

Canadian adventist

Messenger

october 2013

Creation Day Celebration

PLUS Baggage (p. 2)
Staff Interviews—John Ramsay (p. 16)
Planting Seeds (p. 26)

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“Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.”



Baggage

Toronto's afternoon traffic was rough, and when I finally got to the airport it was almost time to board my flight to Vancouver. That day's dash from check-in to the boarding gate set a new personal record for me. And it made me think about my carry-on luggage; do I really need to take that much with me?

That reminded me of a text, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (Heb. 12:1, 2 ESV). This metaphor is powerful. Without endurance the race is lost before it even begins. In the interest of completing the course, the runner (the follower of Jesus) leaves behind everything that will put her or him at a disadvantage.

"Do I really need that?" is a question that frequent fliers and traveling Christians need to ask frequently and fearlessly. What we carry as baggage makes a big difference when it comes to endurance.

As a Christian my attitude, my commitments, my hobbies and a host of other things can so weigh me down so as to make the race impossible. That is why choosing what we carry with us becomes so important. The race is not an on-again, off-again proposition. Endurance is necessary and endurance is possible.

So join me, please, in checking carefully to see what we may be carrying that is unnecessary. I've found that the best way for me to evaluate this in my own time is during a quiet time, at the beginning of each day. After I've spent some time considering Scripture, my ability to fearlessly look at my baggage is at its best.

One other thing I've noticed. Obsessing about the baggage isn't the final issue. What matters most is Jesus. That's why He is the ultimate object of our text: "... looking to Jesus ..." Wouldn't it be wonderful to be known as a person who always keeps their eyes on Jesus? ■

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ADRA Canada Office Dedication Weekend

Open-house and ribbon-cutting ceremony held at our new facility in Newcastle, Ont.



John Ramsay, Mark Johnson, James Astleford, Jonathan Duffy, Debra Brill, and Erin O'Toole cut the ribbon!

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013, marked the culmination of the multiyear process of moving ADRA Canada from its previous office in Oshawa, Ont., to its new facility in Newcastle, Ont. Approximately 100 people gathered at ADRA Canada's new office to celebrate the official dedication of the building. With pleasant banter among the guests, inspiring comments from distinguished speakers, a mouthwatering luncheon served in artful arrangements, and gorgeous weather, the event was by all counts a tremendous success.

However, not everything about this process has gone so smoothly. ADRA Canada had gone to considerable lengths to present various proposals to address the challenges of the previous office in a way that would allow ADRA Canada to remain at the Kingsway Campus, but without success. The facility in Newcastle was purchased in June 2012. Then began the long—and, yes, stressful—process of planning, negotiation, renovation, and moving.

Finally, this last Monday ADRA Canada board members, staff and invited guests were pleased to dedicate the building and celebrate the completion of the extensive renovation process. Staff and guests gathered in the resurfaced parking

lot as ADRA Canada board members cut the ribbon looped over the balcony railing.

Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International, congratulated ADRA Canada on its successful growth in recent years—a time when many other nonprofit agencies have been struggling amid changing donor agendas and a general constricting of budgets.

Also present were many representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, including President Mark Johnson, vice-president Daniel Stojanovic and vice-president John Ramsay, who also serve on the ADRA Canada board of directors. Debra Brill, ADRA director for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, also congratulated ADRA Canada on its growth. Part of the brief program included the presentation of a certificate from Erin O'Toole, the local Member of Parliament, who applauded ADRA Canada and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for their role in the local and international community.

James Astleford, executive director of ADRA Canada, thanked various professionals and consultants and everyone who had helped make the new facility a reality, including staff members, who, while still carrying the burden of their regular

workload, helped guide the project to completion. “The result, and this is important for us as a charity and as a ministry of the Adventist Church, is a significantly lower occupancy cost than we had previously. And as a bonus we have an improved operational environment,” said Astleford in recognition of the combined efforts. As part of his closing remarks, Astleford said, “While today we celebrate a building, I want to remind you that it is merely a tool for ministry, for service to the poor around the world.”

The final element of the ceremony was a litany, led by John Ramsay. In thoughtful tones, Ramsay spoke about the building as more than a mere structure but, rather, as a sacred place because it is the home of a far-reaching ministry fulfilling a sacred duty to care for those around us.

Later that afternoon the ADRA Canada staff invited local Seventh-day Adventist church members, community members and the general public to attend a celebratory open-house event to learn more about ADRA's move and, more importantly, its ministry.

We at ADRA Canada express heartfelt thanks to all our friends and family, donors, Facebook friends, partners, those who have prayed for our work, and anyone who shares our passion to empower the poor.

We are thankful that you have chosen to partner with us in heeding Christ's call to minister to “the least of these” (Matt. 25:45). May God bless you richly.

For more information, please visit www.adra.ca or call 905/446-2372. ■

Ryan Wallace is the communications specialist at ADRA Canada

Adjusting to Life's Transitions

Crises are so difficult.
Why would God allow them?

Some 10 years ago I listened to a riveting sermon by Walter Pearson Jr., formerly speaker of Breath of Life Ministries. His sermon was a moving message about life's unexpected transitions.

Each day at our staff morning worship, we add to our prayer list individuals or families who have come to their own transition, expected or unexpected. Sometimes these transitions are indeed crises, which disrupt life and threaten to overwhelm those affected.

Stressors such as illness, loss, or violence cause serious hardship to families. The most disruptive crises are definitely those that come in succession, one following quickly on the heels of another. Just this morning, one member of our support staff recounted losing three family members to cancer in the past three years.

In the Bible, Job's experience vividly illustrates a most intense situational crisis. Within a short period of time, this man who served God faithfully lost his family, his wealth and his health. In a crisis like this, only a personal, mature, tenacious faith in God will matter.

Psychologists today agree that there are three main types of crises. For each one we will look at both modern and biblical examples.

The first type of crisis is accidental or situational, which occurs when there is a sudden threat or an intensely disruptive event. This may involve an unexpected loss, something so many of us have had to endure. For me the passing of my dear mother six years ago is still fresh in my memory and to my emotions.

The second type of crisis is developmental, which happens in the course of normal human development: starting a new school, going away for college or university, dealing with criticism or facing retirement. These changes demand new approaches to life. I often wonder how my mother raised six of us after my father went his merry way.

In the Bible, a veritable exhibit of individuals and their crises, Abraham and Sarah had to cope with moving, years of childlessness, family stress, and then even God subsequently commanded that young Isaac should be sacrificed. We may even ponder how an elderly couple

like Zacharias and Elizabeth managed a son as unique as John the Baptist. Of course, there were turning points that demanded wise decision making.

In the New Testament, several epistles were written to help individuals or churches meet crises. Hebrews 11, for instance, is a summary of crises with happy endings as well as others that resulted in incredible suffering.

The third type of crisis is referred to as existential. There are times when we face disturbing truths or undergo changes in perception, often about ourselves, that engender anxious moments. This sometimes leads to negative self-talk: "I'm going to graduate but don't know what I will do next." "I'm a failure." "My illness is incurable." These realizations are often challenging to process.

After a great spiritual victory, Elijah was chased by Jezebel's threat and ran to the wilderness, where he concluded that his life was a failure. Jonah had a similar debate with God. Could the disciples have felt the same way in the hours following the crucifixion?

Crises are so difficult. Why would God allow them? It is said that the Chinese word for crisis involves two characters. One means danger and the other means opportunity. Crises do bring us closer to danger, but do they not also bring opportunity—opportunity to grow and change? We know that crises can be learning experiences that mold character, teach us about God and, more so, His unlimited ability to deliver.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above you are able but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

—1 Corinthians 10:13

What a gracious God! ■

Mansfield Edwards is the president of the Ontario conference



Language of heaven?

T33nTa1k



My pastor says speaking in tongues is only referring to other human languages, but a good friend of mine goes to a church that says we can speak in the language of heaven. Which is it?

There is controversy over this topic because there has been so much misuse of the gift of tongues in Christianity. The first instance of the gift is on the day of Pentecost when the disciples addressed the crowd after the miraculous manifestation of God's Spirit in a rushing mighty wind, the shaking of the building they were in, and visible "fire" on their heads (Acts 2).

The first gift the Spirit gave them was the ability to speak in other "tongues," which in this setting was other languages. They were given this gift so they could communicate their knowledge of Jesus with the crowds who had travelled from other countries to the city for the Festival of Weeks. God wanted every person there to hear the message in their most familiar language.

A list of gifts the Spirit of God gives to believers is found in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, and it mentions the gift of tongues. Paul mentions the gifts again briefly in Ephesians 4, but the gift of tongues is not mentioned there. When Paul talks about the gift of tongues, he instructs believers not to use the gift unless it is interpreted or translated. Imagine what you would get out of a sermon or from a Sabbath school teacher or from reading the Bible if it was all in some language you couldn't understand. The gift was given for the opposite reason—so that people who wouldn't otherwise understand the good news about Jesus could understand.

The bottom line: If you have given yourself fully to Jesus and He knows you need a particular gift to fulfill a task He has given you, He will through His Spirit give you that gift and the gift will not be for your benefit, but to benefit someone else.

Because the study of the gift of tongues can be complex, I cannot tackle the whole subject in this column, but if you would still like more information, please feel free to write to me again, and I'll be happy to go into more depth. ■

Creation Corner for Kids

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. —2 Peter 1:4, KJV



Mosquito



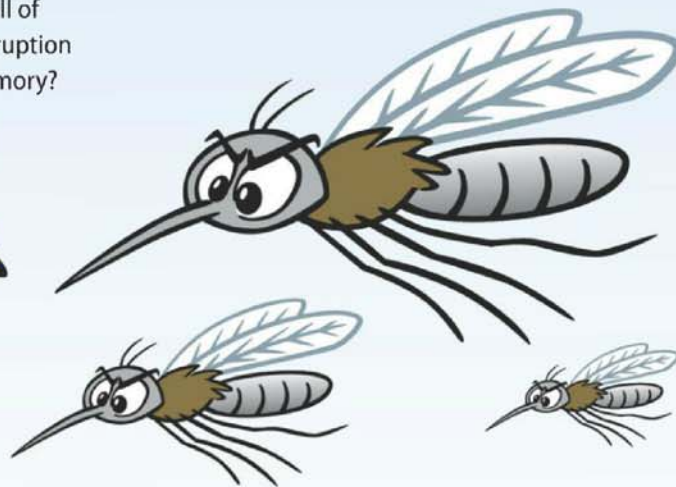
Which animals are the most dangerous to humans? You might think of big, scary animals like bears, sharks or lions. Instead, you should think about small animals, like the mosquito. Mosquitoes cause the death of more humans each year than any other animal. In fact, one child dies every 45 seconds in Africa because of malaria, a disease spread by mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes are good at finding their victims. They can smell the carbon dioxide gas that you breathe out and fly in a zigzag pattern across the path of your breath to find you, just like a hunting hound will zigzag as it follows the scent of a fox. As it gets closer, a mosquito uses other scent clues and body heat to find its target: you!



Think about it.

Just like mosquitoes, lust, or desire, is also a deadly killer. James 1:15 warns us, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Satan knows how to appeal to our five senses to make us want things so that he can tempt us to sin. That's how he got Eve to sin, and it's how he tempts us to sin too. But the Bible is full of "great and precious promises" to help us identify and escape the corruption in the world. Are you storing up these precious promises in your memory?



Do it!



Get a book of Bible promises and try to learn a new one each week. To learn more about mosquitoes and for resources to help you memorize Bible promises, visit www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.com.

CUC's residence team



The Residence team during their team building retreat.

THE PACE OF UNIVERSITY LIVING flows from classroom to classroom, church to dining hall and common areas all around campus. But when the classroom lights are off and the halls empty, the Canadian University College residences come to life. From Lakeview Hall to Maple Hall, Riverton Hall and Redstone House, there are over 240 students who choose to make university residence their home for the year. Guiding these young men and women are the CUC residence team, consisting of deans, student deans and resident assistants (RA).

Administrative dean David Ringer and associate deans Shannan Blabey and Brent van Rensburg lead the residence team. The group consists of three student deans and 15 resident assistants who are assigned to the various residence halls and individual floors. With such a large area to cover and student body to guide, the residence team spent a few days in the Canadian Rockies prior to the start of the school year to plan for the next few months. During the retreat they had time to set goals for the year and most important of all how to always incorporate God in everything they do.

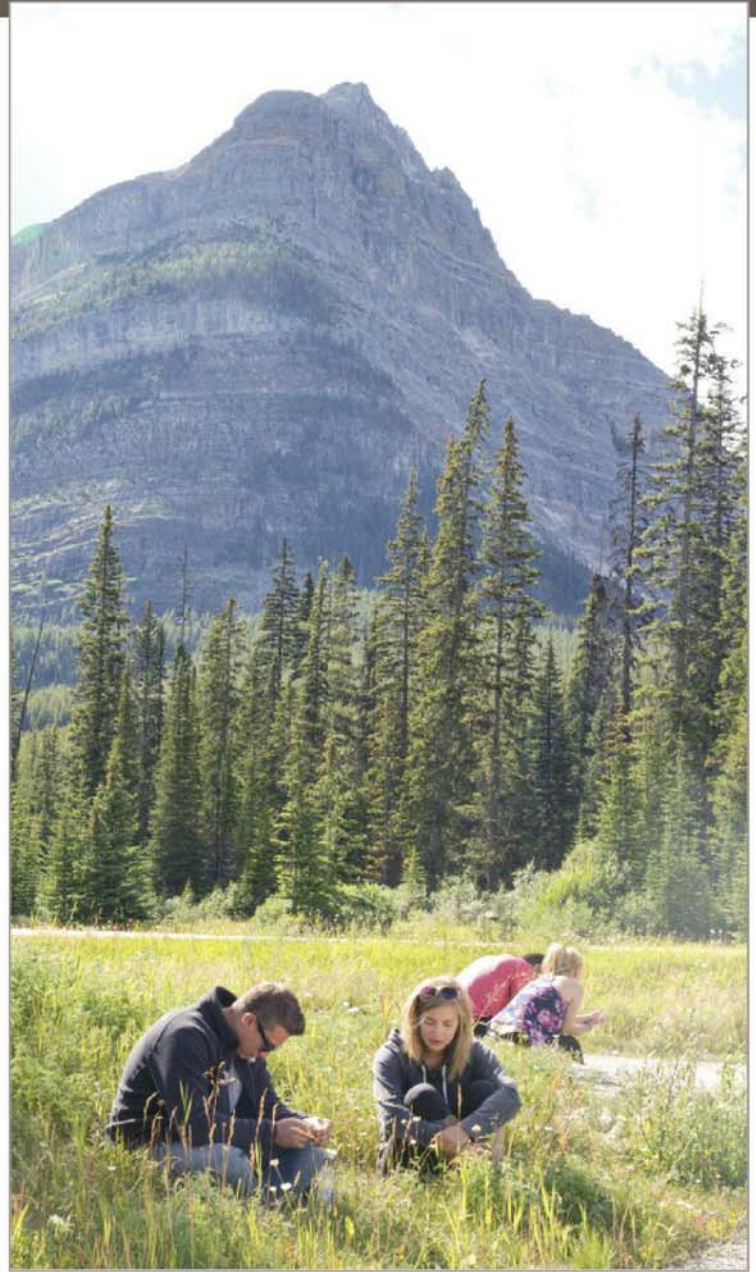
“If I accomplished nothing else this year besides the constant mentoring of the student deans and RAs, then my year will not be wasted. If they are constantly growing their spirituality in a positive direction, then the students who interact with them will be impacted in a positive way so that they can in turn affect someone else and so on and so on. I am excited to be a part of a team here at CUC that is passionate about Jesus Christ,” remarks Dean Ringer.

A balanced CUC experience is what the team wants each student to have. “We strive to teach balance as students learn and grow in their studies, time management, shared environment and space, negotiating and caring for others’ needs. A university that they feel they belong to and a place they know is home,” states Dean Blabey. But above all, the focus is for each student to grow closer to God. “My hope for every student on campus is that they are drawn closer to God, are able to build healthy relationships, are able to excel academically and that they can do so in a safe environment,” remarks Dean van Rensburg.

Supporting the deans directly are the student deans—each one with their own personal burden to minister to their fellow classmates. Cara Boyce, a third-year elementary education major, wanted to become a student dean so that she could help build the right environment that would promote a better relationship with God.

“When I look at the student dean position, I imagine somebody who creates an environment of open arms and an open heart that points all eyes upwards toward Jesus. I am just another student and God has blessed me with an opportunity to have this position. We are all at a different part of our journey and my prayer is that I can join with people where they are at and that my encounter will encourage them one step closer toward Jesus,” remarks Cara.

For AJ Murley, a third-year behavioural science major, becoming a student dean was a direct result of the experiences he had with his high school dean, who left a positive mark on his life. “I wanted to be a student dean after watching my high school dean. I saw how awesome of a blessing it can be not only to others but also to yourself. I’ve tried to model my style of deaning around his because he changed my life. He was the one who made me want to one day be a dean. There’s a quote in our chapel here at Lakeview Hall that’s inspiring to me; it says: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”



Ian Bowman, Student Dean, and Talia Orpana, resident assistant, take a moment for prayer during their team building retreat.

From homesickness to roommate problems, whatever the problem might be, this team of residence deans strives to provide balance and an environment where our future teachers, doctors, and pastors can learn about themselves and God. Whether it be a semester or four years, each of the residence deans want the chance to be a small positive part of each student’s continuing growth. For Cara this sums up what she wants to accomplish as a student dean. “I want to give everyone hugs and support. I want to pray with people and tell them that I believe in them and that they can do it. I pray that I can be a part of Canadian University College being a place that welcomes and encourages all. Where they can feel safe and empowered to become the best version of the unique person that God has made them to be.” ■

JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College

Where Are They Now



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

Interview by Alexandra Yeboah, Messenger Staff Writer.

George Clarke: I grew up in St. John's, Newfoundland. I am one of nine children, and I am the middle child. When the kids got to be 10 or 11 in our family, they had to work in the bakery, and I was no exception. I wrapped thousands of loaves of bread. I attended the Seventh- Adventist School in St. John's until after the 10th grade. Then I attended Kingsway College for the 11th grade, up until grade 14.

M: Can you tell me a little bit about your family?

Clarke: We have three children. Our oldest son, Allan, lives in Ohio. Our daughter, Julie, lives in Southern California, and our youngest son is a ranger at our youth camp. He taught English at Kingsway for about 12-14 years. We also have three grandchildren that are between the ages of 19-28. My granddaughter is engaged to the son of one of my students. She met him at our school in Florence, Italy. She's getting married in February.

M: What was the first teaching position that you had, and what was this experience like for you?

Clarke: My first teaching position was at Union Springs Academy. I was dean of boys and taught maybe one or two classes. It was busy because I didn't have an assistant

dean and I think I had about 60 boys in the dorm. From there I went to Michigan, where I was principal of the Pontiac Junior Academy for about six or seven years.

M: What did you find most rewarding about working in the Adventist Education system?

Clarke: I enjoyed meeting new kids each year and feeling that I was making a contribution. Every kid is unique. Some stand out. I think the variety of individuals and the drive that some of the kids have is terrific.

And I hear from some of them now. I go to the Adventist Book Centre (ABC) and see that some of my students have written a book. In Michigan, one of my students is now the president of Remnant Publications.

M: Tell us a bit about the work you did as a Literature Evangelist.

Clarke: I remember canvassing once in a town where there were a lot of Amish people, and I had the opportunity to share books with them. It's hard in the sense that you can go into areas where people are not interested. You have days where you don't really sell much. But it's very rewarding to be able to sell some of our truth-filled literature to non-Adventists. And you're thinking: "Lord, I'm doing what I can here and I'm going to leave it up to you to inspire the people."

M: What Bible text would you say is the theme to your life, that has helped you

through challenges?

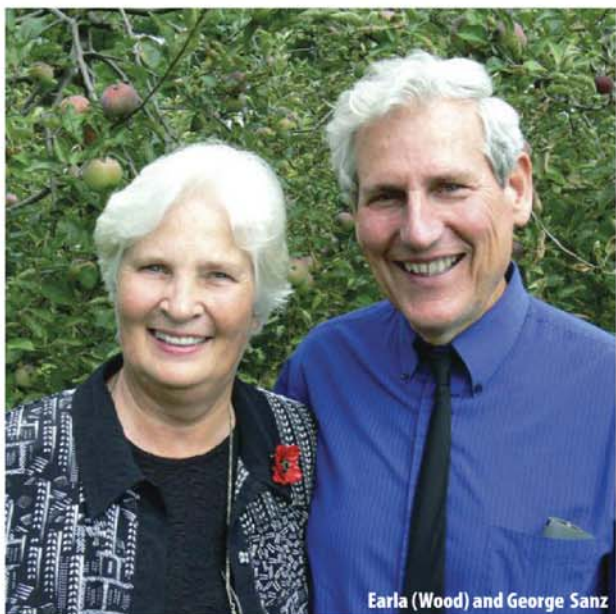
Clarke: Hebrews 13:5: "... for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." I think that's my favourite one. I tell my wife: "We'll always be together, because when the Lord comes, I hope we'll both be ready. And we'll live forever and see each other forever." My wife had a stroke and so I take care of her. She's in a wheelchair. I married her when I was 19. We love each other. In 60 years we have looked in each other's faces, and we still aren't tired of each other.

M: What other places have you served in Canada?

Clarke: In Canada I was the literature evangelist for a couple of years in the 50s. I also worked at the Ontario conference in trust services for some time. In 1977, I was ordained to the ministry in Michigan, so that I would be able to work in trust services to visit and speak at churches. I used to visit all the 100 plus churches, so I met a lot of people. Also, I was in charge of the Kingston and Belleville churches for a year until they got a regular pastor.

M: Where are you now?

Clarke: In the summer, we live in my daughter's trailer house on campus. I reasoned to push around a wheelchair in the ice and snow would be hard, so we go to California from October to April. We have our own house in California. I don't have to deal with snow down there.



Earla (Wood) and George Sanz



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 working there as teens.

Although their children are now grown with families of their own, this couple remembered their dream of helping other children enjoy camp, particularly those who did not have access to other Adventist youth activities. 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.

So in January 2013 Dr. George and Mrs. Earla (Wood) Sanz established the Sanz Family Endowment Fund to assist children from Adventist churches who would not normally have the opportunity to attend a summer camp at Camp Frenda.

George and Earla set up this endowment fund to honour their parents, Earl and Ila Wood, and Daniel and Alice Sanz. Their parents were dedicated to Christian service and did their best to help others, especially the young people, to maintain a connection with God and with the Adventist Church.

Lifelong members of the Kingston, Ont., Seventh-day Adventist Church, Earl and Ila Wood played an active role. They were especially devoted to the youth. Earl was active in the community. He served as president of the local Children's Aid Society, was a member of the local elementary school board and regularly participated in the Kingston Rotary Service Club.

Daniel and Alice Sanz, lived in Spain during the Franco years when open evangelization was forbidden. Daniel, a pastor, and his wife, Alice, laboured for God under difficult circumstances. They reached out to many young people through friendship evangelism, providing meals, shelter, Christian social activities and Bible studies. Many of these young people lacked family support when they joined the church. Daniel helped them find work selling Adventist literature and encouraged them to obtain a Christian education. As a result, almost a whole generation of pastors and church workers in Spain can trace their relationship to God and to the Adventist Church back to George's parents.

"It is for this reason that the Sanz Family Endowment Fund has been set up, especially for young people growing up in small, isolated Adventist churches," said the Sanzes. "By attending Camp Frenda, these young people will have the opportunity to experience positive friendships and realize that they belong to a worldwide church family. Hopefully, they will consider Christian education and will make the decision to maintain their relationship with God and with the church."

Pastor Glenn DeSilva, camp director, happily received the news. "We are so thankful to God for the Sanz Family Endowment Fund," he said. "There is no question that many children will come to know God when they attend Camp Frenda. This fund will help our young people from remote churches to meet other Adventist young people. It is truly a wonderful gift." ■

—Adapted with permission from an article by Halsey Peat in *Ontario Highlights*, Summer 2013.



Request your personal, free copy of *George's Tree: The Story of a Well-Planned Gift*, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Edition, by calling 905-433-0011, ext. 2078, or by emailing legal@adventist.ca. Visit www.willplan.ca for more information.



"It was a great experience for us, and the people there appreciated it so much," said Leavitt about this year's trip. "They are so eager to learn and are very committed."

45 Teacher Volunteers Make a Positive Impact in Kenyan Schools



A national teachers' strike in Kenya didn't stop a group of rural teachers from meeting with their Canadian counterparts.

After all, they were keen to learn new skills from their Alberta educators.

A Better World Canada, a volunteer-run organization set up and governed by College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, organized the June 30–July 14 trip to the East African country.

The contingent of 45, most of whom were teachers, arrived to discover a strike was underway across Kenya's public primary schools.

"For the entire time we were there, all the teachers in all the public schools were on strike," said Keith Leavitt, project team leader and associate professor of education at Lacombe's Canadian University College. "We shouldn't have had any access to teachers or students."

The Kenyan teachers' commitment to receiving professional training was strong, however. They knew it would make a positive difference in their lives and those of their students, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 8. The teachers at the participating schools attended and they ensured some of their students came along as well.

Last year Leavitt was part of a small group that helped train teachers in large group settings. This time around there were three separate groups from A Better World who went to different regions before congregating in the Masai Mara. Leavitt said his group went each morning to individual classrooms where they

demonstrated teaching techniques. Then in the afternoons they met as a group to discuss and work on activities.

Kenyan teachers often don't instruct their students to a higher order of thinking—analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

"Maybe it's because they don't know how to use it or they can't afford to purchase any materials," Leavitt added. "So again, we wanted to show an alternate method, and at each of the schools we left materials for them."

An education leader told Leavitt that A Better World teacher volunteers may have helped Grade 8 students achieve higher marks last year. Provincial scores raised, on average, between five and 10 percent from the previous year. These scores determine whether the student goes on to secondary school and which one.

Marla Bloudoff, an elementary school teacher from Lethbridge, Alta., taught Grade 4 teachers about the importance of group work among students, rather than relying on lecturing the students and expecting them to remember what they had listened to. "The teachers were very willing and open to hearing that kids learn by doing and moving around—that there are different learning styles," said Bloudoff.

Brent Galloway, professor and chairperson of the education department at Red Deer College, led one of the three groups on the teaching tour. Again each Alberta teacher was paired up with a teacher for morning instruction, followed by afternoon professional development sessions. A full-day professional development session, including involvement with administrators, was held on a Saturday.

"Our focus was really toward being more student-centred, rather than just delivering the curriculum," said Galloway. "It's the same thing we're learning in Canada too—how do you better meet the needs of our students?"

Galloway anticipates greater payoffs for students and teachers. Each time he returns, he's noticing positive changes including greater collaboration among teachers. They're also making learning more fun for students.

"Part of our goal this time was to see the Kenyan teachers connecting with each other as well, so we arranged on our PD [professional development] day to work in small groups and exchange contact information," Galloway said, adding a Facebook group was set up. "We can continue learning together." ■

Laura Tester is a journalist, volunteer, and travels with A Better World

Celebrating Your Ministry Leaders



Do you have enough volunteers serving in your church? If you are shaking your head no, you aren't alone. Most church organizations are starved for volunteers who are vital for healthy, well-run programs.

The economic downturn in our society is affecting potential volunteers. Many people are working longer hours and extra shifts; hence, their availability for service is dwindling. How can a church demonstrate its appreciation for its existing volunteers, while recruit new leaders to serve? Here are a few tips to consider:

REMEMBER THE THREE RS.

Create a culture where volunteers are *respected*, *recognized* and *rewarded*. Church volunteers donate their time, miles and finances to the organization.

RESPECT YOUR LEADERS BY DEVELOPING A LEADERSHIP PLACEMENT COMMITTEE.

Most churches operate a nominating committee each season to fill "spots" for the new ministry year. A ministry placement committee acts like the nominating committee during the remainder of the church year to process vacancies, create new job descriptions, and recruit volunteers based on their spiritual gifts and passion.

RESPECT YOUR LEADERS BY CREATING JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR ALL OF YOUR MINISTRY POSITIONS.

Volunteers want to know exactly what is expected of them when they consider accepting a position. This also benefits the church because it allows you to set perimeters on how far you want your leaders to go in the scope of their work.¹

RECOGNIZE YOUR LEADERS BY CREATING A SPECIAL EVENING OF RECOGNITION FOR YOUR LEADERS.

Many churches hold a banquet at the end of the season for all of the people who served in ministry that year. This banquet allows your volunteers to get dressed up

and be pampered. The pastor also has a great opportunity to vision cast and ask leaders to make a deeper commitment the following year.

RECOGNIZE YOUR LEADERS BY CHOOSING A VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK.

Every Sabbath highlight a leader in the church bulletin with his or her picture, name and special characteristics about the volunteer's contribution to ministry. Ask your church to nominate someone each week.

REWARD YOUR VOLUNTEERS WITH SPECIAL NOTES OF RECOGNITION.

In an age of emails and social media, most people do not receive old-fashioned letters in the mail. Take a few minutes every Monday and handwrite a few cards of appreciation to your ministry leaders. I will often add a small gift card to Tim Hortons or something similar as a gesture of appreciation.

REWARD AND EDUCATE YOUR MINISTRY LEADERS BY SENDING THEM TO TRAINING.

If you want to create a culture of excellence, send your church leaders to training events. These training events will motivate your leaders to do their best as they serve in the local church.

Do you have some ideas on how to celebrate volunteers? Tell us what you are doing in your local church. ■

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

¹ You can order a book of job description templates from Advent Source.



WHOLE HEART



Words by God — Commit yourselves to the Lord and serve Him only. 1 Samuel 7:3, NIV

Israel was feeling pretty down in the dumps. So Samuel said to them, "If you're serious about returning to God, get rid of all the things you put before Him. All your foreign gods and the things you set above your relationship with God—get rid of it and recommit your whole heart to serve Him only and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." So the Israelites turned away from their idols and all the gods they had acquired and served God only.

Then Samuel called for all of Israel to gather together at Mizpah to pray and recommit their lives to God. They confessed everything that had moved in and separated their hearts from His and asked God for forgiveness. While they were there, the Philistines heard about it and thought it was the perfect way to catch them off guard and attack them. So meanwhile the Israelites had heard of this, and the news freaked them out. They were afraid of the Philistine army and asked Samuel to continue to cry out to God and ask Him to deliver them from their enemy.

God heard Israel's cry for help. As they were still praying, the Philistines drew closer. I'm sure some knees were knocking as their enemy continued to come. But while they could still see the army stretched out in front of them, God sent an earthshaking thunderstorm in the midst of their enemy. His thunder roared and crackled so loud the Philistines were scared out of their wits and fled for home, with Israel in hot pursuit. The Israelites chased them back and overtook their enemy who had tried to overtake them. At the dividing line between their territories, Samuel moved a stone in place and named it Ebenezer

saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." And there was peace in the land for a long time to come.

You can find the story above in 1 Samuel 7. This story is a good reminder to let go of anything that is separating us from being fully committed in our relationship with Christ. Often God doesn't work things out the way we think it should be done; He's much more creative! Are there any road blocks or hindrances holding your attention and time? I encourage you to give them to God and let Him be your everything. He is amazing and I know He wants what's best for you. All He wants, really, is you! Your heart. He desires a personal relationship with each of us. No matter what you are going through today or tomorrow, God will help you through it. God loves you.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land" (Ps. 37:5–9, NIV).

Be Blessed

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



refresh with Tia



Watch "Love the Lord," by Lincoln Brewster on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/iVa1k6>





app review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

App: Bible

In Brief: This Bible reference app is an easy-to-use app designed for Bible study. It comes with a number of free resources, including several Bibles (KJV, NKJV, NLT, ESV, NASB, NCV and more) and Bible reference books. You can take notes, highlight passages and open another resource in a split-screen for side-by-side study.

Something I find useful is the ability to select a word and search for that word through available resources and through the Bible. One nice aspect of this app is that if you own the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary on CD, you can create an account through the software on your PC and sync your reference library collection to your mobile device.

Wow Factor: Easy-to-use Bible reference, with a large variety of available resources.

Meh Factor: Additional resources can be quite expensive.

Developed For: Logos Bible Software

Price: Free

Works On: Android, iOS, Mac, Windows

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



15. Choose you this day. The command to serve the Lord does not preclude choice. Any service that is not voluntary is useless. God sets before men life and death and urges them to choose life, but He does not interfere with their contrary choice, nor does He protect them from its natural results.

16. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. 17. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; 18. For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out

prayer life

Promises to Claim

If Daniel claimed God's promises in Scripture, how much more should I base my prayer life in the Word of God?

Family reunions. Memories, hardships, victories. Just recently our family gathered with the Munroe clan in Nova Scotia to celebrate five generations influenced by the life-transforming decision of Richard T. and Lydia Hettie Munroe. Theirs was a life of sacrifice and pioneering work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bermuda.¹

When I look at my own family heritage, I can't help but realize the power our choices have on later generations. Thus, I pray my decisions will be appropriate in shaping the future of my family. But how do we know what are the right things to pray for?

Years back while studying on the scenic campus of Canadian University College, I learned the concept of praying using the Scriptures. Overlooking Barnett Lake, I would memorize a meaningful portion of Scripture and, speaking to God as to a friend (*Steps to Christ*, p. 93), claim His promises.

Daniel is a good example of a Scripture-driven prayer life. Although a prophet, he was no stranger to the written Word of God. His posture toward the temple in Jerusalem while praying

(Dan. 6:10), shows that he was well acquainted with Solomon's dedicatory prayer for the temple recorded in 1 Kings 8. In his moment of anguish, he possibly claimed the promise in verses 46–53.

When troubled by the vision of the 2300 evenings and mornings, he diligently searched the Scriptures and claimed the promise made through Jeremiah the prophet (Dan. 9:2; cf. Jer. 25:12). He trusted and claimed God's faithfulness as he confessed the sins of his people according to Scripture (Dan. 9:4–19). If Daniel claimed God's promises in Scripture, how much more should I base my prayer life in the Word of God?

Imagine the baton we would pass to following generations if we made it our life's business to pray using Scripture? Why not give it a try? ■

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

¹ "Bermuda Conference: History." *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*.



BY STAN JENSEN

I first met John Ramsey about 25 years ago when he accepted the position, and became treasurer of the Western Canada Adventist Book Center (ABC). Since then our paths have crossed many times, all with fond memories. John is well-known throughout the North American Division (NAD) and most would agree should hold the title of “top humorist” in the NAD treasurer’s category.

EDITOR: How long have you been working at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), what do you do, and what is your most enjoyable part of working here?

JOHN: For nine years as treasurer, it has been enjoyable—visiting churches and congregations we have never seen before, meeting the people, being blessed by their testimonies and their strong faith in the Lord. Giving financial reports that a person not trained in accounting can understand and even enjoy.

EDITOR: Have you always been an Adventist, or how did Adventism come to your family?

JOHN: I was raised in an Adventist family on a farm near Brandon, Man. My great-grandfather had emigrated from Scotland in 1880. In the early 1890s he was in the process of building a six-bedroom two-storey stone house to replace the original log home, when a colporteur by the name of Greenslade came riding up the lane on horseback and sold him the book *Bible Readings for the Home*. Great-grandpa, a member of the local Presbyterian church, which he helped construct using his carpentry skills, accepted the Adventist message through reading that book.

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

JOHN: Working for the union conference office means having more organizations to be concerned about and having a workable knowledge of their governance structure. Also, the SDACC covers a large territory, which means we often travel by air.

EDITOR: Where all have you been employed for the Church?

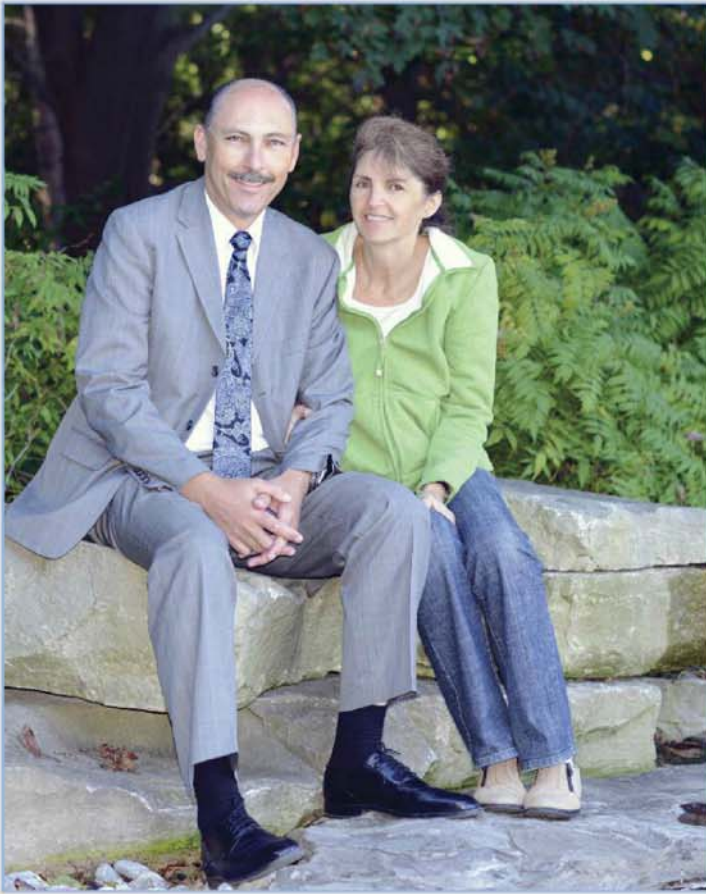
JOHN: In health care as the assistant administrator at West Park Manor Personal Care Home in Winnipeg; in education as a teacher/principal at Hazelton Adventist School in B.C.; in publishing as an accountant at the Alberta Adventist Book Centre (ABC) in Lacombe; at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference as treasurer; and at the SDACC in Oshawa, as treasurer.

EDITOR: Is working as a treasurer all you thought it would be?

JOHN: When I worked as an accountant for the Alberta ABC, a week prior to campmeeting we would be sweating it out hauling to Foothills Camp numerous truckloads of products for the ABC store. Then I would see the treasurer or associate treasurer of the conference arrive on the campground with only their briefcase and a few boxes. Oh, how I thought it would be wonderful to have their job and carry a briefcase instead of a truckload. But when I was assigned the work as a treasurer, I discovered that a treasurer also carries on their minds a heavy load of thorny issues, personnel situations and concerns that, for privacy reasons, were not to be divulged.

EDITOR: How many children do you have; tell us about them?

JOHN: Two adult sons. Be careful where you live when they are in their teens. There is a good chance they will end up staying there when you move somewhere else.



John and Lucille Ramsay

Gary is a GM automotive technician, married to Becky Lindberg, of Saskatoon, and they live in Lacombe, Alta., with our two grandchildren, Chloe and Rylan. Christopher lives in Saskatoon and works for a company that does asphalt paving, sealcoating, and snow removal in winter.

EDITOR: I understand your wife plays an important part of the College Park church; what all does she do there?

JOHN: I am married to Lucille Aab, who grew up in Edmonton and attended the Edmonton Central church and Coralwood Academy. She works as a personal support worker and medical secretary, and serves as a pianist and scheduler of greeters at the College Park church. Her grandfather Alex Aab became an Adventist in Winnipeg after escaping to Canada from Russia just after the Russian Revolution.

EDITOR: Please share an exceptional moment of you being an Adventist.

JOHN: In 1975 I had just graduated from college with a business administration diploma and had gone to Edmonton to work. My cousin and I shared an apartment. He had the habit of reading from *The Desire of Ages* each morning. My father had for years told me that I should spend some time reading from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books. But motorcycle and car magazines were my interest.

One morning, on my day off, I decided to pick up his *Desire of Ages* book. It opened to Chapter 34, "The Invitation," with words that awoke my interest in spiritual things: "Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory" (p. 331). That morning, by the Spirit, the thoughts of God became real and very interesting to me.

EDITOR: What words of advice would you give to other members who would like to serve as denominational workers?

JOHN: When you work for the church, you work in a committee environment. It is not meant for one person to control what happens. We are told there is wisdom in the counsel of many, and you have to be prepared to hear from many and be willing to let go of your own agenda if the larger group does not see wisdom in it.

EDITOR: Do you have a favourite Bible text you would share with *Messenger* readers?

JOHN: Luke 4:42. "Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them" (NKJV). This text tells of the people of Capernaum and how they actively went looking for Him and didn't want Him to leave. I would like that to be always my response to Jesus—not wanting Him to leave me. ■

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

Parkview Profiles



It had been more than 65 years since Claire had attended high school ...

Claire Ritchey (right) and her favorite Art teacher, Kathryn Egolf (left).

Graduation this past May at Parkview Adventist Academy held something special that hasn't occurred at PAA before and only once in the history of Alberta. May 26 saw Claire Ritchey an 85 year old great grandma of three children, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren receive her high school diploma.

It had been more than 65 years since she had attended high school. Originally she had done grade 11 in Kelowna but at the time the school did not go to grade 12 so Claire transferred to PAA. But in those days Alberta did not recognize all of British Columbia's credits and Claire found herself repeating most of grade eleven. When she had left high school in 1945 she had only been a few classes short of finishing but life got in the way of returning to school. At the end of the year she left school to get married.

Claire had always wanted to earn the distinction of being a high school graduate so she approached PAA's principal, Angie Bishop, of what she would need to do to finish her degree. She didn't want a GED or to earn it on life experience. After looking over her transcripts Bishop informed her that she only needed three more classes in the elective category to finish the degree.

Claire decided to take all of the classes in art, something that she loved anyway. She became the grandma to her classmates, many of who live away from

home in the school's boarding facilities. She received daily hugs from her new friends and she passed on words of wisdom to the younger generation.

Shortly after starting school again Claire's husband passed away. Taking the art classes every day helped to fill a void in her life. "It hit me a year and a half ago, that God put it in my mind to do this because it was exactly what I needed to do," said Claire.

On top of being an adopted grandma to many of the students, Claire had the honour of graduating with one of her own grandsons—Adam Ritchey.

The education department of Alberta looks for stories of interest among all of Alberta's 300+ high schools and when they realized that Claire, an 85 year old grandma, was graduating they sent Maureen Melnyk, one of the Alberta Educational Administrators, to meet Claire and take pictures of her and her classmates.

When Claire walked across the stage to receive her diploma and a hug from the principal, the gymnasium erupted in cheers and applause. Claire hopes that her decision to finish high school will encourage others to choose to do something similar. ■

*Pattie Reasor Communications,
Parkview Adventist Academy*

As we reflect on the past school year, the comments below are refreshing to hear! It makes working for Adventist education worth all the hard work and effort every educator puts forth on a daily basis. Following are the reflections of two students from College Heights Christian School in Lacombe, Alta. Enjoy their musings on their past school year and their excitement for the upcoming year.

Adventist Education Where do I sign up?



Egan Schmidt

We just finished school a few weeks ago at College Heights Christian School (CHCS). We are looking forward to the new school year! Why are we so eager to go back?

Here are some of the amazing things we did in our school last year.

GRADE 5/6 WAX MUSEUM: This is when the students in Grades 5 and 6 dress up as their hero with optional props and they memorize a 30-second-speech. Then on the night/day of the wax museum, they get on little stages and say their speeches when prompted.

GRADE 5/6 OUTDOOR SCHOOL: If you live in Alberta and go (or have gone) to an Adventist school for your Grade 5 or 6 year, then you have probably gone to Outdoor School. This started 13 years ago and is still running today. This year we had some new things, like the cemetery walk. Also, we had our meetings in the primary building instead of the lobby downstairs of the cafeteria. It is a good time to learn and make new friends from other Adventist schools.

FUNDRAISING FOR ADRA: The whole school decided that for the school year, they would fundraise for ADRA Canada. Every class had goals and had to fundraise. Some of the things we did as a school were car washes, Kijiji sales (well, mostly sales in the school), donations, etc. All in all we raised more than \$3,000 and helped quite a lot of needy people. I hope that next year we do something like that again!

GRADE 7/8 RIVER EXPEDITION: The river expedition involved a few of the Grade 7/8 classes from some of the Central Alberta Adventist schools getting together for a three-day journey on the Red Deer River. We did more than canoeing, though. We visited historic sites, collected river bugs, and tested water samples. We all had a great time. No one tipped over!

OPTIONS AT JUNIOR HIGH: There are many options for this class, such as woodworking, fitness, foods, art, home accessories, outdoor ed, and many others! I will describe two of my favourite classes to you:

WOODWORKING: In this class you get to create awesome things of your choice out of wood! I have made Muskoka chairs (the much comfier version of Adirondack chairs) for all of my junior high years in this class! I have stained and varnished them both. I plan on making a crossbow next year!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION: In Outdoor Ed you get to learn how to survive

outdoors, make fires (my buddies and I made a huge bonfire), set up tents, canoe, and do a lot of other great things! This year we went down the Red Deer River. This was not the same trip as the River Expedition, though. We went through the Badlands and even went to Dry Island Buffalo Jump! We had an awesome mud fight, and a classmate and I both swam across the river. We even went to DQ afterwards! It was awesome, laugh attacks and all!

Yes, this is all pretty exciting and fun stuff! We love our school and our church family. Teachers are really more like family, and if you want to come, you are more than welcome! Every year there are more exciting and new opportunities to learn and grow. We can't wait for school to start again! ■

Aine Schmidt is a Grade 7 student attending CHCS. Egan Schmidt is a Grade 9 student attending CHCS.



Aine Schmidt

Sounds like an invitation to me! If you want to have an adventure, check out your local Adventist church school of your choice and join in the fun and exciting learning opportunities. This is what Adventist education is all about—having fun while learning life skills and learning about God through nature and activities. May you be blessed and be a blessing as you consider joining Adventist education across Canada.

Creation Day Celebration

"The Lord has made the earth by His power; He
has established the world by His wisdom, and has
stretched out the heavens by His intelligence"

—Jeremiah 10:12, Aramaic of the Peshitta

A most important principle of life is clearly seen when one drives most anywhere. It is so common we often overlook it. You can identify it by the colour of living green. “Only life can beget life” is a scientific law of genuine observable science. “God formed man of the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person” (Gen. 2:7, NLT).

God is still using the green He created on Day 3 to maintain this breath of life. Visible in any living plant are green cells called chloroplasts. These remarkable living cells contain chlorophyll. This catalyst processes the CO₂ we breathe out, and transforms the carbon into carbohydrates that we eat and feed our hungry planet.

A byproduct of this sun-powered minifactory is oxygen needed in order to breathe. God as Creator is still “breathing into man’s nostrils the breath of life” by this plant process known as photosynthesis. No human science laboratory can duplicate this vital life process. It is one of God’s mysteries created in the original first week of time. Only a living cell can perform this gift of renewed air and food—both so vital to our very life.

When we consider this living green, we are looking at the very creativity of Jesus as Creator. “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible.... And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist” (Col. 1:16, 17, NKJV).

Seventh-day Adventists call attention to the above ongoing gift of God by a special yearly Creation Day event. This year it will be Oct. 26, 2013. This annual event was launched by our world church in 2009 and is still hosted by the ministerial department.

At that identical time *Creation Illustrated* launched www.creationrestoration.org as a call to the world’s three great religions of faith to jointly hold a Creation Day event. Judaism, Islam and Christianity all hold one common ground belief: God is Creator

and Sustainer of life in our world. Please invite these three communities of faith who look to Abraham to jointly worship the Creator on this special Creation Sabbath on Oct. 26, 2013.

Tom Ish, editor and publisher of *Creation Illustrated*, and friends have supplied this journal in its 20th year of publication for the past 12 years to every Adventist teacher and church school across Canada. This has proved a blessing to our Canadian youth. One Canadian teacher said, “I use the ‘instructional guide’ in each issue to enrich my classes all the time. It draws us closer to our Creator.”

CREATION DAY: A VISION STATEMENT

The late Dr. Henry Zuill, former professor of biology at Union College was a great inspiration to all in the planning of a Creation Day Celebration back in 2009. He was stricken with cancer and never lived to celebrate the first Creation Day Celebration of that year. “I pray it will be a truly joyful occasion. I hope we stay away from ‘evolution bashing’ and focus on many of the positive aspects of believing in creation,” he wrote on Feb. 11, 2009. He envisioned a festival of Creation music.

Following are suggestions you may find helpful in your planning for this commemorative worship service.

CREATION ECOLOGY TIPIFYED IN MUSIC

A day of wonderful music—great congregational hymn singing, soaring and transcending choral anthems, and rich orchestral pieces—all following the example of Job 38:7, which says, “When the morning stars sang together, and all

the sons of God shouted for joy” (NKJV). That’s the kind of music that goes with such a rich history of our Creation, in which, when God saw it all, He said it was very good. This should be a day of high celebration with everyone giving glory to God (see Rev. 14:7).

BIBLICAL THEME

Revelation 14:7 could easily be the biblical theme for Creation Day. It is a key scripture calling for praise to God because the hour of His judgment (setting things right) has come and we are to worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea, and springs of waters.

Many have legitimately noted that this verse parallels the fourth commandment. Keeping Creation and Creator connected to the Sabbath greatly enriches the Sabbath. Sadly, although there are 52 “Creation Days” a year, Creation has often become a sidebar to Sabbath rather than the mental and spiritual foundation upon which it sits.

CREATIONISM AND SCIENCE

Often when we encounter the word creationism, we think of scientific evidence for Creation. Creation Day should include a number of speakers representing a number of disciplines: biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, astronomy: all reveal remarkable research supporting the concept of Creation.

CREATION AND WHO GOD IS

The Bible often defines God as Creator. Moreover, it emphatically tells us that God created in six days (see Exod. 20:11) This is the bottom line. One Christian

Resources to help you celebrate

The websites www.creationrestoration.org and www.CreationSabbath.net both stand by to help your planning. The latter has resources available in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Evolution Impossible: 12 Reasons Why Evolution Cannot Explain the Origin of Life on Earth, a book by Dr. John F. Ashton (available at most ABCs)

Origins: The First Week of Time, an eight-hour DVD series by Terry McComb (available at www.gospelcreation.ca and some ABCs)

See www.creationillustrated.com for a quarterly Christian journal that parallels National Geographic magazine.

To help reach Islam, see www.salahallah.com (see especially the 12th article on the list, "Allah Created Heaven and Earth in Six Days.")

Geoscience Research Institute has many excellent resources at www.grida.org.

Good non-Adventist resources are Creation Ministries International, at www.creation.com, which has a rich source of Creation materials. They also have speakers you can book in Canada. Simply contact them at 519/746 3543 or at events@creation.info. Also, the Institute for Creation Research, at www.icr.org, is another rich source for DVDs, books, and the free journal Acts and Facts.

academic was heard saying that he wished he could believe in a six-day creation but that he just did not find evidence for it.

SCIENCE AND THE SIX-DAY CREATION

Dr. Zuill looked at the same evidence but did not disbelieve. He accepted a six-day creation based on the Bible alone. Zuill realized evidence from ecology, particularly the nitrogen cycle, and pointed to a rapid assembling of the essential components necessary for interactive life to function. He and Dr. Timothy Standish wrote a paper on design evidence in the nitrogen cycle, which was published in 2007 in the journal *Origins*. They realized the many relationships involved were essential, and they used the term "irreducibly interdependent." A rapid Creation appears essential to the normal operation of ecosystems. An ecosystem is an integrated

unit consisting of bacteria, animals, and plants and their environment of air, soil, water and climate they inhabit. These all relate to one another in a complex, finely balanced way—all at the same time with life or life does not continue! A rapid Creation, which a six-day creation would be, is scientifically and theologically fundamental.

MINISTRY OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

In the first chapter of *The Desire of Ages* we find a beautiful description of ideal ecology in which each organism has its special ministry; only the selfish human heart is capable of living exclusively for itself. How tragic!

MORE THAN SCIENCE

Creationism is much more than science, however. It is the very foundation upon

which our belief system rests. Consider the six-day creation again. It is crucial. More than any other aspect of Creation, it is most important and should get much attention on Creation Day. If one cannot believe in creation in a week, how can one believe God is able to resurrect and restore life in the blink of an eye? How could He create a new heaven and new earth with the power of His word?

A NOTABLE MIRACLE

Jesus' miracles, such as the feeding of the five thousand employed creative power. The healing of the paralytic man lowered through the roof is particularly far reaching. It links forgiveness with restoration; the one requires the other. Forgiveness without restoration would be hollow; restoration without forgiveness would be indulgence. Together they provide us with remarkable hope: salvation.

THE SIX-DAY CREATION AGAIN

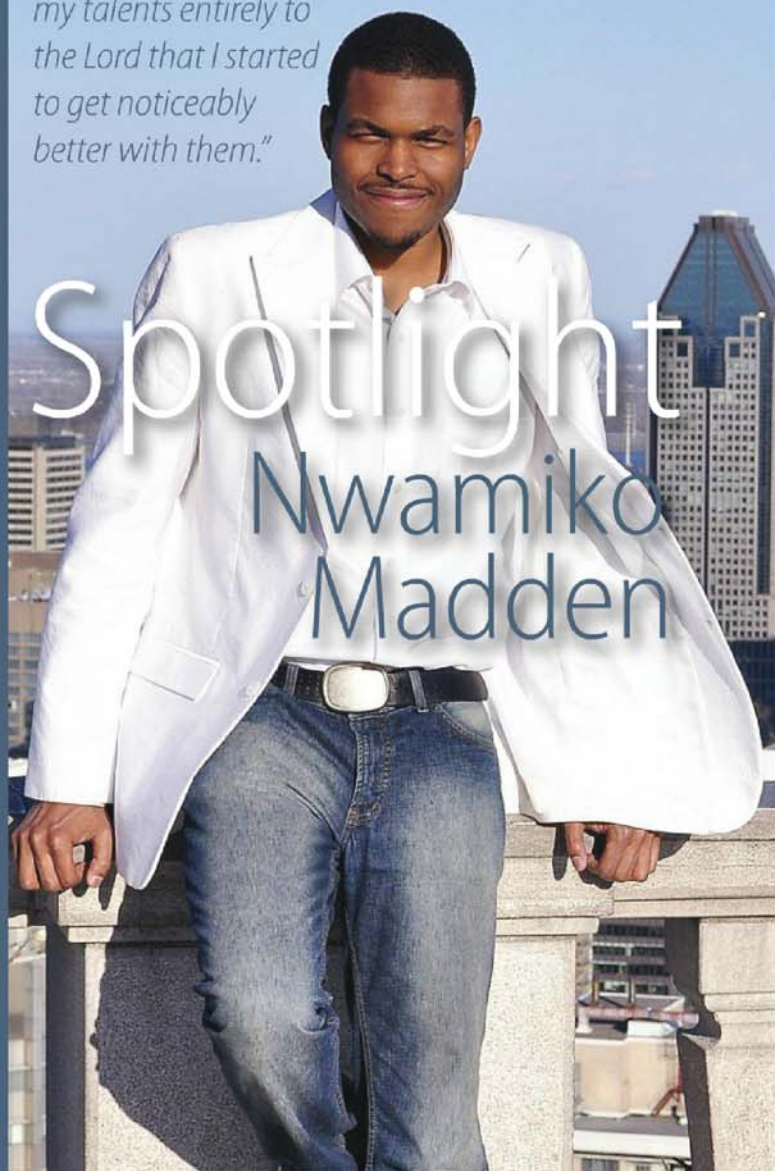
We have suggested extra-biblical evidence for a six-day creation, the Bible affirms it, and salvation requires it. Dr. George Hilton's book *You Can't Have Your Christ and Darwin Too* is an in-depth study of the relationship between Creation and salvation (available at the B.C. ABC).

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

We have a thorough Creator who made all things beautiful and who will do it again. The human body, made of 100 trillion cells, operates with 11 different systems. They all began to function at once, when the Creator first breathed into it the breath of life. This life has been passed on from Adam down through the (roughly) 6,000 years from generation to generation. God maintains this life with His living green cells. There are nail scars in the hands of the Word who was sent to recreate and restore. Every seventh day is a day to remember He created all life in six days. A time to rest and be restored. Is this not something to celebrate? ■

Terry McComb is speaker/writer for Gospel According to Creation, www.gospelcreation.ca, and chair of creationrestoration.org.

It wasn't until I surrendered my talents entirely to the Lord that I started to get noticeably better with them."



Every door was open, the vice-president of casting for the FOX television Network had flown to Canada from Hollywood to personally invite him to the most frenzied casting season of the year, almost guaranteeing him work. Television shows were presenting season options, scripts were being delivered, and all of one young man's dreams were coming true. But something was very different.

"As early as I could remember I had a strong sense of religious duty and loyalty to my faith and God. As great as that sounds, however, it didn't play out so well in elementary school, as I became increasingly disillusioned with the fact that no one knew who Adventists were. We'd sit in a circle and ask one another, 'What religion are you?' to which the responses would come 'Buddhist!' 'Greek Orthodox!' 'Jewish!' 'Catholic!' and then ... 'Seventh-day Adventist.'

"Did you just say 'Every Day A Dentist?' 'Seventh-day Advantage?' We just don't get it, Miko."

Nwamiko had been dedicated to the Lord from infancy in his mother's womb. Her wishes transcended into his life as he grew into a young man on a quest to be the mascot and role model for his Seventh-day Adventist faith. He had a plan to build a name for the church in popular culture through his work in the arts.

Acting seemed to almost fall into his lap as one school play led to a TV show, which then led to a movie role and career. The train was seemingly on the right track and racing up the road to success, fame and fortune, a feat many clamor after today. TV shows were accommodating his Sabbath schedule, roles were being morally suited to his real life character. But something didn't seem right.

As the story is told to me, Nwamiko quotes *The Desire of Ages*: "At the moment of success, when the nets were filled with fish, and the impulses of the old life were strongest, Jesus asked the disciples at the sea to leave all for the work of the gospel" (p. 273).

A distinct impression of God saying, "You're not going to L.A." came to Nwamiko during a prayer meeting before his big trip. After contemplating, he decided to trust and obey the voice and stay home in Montreal. It was at this time a friend came to him in desperate need of help and counsel, and through the act of him staying, a soul was saved. It was the beginning of a new direction.

Today Nwamiko is still in the arts, but with a new direct purpose. He runs a ministry called Certain Sound Media (www.certainoundmedia.org), where high-quality movies and faith-based projects are produced in order to bring the message to the entire world. A studio album of music written and produced by Nwamiko is also in the works. He says, "I believe we've been given the farthest reaching and most beautiful truths ever given to humankind and that as far as possible our productions should look and sound like that."

Nwamiko adds: "It wasn't until I surrendered my talents entirely to the Lord that I started to get noticeably better with them. God actually asked me to relinquish all of my secular music and film endeavors so that He could give me what you might call 'baptized talent.' He emptied me out so that I could be filled. More often than not, however, we have seen the church be the launch pad for secular stardom, but that's where we miss the mark. I think the more we recognize that service solely for His glory is the highest calling that we can attain, then talent, ideas and all the rest flood in." ■

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

the Hurdles that lead to successful ministry



Edgar Pilapil—Outside the classroom Edgar loves biking in spring and summer, as well as many other sports.

It all started with Edgar's dream to become an engineer. After high school Edgar attended a public university, where he knew his dream would be fulfilled. Since Edgar observed the Sabbath, he registered for only 12 of the full 24-credit course load because some classes were held on Saturdays. Shortly after enrollment, he was asked to report to the counsellor and explain why he had so few credits. Unfortunately, Edgar was asked to leave the school because his credits were insufficient.

It was when Edgar enrolled for Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) that he returned to school and thought, "Now it's time to pursue my dreams!" Since he was enrolled in a mathematics program, he did not know what career he would end up pursuing. After all, his dream was to become an engineer.

Following graduation, Edgar was led to teach at Northeast Luzon Academy, an Adventist boarding academy. There Edgar discovered his passion: teaching. Edgar returned to AUP and upgraded his mathematics degree to a master's degree.

Years later Edgar migrated to Canada with his wife, Madonna. This transition, as many immigrants know, is not easy. Edgar wondered, What am I going to do here? Will I still be able to teach? Despite the uncertainty, however, Edgar had the

assurance that God would continue to lead.

Edgar arrived in Canada in April 2000. One Sabbath morning in May, he was reading the *Ontario Highlights* magazine. He flipped through it and noticed an employment ad in the classifieds. Kingsway College was looking for a math and computer teacher. Almost immediately, Edgar felt God calling him to the teaching ministry. After sunset that Sabbath, Edgar prayed, showed the ad to his wife and applied for the job. In his heart he already believed this was it! The following Thursday of that week, Edgar had an interview and started teaching in September 2000. This year marks the 13th year of service at Kingsway College, and Edgar would not have it any other way.

Christian education is everything to Edgar. He grew up in the Adventist school environment with his sister from Grade 1 through high school and then part of his university years. He attests, "It was through Adventist education that I learned more about Jesus and was able to accept Him as my personal Saviour."

He remembers times in university when he was offered to grab some drinks and smoke with non-Adventist friends. He refused the invitation and claimed in his heart that it was not what God would want. He says, "The greatest gift in my life was from my parents; they worked very hard to keep my sister and me in the Adventist educational system, which by far is second to none."

Edgar believes that "the youth are the hope for the nation" and that "now is the time for them to utilize their talents." It is fulfilling to see youth leading out in worship and participating in the community. "The young people can capture the attention of people, young and old, and this is why they should be used in whatever ministry they are called to serve in," says Edgar.

Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (NIV). This verse became Edgar's guiding principle while in university and remains so to this day. ■

Ashley Arriola is the communication director at Kingsway College.

Peace, food, or health

An impoverished mother's difficult choice



A beneficiary like Matella gladly receiving beans, a nutritious source of protein that is often lacking in Niger.

SOME ADRA CANADA STORIES ARE HAPPY, and some are not. This story about Matella, a 49-year old mother of three from a village in Northern Mali, is perhaps bittersweet.

Three years ago, Matella's husband died because they could

not afford the medicine and care he needed. After he died, the family tried to farm for a livelihood, but their harvests were insufficient to feed the family for more than six months. Things got even worse when a group of men beat her 17-year-old son because they caught him smoking cigarettes and for joining a group watching a video on a phone. Ten days later, her son died from his injuries.

Matella decided to leave her village and seek refuge in a neighbouring country. After 13 days of dangerous travel, she found a safe community in Niger. She helped the local women pound millet and sorghum, some of which they gave her for food. This was how the family survived until ADRA began assisting Malian refugees like her.

Each month, 450 families in this project were given: 20 kg rice, 15 kg millet, 15 kg beans, 5 kg pasta, 3 litres vegetable oil, and 500 g salt.

The story isn't over, but for now, Matella and her family enjoy the food provided by ADRA Canada.

How can you ensure this story has a happy ending? Visit www.adra.ca or call 1.888.274.2372. ■

Ryan Wallace, Communications Specialist, ADRA Canada



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE FREDERICTON AND ZEALAND
CHURCHES IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?

Ann McGivery: I would build a drop-in center for kids that would offer life skills and teachable materials.

Betty Brewer: I would make my church larger, build a church school and hire my son-in-law as the teacher.

Bonnie Estey: I would help a lot of people; I would have a lot of fun helping as many as I could. This would give me the opportunity to share Jesus so much.

planting seeds



My mind was racing. I had just returned from a pre-mission revival weekend. It was an event intended to prepare those who would be leaving on a two-week mission to Manitoulin Island, Ont., which would take place from July 28 to August 11. The missionaries were a diverse group, with youth hailing from different parts of the United States, Canada, as well as Puerto Rico and France. There were about 35 missionaries in total. The mission was spearheaded by Eastern Canada Youth for Christ (ECYC), Generation Youth for Christ (GYC) and the Ontario Conference.

Yet, I was experiencing cold feet. In a moment of weakness after the last service, I sent a text message to my sister, informing her of my desire to back out of the mission. Her response strengthened my resolve. I was reminded of the Lord's words to Joshua, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Josh. 1:9, KJV). I went to bed ready to face the long journey ahead.

When I first heard about the ECYC mission, I wondered where it might be located in Canada. After looking it up on a map, I was a bit embarrassed to learn that it was in Ontario about an eight-hour drive from Toronto. Not only would we be visiting Manitoulin, but we would also be in Elliot Lake, Ont. Our mission focus in these areas would be to distribute health literature, such as *Foods That Heal*. We

also canvassed *Steps to Happiness* and *History and Hope (The Great Controversy)*. In Manitoulin, we would visit some of the reserves and neighbourhoods in the nearby towns and promote the health expo we were planning to hold.

Every morning we gathered for devotion and headed out the door sometime in the afternoon to canvass the surrounding areas. This was my first time canvassing, and at first, I was completely terrified, but I was reassured that God was with me. During the first week my team of five was kicked off our assigned street by a bylaws and policies officer, only to subsequently have two divine appointments in completely different areas. And in the second week, in a town called Espanola, our team encountered a 17-year-old on the verge of committing suicide. God used our team leader, who was also 17, to minister to this teen. We left him with a copy of *The Power of Prayer*, which we saw him reading as he stumbled away from us in a drunken state.

During the week that we were holding the outdoor health expo, it was raining. As I stared at the silver drops cascading down from the grey sky, I began to feel my heart sinking. What were we going to do? We gathered as a group and prayed that God would clear the rain. We did not even make back-up plans.

After an hour or so, I looked up and saw the sun peering out from behind the departing grey clouds. I couldn't help but stare above in awe. When we arrived at

Gore Bay waterfront where the health expo was to be held, we prayed again and then sang the hymn "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." About two minutes before 11 a.m., we saw the first person arrive for the day. She was wearing a bright yellow cotton shirt. We all began to smile from ear to ear.

In two weeks we were able to distribute 1,100 books and knock on every door in Elliot Lake and almost all in Manitoulin. We were planting seeds. It was especially encouraging for us to witness the steadfast faith of Denis Leblanc, the only Seventh-day Adventist person living on the island. We prayed that he would continue strong in the faith and that God would use him mightily.

Leaving was not easy, but we knew that the mission didn't end in Manitoulin. On the contrary, it was only just beginning. We were all called to be missionaries in our own neighbourhoods, among our own friends and family, and to the people whom God places in our paths.

We may not have been able to see the results of the work we did in Manitoulin, but we trusted that God would continue to work in the lives of the people whose doors we knocked on, whom we spoke and prayed with, and that they would be forever changed by the life-transforming words that would leap off the pages of the books we had left behind. ■

Alexandra Yeboah is the Messenger secretary and a staff writer.

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Ontario

The Race Is Not for the Swift



Sunday, June 24, 2013, North-West Brampton had its annual church picnic at Caledon East Community Park. As was the case last year, this year the weather forecast called for rain for the day. Needless to say, all the sports enthusiasts along with the prayer warriors prayed for a warm and sunny day.

The event started at 9 a.m., as scheduled, with the early birds and the organizers present and waiting for all participants to arrive. As participants arrived, they were given an armband of either blue or yellow. The colour of the armband determined the team each individual would be representing.

At approximately 11 a.m., most individuals were present, and so the organizers were ready to start the first race. As a judge and a father of two of the participants who were on separate teams, I was torn between cheering and being an unbiased arbiter.

There were many races, with participants from various age groups. The marquee race consisted of mothers and daughters in various age categories competing. It was exciting to watch young mothers with young girls as well as older mothers with their older daughters participating. One mother stood out from the crowd because although all other mothers were able-bodied, she raced with the assistance of her walker. Seeing her race proved the race wasn't for the swift or the battle for the strong.

We had potluck lunch, which featured the culinary skills of various members of the congregation. Members went from table to table sampling the delicious meals.

Once the meal was over, it was back to the races. The announcer, Durven Bansi, did an excellent job in promoting the athletes. For a few minutes, I felt transported to the 2012 Olympics as we could hear names of famous athletes

being called. At other times athletes had such great records that if I was only listening to the commentator, I would feel intimidated if I were a participant. Our pastor, John Scott, also participated in the race and showed that he could run.

Although there was a trophy presentation at the end of the games, everyone went home excited. One of my boys' teams was successful. The other boy, however, didn't seem to care; he had fun, and that was the best part of the event.

At one point it seemed as if it would rain. But even then no one wanted to leave. We eventually left at approximately 7 p.m., an hour later than planned.

In the end one of my sons wanted to know why there wasn't any father-and-son race, and I told him, "The race was not for the swift or the battle to the strong." ■

— Anthony Blair, North-West Brampton Seventh-day Adventist Church

“Something Better”: Eastern Canada Youth for Christ holds 5th annual conference

“Something better” is the watchword of education, the law of all true living. Whatever Christ asks us to renounce, He offers in its stead something better.

—Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 296



Speakers included Ezra Kenyanya, president of Africans Living in View of Eternity (ALIVE), a group focused on doing mission work in Africa; Krystal Williams, a teacher from the Alberta Conference; George Cho, president of ECYC, Dragan Stojanovic, vice-president of administration, Seventh-day Adventist Church of Canada (SDACC); Jonathan Zita, director of Canada Youth Challenge, a youth scholarship and lifestyle education program; and Benjamin Middleton, producer of UnScene media group.

It was especially encouraging to have Mark Johnson, SDACC president, speak for the divine service.

ECYC exists as a ministry to equip and train youth for evangelism and service. Each year we hold an annual biblical training conference to give youth opportunities to network and fellowship with other youth. It also seeks to provide an avenue to encourage and foster spiritual discussions in a Christlike atmosphere.

If you are interested in attending our conference or becoming involved in our mission projects, please email us at info@eastcanadayouth.org. ■

—Alexandra Yeboah,
*Communications, Eastern
Canada Youth for Christ*

This summer from August 15–18, young people gathered together at Tyndale University for Eastern Canada Youth for Christ’s (ECYC) fifth annual conference to discover “Something Better.” The overall theme was based on the idea that God has something better in store for youth when it comes to relationships, diet, music and entertainment and overall spiritual, physical and mental

well-being.

The accompanying text was Matthew 16:26: “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (NKJV).

It was such a blessing to have varied speakers from within eastern Canada, but we were also pleased to have a few from western Canada and the United States.

Transitions: Christian Record Services

The Canadian Christian Record Services (CRS) Inc., board has taken an action to transition the ministry of CRS and its blind camps to the local churches, supported by the local conferences across Canada.

The distribution of materials to the blind in Canada, as well as the summer

blind camps will continue without a significant interruption.

Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, stated: “Ministry to the blind is an important part of our Adventist faith. It will continue in a new and expanded fashion.”

Details of a new community outreach, designed for the local church across Canada, will be unfolded in the near future. ■

—Stan Jensen,
*communication director,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada*

Health Ministries At The Ex



The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) is an event where patrons expect to experience new and challenging thrills, be awestruck by the manoeuvre of highly skilled pilots in the annual air show, sample food items in unusual combinations, or purchase the newest this-is-far-superior-to-what-you-have-at-home products. It has also become a place for Health Ministries to share the message of optimal health to a large percentage of the million-plus patrons who attend this fair. Since 2011 God has given Health Ministries of the Ontario Conference an opportunity to occupy a booth at the CNE. By the end of the 2013 season, we interacted with approximately 162,000 patrons, vendors and staff and gave 8,000 pens, 11,000 bags, 950 water bottles, 1,950 mini monthly planners and 62,000 printed materials to most of these visitors.

By divine appointment, we were neighbours to psychics for the 2012 and 2013 seasons. This placement not only resulted in several comments by our guests about the co-existence of good and evil in the world but also invariably segued into discussions on personal choice and issues related to eternity. Generally, visitors to the booth, including our psychic neighbours, initiated as many conversations about God, Scripture, and Seventh-day Adventist beliefs as they did about health. For instance, on one occasion two young Muslim women

engaged in a lengthy discussion on the deity of Christ. On other occasions a Catholic priest, Baptist and Pentecostal Christians from Jordan and Lebanon, and individuals with no religious affiliation posed a number of questions on the differences and similarities between Adventists and other Christians. These individuals were among several who were unfamiliar with the Adventist Church and wanted to know if we were like “regular” Christians.

Conversations also revolved around our graphic health education exhibits. Displays included (1) a model of a cirrhotic liver, (2) models from actual specimens representing a healthy lung—one affected with emphysema and another with malignant tumours, (3) a mouth with ulcers, gingivitis, and dental caries resulting from chronic tobacco use and poor oral hygiene, and (4) containers showing hidden amounts of sugar, fat and salt in common foods.

The team adopted a non-proselytizing approach in this ministry. We were blessed, however, with the privilege of providing contact information for churches and honouring requests for Bibles and devotional literature. Several gifts were available for our guests to access freely, although many were initially incredulous, in spite of the “Free” and “Take One” signs. It was evident that guests feared being drawn into a Bible

study or a contract of some kind.

The CNE experience confirms that curiosity about the Adventist lifestyle is at its peak. This interest can be harnessed with an Adventist health presence at shopping centres, community fairs and other public events. Health is pivotal to the message given us by God for the world. In reference to the message of health, Ellen White notes, “The right hand is used to open doors through which the body may find entrance” (*Medical Missionary*, p. 238). Ministry in the 21st century must be done intentionally as Christians embrace the challenge of taking Christ’s messages of life to the people more often instead of expecting them to find us in our cloistered meeting places each week. We need not fear possible “contamination” or loss of our distinctiveness when we mingle in this manner.

CNE administration and patrons have grown to expect Health Ministries to host a booth at the exhibition place annually. Returning guests visit each year to collect new materials and share their stories of progress with health choices. My prayer is to see this type of evangelistic activity duplicated across Canada as we use opportunities to minister with the Master in the marketplace. ■

Maria McClean, health ministries director, Ontario Conference

Branson Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Homecoming



Branson School of Nursing graduates: (l. to r.) Carol Shafer Smith (63 B), Earla Wood Sanz (63 B), Flora Wood Adams (65), Geraldine Klam Davis (63 B), Leona Tadla Wilkinson (63 B), Eileen Kennedy Crews (63 B), Twyla Reimche Gimbel (63 B), Myrtle Gooding Johnson (63 B), Victoria Melnichuk Tataryn (63 B).

FIFTY YEARS!

Yes, it has been 50 years since the first nurses graduated from Branson Hospital School of Nursing.

In 1957 North York Branson Hospital in Willowdale, Ont., opened its doors to patients. Within two years Branson Hospital School of Nursing opened its doors. The first students enrolled in February 1960, with a second group being enrolled in the customary time of September of the same year.

To celebrate 50 years since the first graduation of nurses, Kingsway College included the nurses in its alumni homecoming, May 10–12, 2013. It was also 50 years since Oshawa Missionary College changed its name to Kingsway College.

Throughout the 14 years that Branson Hospital School of Nursing existed, 269 students passed through its doors. The first graduations were held in February and September 1963 because of the two enrollments in 1960. There also were two groups to graduate in 1974, the last year

the school existed, a three-year group and a two-year group.

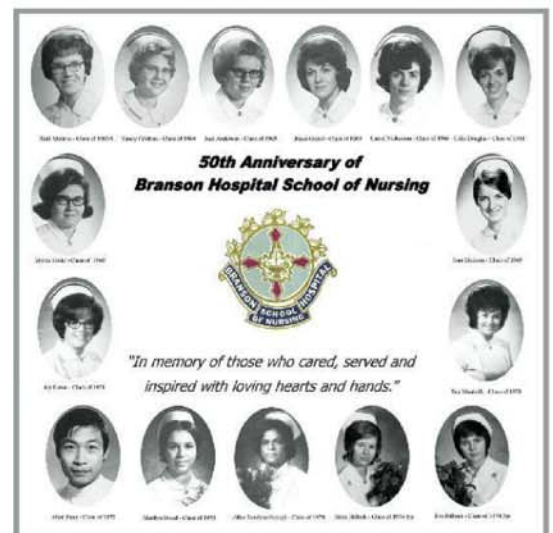
In the early 1970s the Government of Ontario (along with many other provinces and states) decided to phase out three-year hospital diploma programs in favour of a two-year associate degree in a community college or a four-year bachelor's degree in a university.

Branson Hospital School of Nursing did not qualify for either option. Although they did join forces with Seneca College in North York, the philosophies of the two schools did not mesh, so after one class in the two-year program, it was regrettably decided to close Branson Hospital School of Nursing. It was a very difficult decision to make, heartbreaking for many.

For the reunion held at Kingsway College, 120 nursing graduates attended, with each class being represented, plus four staff members. What a joyful

reunion! Grads returned from as far away as Australia and from right across Canada and the United States. Meeting classmates and friends from more than 30, 40 or 50 years ago made for a very inspiring time.

In the years since the school closed, 16 of the graduates have died. To honour



A plaque in honour of the 16 graduates who have died. It will hang in the Kingsway College administration building.

them, the nurses erected a lamp post near the gazebo where the old Kingsway College ad building used to stand. A plaque was placed at the base of the lamp post, reading, "In memory of those who cared, served and inspired with loving hearts and hands." A composite of pictures of these nurses will hang in the present Kingsway College ad building.

Along with enjoying the festivities provided by the Kingsway College alumni association, the nurses had special time together on their own. Branson graduates presented the College Park Sabbath School, which included testimonies by several grads about how both Kingsway and Branson directed their life paths. Sabbath afternoon a large room was buzzing with conversation, laughter, looking at old yearbooks and picture taking as nurses reminisced of times gone

by and discussion of what each person has done in the years since graduation.

Again on Sunday morning, 250 nurses, together with spouses and friends, gathered for a brunch. The camaraderie continued from the afternoon before, with special memories being shared by Roberta and Rae Crawford, whose father, Dr. Irwin Crawford (along with several others), dreamed big for a hospital and school of nursing in Canada.

During the 14 years of operation, the school produced an articulate and dignified group of nurses who have had many varied and extensive nursing experiences of service to Canada and several other countries in the world. ■

—*Twyla Reimche Gimbel, class of 1963, Branson Hospital School of Nursing.*



The lamppost Branson Hospital School of Nursing graduates had erected on the grounds of Kingsway College in honour of the 16 graduates who have died.

Health Emphasis Weekend in Windsor



Sandy Grant speaking at the Windsor SDA Health Emphasis Weekend.

Health Emphasis Weekend was held at the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church, June 8-9, 2013, with guest speaker Sandy Grant, who is an experienced registered holistic nutritionist. She is a spiritually insightful and inspiring speaker who concluded the weekend in a practical way through a cooking class. The attendance was great and people appreciated her sharing information,

which she has accumulated through study and experience over the past 15 years. Members of the health ministries team assisted in putting this weekend program together, and many of the church members responded by attending not only the worship service but also the potluck, seminar and cooking class. We were reminded that the prescription to a healthy lifestyle was given to us at the

beginning of time in Genesis 1:29. Sandy's motto is "Your health is your greatest wealth—treasure it." She motivated us to achieve optimum health and wholeness by making simple modifications in everyday living. We enjoyed the blessings of a great weekend. ■

—*Gloria Joshua, health ministries leader, Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church*

British Columbia

Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) 57th Constituency Session Report



The 57th Constituency Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) convened on Aug. 4, 2013, in the Main Pavilion at Camp Hope, Hope, B.C. Over 255 delegates represented 80 organized churches, and 19 companies spread across British Columbia and the Yukon.

Elder Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), presented the devotional message. He focused his devotional on Galatians 2 and appealed that the central focus of the Seventh-day Adventist Church must be summed up “In Christ Alone.”

The delegates overwhelmingly accepted the nominating committee report and voted Wayne Culmore, president; Wesley Torres, secretary; and Michael Wixwat, treasurer as the administrators for the ensuing quadrennium.

The delegates also accepted the

nominating committee report and voted the following names to the board of directors representing the vast geographical landscape of British Columbia:

North Central Okanagan and Shuswap Region: Vic Bell, Phillip Brewer, Stan Smith, Marjorie Wright; Northern Region: Cavin Chwyl, Dave Laughton, Ezzer Pajanconi, Lee Richards; Vancouver Island Region: Michael Stevenson; Conference Church Region: Elizabeth Soong; Kootenay and South Okanagan Region: Phillip Ritchey, Julie Thorp; Fraser Valley Region: Marie Berthelot, Michael Josiah, Reiner Kupperts; Metro Vancouver Region: Julia Bonilla, Levi Estores, Esther Labro-Aguilar, Claude Sabot.

The delegates also completed all items on the agenda, including the nominating committee report for the members of the bylaws committee, as well as voting minor changes to the constitution and

bylaws and financial reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m., with all the delegates surrounding the elected administrators as Elder Kyoshin Ahn of the General Conference led in a passionate and powerful prayer for the Church in the British Columbia Conference.

During lunch the delegates met in their regional groups and discussed one question: what can the B.C. Conference do to help local churches grow?

The responses will be presented to the new board of directors as they develop a vision and strategy to help guide the conference over the next four years to grow God’s kingdom in British Columbia and the Yukon. ■

— Charles Ed II Aguilar,
communication director,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church (British
Columbia Conference)

*The Departmental Directors presented their reports (from 2009-2013) through a well-produced video which can be seen here (<https://vimeo.com/71978048>). The 57th Constituency Session Report ebook is available for download at <http://bcalive.ca/57thsession/index.html>.

Avalon Adventist Junior Academy Science Fair News



Science Fair first place winner, Danielle Lacasse, a grade 8 student at Avalon Adventist Junior Academy.

Avalon had a very successful science fair with many interesting and innovative projects and was organized by senior science teacher, Michael Markin. It was challenging for Avalon's judges to decide which of the students and their projects would move on to the Regional Science Fair.

After holding our school-wide science fair, 11 students attended the North Island Regional Science Fair in Port McNeill. The participating students had a wonderful day meeting other promising young scientists, viewing other students' displays, and attending interesting activities.

Winners at the Regional Level were:

1. Danielle Lacasse, Grade 8: First Place Overall, B.C. Teachers' Scholarship of \$100, and attendance and the National Science Fair in Lethbridge, Alta., for her experiment, "Testing Streams."
2. Matthew MacDonald, Grade 10: First Place for his experiment, "Energetic Division."
3. Lauren Corsi, Grade 9: Second Place for her experiment/demonstration, "Chemical Reactions."
4. Talia Markin, Grade 8: Second Place for her study, "Hydraulic Force Multiplication."
5. Stephanie Lacasse, Grade 6: Second Place and a RP Scholarship of \$50 for her experiment, "Worm's Blanket."
6. Lucas Prong, Grade 4: First Place for his display, "Clean Water/Innovation."

At Avalon we are very pleased with our students' results and look forward to next year's exhibition. ■

—Clifford Wood, principal,
Avalon Jr. Academy

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Ordination



Svetlana and Stanislav Kondrat

During campmeeting, on the Sabbath of July 13, the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference ordained Ted Deer, the pastor of the Hill Avenue church, and Stanislav Kondrat, the pastor of Hudson Bay,



Ted Deer

Nipawin and Quill Lake churches.

Ted Deer was born and raised in Canora, Sask. In 2004 Ted started his theology studies at Canadian University College. After graduation Ted pastored

the Prince Albert and Shellbrook churches for two years before going to Andrews University to complete his Master of Divinity. He later returned to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference to pastor in Regina. He has now been there for two years.

Stanislav Kondrat is married to Svetlana, and they have two children, Daniel and Sofia. After taking theology classes from Zoakski Theological Seminary, Stanislav attended Andrews University, where he finished the Master of Divinity degree in 2008.

Stanislav and Svetlana were also missionaries in Thailand. In Thailand Stanislav worked as a teacher, assisted at an orphanage and participated in disaster relief for northern areas. Stanislav has served as a literature evangelist leader in Russia, pastored three churches in Ukraine, was involved in family life

ministries and worked at a youth camp in Ukraine.

He and his family have spent the last four years serving the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference in the Prince Albert and Shellbrook churches as well as, more recently, Nipawin, Hudson Bay and Quill Lake.

The ordination sermon was presented by G. Alexander Bryant, executive secretary

of the North American Division. Bryant encouraged them to stay faithful to their calling of ministry, even when they wonder if they should do something different. Bryant emphasized that it was God who called them, not the conference nor the union, so they must follow God's leading. Following the sermon, Ron Nelson, president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, gave the charges to the

candidates and concluded with a prayer of dedication.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference would like to congratulate Ted Deer and Stanislav Kondrat and his family. We wish them God's blessing in their ministries. ■

— *Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference communication department*

New Congregations Are Sprouting Up All Over the Man-Sask Conference!



Sabbath at the Ochoco home in Thompson, Manitoba.

Sunday, July 7, 2013, will go down in history as the first-ever Man-Sask Conference Church Planting Rally. Our keynote speaker was Tom Evans of the North American Division Evangelistic Institute (NADEI). Tom is regarded as the foremost expert on Adventist church planting in North America. Reed Richardi also spoke at the rally. Reed is currently in the process of launching a network of house churches in the Washington, D.C., area.

The fact that over 70 individuals chose to attend the church planting rally, held in the Barbara Patterson Youth Pavilion at Camp Whitesand, is evidence that the church planting movement in Man-Sask is gaining momentum.

In the first decade of this millennium, from January 1, 2000, to December 31,

2009, there were seven new congregations launched in the Man-Sask Conference: Spirit of Truth (Regina), Winnipeg Korean, Nueva Esperanza (Winnipeg Spanish), Transcona, The Lighthouse of Hope (Winnipeg), Morden and Biggar. We praise God that over 150 precious people have been baptized as a result of these seven congregations.

The pace at which new congregations are being birthed in Man-Sask is picking up. Since January 1, 2010, seven more congregations have been launched: Iqaluit, Brandon Spanish, Humboldt, Igloolik, Meadow Lake, Thompson and Winnipeg Central. Several of these new congregations are meeting in homes. House churches are well-suited for both small and large communities. The two

greatest expenses in a conventional church are the building and the pastor. Lay-led house churches are a very biblical concept and an extremely economical way to reach people for Christ.

In the Man-Sask Conference our pastors have been trained to coach lay church planters. Coaching is the key to helping lay people become successful church planters. Tom Evans developed a helpful coaching model in the Texas Conference, where he served as the church planting coordinator from 2001 to 2010.

This spring the Brandon church launched a second worship service on Sabbath afternoons to reach the Spanish-speaking population. Within three months of the launch, Oscar Gutierrez baptized nine individuals. New congregations tend to grow more quickly than mature congregations.

The Henderson Highway church in Winnipeg has now birthed her fifth daughter congregation in 10 years! The new Winnipeg Central church is the latest congregation to be launched by Henderson Highway. Since April 2013, Winnipeg Central has been meeting for worship in the Home Street Mennonite Church, just north of Portage Avenue in downtown Winnipeg. On September 21, 2013, the group will be officially organized as a company. The group leader, Enock Oduro, meets monthly with his coach, Petar Djakov, senior pastor of the Henderson Highway church. ■

— *Jeff Potts, Man-Sask Conference church planting coordinator*

Newfoundland and Labrador

Lethbridge Celebrates Fifty Years of Active Witnessing

What did it take to get a church built in rural Newfoundland over 50 years ago, where there were no baptized members and little knowledge of our message? Many of our readers across Canada will recognize the name David Crook. Before he became an ordained minister or took his ministerial training, he was asked by the Newfoundland Mission president Desmond Tinkler to follow up on Bible study request interests around the province. In the Lethbridge/Musgrave-town area, the very young David Crook, leaning heavily on the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom from above, won the confidence of several of the local people. He started meetings in Lethbridge in December 1961, and before there were any baptized members, he and some of the local men started cutting logs and sawing lumber to build a church. The purchase of the land with \$100 donated by an Adventist doctor, Hildebrand, is a miracle in itself.

In July 1962 fifteen people were taken to the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church to be baptized. These members, plus newlyweds David and Yvonne Crook, made up the 17 charter members of the sturdily constructed and well-designed church that was opened and dedicated in December 1962. This achievement, in such a short time of work in the area, resulted from sacrificial giving of time and resources, a sense of urgency on the people in the area to heed God's message, and David Crook's industry and enthusiasm for the Lord's work.

Now that there was a church, the people wanted to build a school. Again logs were cut, lumber sawn and construction started. The industrious crew had a delightful school ready for the MHA Ross Barbour and one of the superintendents of schools for the province, Bruce Caravan, to do the ribbon cutting in time for opening in September 1963. The one-room school was staffed by Ed Reimche, who devoted approximately 40 years of teaching service



Dave and Yvonne Crook cutting the 50th anniversary cake along with Marion and Ed Reimche.

to our church schools in Newfoundland. Over the next few years, more classrooms were added. Wayne Taylor came as the second teacher in 1966. The school at its peak had an enrollment of over 130 students and a staff of six teachers.

Pastor Olavi Orpana followed Crook, and he wholeheartedly built on the work already in progress. Crook and Orpana each returned to minister twice in this district, and both the school and the church thrived for several years.

Unfortunately, with many of the younger families having to move to find suitable employment, the school population declined, and eventually the school closed. Some of the remaining members have worked hard to maintain the church and to renovate a portion of the school building for a fellowship hall. Each of the 18 pastors who have served the church over the past 50 years have made a valuable contribution to the Lord's work in this portion of His vineyard. They have reached out to the communities in various ways with their differing skills and interests, and only in eternity will we know the full reach of their work.

On July 13, 2013, present and former members, former students, some of the

pastors who have served the church and a few of the teachers, plus Newfoundland Mission office staff, and family members and friends of the church spent the day in worship, reflection and celebration. In the afternoon families gathered in the cemetery for a flower service to honour the early pioneers of the church who await the call of the Lifegiver.

In the evening David Crook and Ed Reimche used a slide projector to show photos from the history of the construction of the church and school. It was a day of sweet and precious memories, a taste of what that heavenly reunion will be when all of God's children will share their experiences and rejoice in how He has led in their lives.

Special thanks to Barb and Boris Wiseman and Lindo and Mackie Ellis for the many hours they worked getting everything ready for the 50th anniversary celebration. Thanks to all the church members and friends for the part each one played in making the day a blessing. ■

—Margaret Moore, St. John's church, former member, Lethbridge, N.L., church

Alberta

STORMCo Goes to Yellowknife

It was Sunday afternoon. Pastor Allan, Fernanda, Michelle, Felipe, and I started our journey from the Red Willow church in Edmonton to Yellowknife. Our trip started out perhaps with some doubt and apprehension; after all, our destination was only 18 hours away.

After driving many hours, we finally reached the hotel where we were scheduled to stay the night in High Level, Alta. It was about 12 a.m. We were tired and hungry, but most everything was closed. The local receptionist at the Super 8 suggested a local food joint that had the best pizza in town. That night we had best vegetarian pizza ever known to humanity—and who would have thought we would find it in High Level?

The next day around noon, we departed for Yellowknife. As we crossed the Alberta border into the Northwest Territories, we started to notice a difference in the scenery. The natural environment consisted of beautiful boreal forest. Marsh, bog, peat and lots of forest for many miles accompanied us on the rest of our journey.

After approximately 100 kilometres, we made it safely to Yellowknife. We drove right up to the church steps and parked in Pastor Brad Dahr's driveway. We soon talked, laughed and enjoyed Brad's famous spaghetti.

Tuesday morning we put on our fashionably "swagged-out" STORMCo T-shirts and went to the Centre for Northern Families, an organization that assists women with social services. We helped to remove junk that had been piled up outside their facility.

After we decided to take a stroll down town to Javaroma's, a local café known for their smoothies and bubble teas. Upon leaving Java's, we were met by a Jamaican native by the name of Raymond, who asked us what our cool shirts meant. We told him, "Service To Others Really Matters." He then said, "I have a lawn that needs to be cut. That's service." Because of our T-shirts, that day we helped to build community and participated in random acts of service.

On Wednesday morning we drove to the Young Women's Christian Association. We met Kate, a bubbly Ghanaian who was the director for transitional housing. She greeted us with a warm smile and comforting words. Pastor Brad's friend Alyssa from CBC did a news interview on STORMCo.

By Thursday we were exhausted but knew that we had to finish the rest of the painting at the YWCA. Kate came by with her infectious laugh and assured us that a special lunch would



be fixed for us as soon as we were finished painting. Ben from the local newspaper Yellowknifer stopped by and interviewed us for a column in the paper. We learned that a fresh coat of paint done with love can change a whole community!

On Friday Brad Dahr, in partnership with the City of Yellowknife, secured a job for us to repair part of a dilapidated footbridge heavily used by the community. Brad got to the worksite first; he started the task as if he was a professional carpenter working in the industry for years.

At the project start I had no idea what the STORMCo crew was going to build or what would become of our project, but by the end of it, it was as if Jesus the carpenter had done the job Himself.

Finally, after many hours of measuring, cutting, sawing, nailing, hammering and drilling, we had completed the new portion of the bridge. The city project manager came by and commended us for our hard work, commitment and dedication. As we packed up and were about to head home to prepare for the Sabbath, walking toward his truck he said, "Now the real test: I have to drive over it!" We watched intently as he drove over a newly constructed portion of the bridge.

By the end of our trip we all realized that we were building not only bridges for people to walk on physically but also bridges for people to one day walk in heaven—because, after all, service to others really does matter for eternity! ■

—Lyle Notice, associate youth director,
Alberta Conference

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Aug. 31, 2013, there are 450 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,474,888. There are 74 loans with a value of \$19,640,241.

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

SDA Church in Canada

Report on SDACC board meetings



Photo by Daniel Stojanovic

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) board meeting is always a good opportunity for the representatives from seven conferences and educational institutions to reflect on the church governance, to advance the “Reach Canada” strategic plan and to make necessary decisions for the growth of our church to the glory of God’s name. The meeting in September was dealing with all the aspects mentioned above. Let’s mention the most important aspects of this week of meetings:

- Thirty-one members of the board were pleased to welcome Dan Jackson, the North American Division (NAD) president. He gave a spiritual message of utmost importance, underlying that sooner or later the church, dealing with problems and challenges, will come to the core of its identity, which is Jesus Christ. The ministry of Dan Jackson, through the sharing of his experiences across the NAD, was an encouragement for all decision makers in their desire to fulfill the mission of the church.
- The board took the decision to incorporate Hope Channel in Canada, in order to facilitate the implementation of its programs and to satisfy the requirements of the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for future applications in other languages. French is most likely the next phase of the overall project. The Spanish channel has been approved, and is currently broadcasting in British Columbia. We are glad to see small steps being accomplished under the leadership of the SDACC communication department.
- The Adventist Church in Canada is not only participating actively in the theological discussions of the world church

but is also encouraging Canadian input in all vital and challenging topics that our church members face in their everyday lives. Some of the Canadian members are already part of the existing committees at the NAD and GC levels. Moreover, knowing the importance of the sound theology for unity and growth of the church, the SDACC board decided to appoint an advisory committee, with the goal of studying all the challenging aspects of our beliefs from a biblical perspective. This is how the Biblical Foundations Advisory was created. You can find their first articles at the following address: www.biblicalfoundations.ca. We hope that other texts of vital importance for the church will be discussed and that the material produced by this body, under the supervision of the church leadership, will be more than a theological debate. This advisory exists not to do theology for theologians, but to make difficult topics accessible to lay members. If you have any suggestions regarding the topics for future discussion, don’t hesitate to submit your point of view through the website mentioned above.

- There is good news regarding the statistics presented to the board. It is worthy to note that an increase of 7 percent in tithe fidelity was recorded during the first seven months of 2013. Praise the Lord, and a big thank you to those who, in this difficult time, put the Lord as the most important priority of their lives. ■

— Daniel Stojanovic, vice-president
administration, Seventh-day
Adventist Church of Canada

VOAR Fun Day



Excellent is about the best word to describe VOAR Fun Day at Camp Woody Acres.

July 28, 2013, is a day that 40 young people and their parents won't soon forget. The Newfoundland Mission and VOAR Radio put on a Fun Day for disadvantaged young people in our community that will leave lasting memories in the hearts of many for years to come. The afternoon may have started out cold with a heavy mist hanging overhead, the temperatures dropping to 12 degrees, but energy levels were high, and spirits soared.

Disadvantaged children ranging from ages 7 to 15 enjoyed water skiing/tubing, swimming, rock wall climbing, zip lining and canoeing. Never before had I ever heard the word excellent used so many times. At any time throughout the afternoon you could hear laughter and joy throughout the campgrounds. From the joyful squeal of our youngest zip liner, aged 5, yelling "this is excellent" as he glided down the line, to the belly bursting laughter of a parent returning from a tube ride saying "that was excellent," positive energy was all that could be felt

at Camp Woody Acres. Parents were so grateful that their children were able to participate in the activities. A parent told station manager Sherry Griffin that "she would never have been able to afford for her child to do such activities and is so grateful for the invitation." When I asked a young boy who was swimming while wearing jeans if he was enjoying himself, he said, "Miss, this is excellent, awesome, the best day ever."

When Ken Corkum, president of the Newfoundland Mission, announced during one particular morning worship that he wanted to do something special for the young disadvantaged people in the community, VOAR quickly jumped on board, and planning started for what turned out to be "the best day ever." Corkum said, "I have always felt that when the Lord blesses you, you have the responsibility to share it with others and not keep it for yourself only." I truly believe on July 28, 2013, we did just that. Many new friends were made, lasting memories built, and community ties bridged. Thanks to Fun Day, we now have new kids registered for junior camp and many interested in attending summer 2014.

The Lord truly did His best to make VOAR Fun Day excellent! ■

—Tina Taylor, VOAR communication director



Good News!

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

■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ Announcements

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

Leona Gadsby, Jierma Gu Garber, Fikerte Gezan, Joan Gibson, Clara Gladue, Winnifred Gomes, Tenika Gordon, Paul Gray, Richard Green, Mary Grier, Kay Halkow, Paul Halkow, Anna Halupa, Jozef Halupa, Elcira Harder, Michael Harder, Dorothy Harrison, Cheryl Hatherley, David Hatherley, Sandy Hatherley, Bernard Hillgardne, Gerry Horan, Ray Houston, Donna Howell, Wallace Hudkins, Chris Humphrys, Landelin Johnson, Mauline Johnson, Dmetro Kostiuik, Lynne Kupchanko, Walter Kupchanko, Farrah Lynn Labouan, Rafeal Lagpitanhat, Brian Laing, Katrina Lawrence, Matthew Letendre, David Link, Aurel Lucaciu, Rose Mari Lukash, Terri Lywak, David MacLean, Clarice Marshall, Fred Marshall, Luella Marshall, George Mathew, Darin Mayes, Laura Mayes, Marc Mayes, Simone McConecky, Phillip Ra McIntyre, Shelley McIntyre, Susan McIntyre, Albert J. McLeod, Hope Memba, Marian Mendoza, Cheryl Merritt, Haileab Tolla Mieso, Mildred Moodie, Bradley Moore, Leanne Moore, Miriam Mupunga, Rose Newnham, Randy Nider, Karen

K. Nielsen, Arsene Nsabimana, George O'Brien, Gift Onyerionwu. 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

Letaya Yueros was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on June 21, 2013, by Brian Hawes. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

Melanie Hansen, Steven Hansen and **Judy Ann Weski** were baptized in Lacombe, Alta., on May 18, 2013, by Ron Henderson. They are now all members of the Lacombe community church.

Brandon Wiebe was baptized in Aldergrove, B.C., on May 11, 2013, by Ken Wiebe. He is now a member of the Aldergrove church.

■ Anniversaries

Terrence and **Jeanne Davin** of Mission, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 17,



2013. Friends, family and church members gathered together, to celebrate the special occasion. It was a very joyful occasion attended by approximately 90 Members. Celebrants viewed collages of their married life and their coast-to-coast ministry in Canada from 1969. In 1996, the Davins retired with their three children: Alison, Andrew and Angela. They are active members of the Mission church.

Bill and **Carolyn Halyrevich**, of Lacombe, Alta., celebrated their 50th



wedding anniversary on July 7, 2013. Many family and friends attended, including their daughter, Jennifer; granddaughter, Taylor; and a groomsmen of 50 years ago, Laurie Dunfield, and his wife Carol.

■ Birthdays

Clarissa Gardener of Markham, Ont., celebrated her 80th birthday on July 14, 2013, at the Peter and Paul



banquet hall in Scarborough, Ont. Family members, friends and coworkers came out to celebrate Clarissa's surprise party. The event featured a drama presentation, musical performance, and a round of her favourite game: "The Price is Right".

"If 80 is the new 60, then that might explain why I feel like a teenager some days," Clarissa remarked. Clarissa is an active member of the Apple Creek church. She teaches Kindergarten Sabbath School, and is also a member of the prayer ministries team. Clarissa actively participates in the yearly Ontario SDA Track and Field meet. Clarissa has two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Edmund Weidner of Kitchener-Waterloo, Ont., celebrated his 90th birthday on July 19, 2013. The youth



from the church made his day special by visiting him and performing some of his favourite hymns.

■ Obituaries

Gwendolne (née Hines) Green was born on Aug. 8, 1932, in St. James, Jamaica, and died July 9, 2013, in South Bend, Ind. Gwendolne enjoyed her career as a nursing instructor and retired from Durham College, in Oshawa, Ont. She also served the

church as a volunteer English teacher in China, teaching adult Sabbath School, and ministering through Bibleinfo.com. She is survived by her daughter, Megan (Ian) Brown of South Bend, Ind., and her sister, Olga, of Silver Spring, Md.; and two grandchildren.

Myroslava (née Madarash)

McKay was born on Jan. 1, 1932, in Hazeldele, Sask., and died May 28, 2013, in Kelowna, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband, Joe, stepson, Harvey, and stepdaughter, Joan, brother, Matthew, sisters, Anne, Helen and Sophie. Surviving: sons, Brian Arnold Brown, and Kelly; daughters, Judy Ann Seymour, and Juanita Windles; brothers, Mike, Steve and Russell Madarash; sisters, Pauline Bohnke, Joyce Douich, and Rose Shaw; 17 grandchildren, 18 great-great-grandchildren and one grandchild.

Joan (née Ellis) Morgan was

born on Aug. 11, 1934, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and died April 20, 2013, in St. John's, N.L. After attending Oshawa missionary college, Joan returned home to St. John's, and worked as a secretary/office manager in several medical practices. Well-known for her encouraging spirit and lively interest in people, Joan was a lifelong member of the St. John's church. She is survived by her husband, Donald, and daughter, Trudy (Jason) Morgan-Cole of St. John's, N.L.; and two grandchildren.

Esko Saarinen was born on May 19,

1922, in Mäntyharju, Finland, and died May 16, 2013, in Vancouver, B.C. After becoming a Seventh-day Adventist, Esko studied at the SDA colleges of Toivonlinna, in Finland, Ekebyholmsskolan, in Sweden, and Helderberg college in South Africa. With a diploma in arts and education in hand, Esko was a teacher at the SDA mission school in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia, until 1960, when he and his family returned to Finland. There, he served the SDA church in evangelism, until he and his wife, Ella made the decision to emigrate to Canada, in 1963. In 1981, he received his Bachelor of Science from Atlantic Union College. Esko is predeceased by his brother, Jaakko (Elsa). Surviving: wife, Ella; sons, Timo of Alaska, Joseph of Tennessee, and Rauno (Paige Yachtzee) of California; daughters, Kati of B.C., Tarja of Kentucky, and half brother, Kaarlo Lindroos.

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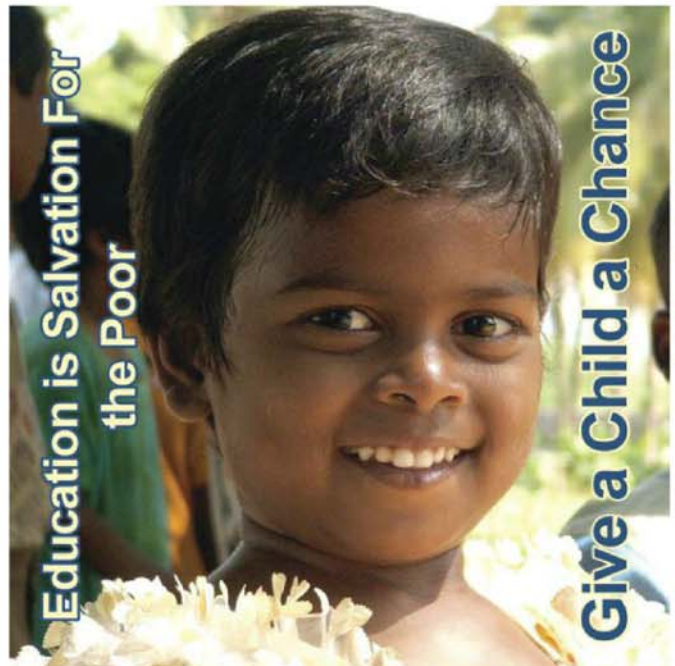


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from the editor

Anything worth doing is worth doing

Over the years I have been blessed and motivated by listening to Zig Ziglar and reading his books. I had the privilege of meeting with both him and his brother Judge Ziglar. A little piece of trivia is that his real name was not Zig Ziglar, but rather Hilary Hinton Ziglar.

Zig was openly committed to Christ and was not ashamed of the gospel. He is one man who truly made a significant difference in so many lives. Sadly, Zig died in November 2012.

Among the many things we can learn from him is the principle in the following statement of his: "Anything worth doing is worth doing poorly until you can learn to do it well."

This contradicts several board meetings I have been part of where people want to make sure things come perfect out of the box; however, as a result, not too much happens, and worse yet, the community is not made aware of the hope and kingdom of Christ.

Over the years I have witnessed many new ministries begin their work in frustration, because the church or conference was unwilling to grant their approval. People starting such ministries were bombarded with criticism often by those who do little to advance the work and feel, rather, that their "gift" is to keep others in line. I recall sitting on one committee where this carpenter from Illinois was mocked because he believed he was called to start a worldwide ministry via satellite; the only problem was he did not know anything about broadcasting or satellites. Many are familiar with that story.

These ministries often ended up reinventing themselves, and to me, that is a clear indication that they were willing to be used by God. Which reminds me of another statement Zig made: "There has never been a statue erected to honour a critic."

When Mark Johnson served as the vice-president of administration at the British Columbia Conference, he said, "You must give people permission to fail if you want them and the church to succeed." That was a pretty leading-edge statement.

It reminds me of some biblical words of wisdom: "Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God" (Acts 5:38, 39, NIV).

We need upscale, tasty vegetarian restaurants all across Canada, more radio stations, more outlets for the Hope Channel, more outreaches, more, more, more.

Let's make sure that a gift of an idea to us does not say, "Return package unopened" because of our fear failing to be perfect from the get-go. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
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IT SEEMS THERE IS ALWAYS SOME SORT OF ACTIVITY or event happening in our churches, often with the purpose to inspire and bless others and to draw them closer to Christ. This is nothing new.

In this month's column, we feature some of the church activities that took place in Adventist churches all throughout Canada. From a cooking class, to an ordination service, to youth week of prayer—there has never been a dull moment. Take a look at some of the exciting programs that were held in some churches that you may know of today.

Keen Interest Shown in Cooking Classes at Perth Avenue Church

By P. J. ROSE, PR Secretary, Perth Avenue SDA Church

On the night of May 6, 1972, the large hall in the basement of the Perth Avenue Church was the rendezvous of a large crowd who attended the opening display of cooking classes sponsored by the Lay Activities and Health and Welfare Departments of the church.

Dr. E. Buxton, from the Branson Hospital, gave the opening lecture and throughout the three weeks' course other talks and demonstrations were given by instructors from the Willowdale and Perth Avenue Churches. The lectures and demonstrations conveyed to the participants a wealth of ideas centered around the selection of the proper types of foods and the actual preparation of healthful diets.

The meals which were prepared from pure vegetarian foods were described as luscious and appetizing and served as an attraction to many who were not directly



The group that attended the Perth Avenue Cooking Classes.

involved.

Of the number attending, fifty registered in the course and were graduated, not merely with their certificates but with a wealth of knowledge. If properly utilized this will enhance healthier lives and

happier homes.

It is hoped that the increased knowledge now being circulated, and the availability of suitable types of foods will help many more Seventh-day Adventists to become vegetarians.

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Rutland Church — B.C.



Six of the mothers honoured at Mother's Day program.

The above picture shows the six mothers honoured at the Rutland Church during the Missionary Volunteer service on Mother's Day. They are from left to right: Mrs. Mary Dalke, Mrs. Mike Tataryn, Mrs. Ed Teranski, Mrs. D. Druitt, Mrs. Josephine Cunningham Edwards, and Mrs. G. Sulzle.

Mrs. Dalke was the oldest mother present, being ninety years of age. She was escorted to the front by her son in order to receive her corsage. Mrs. Tataryn had had the most children — 17 of them. Mrs. Teranski, our pastor's wife, has worked hard for the church and is the mother of two sets of twins. Mrs. Druitt has held leadership offices in the church for many years and is presently M.V. and Temperance leader. Mrs. Edwards was the visiting mother. She spoke at the

Find the rest of this article in Vol. 41, July 15, 1972, p. 4, of the Canadian Adventist Messenger. <http://docs.adventistarchives.org/>

YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER

Rapturous gazes occupied the faces of members and visitors who attended the Youth Week of Prayer meetings, May 20-27, at West Toronto Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The meetings were conducted by Dr. Walter Douglas, Andrews University, who portrayed the character of Christ and admonished the youth to focus their attention to realms above by living consistent Christian lives.

Each sermon was followed by prayer sessions and group discussions. This facet of the Week of Prayer intensified the interest and no doubt elicited improved harmony and friendly relations among the members.

It was particularly encouraging to observe the unusually large group of young people who identified themselves with the meetings.

MISS R. CARRINGTON, PR Secretary
West Toronto S.D.A. Church

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Mother's Day Programs in Churches Here and There

Kingsview Village Church, Ontario



Mrs. Rosa Bradler, the oldest mother present, with her gift and one dozen red roses.

On the evening of May 13, Sabbath, a special Missionary Volunteer program was presented by the young people and children of the Kingsview Village S.D.A. Church, to pay



Young people collect their roses from Mrs. Maxine Woods.

tribute to their mothers who have endeavoured to bring them up to love and serve Christ. Of special appeal were the songs, poems and readings performed by the younger children. Each mother in attendance was presented with a beautiful red rose by her eldest child. Special tribute was paid to the oldest mother present and the mother of the youngest child, each receiving a special gift.

MISS E. E. GRAHAM, PR Secretary
Kingsview Village S.D.A. Church

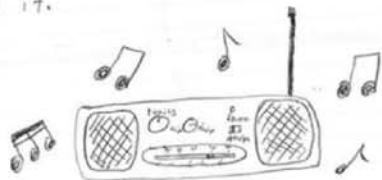
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TO: VOAR Radio,

I just wanted to congratulate you on Sharathon and everything you do. You're my all-time favorite radio station, and I love all your programs!! Keep up the great and awesome work you do!!!

God bless,
Andrea Wen Age 10

P.S. In case you were wondering I just gave the fifty dollars to my mom and she gave me the cheque and signed it.



Andrea Wen

Faith. Hope. Family.

VOAR is helping the Adventist Church be salt and light to the world ... one person at a time.

Andrea attends the St. John's Chinese Christian Church, but when it comes to VOAR she considers herself family. We were incredibly touched when Andrea called and said, "Hello, my name is Andrea, and I've asked my mom's permission to donate \$50 for VOAR's Sharathon. My letter is on its way."

VOAR is a powerful tool you can use to reach your neighbours, friends and maybe even someone you dearly love. To help us make a positive eternal difference, we invite you to participate in our annual Sharathon fundraiser.

Share, Pray, Volunteer, Give.




Sharathon Fundraiser November 4-6, 2013

You can send your tax deductible donation to:

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1041 Topsail Road
Mount Pearl, NL
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