Williams poses with some of the kids attending the "Man Up" basketball camp.

There are so many spiritual lessons and life lessons that can be learned from the game of Basketball. Especially learning what it means to man up on the court and in the game of life.

Today, more than ever in our society, we need more men to take responsibility and fulfill their roles as positive leaders in their homes, schools, work, and community.

Man up is a term used on the court when a player sizes up his opponent, assumes his position of responsibility and plays exceptionally intense defense. The term also means fulfilling one's responsibility despite insecurities and taking control—taking control of a situation, being strong, and rising to the moment.

By calling our newly organized basketball camp "Man Up," we are encouraging our youth to man up in the game of life and become the respectable successful men and women they were designed and destined to be.

On May 31-June 2, 2013, our first annual Man Up Basketball Camp took place. A four-day camp weaved together with a round-robin tournament took place on the campus of Canadian University College (CUC) that included players from all around Canada.

On Thursday, the opening ceremony consisted of the official cutting of the mess, to symbolize the opening of the camp, and cutting of a huge basketball cake. Speakers bringing greetings included Ken Wiebe, president of the Alberta Conference; Reuben Konnick, deputy mayor of Lacombe; Olympian Gerald Zanowski; Joy Fehr, vice-president of CUC; Kevin Kiers, youth director of the Alberta Conference; Keith Richter, treasurer of the Alberta Conference; Ron Schafer, athletics director of CUC; and local Lacombe firefighter Tyler Pelley.

Our guest speaker Gerald Kazansowski, a former Canadian basketball Olympian, empowered the participants through motivational talks each morning before they stepped on to the court to play their games. During his coaching, Gerald would always make it a time of fun, fellowship, and personal and spiritual development.

On Friday, through the U.S. Embassy's Sports Envoy Program, former NBA Toronto Raptor Jerome "Junk Yard Dog" Williams came and spoke to the campers about how to be better men and women in life. He has been quoted often for stating how important it is to be connected to the "Source." He then ran some drills and skills with the kids. He ended it off with an impressive tomahawk dunk and then had lunch with kids, signing autographs and taking pictures.

That Sabbath was a high day. Our worship gathering took place at Social Eyez Student Lounge. The "crew" consisted of a 12-member praise team and an eight-member basketball team, all under the leadership of David Guzman, pastor from Winnipeg. David Guzman stirred our hearts with a message about being real and making Jesus real in your life. Our theme for the day was community outreach, so after lunch a group of youth, under the leadership of Chaplain Janice De-Whyte, led out in prayer and praise in front a local Co-op Foods grocery store. Firefighter Tyler brought his fire truck out to the praise session and blew the sirens to let the community know that a modern-day Levitical praise team was there!

Sunday concluded the tournament, with the "Blue Up Team" winning the championship game under the coaching of Tyler and Marvin "Pops" Assende. In reality, everybody was a winner that weekend. All 60 players—girls and boys—learned the valuable lesson of how to man up on the court and in life. ■

—Lyle Notice, associate youth director, Alberta conference

British Columbia

Three Weeks to a Blessing

What can the Holy Spirit do in three weeks? That's what members of the Rest Haven and Port Hardy Adventist churches discovered over Christmas Break 2012. After reading an article in the *Messenger* about the food bank in Port Hardy run by Randy Elliott's wife, Cheryl, Rest Haven member Lauren Wiegel felt impressed that she should do something to help fill the empty shelves and support the native ministry there. When she shared her impression with her Sabbath School class, she came away with two donations on the spot and an offer to match funds up to \$1500.

The next day she was contacted by the O'Briens, a family folk music group whom she had previously booked to perform a concert for another organization. The O'Briens weren't available on the date she wanted but were available December 29, perfect timing for a benefit concert for Port Hardy. In 10 days another musical group volunteered to perform as a warm-up/opening act, posters went up and donations of gently used clothing started rolling in. The concert, held at Lakeview Christian School, was a fabulous success. Pastor Randy and Cheryl brought their five-ton cube truck down from Port Hardy and half-filled it with donations.

The next weekend, January 5, fifteen members of the Rest Haven and Victoria churches traveled up to Port Hardy to worship with the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw church and tour the food bank. The Port Hardy food bank and thrift store serves the entire Northern Island, and Cheryl spends long hours packing food hampers for surrounding communities.

As part of the worship service, the South Island visitors presented a cheque to Pastor Randy and Cheryl for the amount



Lauren Wiegel presents a cheque to Cheryl Elliot.

of \$8,300—money that had been raised in three weeks! The visit by the South Island members was a huge emotional boost to both groups, who enjoyed a fabulous potluck and fellowship. As the beautiful colours of the sunset faded away and bald eagles circled overhead, the Sabbath was closed with vespers around the fire on a Port Hardy beach.

Lauren says, "We came away experiencing the words 'to give is better than to receive.' We have been so blessed by getting to know our Christian brothers and sisters and to realize that the Holy Spirit is working among us to be His hands and feet! We pray that this is just the beginning in joining hands to lift up these communities for Christ." ■

—Kris Stevenson and Lauren Wiegel



Phil Brewer and Jed Franklin with kitchen crew serving "Spa Cuisine" meal to guests at Northern Lights College.

Official Opening—Tumbler Ridge Healthy Living Center

The first weekend in May, Phil Brewer, lifestyle education director of the Silver Hills Guest House, came to Tumbler Ridge to help launch our Healthy Living Centre. Phil's Sabbath morning sermon, "All Stressed Out," helped the congregation identify one factor to watch for in our otherwise healthy lifestyle.

On Sunday afternoon at Northern Lights College, there were 15 non-Adventists, as well as about 30 Seventh-day Adventists from the Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, and Dawson Creek churches in attendance for Phil's "Spa Cuisine" cooking demonstration and health lecture. Although Phil's wife, Eileen, could not come with him, she did send a good quantity of the food for the delicious meal with Phil on his flight.

Jed Franklin, personal ministries director for the Tumbler Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, and his wife, Amber, organized the event. ■

—Cavin Chwyl, pastor, Tumbler Ridge Church

Ontario

Haileybury Church present 5th annual Ladies' Day Out

When a group of ladies get together in a spirit of joy, love and positivity, good things happen.

The 60 ladies who attended the fifth annual Ladies' Day Out event at the Golden Age Club in Cobalt on Sunday, Sept. 9, no doubt came away with an improved positive attitude.

Ladies' Day Out organizer, Ruthann MacDonald, has been the driving force behind the Ladies' Day Out events, which bring women of all ages together for a one-day get-together that feature guest speakers, door prizes, a delicious lunch and plenty of smiles, laughter and hugs.

Tina Sartorett, Cobalt mayor, and Sue Nielsen, deputy mayor, attended and supported the event.

Nielsen warmed the audience up with her break-the-ice positive message about loving yourself, your community and living each and every day with love and light in your life.

Diane Perkins and Bev Gascayne, guest speakers, spoke to the audience about love, faith, inspiration and the importance of positive living and a good attitude.

What's a get-together without music? Mayor Tina sang a beautiful rendition of the "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Marg Harrison, a Cobalt resident, asked the women present to stretch their bodies and remember the importance of flexibility in our daily lives.

Anne McCrank (Interlink Choir leader from St. Pat's School) and Bonnie Roesel sang the wonderful "God Be With You" song.

The ladies were served a delicious vegetarian luncheon during the program. Ruthann MacDonald thanked the sponsors, the



Bev Gascayne and Diane Perkins—guest speakers for Ladies Day Out.

kitchen staff of Lorene Heisler, Pansie Brown of St. Thomas and Bonnie Roesel from Tennessee and everyone in attendance for coming out and promised next year's Ladies' Day Out would be better than ever.

A measure of the success of any event might be judged by the smiles, laughter and goodwill generated.

In the case of the 2012 Ladies' Day Out, there was no shortage of all of the above. ■

Ruthann MacDonald, Women's Ministry Coordinator, Haileybury Seventh-day Adventist church

Mother's Day Outreach Program

On May 12, 2012, the Haileybury church, which has eight active members and seats approximately 40 people hosted a Mother's Day program for the community. The church was decorated for the occasion with candelabra, candles and floral arrangements. Among the 17 visitors from the surrounding area were Cobalt Mayor Tina Sartoretto and Deputy Mayor Sue Nielsen, both of whom were very supportive and played active parts in the program along with several other guests present. Each mother and several individuals who helped out were presented with flowers.

Two weeks after the program a thank-you note was received from one of the visitors who had lost her mother a year ago on Mother's Day. These were her words: "It is the little things that mean so much. Thank you for the wonderful Mother's Day memories. That was the best Mother's Day ever for me. Thank you."

A women's devotional book was presented to each of the guests. Following the program everyone enjoyed refreshments and socializing. It was a blessed and enjoyable Sabbath for both members and visitors. ■

Ruthann MacDonald, women's ministry coordinator, Haileybury Seventh-day Adventist Church



Debra Mallais receiving a bouquet at the end of the program.

Quebec

French Programming on Hope Channel

As of October 2012 the Evangelization-Multimedia Ministry is Hope Channel's French partner and produces numerous programs that then air on the Hope Channel. Thanks to the greatly appreciated collaboration of Mieux-Vivre Ministry (www.mieuxvivre.ca) and of the Franco-Belgium Union Media Department (www.hopetv.fr), we are able to air 90 minutes per day of French programs, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 pm. We hope that someday we will have enough programs to launch an entirely French channel.

If you are curious and want to discover these programs produced in your studios here in Montreal and those produced in the Mieux-Vivre studios, I strongly encourage you to view these French programs on the Hope Channel. You can do so either via your satellite system that allows you to receive the Hope Channel (if you would like to purchase one, please call 514/729-3515), or you may watch on the Internet at www.hope.org, under Hope Church Channel, every day from 6 p.m. to 7:30 pm. ■

*Lydia Matveev, administrative assistant,
Multimédia Ministry*

Here are a few of the productions from our studio in Montreal:

Vécu: A program of real-life stories with host Rémy Ballais, often featuring surprising ways of how God leads and changes lives.

Au fil de l'Évangile: A program with host Andra Profir. Together with her guest of the day she digs deeper into a Gospel passage.

Connaissez-Vous Vraiment Jésus?: A series of programs hosted by Karl Johnson.

Jésus et les Femmes: Presented by Karl Johnson, a series that highlights the women of the New Testament.

Temps Présent: This program, with Karl Johnson, is geared primarily to a postmodern audience.

Centre Il Est Écrit: Worship services held at Centre IEE de Montréal.

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Saskatoon Central Becomes Pinehouse Drive



Photo by Dustin Cometa

The Saskatoon Central church building was too small for its growing membership in Saskatoon, Sask. Because of inadequate parking, members and visitors had to park up to six blocks away to attend services, and if they arrived after 10:45 a.m. on Sabbath morning, there was no guarantee they would find a seat

in the packed sanctuary.

In February 2012 a small United Church congregation in the area of Lawson Heights put their church building up for sale. The beautiful 14,000-sq. ft. facility had a very large foyer, rooms for classes and offices, a large fellowship hall, a large kitchen, a walkout lower level

entrance and a parking lot for 75 cars, plus a large empty lot next door for overflow parking.

The Saskatoon Central church board acted quickly and, after holding a business meeting, decided to make an offer on the church. The board submitted an offer of \$1,400,777, using God's perfect number 7 as evidence of their faith in Him to work on the church's behalf if it was His will for them to acquire the building.

God responded to their simple act of faith by arranging that the Seventh-day Adventists were the seventh of the seven offers submitted. The United Church accepted Saskatoon Central's offer because it was \$777 over their asking price and because it was not a commercial group planning to level the building.

The church received possession of the building in August 2012, and renovations began soon afterwards to build more children's division classrooms in the lower level, install a baptistery in the sanctuary and paint the building. On

Jan. 27, the church also voted to rename the church Pinehouse Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church to indicate its new location, 327 Pinehouse Drive. The church finally moved into its beautiful new building and held its first Sabbath on March 23, 2013.

The Pinehouse Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated their official grand opening on June 1, 2013. Dan

Jackson, president of the North American Division, gave a sermon entitled "Stones." He spoke on 1 Peter 2:9, explaining what a church should be and that its members should be mediators of grace. The service ended with a dedicatory prayer by Dan Jackson.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference is thankful that Dan Jackson was willing to come all the way from

Maryland to be part of the Pinehouse Drive church opening. They would also like to thank pastors Rick Harwood and Ralph Ellison for their work and leadership in the process of obtaining a new church building. ■

*Manitoba-Saskatchewan
Conference*

Maritime

"I found this experience eye-opening! I had people sit there and talk to me just about their lives, and it was neat having random people open up to you! I feel like this health expo is a great idea and that it brings the group closer together, which make our outreach stronger." —Kristen Yvonne Batista Clark

Sandy Lake Academy hosted first NewStart Health Expo in Atlantic Canada!



Shawna Lammers and Kaylie Copeland at the welcome station helping participants to get started.



Agnieszka Monk giving chair massage at rest station.

A number of people came to the Hampton Seniors Resource Center on May 5 to take part in a "NewStart" health expo presented by volunteers from Sandy Lake Academy in cooperation with the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Each letter in the expo's theme "NewStart" represents an aspect of striving for better health, namely Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God.

The half-day event was an opportunity for the public to come and check their health status through various tests, such as body mass index, blood pressure, lung strength and even their glucose level. Through education and testing, the plan is to help people regain health, boost energy, enhance immune system, prevent premature aging, and stop the progress of degenerative disease.

Among the stations at the expo, the busiest one was Trust. People sat down

for a short conversation with a counselor. The counsellor had an opportunity to direct people to the spiritual part of our well-being and offer hope in a seemingly hopeless world. Most of the participants were open to conversations about God and most of them joined in prayer with the person leading out.

It was an amazing experience and opportunity to help our local community. God has richly blessed our time spent in Hampton. ■

—Agnieszka Monk

Newfoundland

Serving Those Who Serve the Community



On a cool, overcast, morning in a usually quiet, peaceful neighbourhood, the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church was surrounded by police cars and correctional vehicles. Television camera crews and a telegram photographer were ready and waiting. Coming around the corner of Aldershot Street, marching two by two toward the church was a squadron of police officers. Uniformed and plain-clothes officers swarmed into the building. The Minister of Justice, the mayor of St. John's, and even the Chief of Police were on scene. You're thinking, This must be really bad! No, it was good—very good.

The St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church was hosting their 15th Peace Officers' Memorial Service. What's it all about? Well, according to Eric Ollila, pastor, "This is an opportunity for the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church to honour those who have lost their lives in the line of duty and show our appreciation to currently serving and retired peace officers."

The service was beautiful and touching, from the joyous voices of a children's choir attending from a nearby school, to the lone bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace" following the reading of the names of those killed in the line of duty. The list of attendees was like a who's who of Newfoundland dignitaries, and all were very appreciative of what the church was doing.

In the words of the Minister of Justice, "We are so grateful to the Seventh-day Adventist church for pulling the various faith groups together and hosting this event for the past 15 years." From the Chief of Police: "We thank the Seventh-day Adventist church for reaching out to us, for helping us remember our fallen officers, and celebrate the police community relationship."

And from the mayor of St. John's: "I think it's absolutely terrific that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is reaching out to the community and encouraging them to acknowledge the crucial role that police and peace officers play in providing peace and stability in our society. It is important for people to remember and appreciate that the quality of life we enjoy in our city is directly related to police and peace officers who put their lives on the line every day so that we can live in safety."

I think Ken Corkum, president of the Newfoundland Mission, summed up the day best when he said, "It was a privilege to be part of such a program that embraced the biblical command to respect those who have authority in our communities and declare ourselves to be law-abiding citizens. Pastor Eric Ollila represented so well, as leader of the hour, the dignity and spirit of the respect Seventh-day Adventists have for our police forces. It was a high moment of community spirit that brought honour to God and support for our police community. I was proud to have been part of the hour."

Police Officer's Prayer: Lord, I ask for courage; courage to face and conquer my own fears, courage to take me where others will not go. I ask for strength; strength of body to protect others, strength of spirit to lead others. I ask for dedication; dedication to my job, to do it well, dedication to my community to keep it safe. Give me, Lord, concern for all those who trust me and compassion for those who need me, and please, Lord, through it all, be at my side. Amen.

—Author Unknown

—Gail Dempsey, communications director, St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of July 31, 2013, there are 453 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,481,285. There are 71 loans with a value of \$19,638,831.

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

SDA Church in Canada

VOAR Volunteers are Invaluable



VOAR Christian Family Radio has changed our Internet audio system to better serve you. When it comes to VOAR's Internet website, we get help from one of our long-time volunteers, Larry Penny. Over the past 30 years, Larry has been instrumental in keeping VOAR operational behind the scenes. From internal networks, hardware, software and the Internet, Larry has been making sure that the world has an opportunity to listen to VOAR's message. "I've been working in the information technology sector for almost 20 years, and I still get excited to see the change that innovation brings. With the growth of the mobile Internet, VOAR now has an opportunity to be in everyone's back pocket. Broadcasting is changing and we need to act to make sure the VOAR's

message is still relevant in a digital age," says Larry. "We've recently increased our online audio streams from 50 to 1000 listeners. Increasing our online capacity is just a start of what we need to do." VOAR thanks Larry for his years of volunteer service. In the June statistics of our new Internet audio service, of 38 reported countries where people are listening to VOAR online, the top three are Canada, United States and China. So VOAR is truly, with the help of the Internet, a worldwide radio station. God bless you, and thank you for your continued support of VOAR Christian Family Radio. ■

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




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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

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- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ Announcements

The Edmonton Central church is looking for the following missing members:

A. Lynn, Elaine Badry, Majorie Bain, Tyler Bain, George Balazs, Hajinalka Balazs, Dorothy Jean Balsler, Katie Barbulak, Henri Beaudoin, Helen Biglow, Clifford Bijorgenson, John (Jack) Birkland, Aleksandra Bissani, Fadi Bissani, Feres Bissani, Lena Bissani, Stefan Bissani, Garth Blabey, Edward Blanchard, Gordon J. Blanchard, Louise Blanchard, Patricia Blanchard, Robert Blanchard, Wayne Blondeau, Aline Bouchard, Clara Boxall, Marie Luc Bureau, Linda Campbell, Murphy Cardinal, Pauline Chachanan, Claudette Chaisson, Zulfiya Chayachuk, Robert Michael Chayachuk, Adrian Chikwanha, Audrey Tsitsidzashe Chikwanha, Happiness Chilma, Both Wel Chuol, Alice Coburn, Norma Colbert, Andrea Couling, Angeline Couti, Lysa Couti, Craig Criddle, Lila Criddle, Elonzo Damon, Evan Daniels, Beatrice Davis, Kim Dejon, Marilou Delarmento, Michael Deneault, Robert Desmaris, Edward Dovich, Jasmin Duncan, Erica Dustyhorn, Marina Dustyhorn, Stanley Endler, Lilia Fidler, Carol Finch, Jim Finch, Chris Finn, Trudy

Mar Fischer, Bradley Frank, Deborah Frankow, Beatrice Funk, Ron Funk. If you have information on how any of them can be reached, please contact Bob Hymanyak, head deacon, 780/662-2615, rhymanyk@aol.com.

■ New Members

Bill McGhie was baptized in the Lacombe, Alta., church on May 18, 2013, by Ron Henderson. He is now a member of the Mirror, Alta., church.

■ Births

Zoe Agnes Lydia McGill was born on November 17, 2012, to Michael and Andrea (Jakovac) McGill, of Abbotsford, B.C.

■ Anniversaries

George and Bonnie (Irwin) Clarke of Oshawa, Ont., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 12, 1953. The Clarks have three children:



Allan (Heidi) Clarke, Julie Clarke and Jere (Charmaine) Clarke. They have three grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Gertrude (née Gerber) Berndt was born on March 2, 1927, in Czernowitz, Romania, and died Jan. 16, 2013, in Chilliwack, B.C. Gertrude was a good Christian woman and loving mother to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as a loving support to other immediate family members. She is predeceased by her first husband, John Hack, her second husband, Eddie Berndt, son, Bobby Hack, and her sister, Maria Hofmann. Surviving: son, John (Brenda) Hack, of Osoyoos, B.C.; stepson, Bob (Char) Hack, of Salmon Arm, B.C.; daughters, Betty (Henry) Chretien, of Summerland, B.C., Shirley (Will) VanEsch, of Half Moon Bay, B.C., and Gwen (Eric) Jansen, of Chilliwack, B.C.; brothers, Henry Gerber, of Surrey, B.C., and Willi Gerber, of Aldergrove, B.C.; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Doris (née Liske) Brandt was born on Aug. 16, 1935, in Russell, Man., and died April 14, 2013, in Assiniboia, Sask. Doris served her church family and her God for many years as a pianist, Sabbath school division leader and Sabbath school superintendent. She is predeceased by her brothers Norman and Melford Liske, and sisters Edna Liske, Evelyn Stewart, Hazel Seidl and Ena Cummings. Surviving: husband, Arthur; son, Douglas; daughter, Shawney Dobbin; brother Jack; sisters Donelda Kelk and Violet Motherall; two grandchildren.

Merina Mae Jacobsen was born on May 28, 1935, in Beiseker, Alta., and died Dec. 24, 2012, in Calgary, Alta. Merina loved to play the piano, organ and three other instruments, which she used when she volunteered at seniors' homes and lodges. For years she was involved in prison ministry. She's best known for her unconditional love and was described by a close friend as having a "heart of gold." She is predeceased by her husband, Edward. Surviving: sons, Kelly (Christine), and DJ (Betty); half-brothers, Archie and Eldred Roth; daughter, Tracy (Merv) Gibson; sisters, Melvina Kindopp and Geraldine Krym; and half-sister, Elsie Riley; six grandchildren.

Herbert Koehn was born Dec. 13, 1930, in Jagow, Germany, and died Oct. 31, 2012, in Fairview, Alta. Herbert loved his church and served as home mission leader in Belloy and deacon in Peoria-Smokey Seventh-day Adventist churches. He is predeceased by his brother, Werner Köhn, and sister Gertrude Köhn. Surviving: wife, Elfriede; son, Charles (Kathy), daughters, Lorie (Larry) Ramey, Dorothy (Dan) Merklin and Irma (Dale) Gordey; sister Ursula Köhn; seven grandchildren.

Helen (née Tanaka) Lambert was born on March 16, 1921, in Rock Bay, B.C., and died May 31, 2013, in Aldergrove, B.C. Helen was a member of the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist Church for the past eight years. Before that, she was a member of the Port Hardy Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. She is predeceased by her husband, Forest, son Fred, brothers, George and Henry Tanaka, and sisters, Kathleen Lindsay and Elsie Iwasa. Surviving: sons Edward, Ken, Larry and Gerry; daughters, Eileen McGill and Sharon Lapeyre; 32 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Ben Weich was born on Dec. 5, 1925, in Hanna, Alta., and died May 7, 2013, in Castor, Alta. Ben loved to spend time with his Clear Word Bible, and prayed for his children faithfully. He is predeceased by his

wife, June, brother Walter and sisters Mary Hoffman and Doreen Patzer. Surviving: sons, Glen and Kevin (Linda) Weich; daughter, Linda (Terry) Steinke; brother Dan and sisters Helen and Emma Suelzle; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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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)

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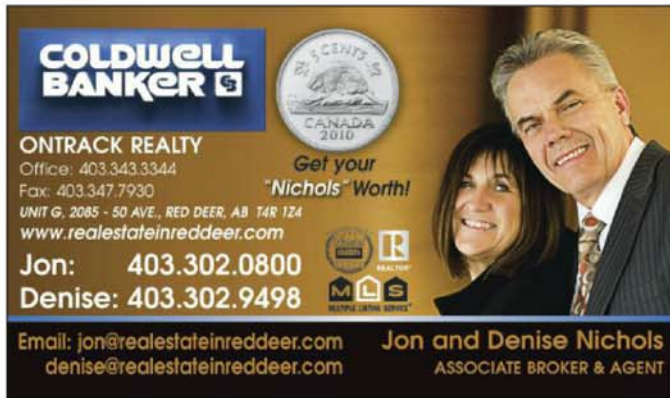
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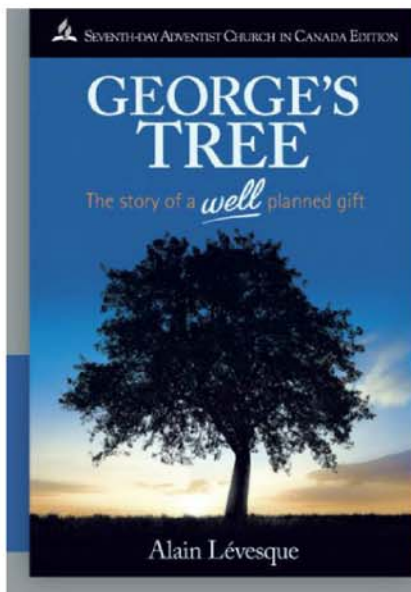
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GEORGE'S TREE

The story of a *well* planned gift

Alain Lévesque

GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

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

Also available in French.



from the editor

Wanted: Hope Channel Champions

Can you imagine if our Canadian Adventist church pioneers were told that one day our official television network would be the first single faith network to be approved for broadcast anywhere in Canada?

I appreciate the work so many are doing to get the Hope Channel and Esperanza TV on their local cable companies here in Canada. We do have a few more commitments that should have our official Adventist television on their product line up over the next few months.

The good news is that the Hope Channel is available to your friends and neighbours in the privacy of their home. Former and inactive Adventists will be able to tune in to watch current Adventist news, reports from around the globe, and Bible-based teachings that are presented in an outstanding manner.

I am calling for Hope Channel champions, those with a spirit of outreach who will encourage church members and friends to call up their cable or satellite company and ask them what it takes to receive this in their home. Bell, Shaw, Rogers, Eastlink and more are willing to have this in their product line up as long as they see a demand for it.

Call up your provider the next time you receive a bill or see an advertisement and ask them about the Hope Channel. Should the question be asked, the Hope Channel is on the approved playlist, and the approval number is Decision CRTC 2012-32. The approval number for the Spanish Hope Channel, Esperanza TV, is CRTC Decision 2013-13. Call them again and again until it is on your lineup. It really is that simple. If your cable provider has questions, please have them email me at stan.jensen@hopetv.org.

We are going through the process to get other Hope Channel networks available to broadcast in Canada as well. Imagine seeing the Chinese Hope Channel on in Vancouver and Toronto, the Ukrainian Hope Channel in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the Indonesian, Portuguese, Romanian, Indian, Norwegian, Polish, Czech/Slovak, Arabic, etc., being available in homes where these languages are spoken.

All it takes is for our Hope Channel champions across Canada to become actively involved in advancing the gospel in their community.

Please be a Hope Channel champion. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

"I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT LIKEWISE JOY SHALL BE IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH, more than ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke 15:7).

Isn't this such a beautiful thought? I can picture the immense happiness that must overcome our Saviour, and the angels surrounding Him, to have one of His lost children come back home. We are all called to do the work of soul winning.

In this month's column, we found some effective soul winning that took place as a result of evangelism work done in Canada.



These are the first-fruits of the Evangelism Campaign now being conducted by Elder C. A. Reeves in Hamilton.

The Joy of Harvest at Hamilton

Nearly five hundred people crowded the beautiful new Hamilton church on Sabbath afternoon, February 28, to witness the first baptism held in connection with Elder Reeves' evangelistic effort in this city. After many weeks of powerful preaching by the evangelist and careful teaching by his worker team, the first group was prepared to make this public stand with the Remnant people of God. At the Sabbath morning service Elder R. J. Christian of Washington, D. C., had given an encouraging and challenging message to the new members. The afternoon baptismal meeting opened with a bright service of sacred song led by Brother C. Wessman. Elder W. A. Clemenson, guest speaker for this special occasion, brought helpful spiritual counsel to the large assembly. There were tears in many eyes as Elder C. A. Reeves led thirty candidates through the baptismal waters, pausing to tell of victories won and outstanding experiences in accepting the message.

Among this group was the Rev. Thomas Kennard, who has been a Methodist minister for many years. Another candidate has been in charge of a Baptist mission. It is cheering to see that some of these new converts have already begun to win their loved ones to the truth. Four candidates came from Paris.

These are only the first-fruits of the harvest from the Hamilton campaign, for Elder Reeves is planning for a second

large baptism on Sabbath afternoon, April 11, and after that another baptism in May.

The loyal church members at Hamilton have nobly supported this soul-winning endeavour in every possible way. The church choir under the efficient leadership of Miss Elsie Dingwall, A.T.C.M., is rendering valuable assistance.

A sustained effort to reduce the remaining \$3,000 debt on the new church building has been carried forward since Elder Reeves came to Hamilton. Recently he organized a concert and film programme. The use of the large ballroom of the Royal Connaught Hotel in downtown Hamilton was graciously donated by the proprietors for this occasion. In the midst of a most enjoyable evening Elder Reeves appealed to the large audience for gifts to clear away this final indebtedness. No less than \$2,195 was raised in pledges and the sale of tickets. Another similar concert programme is to be held on Saturday night, April 4, in the Royal Connaught Hotel. The owners are again placing this fine auditorium at our disposal free of charge. We now look forward expectantly to the dedication of the new sanctuary in the near future.

Old and new members of the Hamilton church have taken up the work of Ingathering enthusiastically, this year. In just over one week they have gathered more than \$2,000.

For all these victories we thank God and take courage.

K. J. MOWERY



Photo by Climo, St. John, N.B.

Evangelism in St. John

SEVERAL months ago the General and Union conferences gave the Maritime Conference kind consideration in providing certain funds in order to launch a special evangelistic campaign. Expectantly we looked forward to the time when Elder G. D. O'Brien and his evangelistic team could be with us.

The S. S. *Nova Port* docked in St. John, N.B., on February 11, bringing the thirteen members of the evangelistic group. The Lord especially blessed in the following busy days, for not only were comfortable accommodations secured, but arrangements were made for the rental of one of St. John's leading theatres.

On Sunday evening, March 1, Elder G. D. O'Brien and the March of Truth group presented the opening lecture, "Will Russia Rule the World?" More than eight hundred heard this first presentation in the series that is to follow with five meetings each week. The Sunday-night services are held in the theatre while the week-night meetings are held in the church.

On the third Sunday night, which was their twelfth meeting, I had the privilege of witnessing a capacity attendance. The week-night meetings are remarkably well attended, making it necessary at times to bring in extra chairs.

Elder G. D. O'Brien is being assisted by R. E. Lange and the Royal Ambassadors quartette, consisting of John Popowich, Ralph Diminyatz, and Elmer Koronko. Mrs. Lange provides accompaniment with the Hammond organ.

Let us pray that God will give us a rich harvest of souls not only in this area but in the other centres where we hope to have the services of this consecrated group of workers.

J. W. BOTHE, President

In the April 8, 1953, issue of the *Messenger*, we find coverage of an evangelistic campaign that took place in St. John's, Nfld.



Photo by Joseph Bochster

The second group baptized from the Hamilton effort by Elder C. A. Reeves on Sabbath, April 11. Forty-five new members have now joined the church in this campaign. Another large baptism will be held in May. Prayer is requested for many now making their decisions.

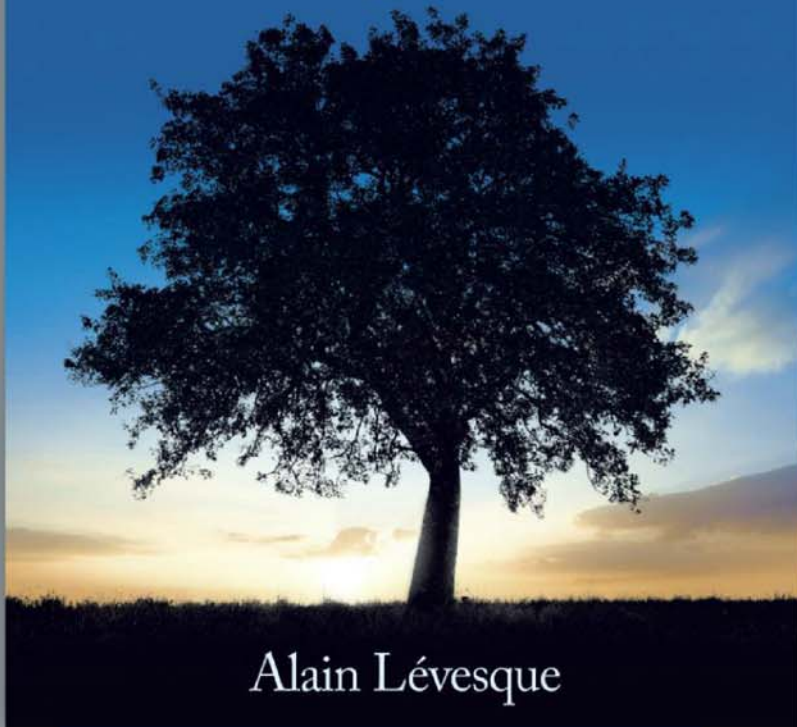
This article, found in the April 8 and May 6, 1953, issues of the *Messenger*, details information about this significant event. The people gathered here in this photo were all newly baptized members, who gave their lives to Christ as a result of an evangelistic effort held in Hamilton. There were 45 new members in total.



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An Inspiring Story...

GEORGE'S TREE INFLUENCES A CAMP FRENDA ENDOWMENT FUND

An Ontario couple credits *GEORGE'S TREE* for their decision to set up a Camp Frenda endowment fund. The couple's children were blessed by attending Camp Frenda as campers, and by work experience at the camp as teens; however, the family's hearts went out to children and youth who were not able to attend the camp, particularly those who did not have access to other Adventist youth activities.

Although their children are now grown and have families of their own, this husband and wife team remembered their dream of helping other children enjoy camp. Their vision and their Camp Frenda endowment fund came together when they received and read *GEORGE'S TREE*. They found the book easy to understand and full of planned giving and estate planning ideas.

Full Story in the October 2013 Canadian Adventist Messenger

GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.