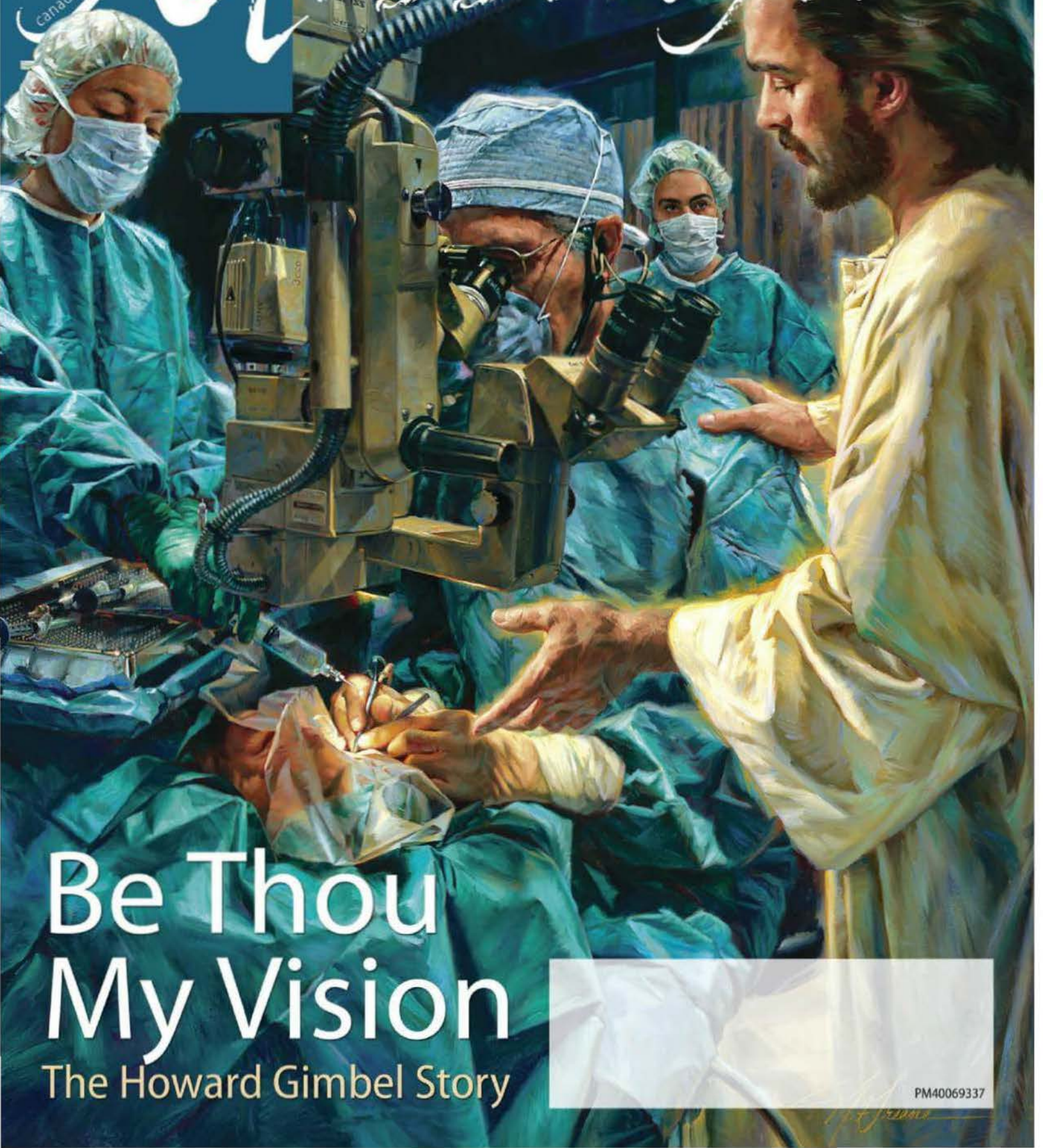


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June 2014

Canadian Adventist

Messenger



Be Thou My Vision

The Howard Gimbel Story

PM40069337

Howard Gimbel

“Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould.”

—Rom. 12:2, Phillips



Strength in Christ

Long ago, God created people. He provided minds that could relate to Him in ways that no other part of earth's creation could come close to. Those minds could even choose independence from Him.

In our Bible, God wisely included a historical account of the human family's relationship with Him. That account, in the Old Testament, provides a vital context for understanding how our surroundings influence our relationship with God as well as our grasp of salvation. We need to read it often and apply its lessons to ourselves.

God chose to protect His people from influences that could be devastating to our relationship to Him and our understanding of what constitutes truth. He did that by forming a very large community named Israel. From Exodus to Malachi, one can trace the rug of war between the influence of God and the influence of their neighbours.

The record shows how, through compromise over time, Israel, little by little accommodated the practices and belief structures of their neighbours. Those who were once strong in faith gradually traded away the priceless treasure of the sure and certain knowledge of God for concepts they picked up from the folks next door.

Today you and I face the challenge of being strong in a time of compromise. The values of acceptance and accommodation often eclipse our loyalty to God and eternal truth. Each of us must understand how to live in these surroundings, share our faith, and make it real to those who are around us. However, we can never afford the compromise of letting the surrounding culture define and influence our thinking. God is still God. Truth is truth. And sin, dangerously, is still sin.

I am glad for a sovereign God whose strength is not diminished, who has not changed with the culture, and who wants us to be with Him forever! It is hard to grasp, but by faith I believe it.

And so amid shifting values, amazing pressures, and incredible independence, the words of the apostle Paul still hold their timeless value to you and to me: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould" (Rom. 12:2, Phillips). ■

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

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Yes Name: _____

At the Gimbel Eye Centre, every patient is given a prayer request card. Over 50 percent of patients request prayer.

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25th Anniversary Trip to Kenya

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A Heart Problem

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
but the Lord weighs the heart.—*Proverbs 21:2, ESV*

The Pharisees thought their religious acts made them pure, but they were wrong! And if we think that our religious acts make us pure, then we are wrong too. Jesus can see through our pettiness and pretence, and He looks right into our hearts. In Matthew 15:8 Jesus said, "These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (NIV).

God is as concerned with the "why" as the "what" of what we do! He is concerned with what makes us tick. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7, NKJV). "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart" (Prov. 21:2, ESV).

Someone once said, "We are suffering from only one disease in the world. Our basic problem isn't a race problem. Our basic problem isn't a poverty problem. Our basic problem isn't a war problem. Our basic problem is a heart problem."

I am convinced that the problem of sin isn't the world around us but rather the world within us. And I also have come to the conclusion that God will never accept anything less than total purity within you and me. And that is why we need Jesus—*because we cannot change our hearts.*

We don't sin because of our surroundings; we sin because of what's in our hearts. That's why God is so consumed with the purity of our hearts. He wants His best in us! He wants to live in us; He wants to reign in us. If you put a spoonful of wine in a barrel full of sewage, you get sewage. If you put a spoonful of sewage in a barrel of wine, you still get sewage. The Bible clearly explains that a little bit of sin taints the whole life. So the question is *How can I possess a life free of*

hypocrisy? How can I live my daily life in the purity God wants to deposit in me?

The book *Steps to Christ* says:

It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. ... Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behaviour, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. The power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness.¹

We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus! Our focus must be on knowing and obeying God's Word and inviting Jesus to live out His life in us. "I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20, NLT).

Don't take your eyes off of the prize. Jesus is our hope and example. Colossians 3:1 reminds us to set our minds on things above and not on the things of earth. God wants to give us a clean heart and a pure mind. We need this so that one day we shall see God!

When everything is surrendered to Jesus, we will do all the right things for all the right reasons. ■

Wayne Culmore is president of the British Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



¹ Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 18

teen talk

Q: Why is it so hard to be consistent in the Christian life as a teenager?

A: Oh, brother, are you asking me? I got a C in consistency! Believe me, it's not just you; it happens to all of us. True, the whole hormone change phenomenon you are experiencing doesn't help, but this is an issue you'll deal with way beyond your teen years. It comes with the birth certificate documentation. You can find it under the "Sinful Nature" section.

Still, sinful nature or not, it is quite frustrating. There's a genuine desire to be consistent on Bible study, prayer time and clean talk, and yet it becomes really hard to keep up with those goals. Even the willingness fades. You become discouraged when you can't maintain the level of enthusiasm you felt during last year's mission trip or spiritual retreat.

Maybe we (you are not alone) got this consistency idea wrong altogether.

Try this. Instead of basing your consistency's success on the amount of things you do right multiplied by the length of time, focus on the overall direction of your heart. It may sound a little vague, but I got it from the Bible. Luke said that "no servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other" (Luke 16:13, ESV). Well, I'm quite sure you don't hate Jesus, right? So focus on that. Make your goal to fix your eyes upon Jesus, regardless of the ups and downs you might experience. That's a consistency you can count on.



Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?—Matthew 18:33, NIV

Red Admiral Butterfly

Watching a butterfly in flight is like watching autumn leaves in the wind. Unlike birds and most other flying insects, butterflies seem to flutter as they fly. They fly as if they have no flight plan and no set destination. The way butterflies fly actually protects them from enemies that would like to eat them. It also makes them interesting to watch.

Visiting a greenhouse one day, I spotted a red admiral butterfly among the flowers. But it wasn't flitting and fluttering. It looked clumsy and flew slowly. It kind of lumbered along like a freight plane with one bad engine. As I came closer, I noticed that its forewings were crumpled and deformed.

Think about it.

Why does a God of love allow butterflies to have misshapen wings? Why does He allow babies to be born with injured brains or damaged bodies? It would be easy to get angry with God or reject Him because there is suffering in the world. It's easier to say there is no God and that disabilities are the result of chance, an evolutionary accident that we are not responsible for, than to roll up our sleeves, as Jesus did, and find a way to help ease the suffering. When faced with suffering, we should admit, "An enemy did this" (Matt. 13:28, NIV) and realize that we are all affected by sin and in need of mercy and compassion.

Do it!

Using a full concordance, count the number of times the Bible says that Jesus "had compassion" or was "moved with compassion." How will you change the way you live to follow Jesus' example?



On the road Proclaim



Members of Proclaim, L to R: Jose Daniel Sanchez Abuchar, Joseph Hackett, Joel Brousson, and Bryan Lee.

FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE SUMMER, PROCLAIM, CUC'S MUSIC MINISTRY GROUP WILL BE BUSY VISITING CAMPMEETINGS, SCHOOLS, AND CHURCHES ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA.

From Western Canada to Eastern Canada, they won't be far from you. Proclaim is led by Bryan Lee, CUC's VP for Marketing and Enrolment, along with Bernice Leavitt, the group's musical director. Returning student singers include Joseph Hackett and Joel Brousson.

New to proclaim this year is first-year student Jose Daniel Sanchez Abuchar. Although new to the campus, Jose has fully immersed himself in campus life and has embraced the CUC experience. Long before he became a member

of Proclaim, Jose caught the eye of the music department and has been involved as a member of the CUC Choral Union as well as the CUC Chamber Choir. He sang and acted in the music department's Christmas production of *Two From Galilee*, playing the role of Mary's father.

A religious studies major, Jose has also been involved in student-led youth rallies. He has travelled with his fellow students to Saskatchewan and British Columbia putting on weekend youth rallies for the local young people. His talents also extend to the soccer field, where he was named the CUC's indoor soccer team's top defensive player.

Jose, a graduate of Crawford Adventist Academy, was introduced to Proclaim when the group sang during a visit. He remembers immediately falling in love with the group and decided that one day he would go to CUC and join Proclaim. "I just fell in love with the group, especially when they sang one of my favourite quartet songs, "My Lord and I." That day, I said to myself, "I am going to CUC and I am going to be part of this group," recalls Jose.

Singing is a passion for Jose, and he is excited to be a part of the group that is able to share God's love with so many people across Canada.

The first year at CUC has kept Jose busy in and out of the classroom. "It has been a great experience. CUC is definitely a place where I have grown physically,

mentally, and spiritually. This school has opened many doors for me. God has blessed me with a great group of friends, teachers and staff members. ... Plain and simple, CUC has been a blessing to me, and I believe that it can be a blessing for all of you, too," states Jose.

As a member of Proclaim, Jose has a greater goal than just sharing his passion for CUC. Jose states, "My number one focus

is to share Jesus through music. Going around to the different schools, churches, and camp meetings is exciting. I am looking forward to meeting new people and making a positive impression in their lives." ■

To keep track of Proclaim's busy summer, visit us at www.proclaimcuc.com or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cucproclaim.

NSSE: Student Satisfaction High at CUC

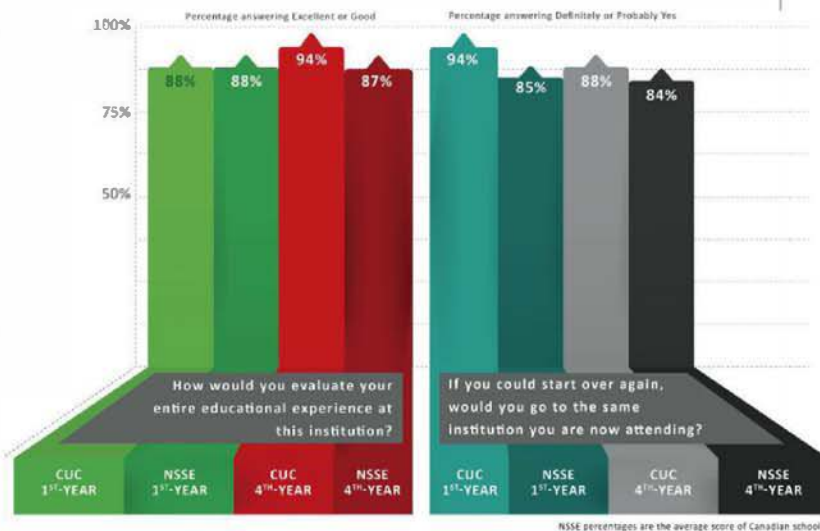
SINCE 2012, Canadian University College has participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

The survey targets first-year and senior-year students with questions about their experience at their university. This past survey year (2013), 27 Canadian schools including Canadian University College participated in the survey. This research is an important tool for CUC in continually assessing and improving the CUC experience for all its students.

The students who participated in the survey are asked to answer questions about their university experience in four main categories: academic challenge, learning with peers, experiences with faculty, and campus environment. In the survey CUC first-year and senior-year students consistently rated Canadian University College higher than the national average.

The NSSE also posed a few questions on overall student experience and satisfaction with the results published in the February 24 issue of *Maclean's* magazine. These same results were also published on the *Maclean's* website.

When asked these two questions, "How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?" and "If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?" CUC first- and senior-year students answered favourably and, in most instances, higher than the



national average of Canadian universities and colleges that participated in the NSSE. ■

JR Ferrer is the director of communication for Canadian University College.

For more information about the NSSE, visit www.cauc.ca/nsse.

- June 28 Ontario Campmeeting, Toronto, Ont.: Mark Haynal, president; Bryan Lee, VP Marketing & Enrolment; Jerrold Ritchey, VP Advancement; Rhanda Bonet-Graham, Office of Advancement; Proclaim.
- July 4-6 Manitoba/Saskatchewan Campmeeting, Theodore, Sask.: Mark Haynal, president; Bryan Lee, VP Marketing & Enrolment; Proclaim.
- July 11-19 Alberta Campmeeting, Bowden, Alta.: Mark Haynal, president; Bryan Lee, VP Marketing & Enrolment; Jerrold Ritchey, VP Advancement; Proclaim.
- July 24-26 Newfoundland Campmeeting, Southwest Pond, Nfld.: Mark Haynal, president.
- July 25-29 Maritime Campmeeting, Pugwash, N.S.: Mark Haynal, president; Bryan Lee, VP Marketing & Enrolment; Rhanda Bonet-Graham, Office of Advancement; Proclaim.
- July 25-Aug. 2 British Columbia Campmeeting, Hope, B.C.: Mark Haynal, president; Jerrold Ritchey, VP Advancement; Rhanda Bonet-Graham, Office of Advancement.

Campmeeting Schedule



Rhanda Bonet-Graham
Office of Advancement,
Canadian University
College, Lacombe, Alberta



Mark Haynal
President, Canadian
University College,
Lacombe, Alberta



Bryan Lee
Vice-President, Marketing
& Enrolment, Canadian
University College,
Lacombe, Alberta



Jerrold Ritchey
Vice-President,
Advancement, Canadian
University College,
Lacombe, Alberta

For our full campmeeting schedule, visit our campmeeting website at www.cauc.ca/ontheroad.

Where Are They Now



Tracy and Cesar Bravo

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

Interview by Aimee Perez, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: *Tell me about your childhood.*

Tracy Bravo: My background is Italian and Spanish, but I was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. Music is in my blood: my mother's side of the family is all musicians. So it was always a priority, and from age six my three sisters and I started raking piano lessons; we even had two pianos in the house. My parents were wonderful, loving, and well organized.

M: *When did you start working as a musician?*

T: When I was 21 years old, the Voice of Prophecy in Brazil called me to be their organist and pianist, so I played for the King's Herald. We spent half the year in the studio and the other half travelling. Henry Feyerabend was the first tenor at that time.

M: *How did you come to Canada?*

T: In 1969, *It Is Written* with George Vandeman held evangelistic meetings in Willowdale, Toronto, and Hamilton. They called Pastor Feyerabend to sing and asked me to do the music. During those meetings I met Maria Freitas, and we became very close friends. Around Christmastime we had an idea to invite all the Portuguese people in Toronto to my organ concert where Pastor Feyerabend also spoke about the birth of Christ. From

there, the Portuguese—as well as Spanish and Italian—work started in Canada. After the evangelistic meetings, the Ontario Conference invited me to stay as a Bible worker. I had a scholarship to Andrews University to do my master's in piano performance, but I gave it up to do Bible work.

M: *How did you move from Bible work into media?*

T: When Pastor Feyerabend started Adventist Radio Television Services (ARTS), he asked me to help with the TV programs and translate his sermons into Portuguese. They also needed help with finances but didn't have much of a budget, so they sent me to school to learn accounting and business administration. But we never stopped Bible work, because we also produced a telecast in Portuguese, and I visited the people who called in and gave them Bible studies. It was a busy life.

M: *Yes, it sounds very busy. Do you have any special memories from those years?*

T: I met a young man who did not speak Portuguese, so I started giving him Bible studies in Spanish. He became a very solid Christian, and he also became my husband.

M: *Where else did you work in Canada?*

T: I worked with the Toronto District School System as a senior accountant and

the Ontario Conference in the payroll and accounts payable department. In 1993 *It Is Written* called me to work in accounting and also start the music ministry. Eventually, I became the treasurer and business manager. It was overwhelming at times, but I depended totally on God's grace, help and leadership.

M: *Who have you worked with at *It Is Written*?*

T: Pastor Feyerabend was the director when I started. After him came Shawn Boonstra—what a wonderful speaker. Finally, I worked with Bill Santos until my retirement.

M: *Do you have a favourite song?*

T: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." First of all, the words speak about God's mercy and love for us, which reflects what He has done in my life. He's been merciful, kind, patient and faithful to me. Secondly, the composition of the music itself is perfect. The melody and harmony flow in a perfect sequence of emotion, tension and release.

M: *Where are you now?*

T: Cesar and I live in Mississauga. Since retiring in 2007 I've been teaching piano and helping churches with music. From 2010 to 2013 I led our church's evangelistic choir; we travelled to Oshawa, North Bay, Montreal, Chicago, and New York. ■

The Wills Seminar Ends



“Welcome to this sixth, and final, session of our Wills seminar,” the Planned Giving director began. “How has the seminar helped you so far?”

“Having a will is important!” Sam spoke up. “Before this, I didn’t think about the problems of *not* having a will.”

“I liked the story about the injured Saskatchewan farmer who etched his will on his tractor’s fender,” said Henry. “Even though the court approved his holographic will,¹ I’m going to prepare a formal will² to ensure that I’ve covered everything.”

“For me it was learning how to choose an executor,” Susan commented. “I didn’t realize all the work an executor has to do.”

“I was interested in hearing about life insurance for end-of-life expenses and bequests,” a young man ventured thoughtfully. “I’m definitely looking into that for myself.”

“Clearly, you have all been listening and learning!” exclaimed the director.

“There is one very important topic I wish we’d had time to discuss: guardianship of minor children and providing for their care, such as trusts for children and grandchildren,” continued the director. “There is still much to discuss with your lawyer. And just before you leave, here are some resources for follow-up.”

- Canada Revenue Agency. What to do if someone has died: see www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/lf-vnts/dth/menu-eng.html.
- Your local conference Planned Giving and Trust Services director
- Your lawyer and professional financial advisors
- Campmeeting and other wills-and-estates seminars

“Please call if you need help,” concluded the director, “and be sure to have your will done right away!”

¹ Holographic will: completely handwritten, signed and dated by the person making the will. Experts advise against holographic wills because they may be more easily challenged. Some provinces may not consider them to be legal documents.

² Formal will: this is a printed document preferably prepared by a lawyer to avoid potential problems of an improperly worded or inadequately signed will. (Similar to Quebec’s notarial will prepared by a notary.)



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

WITH CUC STUDENTS FROM ONTARIO
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

*What is your biggest fear about going to a new school?
(This question was asked at CUC.)*

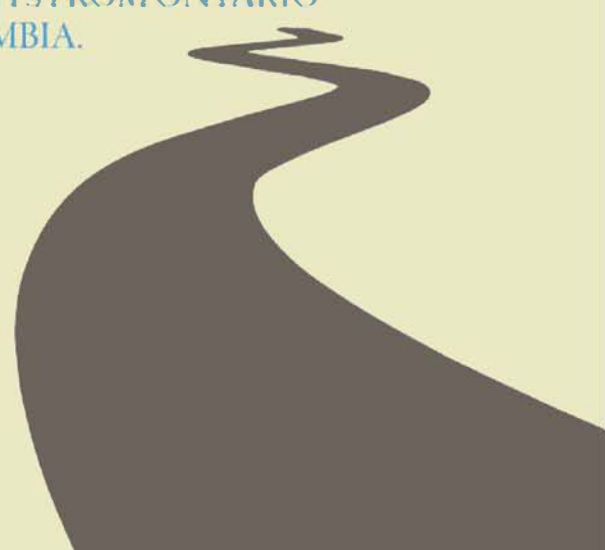
Andlaine Joseph: Whether I dressed appropriately for the first day.

Jordane Smith: Not knowing anyone.

Hazel Fronda: Not knowing anyone. The need to feel accepted.

Kaitlynn Winsor: Meeting new people you will share the next school year with. Wondering if you’ll be accepted as you are. If you’ll make new friendships, etc.

Madison Trupp: Making new friends, and I am afraid of being alone or ignored. Not being part of a family.



"We want to make sure he's gainfully employed. That's one of our goals."

Back on his feet

A Better World helps Kenyan man get his life back



John Hinga

John Hinga is a survivor.

The young man from Kenya has overcome the loss of the family home and business, the death of his mother, and a shooting that left him severely injured.

Hinga was living with his four siblings and their mother in Eldoret, a town in western Kenya. It was late December 2007 and violence was erupting over controversial government elections. Divides among various ethnic tribes widened.

The Hinga family, part of a minority tribe within Eldoret, fled. "We made it to Nakuru, but we didn't have anything," said Hinga, 27.

They ended up in a camp with others displaced by the violence. The camp, with 14,000 people at its peak, was located in Nakuru, Kenya's fourth largest city.

His immediate family along with other relatives, tried to stay together in a tent. There were 15 of them. Some of them moved to a relative's house while the rest remained behind. Hinga was in the camp for about a year, and during that time he slept overnight in the camp's headquarters.

A Better World co-founder Eric Rajah was visiting Kenya when the troubles escalated in January 2008. He, along with his van driver Charles Muraguri, volunteered at the camp. Ray Loxdale, then project manager for A Better World, and Dan Jackson, then president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and now president of the North American Division, came as well.

A Better World is a volunteer-run organization created and governed by Lacombe's College Heights Adventist church. During a visit to the camp office, Rajah noticed Hinga asleep underneath the table.

"We needed people to help in the camp and we found out he had computer experience," said Rajah. "He was already helping out the camp director who said, 'Here's a guy who might be able to help you.'"

Hinga volunteered on the computer, performed other miscellaneous errands, and searched for individuals who needed support.

"We decided to stay in Nakuru after the camp closed—there was still fear as to what had happened," said Hinga. "We were still relying on handouts."

A Better World paid for Hinga to go to computer school and helped him find a job in information technology. A Better World invited Hinga to become the project monitoring-co-ordinator for Nakuru, giving him a small amount for his services. He compiles progress reports and takes photos.

In 2011, Hinga's mother died. Hinga became responsible for his three younger brothers and one younger sister. The youngest was 12 at the time.

"John has had a rough life," said Rajah. "He now has to take care of his siblings. We want to make sure he's gainfully employed. That's one of our goals."

In February 2013, Hinga was visiting a business in Nakuru to withdraw money earmarked for A Better World when several young men robbed the place. The organization's money was stolen.

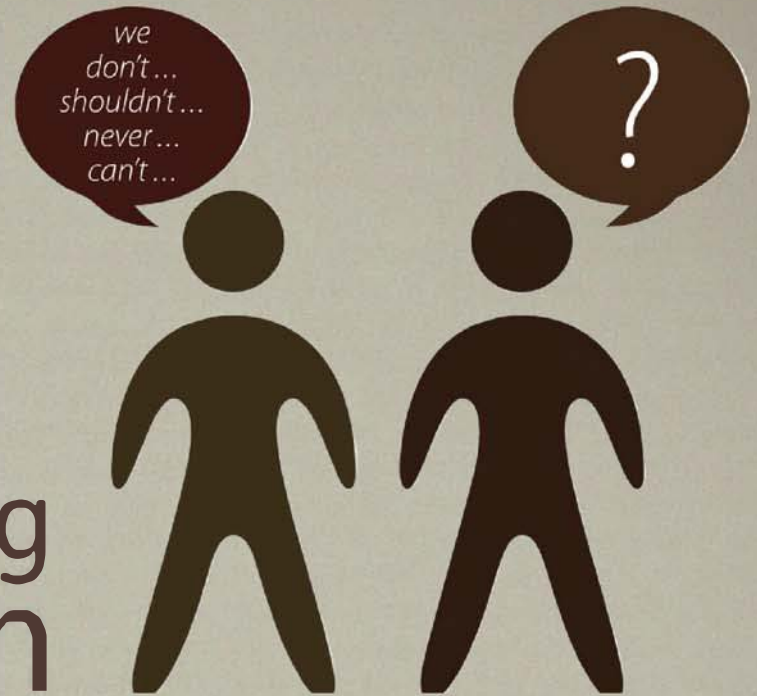
Hinga left the shop and while outside, the robbers stole his laptop and shot him in the upper right leg. He was taken to hospital in Nakuru and then rushed to Nairobi where he underwent surgery. He suffered a bad infection and due to other complications, Hinga had several more surgeries and was hospitalized for six months. His hospital bill was about 490,000 Kenyan shillings (\$5,000 Cdn), which was later reduced to half the cost. A Better World paid the bill and is paying for rehabilitation costs, as well. Hinga's leg is slowly healing.

Hinga said that words alone can't describe his relationship with Rajah and A Better World.

"I really owe them a lot because they have been there for me at my worst times," said Hinga. ■

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

What if people in our community knew about the Jesus we loved instead of the things we don't do?



Communicating Our Mission

Her name was Alice. She asked to meet with me to learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"How did you find our church?" I inquired.

"On the Internet," she replied. "I attended your church for the first time on Easter weekend. I was hoping you can tell me about your faith, since I have never heard of it before."

"Well," I said, feeling a little defensive, "We are a rather small denomination, with about 15 million members worldwide, and less than 100,000 in Canada."

During the course of the next hour, I explained in broad strokes about our belief about the Sabbath, our hope in the second coming of Jesus and the church's understanding of a just God. I took great pleasure in emphasizing God's loving grace and His desire to be reunited with all of humanity.

Alice was surprised by my explanation of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. I learned that she had done her own research prior to meeting with me. In fact, she had read through all of the doctrines of our church and could recite them back to me.

"In my reading about Seventh-day Adventists," she said, "I discovered that you promote a vegetarian diet and condemn alcohol and tobacco use. Why didn't you mention any of that to me?" she inquired.

"I wanted to explain our beliefs to you. What's important first is how to know and experience the love of Jesus," I said. "Many of these lifestyle issues you are referring to are what we call standards. While they are deeply important to our history and traditions, they fall under a different category than doctrines."

Our exchange reminded me of a conference I had recently attended in Seattle with over 800 other Adventists. Early in the morning, I rode the elevator, heading down to the lobby level. The only other person in the elevator was a man, who was staring at my convention name badge. "Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?"

"Yes, I am a pastor," I said. "How about you? Are you attending the meetings also?"

He shook his head. "No, I live in Loma Linda, Calif., and actually support the hospital. I am here on business."

At that moment the door opened, and we stepped into the lobby together. Right in front of us, about 25 people were standing in a long line waiting to order their Starbucks. Each of them was wearing an attendance badge similar to mine, identifying them as Seventh-day Adventist. The businessman smirked and looked back at me. "Wow, I thought you guys didn't drink caffeine," he said and then walked out the door past the sea of people waiting in the long line for their

cup of coffee.

I began to wonder. What if people in our community knew about the Jesus we loved instead of the things we don't do? What is more important to us as Adventists? When we explain our peculiar lifestyle to others, do we spend as much time proclaiming the love and forgiveness of Jesus?

After that hour of meeting with Alice in my office, we promised to meet again to continue our conversation about the beliefs of the Adventist Church. "Pastor, before I leave, I want to ask you one more question," she said in a quiet voice as she gathered her purse and personal belongings.

"Yes, Alice. What's your question?"

"You mentioned earlier in our conversation today that your denomination is small, with less than 100,000 members in Canada. If you are so special and have such a great message, why is it so small? Why haven't the masses heard of you?" ■

Kumar Dixit is the pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in one of the most secular cities in the world, Vancouver, B.C.

Only three out of 10 people believe in a religious deity. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.



JUST THE BENEFITS, PLEASE!

Words by God —John 10:10, NIV

Israel had forgotten what God had done for them, everything He had brought them through to this point in the desert. He had shown them His mighty and limitless power when He sent the plagues to Egypt when Pharaoh would not let them go. He brought them out of a land where they were being oppressed and freed them from slavery.

Every day He guided them on their journey by a cloud in the day and firelight through the night. When they got to the Red Sea, the Israelites were stuck and began to complain. Many of them started telling Moses they wanted to go back to Egypt because this wasn't what they had bargained for. While they were still in front of the Red Sea, Pharaoh and all his army were coming to attack them. When Israel saw the enemy coming for revenge, they were terrified!

Can you imagine what it would be like to see the same people who had enslaved you, now coming after you again? But God delivered them by sending a wall of fire to guard the Israelites from their enemy and parted the Red Sea so they could cross safely!

They saw God's power at work in very real and incredible ways, and yet Psalm 78:11 says, "They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them." Instead they said to each other, "Can God really spread a table in the wilderness? True, he struck the rock, and water gushed out, streams flowed abundantly, but can he also give us bread? Can he supply meat for his people?" (NIV). They knew He was powerful, and they saw firsthand all the wonderful ways He had brought them through the desert, but they began to desire His benefits more than they desired Him.

Do we do that sometimes? We know God promises to work it all out for good—but what about the situation I'm in

right now? Will He do it again? Do we blame Him when things don't work out the way we hoped or how we planned?

I think what happens is we forget who He is and end up putting the focus on ourselves instead. We see our problems and what we have to get done and take our eyes off him. My question is: Where is our focus? Is the stuff—the miracles and the blessings—more important to us than the Giver of all of those things? You see, He desires to bless us and provide for everything we need, but what He really desires is our hearts. God desires our affection, our love; He desires to spend time with us and to show us the bigger picture in all of this, one little piece at a time.

To answer your question, God did provide food for the Israelites. For 40 years, He opened up the sky and rained down manna for the people to eat while they were in the desert. The Bible says, "Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat" (Ps. 78:25, NIV).

What God wants for us is more than anything this world has to offer—He wants to give us life. John 10:10 says, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (NKJV). He is not talking about that brand new car or a shopping trip to Paris for new school clothes. If we focus in on only the benefits, we miss out on a whole lot more. Let's read a little further. Jesus says, "I know my own and my own know Me" (see verse 14). The abundant life that God wants for us is an active and growing relationship with Him in which He knows you and you know Him. ■

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 19 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 "Treasure" by Meredith Andrews on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/905VeZ>



app review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

App: Stitcher

In Brief: Want to listen to the daily Voice of Prophecy programming, right from your mobile device? Stitcher is a radio podcast app that allows you to listen to many different radio broadcasts on a variety of different subject matters and, most importantly, the daily Voice of Prophecy radio programs. Either listen over the Internet or download the programs to listen offline, creating and customizing playlists to listen to the programming that interests you. The configuration in this app is very flexible, allowing you to select the programs you want to listen to, which ones you want to download automatically, and indicate whether you want notifications on new programs.

Wow Factor: Can listen to daily VOP broadcasts, online or offline.

Meh Factor: A lot of non-Christian programming is prominently highlighted.

Developed for: Stitcher

Price: Free

Works on: Android, iOS

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



To suggest an app for review, email messenger@adventist.ca.

prayer life

Never Give Up

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A desperate young pastor was thinking of giving up. Then he read James 5:16. It was as if God were challenging him. It says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

He looked up the text in the original language. The Greek word for "availeth" indicated that prayer is a fundamental force. The young pastor thought, *Therefore, praying should make an observable difference to people and circumstances—like the fundamental forces of gravity or electromagnetism. Hmmm ... in other words, James 5:16b is a testable hypothesis.*

To eliminate self-interest from getting in the way, the pastor decided to pray for others like never before. He asked each member of his congregation to give him names of three of their friends to pray for. Each morning he fervently prayed for people he did not know.

"Coincidences" began to happen.

One of the unknown people on his prayer list, Edmond, just happened to knock on his door. After learning Edmond's identity, the shocked pastor said to him, "Do you realize I have been praying for you for weeks?"

The next Sabbath Edmond was in church for the first time in seven years.

The pastor was standing in the foyer of his church when he saw the tears of joy on Edmond's sister's face when Edmond walked in. With watery eyes of his own, the pastor sent up a silent prayer to God: *Dear God, James 5:16b is true. Fervent prayer works! I am looking at it with my own eyes! Thank you, Lord.*

The pastor never gave up.

Neither did God. ■

Ern Brake is the ministerial director of the British Columbia Conference.

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BY STAN JENSEN

I first met Tammy, and her husband Bernard, a number of years ago when I was the manager of the Adventist Book Center (ABC) in Oshawa. At the time, she was one of the new auditors at GCAS. I appreciated the Sittlinger's reasonable and supportive advice and tips on how to improve the bookstore. Today, Tammy's office is next to mine at the Seventh-day Adventist national headquarters where my respect for Tammy's love of family and strong support of Christian education continue to grow.



Bernard, Jackie, Cady, and Tammy Sittlinger

EDITOR: *Tell us a bit about you and your family.*

TAMMY: I was born in Texarkana, Ark., and raised in Fort Worth, Tex. I came to Canada in 1988. My husband is Bernard Sittlinger, and we have two daughters, Cady and Jackie. Bernard is the controller at Maracle Press, in Oshawa. Cady just graduated from Andrews University with a Bachelor of Science in biology/biomedical and is going to medical school at Loma Linda University in the fall. Jackie is going to start her third year in nursing at Andrews University. Both girls have been dedicated gymnasts with the Kingsway College Aerials and Andrews University Gymnics.

EDITOR: *Have you always been an Adventist, or was there a defining moment in your Christian experience?*

TAMMY: My grandfather became an Adventist when my mother was young. She went to Ozark Adventist Academy. Unfortunately, she married someone outside of her faith and stopped going to church. When it was time for me to start school, she decided that she wanted her children to have a Christian education, so she returned to the Adventist Church. My father was baptized eventually, too.

EDITOR: *Did Adventist education have an impact on you staying an Adventist? If so, how?*

TAMMY: I have had all my education in the Adventist system. It is something I will always cherish. I now work for the church, . . . so to be able to be part of the Adventist community through the schools has been a wonderful thing to have in my background. I feel that it has kept me strong in my faith and helped me share with my neighbourhood friends during my childhood.

EDITOR: *What would you say to someone who feels that he or she cannot afford an Adventist education?*

TAMMY: My parents were poor. They really could not afford the tuition for three children, but somehow they managed without incurring debt and without their children feeling deprived of anything. This is something that I will never forget about my parents—the sacrifice they made for me and my siblings to go to Adventist schools. It's all about priorities and investing in the future of your children.

EDITOR: *What is your official function at the SDACC?*

TAMMY: I work for General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS), which is the auditing arm of the

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. My title is regional manager, and my office's territory covers all of Canada. We audit the SDACC, conferences, and senior academies, along with other entities, such as ADRA Canada and It Is Written Canada.

EDITOR: *Have you worked anywhere else? What do you find different about this position?*

TAMMY: I worked at an Adventist hospital in Fort Worth, Tex., before deciding to return to school for my accounting degree at Andrews University. The work I do now allows me to help the people I audit on a professional level.

EDITOR: *If others were to be interested in working at GCAS, what would they have to do?*

TAMMY: To qualify to work for GCAS, you would have to have a bachelor's degree in accounting, and you must be eligible to take the exam for the CPA or CA or already have one of these designations.

EDITOR: *What are your day-to-day functions?*

TAMMY: That is hard to explain to people who don't know what an auditor does. Basically, we take the numbers of the financial statements of our clients and verify that they are reasonable. We try to ensure that the Canadian not-for-profit guidelines and Adventist Accounting Manual are followed. We also check to see that North American Division Working Policy is being followed. This is a very simple description, but I love that my work takes me from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

EDITOR: *What do you enjoy most about your job?*

TAMMY: Travel and seeing the people at the places I audit.

EDITOR: *Do you have a favourite Bible verse that you can share with Messenger readers?*

TAMMY: The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them (Ps. 34:7). This has been a favourite verse of mine since I was young but has even more meaning now that I travel so much. It gives me so much comfort. ■

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



barry's

blog

"I submit that what we are witnessing is not courage but unprecedented legal bullying."

The Cold Chill of the Legal Profession's Rejection of Religious Freedom

In the case of Trinity Western University Law School

Cold winds are blowing on Trinity Western University's (TWU) Law School. On Thursday, April 24, the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) voted 28–21 against TWU's accreditation. On Friday, April 25, the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS) followed Ontario's leading and voted 10–9 to accept TWU only if it exempts law students from signing the Community Covenant or it amends the Community Covenant not to discriminate. They assert that TWU is discriminating against the LGBTQ community, because, as an evangelical Christian university, it requires students to agree not to be engaged in sexual activity that falls outside of the definition or confines of a one-man-one-woman marriage.

Further, it is now evident that a TWU "victory" of the BC Law Society's decision is now being threatened by a new initiative to overturn that decision. The BCLS will now review its decision to approve the TWU law

school in June.

Given the precedents in Ontario and Nova Scotia, the cold winds are also set to blow on the June 27 meeting of the Law Society of New Brunswick, which will decide if TWU Law School meets the academic requirements for admission to the New Brunswick Bar.

On May 6, TWU announced it was taking the LSUC and the NSBS to court. It will be a long road to the Supreme Court of Canada, but undoubtedly, that is where the case is headed. It is a repeat of what happened in 2001.

These developments against accepting graduates of TWU Law School set a dangerous precedent that all Canadians should be concerned about.

The legal profession has disregarded existing law on religious freedom as enunciated by the Supreme Court of Canada. The LSUC and NSBS have acted in the manner they think the law ought to dictate—not

according to what the law actually requires. In 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada decided that the BC College of Teachers was offside in refusing to accredit TWU's education degree because the BCCT did not approve of TWU's requirement that students not engage in what TWU defines as immoral sexual activity. The Supreme Court said in that case,

TWU is not for everybody; it is designed to address the needs of people who share a number of religious convictions. . . . To state that the voluntary adoption of a code of conduct based on a person's own religious beliefs, in a private institution, is sufficient to engage s. 15 would be inconsistent with freedom of conscience and religion, which co-exist with the right to equality.¹

We have arrived at a point in our society where influential legal bodies in this country ignore a Supreme Court of Canada decision.

When I became a lawyer in Ontario, I made an oath² that stated, "I shall champion the rule of law and safeguard the rights and freedoms of all persons." The current law is clear: TWU has the right to have a religious position on marriage. However, the opponents of TWU's law school disagree. Rather than accept the current state of the law, the opponents have decided to administer the current law as if it had already been changed to meet their interpretation. That is not how the law works. You change the law first—by the appropriate authorities—and then you administer it accordingly.

The normal route for those who conscientiously oppose a law is to either convince the lawmaking body to change the law or face the consequences of civil disobedience. In this current matter, the legal profession has decided that the law is inconsequential and can be disobeyed with impunity. It has turned the practice of law upside down: we have a legal profession governed not by law but by emotion. Whenever this has happened in the past, it has proven to be a harbinger of trouble.

The opponents, rather than staying true to their

oath, have used the practice of law against TWU to wear the university down. Never before in the history of this country have we seen a legal assault of this magnitude against a religious institution.

TWU has already passed the penetrating review by the Federation of Law Societies and was approved. That should have ended the matter. The opponents said it was not enough and urged that each individual law society have the "courage" to do its own separate review.³ I submit that what we are witnessing is not courage but unprecedented legal bullying. It is the same tactic big multinational corporations employ to push the little guy aside: wear them down. Eventually, the targeted individual or entity gives up. Despite the BC Law Society's exhaustive examination of TWU's law school, it approved the school. The LSUC's 28-21 decision is a major setback and will ultimately mean years of further litigation as the case takes the long road to the Supreme Court of Canada. This is, of course, what the opponents wanted in the first place. For example, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (NSHRC) argued that the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society should refuse to recognize TWU's law school and thus trigger a judicial review with the expectation that the Supreme Court of Canada will rehear the same issues it decided on in 2001 and this time rule against TWU.⁴

We are clearly headed to the Supreme Court of Canada. When there, we will see whether that Court will continue to be the jealous guardian of religious freedom that it claimed in the Marriage Reference Case⁵ in 2004 and whether the protections noted in the federal Civil Marriage Act's preamble holds true⁶. ■

Barry W. Bussey is vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. You can read his blog at www.lawandreligion.ca.

>> Subscribe to Barry's Blog "Intersection" at www.cccc.org/news_blogs/barry and get regular updates on the state of law and religion in Canada. Just type in your email address at the box indicated on the right of the webpage.

¹Trinity Western University v. College of Teachers, (2001) 1 S.C.R. 772, at para. 25.

²The Law Society of Upper Canada, "Licensing," p. 24, <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147485805>. Emphasis added.

³Elaine Craig, "Law Societies Must Show More Courage on Trinity Western Application," The Globe and Mail, December 18, 2013, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/law-societies-must-show-more-courage-on-trinity-western-application/article16023053/>.

⁴Lisa Teyl (Legal Counsel, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission) to Executive Committee and Council Members, "NSBS Request for Submissions Regarding TWU's Application for a Law School," February 10, 2014, http://nsbs.org/sites/default/files/ftp/TWU_Submissions/2014-02-10_NSHC_TWU.pdf, at para. 12.

⁵Reference re Same-Sex Marriage, (2004) 3 S.C.R. 698, 2004 SCC 79, online: <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/2196/index.do>.

⁶Civil Marriage Act, S.C. 2005, c. 33, Assented to 2005-07-20, online: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c_31.5/page-1.html. The Preamble states, in part: WHEREAS everyone has the freedom of conscience and religion under section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; WHEREAS nothing in this Act affects the guarantee of freedom of conscience and religion and, in particular, the freedom of members of religious groups to hold and declare their religious beliefs and the freedom of officials of religious groups to refuse to perform marriages that are not in accordance with their religious beliefs; WHEREAS it is not against the public interest to hold and publicly express diverse views on marriage.



Now that they are enjoying greater health because of ADRA's hygiene training, Saro and her husband are optimistic about their daughter's future.



A typical village home in northern Cambodia. This picture was taken in the neighbouring Preah Vihear province.

The value of Knowledge

In Cambodia, a young mother realizes that training is better than material assistance.

Saro Seouy is a 29-year-old mother living in the village of Kok Chan in the Varin District of Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. She doesn't have an address, and if she did, you couldn't find her home on Google Maps. Her entire village doesn't even show up on the map.

Saro is married and has a four-month-old baby girl. She and her husband are farmers, growing rice and cassava in the tropical climate just north of the equator. The weather is warm to hot year-round, with an annual monsoon season that brings rain. Life is hard, but she and her husband are young and strong.

The remote location of her village has made it hard for Saro to access health care and education. Although she and her husband qualify for government assistance programs, they have not been able to travel to the nearest government office to acquire the identification they need to receive assistance. Even if they had this identification, there is no assistance to be found in Kok Chan.

Saro first heard of ADRA when she attended a village meeting in September 2013. Some ADRA representatives were there to tell the village about a new project that focuses on development, hygiene, sanitation (including wells and latrines), nutrition, and agriculture. Saro was

immediately interested and decided to participate in the project. Despite her lack of ID, the ADRA workers enrolled her in the program.

Before she joined her fellow villagers in the ADRA project, Saro and her family did not have good health and often became sick. This in turn prevented them from working their meagre plot of land, which, as a result, reduced the food on their table, the produce they could take to market, and the little money they had to buy the necessities they could not make or grow on their little farm.

After joining the ADRA project, Saro realized that their sickness was caused by poor hygiene practices. She has since learned about hygiene, nutritious food, and the importance of having a good attitude. "Learning about these topics has helped me do things better," says Saro.

It's important to note that Saro has not even received any material assistance yet. No one has given her food, tools, clothing, livestock, a better home, or even medicine. Yet, the knowledge she has acquired is already helping her!

"What I have learned has already benefitted me by showing me ways to better take care of my health and my family. I have realized that my attitude is also important. Now I analyze and think

about the problems I have in a group and make decisions so that one day my family will have the better life I hope for."

One of Saro's immediate goals is to construct a latrine near her home. A latrine not only improves hygiene, health, and overall cleanliness, but in a practical sense simply makes life easier. Saro and her family recently used another family's latrine to see what it was like—and they were pleasantly surprised!

Like many others in her remote village, Saro is very family-oriented. As such, she's not keeping her newfound knowledge to herself.

"I have tried to share everything I've learned with my family, including my mom, my dad, and my sisters and brothers," says Saro. "Nothing could make me happier than to have shelter, to have happiness in our family, and for my child to obtain a high school education and enjoy good health."

"ADRA has helped me improve my health already and build my character," says Saro. "I would like to thank ADRA and those who support this project for sharing their time, knowledge, and funds to make this project happen in my village." ■

Story by Ryan Wallace, as related by Dos Dina, field worker for ADRA.

Secretly, quietly, Armand scoured the Internet, looking for answers to questions he had been asking nearly all his life. He grew up in a strict, religious household. But something troubled him about the things he was learning—even early on as a child—and he questioned the teachings and practices. When he was about 33 years old, Armand began attending a church. Still, something didn't feel right. Finally, Armand turned to the Internet to search for truth.



The Search

ARMAND SEARCHED SECRETLY, fearing the conflict that would arise if his wife, who strongly opposed his interest in other faiths, learned what he was doing. Then one day he stumbled upon a presentation by Doug Batchelor and decided to listen. He was so impressed that he listened to Batchelor's other presentations and then to presentations by other individuals, all of which seemed to confirm his own understandings on matters of faith and the Bible. Soon, a pattern began to emerge. All of the presentations that spoke most deeply to his mind and heart were given by Seventh-day Adventists.

As he listened, Armand began to pray to God for help to better understand the history of the church. Six months later, in the summer of 2011, a Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) student knocked on his door. Armand spoke with the student literature evangelist and examined the books he offered. He flipped through them until he came to the very last book, *The Great Controversy*. Intrigued, Armand turned to the index and looked at the

chapter titles. Immediately, he knew his prayer had been answered; this book contained the information he had been looking for.

Armand read the book over the next year and was blown away. He became strongly convicted about the truths he learned, so strongly that he decided he would no longer hide. He searched for a Seventh-day Adventist church close to his home, and one Sabbath he walked in. That very day the church was holding an appreciation ceremony for the CYC students who worked that summer. Excitedly, Armand approached the students and told them he was there because of their work. No greater demonstration of appreciation for the work of literature evangelists could have been presented than to see, and speak with, a man who had been led to the church and the faith through their ministry. Armand was baptized and has faithfully attended the church ever since. His active involvement reflects his deep gratitude for having been led to, and kept in, this body of faith.

Still, Armand's home life was difficult.

Though firm in his decision, he faced opposition from his wife, and each Saturday he woke up and got ready to go to church alone, having to leave his wife, son and daughter behind. Then one day, as he was preparing to go, his daughter said, "I'm going with you." That moment initiated her faith journey, and now she is also growing and progressing in her faith as a member of the Adventist Church.

Armand's wife remains strongly opposed to his decision, but he presses on. "That can't stop me," he says, "because if it did, that wouldn't be good for anybody, even her. It's been a challenge, but I get strength. I get what I need."

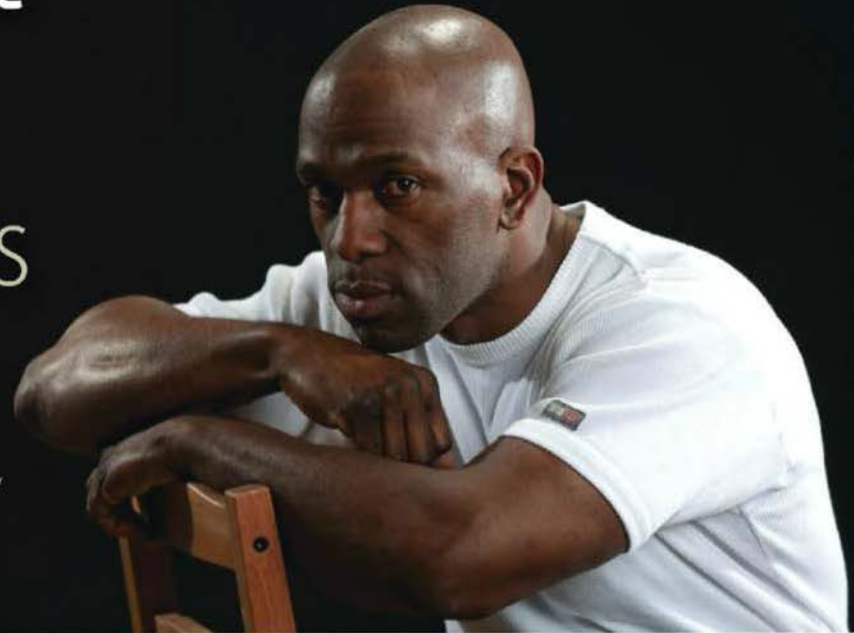
Armand's story is a testimony to the power and potential of the literature evangelism ministry. Both he and his daughter were led to the faith because someone knocked on his door and gave him a book. ■

Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service.

Norwill Simmonds' music can be found at your local ABC store or online. You can visit him for more information at www.norwillsimmondsministries.com.

Spotlight

Norwill Simmonds



"I had no idea the plans God had for me ..."

Norwill Simmonds grew up in a simple and modest home eight kilometres outside of Montego Bay, Jamaica, in a town called Salt Spring. There, through the eyes of this young boy, life was magical and filled with wonder. "As children we had the freedom to play, climb trees, make carts and scooters out of wood, and just grow. There was no talk of allergies or helmets. Scratches and bruises were the norm, and we healed quickly. We had access to freshly grown food and fruits," he says.

Laughter and faith in God were the common threads that Norwill remembers growing up as the only boy in his family. "My sisters even to this day have always been there for me and will protect me with their lives," he says.

From early on, the sounds of Southern Gospel favourites Jim Reeves, Skeeter Davis, and Charlie Pride filled the air, and Norwill knew all of their songs by memory. However, singing one of these songs wasn't what marked his debut: in fact, it wasn't a Christian song at all!

"I was around nine years old when I got the first opportunity to sing," says Simmonds. We had a party in Miss Wilson's class, and I sang a song called 'Duppy or Gunman.' It was a very popular festival song at the time."

But when Norwill's mom found out, she was not pleased, to say the least! She wanted to know why he had sung at school but had never sung at church! And there it began: with an invitation to sing for God. "I had no idea the plans God had for me then. Because of my music, I was able to travel for the first time at the age of 12."

Putting the island resorts to good use, Norwill participated in singing to the vacationers to help raise funds for ADRA and,

in doing so, received an invitation to sing at various churches in Canada within multiple denominations, including Adventist (from an onlooker). That one experience led to a performance at the largest church in Canada, The Peoples Church. The doors began to open, and shortly after that trip Norwill received a contract offer to return to Canada and sing at the Peoples Church every Sunday, on television, and attend their school for a month. He accepted the offer.

Doors have continued to open in Norwill's life. He has been blessed with a beautiful wife, Hollace Burnett-Simmonds, and four boys (now ranging in age from 12 to 27 years old). He has sung on 3ABN, sung in the UK and released two albums (with a third on the way).

He shares: "I am very conscious of the huge responsibility God has bestowed upon me by allowing me to minister through music. It means my life must be in accordance with what I preach through song, and so the choice of songs, the lyrics and rhythm must be in accordance with God's will. So I seek Him before I decide to do a song, because I want to make sure it's the right song for the waiting hearts."

Norwill continues to sing and praise the Lord at various Adventist (and personal) functions. "My goals for the future in addition to ministering at the General Conference (GC) is to present the gospel in the purest and simplest form to all who will listen wherever God is willing to lead me. I simply just want to be used by Him." ●

Naomi Striemer is a Chapel recording artist, Pacific Press book author, Christian recording artist and sought-after speaker.

If you're a new member and have a question you would like answered, please email newmember@adventist.ca. We would love to hear from you.

A New Adventist Asks

I am new in the church and want to know if we have to live through the tribulation. I can't understand why we would, as we have already accepted Christ.

Thank you for your question. It is always great dialoguing with those who are looking for a clear understanding of God's will.

You are right when you imply that God gives peace to those who belong to Christ. John 14:27 states, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."¹ However, we are still on this fallen planet, where evil is present almost everywhere. For that reason, God's children—just as well as those who are far from God's kingdom—are part of the human reality and are vulnerable and susceptible to adversity. They will be hurt, get sick, be misunderstood, etc., as any human being can be. The difference is that they cope differently from those who don't know the good news of salvation. Every day they receive God's strength to pass through difficult situations with trust, hope, and love. As Psalm 23 says: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me."

Furthermore, Jesus didn't promise tranquility to his children. He announced, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword" (Matt. 10:34). Knowing the resistance of the kingdom of darkness, he confirmed that those who are attached to the truth, to the values of the Spirit will live also in challenging conditions. "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.'

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).

What is the reason for this hostility? Ellen G. White states: "The world loves sin and hates righteousness, and this was the cause of its hostility to Jesus. All who refuse His infinite love will find Christianity a disturbing element. The light of Christ sweeps away the darkness that covers their sins, and the need of reform is made manifest. While those who yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit begin war with themselves, those who cling to sin war against the truth and its representatives. Thus strife is created, and Christ's followers are accused as troublers of the people. But it is the fellowship with God that brings them the world's enmity. . . . They are treading the path that has been trodden by the noblest of the earth. Nor with sorrow, but with rejoicing, should they meet persecution."² *Desire of Ages*, p. 306.

We understand from this text that Jesus was the source of infinite love. His disciples accepted to follow Him, impressed by the influence of His goodness and the power of His words. And they continued to be strongly attached to His teaching. However, for those who didn't accept Him, the truth was considered as a threat, as something questioning in permanence their concept of life. This was the reality in the past, and we trust God's word that the events to come will confirm the cruel reality of the permanent conflict between good and evil.

However, this should not alarm us.

The book of Revelation confirms the superiority of Christian experience over any challenging situation: "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, . . . Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (2:10).

In conclusion, don't concentrate on suffering, evil, temptations, or persecutions. This is the plan of our enemy to disturb us. Think about faithfulness, about God's incredible love, about the divine power working in your life. In all circumstances, turn your eyes upon Jesus. He is "the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls" (Heb. 12:2-4). If, in beholding and emulating Christ, we become as He is, then our peace and our joy will be permanent, even in very challenging circumstances.

Therefore, be strong and walk with Jesus. He is your Master. And wait with patience and hope. Very soon we will see Jesus. We will be in His kingdom. Live for that blessed reality. ■

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

¹ All Scripture references taken from the New King James Version.
² *The Desire of Ages* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1898), p. 306.

Be Thou My Vision

The Howard Gimbel Story

BY J. D. VICTOR FITCH

DR. HOWARD GIMBEL was born in 1934 to a pioneer family who raised grain and operated a dairy near Beiseker, Alta. He was the fifth in a family of six children. Life on the farm was busy and involved chores before breakfast, travelling to the community school by a horse-drawn cart, and finally, evening chores. Weekends, and in the summer, there was field work and haying. Farm life was enjoyable and provided many skills that would prove helpful in Gimbel's chosen career, such as eye-hand-foot coordination for operating equipment and innovation to keep the equipment going, even with baling wire on occasions.



A. S. Jones



Top: The Gimbel family during the early years of Howard Gimbel's practice.

Right: Howard Gimbel in the Walla Walla College Physics Lab.



Every boy, at some time, ponders what lifework he will choose. Howard Gimbel liked farming and considered staying on the farm with his dad. But one day as he was on the tractor, he realized that even though farming appealed to him, he wanted to pursue a caring profession. He finally decided he would become a physician. This decision was influenced by an uncle who was a physician and his brother who was planning on a medical career.

While completing his medical degree at Loma Linda University Medical School, he pondered a choice of specialization. One day he had the opportunity to look at the eye through a microscope. The ability to see, with microscopic magnification, through the transparent cornea and thus examine the dynamic iris tissue, the lens of the eye, and the retina with its pulsating blood vessels immediately fueled his passion for his chosen specialty of ophthalmology. He completed an ophthalmology residency at the White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif., and began the practice of ophthalmology in Calgary in 1964.

Gimbel Eye Centre quickly expanded and soon became a leader in cataract surgery. Dr. Gimbel's fascination with emerging technology ensured that his patients would receive the best care available. In 1974 he became the first Canadian surgeon to use an ultrasonic probe to remove cataracts. When he combined this technique with the new intraocular lens implant, the demand for this surgery was immediate and significant. The procedure didn't require hospitalization, and with the cooperation of the Calgary Foothills Hospital, he introduced outpatient eye surgery in Canada. As demand continued to increase, he built the first freestanding ophthalmic surgery centre in Canada.

Gimbel Eye Centre has a clinical and surgical suite in Calgary, which has a staff of 49, and in Edmonton, a staff of 22, not

including doctors.

In 1982 Dr. Gimbel's wife, Judy, who holds a master's degree in public health from Loma Linda, joined the practice as its chief administrator. "Judy has been the greatest blessing of God in my life," he says, "and she used her innate management and leadership skills to develop the infrastructure to respond to the dynamic practice growth as patients flooded the centre for new procedures. She was instrumental in expanding the practice to include an out-of-hospital surgical centre."

While developing new techniques in cataract surgery, Dr. Gimbel also became active in refractive surgery, bringing the radial keratotomy procedure to Alberta in 1984. In 1990 the Gimbel Eye Centre was the site of the first Excimer laser refractive surgery in Canada. Since that time thousands of patients have enjoyed a new world without corrective lenses.

Because of Dr. Gimbel's innovations, research, and significant contributions in the advancements of ophthalmology, he has received many honours and awards. In 1992 he was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence. The Honourable Gordon Towers, lieutenant governor of Alberta, said, "His innovative techniques have placed him clearly at the front of modern cataract surgery in North America, and his dedication to the service of humankind has raised the standard of care in this province." The program notes stated, "Dr. Gimbel was the first ophthalmologist in Canada to use phacoemulsification for the removal of cataracts. He is the developer of the Continuous-Tear Capsulotomy technique and the Divide and Conquer phacoemulsification technique, which are accepted as international standards of excellence for their safety and effectiveness."

In 2004 the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology established the Charles D. Kelman Educational Fund to advance the knowledge of cataracts and its associated problems worldwide. The following year the annual Charles Kelman Lecture was established to honour an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of cataract surgery through innovation, education, or scientific study. The first speaker was Dr. Howard Fine; the second, Dr. Howard Gimbel. The one who introduced Dr. Gimbel said, "Our first and second speakers share more in common than their first names, as both are probably the most recognized names in cataract surgery around the world today."

As a committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian, how does Dr. Gimbel live out his faith in his practice? If one were to tour the Gimbel Eye Centre, would one notice anything to indicate this is a Christian practice? The answer is yes.

One patient wrote, "I was full of trepidation at the thought of having my natural lens removed and replaced by an artificial lens, and I had never heard of Gimbel Eye Centre before I stepped through your door. But when I did and saw the painting of you operating with the hand of Jesus guiding yours, I began to relax and feel at ease." The painting this patient is referencing is one Nathan Greene was commissioned to paint in 2002, titled "Be Thou My Vision": it depicts Dr. Gimbel performing surgery with Jesus standing by him, His right hand on his shoulder, His other hand pointing toward the surgeon's hands.

Families of all patients are invited to watch surgery on a monitor through a glass wall. Every patient is given a prayer

request card. Over 50 percent of patients request prayer, and many patients assure Dr. Gimbel they are praying for him.

Many patients have written letters of appreciation regarding prayer. One wrote: "Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation for your kind invitation to pray with me at the time of my upcoming surgery. While I am a believing Christian at heart, I must admit that I am not as dedicated as I might be. As such, I find the prospect of joining you in prayer prior to my surgery to be particularly special, as well as most reassuring and encouraging."

Another wrote: "Thank you very, very much for the Christlike care you demonstrated when I met you, and you prayed with me before the operation. I was especially blessed when you said you wanted to be an instrument in the hands of God. God answered your prayer. I can see clearly!"

A medical student who came to the Gimbel Eye Centre for training wrote: "I want to thank you for being a great example of what a doctor should be and also a servant of Christ. ... Nothing can replace the experience I gained from watching your gentle, calm interactions with your patients and the delicate manner in which you performed your surgeries." Many who write letters of appreciation also commend the caring, competent staff.

Since Dr. Gimbel began his practice, patient care has always been his priority. "What is best for the patient" guides his every action. He readily shares any new method, innovation or advancement in technology or procedures that creates a better outcome for the patient with other ophthalmologists; he thinks not only of his own patients but also other surgeons' patients. He shares his methods and findings with the medical community by giving presentations at conferences, writing articles, performing live surgeries presented by satellite from the Gimbel Eye Centre to over 25 major conferences around the world, and by video presentations produced by the Gimbel Eye Centre Foundation. Dr. Gimbel also sponsored the Canadian Rockies Symposium of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, which met yearly from 1984 to 1994 and met again in 2004. Its purpose was to bring world-renowned surgeons together to show by video their techniques of refractive surgery, cataract surgery with intra-ocular lens implants, and to watch his surgeries at the Gimbel Eye Centre.

Dr. Gimbel's love of research and teaching has been a distinguishing feature of his career. He has co-authored two best-selling textbooks in addition to numerous book chapters. He is a frequent contributor to medical journals and is in great demand as a presenter at ophthalmology conferences. He has been an honoured guest speaker at many prestigious universities, such as Harvard. Dr. Gimbel also holds academic appointments at the University of Calgary, University of California in San Francisco, and Loma Linda University. In 2000 he was named professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Loma Linda University, a position he held until December 2013. He now continues to teach surgery one week each quarter at Loma Linda University.

Dr. Gimbel maintains a close relationship with his God through an active devotional life. Two of his favourite Bible texts are: "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6) and "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105).

Music has always been an integral part of his life. Singing in



Top Left: Howard and Judy Gimbel at the opening of the first ophthalmic outpatient facility in 1984.

Top right: Judy and Howard Gimbel at the International Intraocular Implant Club where Dr. Gimbel was a medal recipient in 2009.

Left: Dr. Gimbel performing surgery at Loma Linda University Hospital.

choirs and quartets as well as playing the trombone have enriched his life and that of others. He also plays the musical saw.

"As the devil tempts me to be proud," Dr. Gimbel says, "I am blessed to have precious hymns that go through my head, such as "Not I, but Christ . . ." "And as I dedicate my life to God," he continues, "I think of this one:

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love."

As Dr. Gimbel reflects on God's leading in his life and his work, he ponders: "Why me? God doesn't need me. He opened the eyes of the blind. Yet He has given me insight to meet the needs of those with sight issues."

To young people contemplating their life work, he says, "Set long-term goals, but don't expect to see the way clearly to that goal. Do not get discouraged with the challenges of the more immediate goals that need to be reached on the way to a higher goal. And be prepared for a change in the long-term goals as new career potentials open up. I think it is important to follow one's interests and natural abilities, because the most contented people are those who are able to do what they really enjoy as their job or career."

In the eyes of the world, Dr. Gimbel has had tremendous success, but to him, he is compelled to burst forth into the familiar song, "To God be the glory, great things He has done." ■

J. D. Victor Fitch is a retired educator residing in Red Deer, Alta. He and Howard Gimbel were classmates at CUC, both graduating in the 1952 High School class. Victor is president emeritus of Canadian University College, and continues to serve in various volunteer areas.

Jesus be the centre



DARNEL BAZIL

Kingsway College senior Darnel Basil is making a positive impression on the lives of those around him.

DARNEL IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN MANY ASPECTS OF LIFE AT KINGSWAY. He serves as one of the music ministers in the Student Association (SA), planning and leading praise and worship, as well as selecting music for SA events. He is a member of the Symphonic Choir. Darnel is the co-captain of the Varsity Men's Basketball team, and helped lead them to victory at the Andrews University Cardinal Classic this past February. He also serves as one of the six residence hall assistants in the men's dorm.

Born on the beautiful island of Dominica, Darnel moved to Canada at a young age and began attending Toronto Perth Adventist Church. Two years ago the Ontario Conference hired his father as a pastor at the Hamilton East Adventist Church. They moved in the middle of a school year, so Darnel decided to come to Kingsway, a decision he made years ago with a childhood best friend.

Kingsway has made a significant impact on Darnel. He has been given many opportunities to enhance his spiritual, social, physical, and academic life. Darnel has learned not only how to become a great leader with the help of the supportive staff members but also how to relate to those above him. He says, "The Kingsway environment fosters fellowship and bonding experiences with

people from diverse backgrounds, blessing each student with the opportunity to relate and reach into his or her own community and share the love of Jesus."

When asked about the importance of Christian education, he replied, "It is a place that allows me to connect to God as much as possible. My goal every day is to start a fresh relationship with God. Christian education does not focus solely on academics. It allows time for God to be the centre of your school experience—be it through chapel, vespers, Sabbath school, Week of Prayer or even stopping to pray with someone in the halls. It gives you the freedom to express your love for God and be supported by likeminded individuals."

One of the most memorable experiences Darnel had at Kingsway was when he travelled with the Public Relations team in the summer of 2013. He had the opportunity to travel to Newfoundland and spend a week there during their camping. The PR team led out song service in the youth section, and Darnel preached a number of times. The team was a positive representation for Kingsway and the youth of the church.

Darnel plans to attend Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alta., to study theology. He hopes to one day work as a pastor wherever God takes him. He has had plenty of practice, preaching in local churches and most recently as one of the speakers for the Preview Weekend main church service at College Park church. Darnel would also like to hold an event to thank those who have supported him along the way.

His favourite Bible text is 1 Peter 3:12, which reads, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (ESV). When asked what his favourite song is, Darnel chose "Who Else But God" by Tye Tribbett. The words of the song show the greatness of God and how He is like no other. ■

Christina Lister is the development coordinator at Kingsway College.

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Foluso Elizabeth Oyelana

Parkview Profiles

Lizz chose to come to PAA over other high schools so that she "could have a better relationship with God."

Foluso Elizabeth Oyelana, or Lizz, as she's known at PAA, is a very gifted Grade 10 student. She has aspirations to take lessons in cello or French horn and plays on both the basketball and volleyball teams, and she still makes time for friends. Lizz chose to come to PAA over other high schools so that she "could have a better relationship with God."

Born in Nigeria, Lizz is the youngest of three children in a family who left home and moved to Winnipeg, Man., just seven years ago. As difficult as it was for her parents to uproot their lives the first time, it was even more challenging for Lizz to convince them to send her to a distant, out-of-province academy they had never visited and only heard of in passing. "But they saw how passionate I was about going to PAA," says Lizz, and so she came.

"It's been such a good experience for me, meeting all these people." Lizz was surprised to find friends "from just about everywhere" and surrounds herself with people from places as varied as Sri Lanka, India, Philippines and Korea, not to mention right here in Canada. There are several students who came with Lizz from Winnipeg, and living in the dorm has strengthened their bond through daily worships and praise time. "It was hard leaving family behind," she says, "but you make new family at PAA. Besides, there are lots of breaks here, so I can go home and visit."

Lizz first learned about PAA while attending Red River Valley Junior Academy (RRVJA), the Adventist school in Winnipeg. Three years ago PAA's Dauntless student ministry team toured Western Canada and hosted a weekend youth rally at RRVJA. Lizz remembers, "I heard all the students share, and they were so spiritual and funny and very involved. I saw that it was a good school, and I wanted to have the chance to be like them."

At the beginning of the 2013/2014 school year, Lizz signed up to audition for Dauntless in addition to choir, the Maple Hall dorm club, and every sports team that was formed. It wasn't long before she realized her calendar was way too full. Confronted with such a drastic change in schedule and the need to both work and keep up with her grades, Lizz had to let some things go. As she gets ready for Grade 11, she is hoping to reorganize her days so she can become more involved in PAA praise bands and worships. "I like developing new relationships and getting to know people. I love to sing, and singing with friends is awesome. I have stage fright, but God is working on my courage."

Lizz is also committed to the strong academic culture of PAA. "It's hard," she says, "but it makes you smarter. The teachers help support your learning. You can always go after school for help." The classes Lizz most enjoys are ones such as English and social studies, which introduce her to an idea and help her develop and express her opinions about it. Ms. Fernandez, especially, has helped Lizz grow: "She really cares about everybody and is like a mom to us here."

The positive and lasting PAA relationships formed this year have convinced Lizz to finish high school here in Alberta. Her goal is still to give her talents and her life to God so she can become confident enough to share like the students who help lead out in campus programs and inspire her to grow. "I see God in our PAA Sabbath schools and how the students themselves speak. Maybe I can become one of those students," Lizz says. "That's what's so amazing about PAA. It takes us out of our comfort zone, but it's good." ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the communications assistant at Parkview Adventist Academy.



Fort St. John Learning Centre student Kevin online.



Nicole and her mom.

West Coast Adventist School

What does online learning look like? If you have tried learning at a distance yourself, you might recall receiving lessons to work through and sending them off for correction.

Or you may picture children sitting around a kitchen table or a school room in their home working on computers. Although these are facets of online learning, West Coast Adventist School (WCAS) is much more than that! Let's peek into a couple of online "rooms"!

Members of the Fort St. John church in British Columbia wanted to provide Adventist education for their children but didn't have enough children to start a school. In the spring and summer of 2013, families met with Pastor Cavin Chwyl, expressing their desire for Adventist education. Pastor Chwyl contacted Lee Richards, the principal of WCAS, to explore how WCAS might help support the church's hopes. By September 2013, three students had signed up for the new Fort St. John WCAS Learning Centre that meets in the fellowship hall of the church, and by January their number had grown to five.

Gloria Lansall, the learning centre supervisor, and her faithful volunteers work with students in their online classes, providing daily support to help students with their assignments. Teachers Melanie

Kartik and Erin Sutherland provide online instruction, and elementary vice-principal Clarissa Long supports these teachers in their quest to provide quality online Adventist education. Pastor Chwyl explains how WCAS has helped fulfill his church's desire to provide Adventist education: "West Coast Adventist School has been helpful; they are a phone call away and are accessible. Although there have been bumps in the road of this growing experience, we want to see what has happened at Fort St. John this year expand to the church in Dawson Creek next year!"

Let's add colour to your picture of the family that has school space in the dining room of their home. Nicole (Grade 7) and Kiersten (Grade 10) Wong are two WCAS students who enjoy the freedom that online learning has given them. Nicole works through her daily assignments with the help of her teacher, Ms. Sutherland, and her mom, Iris. She recently completed a project about the Forbidden City in China that she presented to her weekly online class. She also enjoys vigorous discussion of class topics with her online peers. Kiersten attends daily, live online classes that originate in the live classroom in Williams Lake.

This semester she is trying out one self-paced online course—letting her

sleep a little later in the morning than the live class would allow! Kiersten's favourite memory of being a WCAS student is her experience at Face2Face week where she traveled to meet her teachers and fellow students in a live classroom for a week. Because Kiersten and Nicole learn in an online environment, they have the flexibility in their schedules to enjoy a whirlwind life filled with other experiences. Along with a responsibility-building paper route, they are involved in Pathfinders, music lessons (piano and flute for Kiersten), fascinating field trips with other students who learn at home, and travel. Kiersten has parlayed her involvement in the German school to a paid tutoring position, something she may not have been able to do as a student in a brick-and-mortar school.

Why does the Wong family choose West Coast Adventist School when there are other options? Iris explains: "We choose West Coast Adventist School because it meets our family's commitment to providing Adventist education, knowing we have met educational standards in a way that fits our lifestyle and our family's needs." ■

Lisa Stevens is the Distributed Learning coordinator of the British Columbia Conference.



Walk Together—Becoming One Alberta Campmeeting

July 11-19, 2014 at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alberta



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President and Educational
Director, Total Health
School of Nutrition



Shawn Boonstra
Speaker/Director,
Voice of Prophecy



John Bradshaw
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written
International



Don Corkum
Church Plant Director,
Alberta Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Mansfield Edwards
President, Ontario
Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written Canada



Daniel Jackson
President, North
American Division of
Seventh-day Adventists



Willie and Wilma Lee
Director and Co-Director, Family
Ministries, Southwest Region
Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Jason O'Rourke
Chaplain, Florida
Hospital Orlando,
Orlando, Florida



Stephen Reasor
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Ron Schafer
Director, Physical
Education, Canadian
University College



Bill Spangler
Mediator, Alberta
Family Justice



Carolyn Sutton
Author;
Producer/Co-Host,
Better Life TV



Jim Sutton
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World Radio; Building
for Christ Ministries;
Prison Ministries

Proclaim His Grace Alberta FilCan Campmeeting

August 21-24, 2014 at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alberta

(All meetings will be conducted in English.)



Daniel Botabara
Senior Pastor,
San Jose Filipino
Seventh-day
Adventist Church,
San Jose, California



Lyle Notie
Associate
Youth Director,
Alberta Conference
of Seventh-day
Adventists



Ronald Yabut
Pastor, Edmonton
Filipino Seventh-
day Adventist
Church; Chaplain,
Coralwood
Adventist Academy



Living In His Presence British Columbia Campmeeting

July 25-August 2, 2014 at Camp Hope, Hope, British Columbia



Phil Brewer
Founder,
Silver Hills, Lumby,
British Columbia



Wayne Culmore
President, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in
British Columbia



Massiel Davila
Nurture Pastor, College
Heights Seventh-day
Adventist Church



Ed Dunn
Director, Native Ministries,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Mark Finley
Vice-President,
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Jamie Gavin
Founder and President,
Comforting Hope



Vicki Griffin
Speaker/Director,
Lifestyle Matters Health
Intervention Series



Bill Holloway
Pastor, Open Door
Seventh-day Adventist
Church, Abbotsford, B.C.



Daniel Jackson
President, North
American Division of
Seventh-day Adventists



Jerry Johns
Producer,
Master Designer
Ministry



Mark Johnson
President,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Al Kurtz
Grief Counselor,



Tammie Lindsey
Pastor, Wellspring
Community Church,
Milpitas, California



Derek Morris
Associate Secretary,
General Conference
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Lyle Notice
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Chris Oberg
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Ray Pichette
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Illinois Conference of
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John Reeve
Assistant Professor,
Seventh-day Adventist
Theological Seminary



Teresa Reeve
Associate Professor,
Seventh-day Adventist
Theological Seminary



Anthea Rippin
Teacher, Deer Lake
Seventh-day Adventist
School, Burnaby, B.C.



Jeffrey Rosario
Instructor/Speaker,
ARISE and Light Bearers



Daniel Stojanovic
VP for Administration,
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Church in Canada



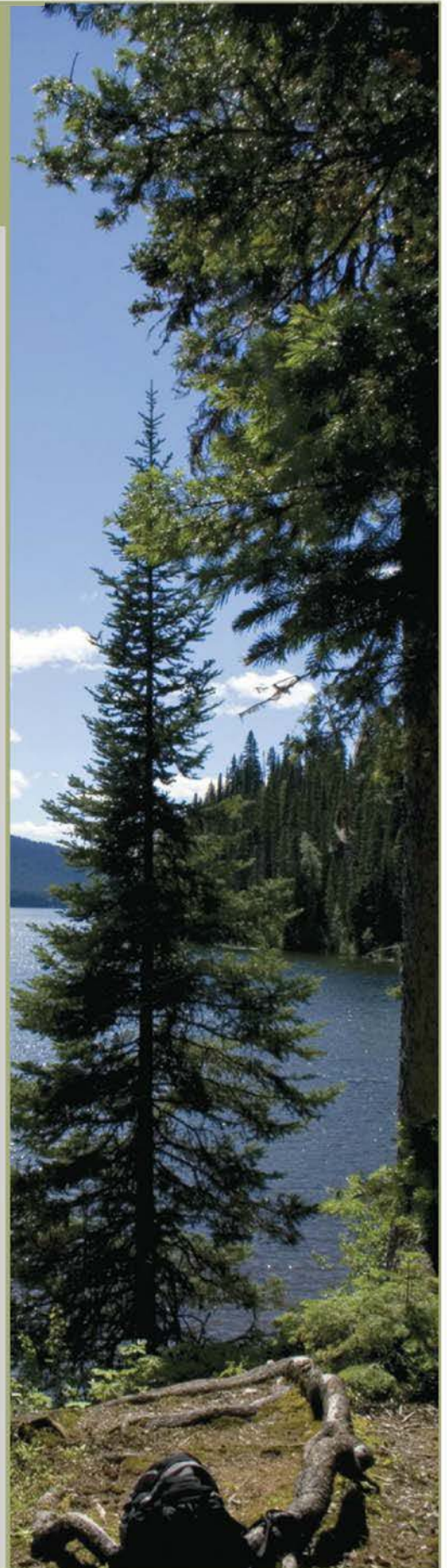
Wesley Torres
VP for Administration,
Seventh-day Adventist
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Brian Wahl
Youth Director,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in British Columbia



Michael Wixwat
VP for Finance,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in British Columbia



Come Boldy Manitoba-Saskatchewan Campmeeting

July 4-12, 2014 at Camp Whitesand, Theodore, Saskatchewan



Hans Diehl
Founder,
Complete Health
Improvement Project



Ron du Preez
Pastor,
Oregon Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written Canada



Dan Sems
Pastor and English
Coordinator, Texas
Conference of SDA



Kevin Wiffley
Pastor/Director for Prayer
and Spiritual Growth, Wash-
ington Conference of SDA



One! John 17:20-23

Ontario Campmeeting

June 28, 2014 at International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga, Ontario



Rick Aguilera
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One Mustard Seed Inc.,
Berrien Springs, Michigan



Mansfield Edwards
President, Ontario
Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists



Daniel Jackson
President, North
American Division of
Seventh-day Adventists



Donna Jackson
Leader, Ministerial
Spouses Association, North
American Division of SDA



Buster Swoopes
Pastor,
Texas Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

Priesthood of All Believers Southern Ontario Campmeeting

June 6-7, 2014 at Simcoe SDA Church/Norfolk County Fairgrounds



Sherry Augustus
Chaplain, Crawford
Adventist Academy,
North York, Ontario



Cheryl Bailey
Registered Nurse and
Ontario School of Evangelism
(OCSE) graduate



Lars Mulfer
Vice-President, Muller
Systems Corporation,
Woodstock, Ontario

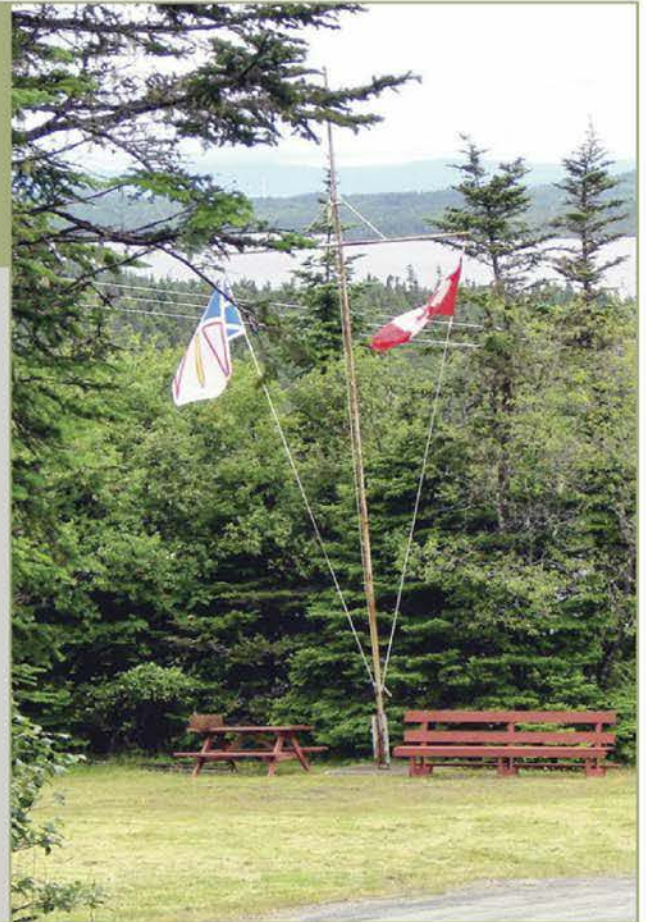


Patrick Rose
Mechanical Design
Draftperson and
OCSE graduate



Walking God's Plan for My Life Newfoundland Campmeeting

July 18-26, 2014 at Woody Acres Camp,
Southwest Pond, Newfoundland



Stephen Bohr
Pastor,
Secrets Unsealed
Ministry



Pamela & Claudio Consuegra
Family Ministries, North
American Division of
Seventh-day Adventists



Mark Haynal
President, Canadian
University College



Mark Johnson
President,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Tim Riesenberger
Physician/Speaker,
Health, Preventative
Medicine



Randy Roberts
Pastor, Loma Linda
University Church of Seventh-
day Adventists, California



We Would See Jesus Maritime Campmeeting

July 25-August 2, 2014 at Camp Pugwash, Pugwash, N.S.



Jo-Ann Davidson
Professor of Theology,
Andrews University



Richard Davidson
Professor of Old
Testament Interpretation,
Andrews University



Jerry Finneman
Pastor/Chaplain,
Michigan Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Mark Haynal
President, Canadian
University College



Mark Johnson
President,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Justin Kim
Director of Communications
and Sabbath School,
Michigan Conference of SDA



Daniel Latchman
President, Quebec
Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists



Ricky Schwarz
Youth Pastor, Visalia
Seventh-day Adventist
Church, California

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Alberta

Five Loaves, Two Fish, and a Couple of Puppets



Neil Peralta and his puppets with Lyle Notice.



Kalja Lungberg posing with the puppets at Adventurer Family Camp.

What a fantastic Adventurer Family Camp weekend. Our theme was “Five Loaves and Two Fish,” and with over 260 attendees, the place was packed to capacity. The stage was filled with over 100 kids, singing, interacting, and worshiping. Never before have I seen children so excited, so enthused, and so energetic.

All of sudden, a puppet named Ed, a blonde-haired boy with a southern accent, popped out from behind a makeshift stage. Ed was followed by another puppet named Kim.

“You came all the way from China?” asked Ed.

“Yes,” said Kim, “I came to tell the kids stories about Jesus and the Bible.”

As the children listened intently to the puppets’ dialogue, they learned that Jesus used a little boy’s lunch consisting of five loaves and two fish to feed over 5,000 people.

Out of nowhere Ed and Kim then sang a song that became quite popular over the course of the weekend: “Life without Jesus is like a doughnut, like a doughnut, like a doughnut. Life without Jesus is like a doughnut. There’s a hole in the middle of your heart.” The children all burst into laughter.

It was nice to see children so focused as they listened to God’s

word being brought across in an artistic and expressive way using puppets. At one point, as the puppets were dramatizing Daniel in the lions’ den, the comedy was so funny that parents started to laugh louder than their children.

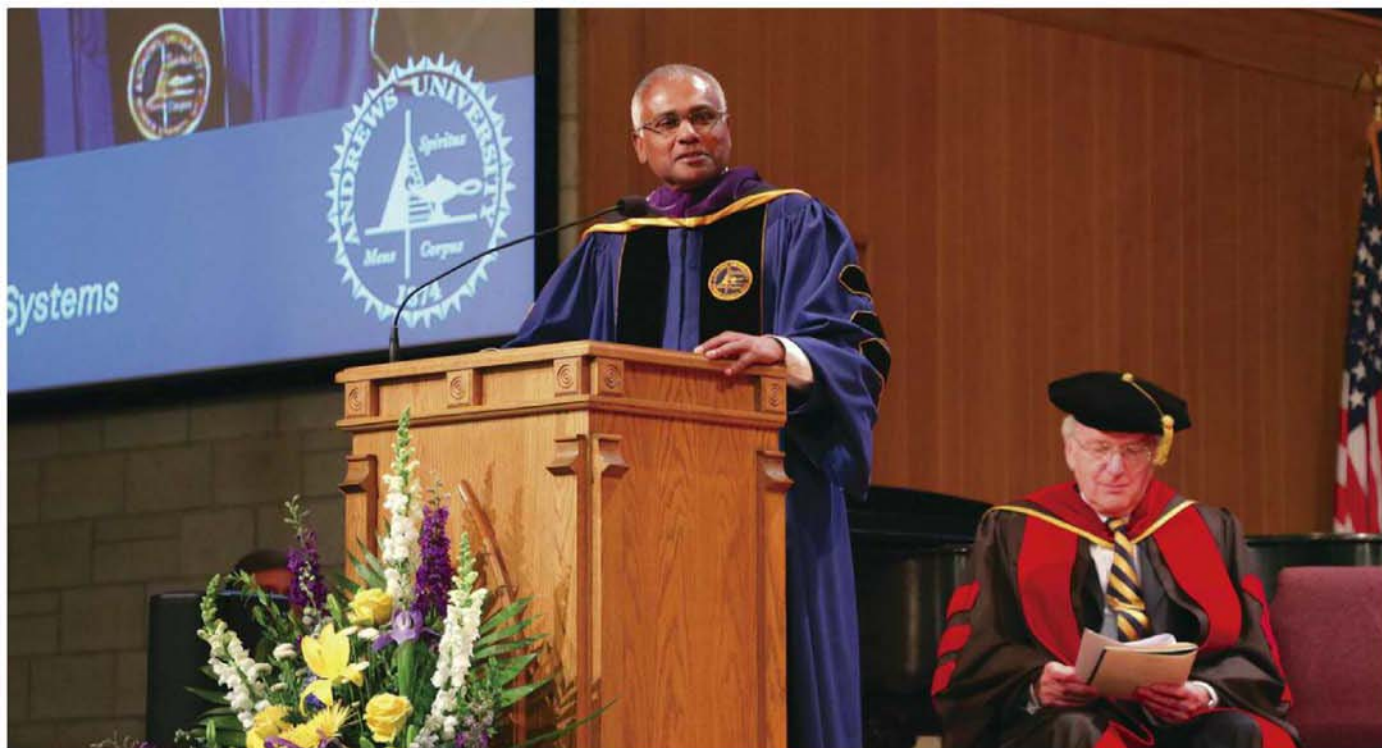
On Sabbath afternoon, a group of families went on a nature hike with Kevin Kiers, Alberta’s youth director. Another group of families attended “Puppets 101,” where they learned how to use puppets and even how to make their own. One hour in, the groups switched activities.

The man behind the puppets was Neil Peralta from British Columbia, who currently serves as the chaplain for Deer Lake School.

We thank Pastor Neil Peralta for his great ministry to the Adventurers that weekend. When asked why he is so passionate about puppet ministry, he replied, “I love seeing the reaction of the children’s faces when I bring out my puppets. Nothing brings me more joy than to see children excited about Bible stories and puppet ministry.” ■

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

Imagine It Better!



Eric Rajah addressing the 2014 graduates at Andrews University. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of his international humanitarian work.

"May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10, NLT). When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray, He admonished them to pray that His will on earth be carried out in the same way it is in heaven. They were being instructed to reach toward a goal—something better—as they understood God's kingdom to be.

Christ's followers through the ages have been reaching for that "something better" in myriad ways. It was this "something better" that Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World (ABW), planned in the hearts of Andrews University graduates at ceremonies held on May 4, 2014. He had the privilege of addressing the graduating class of 2014 while also being awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university in recognition of his international humanitarian work during the past 24 years. Rajah is certainly well qualified to speak about improving life circumstances and contributing to a better world.

As he addressed the students, Rajah melded AU's mission statement and his own personal ideology during the two morning graduation ceremonies for

Andrews University. He cited Matthew 6:10 and challenged the graduates to "Imagine It Better" as they embark on their personal journeys. Rajah reflected on how in 1981, while attending Canadian Union College, Dr. Warren Trenchard told him that everyone is called to ministry—to service, but not necessarily to be a pastor. These words would change the course of his life.

Graduation day represents the culmination of gaining considerable knowledge and important skills. But what is next? Rajah says, "If you use knowledge and faith, you serve other people. We must do more than talk about serving and pray about serving. It is our responsibility to affirm our faith through our actions."

Prior to the graduation weekend, I had the opportunity to speak with Rajah. Andrews University would be a brief stop en route to Kenya with a group of Canadian students and others for another ABW project. He spoke about the humbling experience of receiving the degree and speaking in an academia setting. When asked how this degree might provide leverage to A Better World, he spoke of the wider awareness and credibility

it would bring within the Seventh-day Adventist world or to anyone who hears the ABW story.

The Bible is replete with its admonition and examples to serve one another. It's what Jesus did!

ABW continues to be governed by the College Heights church. Succession planning is in motion. It will be interesting to see how God leads. Rajah believes that the primary goal of every church should be to serve and reach the local community. Service is the gateway to doctrine. "We need to be seen as a caring community." How is this accomplished? "Find a common ground and build relationships," says Rajah. The changing of the heart is God's work. In serving we grow!"

As Rajah concluded, he challenged the graduates to take some time to imagine what they could do to make our world more like heaven. Sage advice for all of us. Imagine it better! ■

(For more information visit www.abwcanada.ca.)

—Linda Steinke,
education communication,
Alberta Conference

British Columbia



A Celebration of Life

Stanley Douglas Rogers, 65, passed away suddenly on April 16, 2014, in Chilliwack, BC. Born in Armstrong, B.C., predeceased by parents, Alfred and Pauline Rogers (Wettstein), and survived by brother David (Peggy) Rogers and sister Carol (Herb) Domke. Stan leaves a vacancy for his wife of 10 years, Anita Rogers (Brouwer), and stepson, Corbin Kempenaar, as well as Stan's children Cameron Rogers, Collin Rogers, Gina Brillinger (Rogers) and six grandchildren.

Stan is remembered as an entrepreneur, developer, community builder, volunteer,

follower of Christ, loving father and husband with a tireless work ethic, a generous heart, and a passion for making a contribution. He spent 18 years growing Rogers Foods Ltd. before spending the next 24 years in property development, most recently as the founder and president of Legacy Pacific Land Corporation since 1996. Stan was a member of the BC Conference Building Committee for years. Stan also played a major role in building the Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church. ■

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Costa Rica Mission Trip



Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Costa Rica Mission Trip 2014 participants with Youth Director, Richard Williams (back row, far left) and Bible Instructors, Julio Davila (front row, far left), and Sandra Koch (back row, far right).

On March 31, 2014, a group of 16 people answered a call and headed to Costa Rica. Our group consisted of a variety of people, some with much experience in mission trips and others with little to none. Each person, however, had a heart to make a difference for others. The goal of the mission trip was to help a church in Villa Real by adding on a bathroom and storage room to the already existing pole structure, as well as to preach in the evenings.

Our little band of Canadians were not prepared for what we were to encounter in Costa Rica. However, God was looking out for us. One of the biggest ways God provided for us was giving us a comfortable and air-conditioned place to stay. For the duration of our trip, the temperatures were between 45 and 50 C. This proved to be quite difficult to work in, and so a place to cool down was truly a blessing.

God also blessed our work there. Every day He kept us safe on the worksite, and we were able to accomplish much. We all took part in construction in some way, by laying brick, mixing cement, wheel barrowing or shoveling, and leveling the work area. When we left the site, the external structure was complete. It was exciting to see the difference from when we started to when we finished.

It was exciting to see the difference from when we started to when we finished.

In the evenings, after cleaning up from the worksite, we would come back to the church to preach. The speakers were all able to share a message of hope with the local people. During one afternoon a portion of the group also got to go visit a local school. It was interesting playing and talking to the students and

sharing smiles.

Perhaps one of the greatest blessings of the trip was meeting the pastor and church members there. What an inspiration to see how these people have dedicated their lives to God's work. Pastor Ricardo is working in the area, and though he is getting older, he still bikes to the homes of people with whom he is studying the Bible. He currently has 50 Bible studies going on. Beyond that, his sacrificial spirit shone through as we gave him

parting gifts—he was already figuring out to whom he could pass on the gifts. What an honour to meet Pastor Ricardo and his fellow church workers.

After sad goodbyes with new friends, we started our trip back to Canada on April 8. We left Costa Rica a little sunburned and tired, but we also left impressed to continue working for God. ■

—Sandra Koch, Bible Instructor,
Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

Ontario

Fourteen-Year-Old Holds Piano Recital

Fourteen-year-old Jonathan Kaberuka held a special solo piano recital in the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday, April 13, 2014, and invited friends and family to come and hear him perform classical music. Because he is an exceptional piano student, his teacher, Scott Bastien, wanted him to gain experience performing in front of a real audience.

Jonathan started playing the piano at the age of seven and wanted to take lessons because his older brother was doing so and he wanted to be “cool” like his brother. Little did he know that with practice he would become an exceptionally gifted student. In 2013 he auditioned for the Royal College of Organists Scholarship for beginning students, with the purpose of providing introductory organ lessons for pianists who have not previously had any organ lessons. By the grace of God, he received the scholarship and has been taking lessons since then with the prestigious Professor David Palmer.

Now Jonathan enjoys playing both the piano and organ. Jonathan has performed in three different churches and has done extremely well, gaining more confidence with each performance. Jonathan adds, “The only other thing I would add to preparing for a concert would be to pray about it constantly—as 1 Thessalonians says, ‘Pray without ceasing.’—because it can only help in situations like these.”

I asked him, “What’s in store for the future?”

He replied, “Only time will tell. Although, I wouldn’t mind



Jonathan Kaberuka

continuing music throughout university, becoming a professor and a teacher of music, being an organist and playing for church services.” In the near future, however, he will be participating in the Kiwanis Music Festival in 2014. ■

Sam Greer, “the No-Breakage Mover,” Retires



Sam Greer, the Ontario Conference mover, has parked his tractor-trailer for the last time. After nearly 30 years of moving the belongings of church employees, students and others across North America, he retired on April 1, 2014.

As Sam moves into retirement, he can proudly look back knowing

that he was an exception in the removal business: he developed a system of loading the trailer without breaking anything! “Other movers refused to believe me,” he told the directors and staff of the Ontario Conference at a farewell dinner on April 15. “They said that it is impossible, because something always gets broken! ‘Not with my system,’ I told them.”

Among Sam’s numerous memories since his 1985 employment by the Ontario Conference is his very first trip. “I moved Pastor Wayne Martin from the Quebec Conference to Ontario,” he recalls, “and being my first time, it was really a learning experience.”

Since then he has travelled to every state and province in North America with the exception of the Northwest Territories. He is known in almost every conference, having ferried their employees' possessions from one location to another. On more than one occasion, he was faced with life-threatening moments. "In such moments," he said, "it was only the Lord who delivered me."

Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, describes Sam as an ambassador for the conference and thanked him for his many years of service. He also thanked him on behalf of many students of Canadian University College who asked him

to express their appreciation to Sam for his great help to them.

Pastor Gary Hodder, Ontario Conference executive secretary, spoke of Sam's winsome personality and strong work ethic. "It's been a joy to have known you in this capacity," he said.

Now that Sam is retired, his travelling will be somewhat curtailed. He says that he plans to begin by attacking the list his wife, Gloria, gave him of jobs to be done around the house. ■

—Halsey Peat, Director,
Communications and PARL,
Ontario Conference

Quebec

Grief Recovery seminar brings hope of healing to many!



Attendance was good for the Grief Recovery seminar held by the Granby and Sherbrooke churches in Quebec.

During the month of April, the Granby and Sherbrooke Adventist churches each organized a one-night Grief Recovery seminar with author and speaker Danièle Starenkyj. Using their weekly "Pastor's Column" published in the newspaper to promote their venue, both churches were blessed to be able to minister to the needs of those living in the cities of Granby and Sherbrooke.

Attendance at both events was predominantly non-Adventist, with Granby church attracting 56 participants, 49 of whom were non-Adventist visitors, and Sherbrooke church hosting 119 attendees, 100 of whom were non-Adventist visitors.

The purpose of these seminars was also to promote a four-night Grief

Recovery workshop offered by churches located in the Eastern Townships of Québec. Following the seminar 11 people attended the follow-up workshop on grief recovery offered by the Granby Adventist Church, and 27 people attended the workshop offered by the Sherbrooke Adventist Church. These workshops are an excellent way to introduce people to the benefits of a relationship with God.

Both churches, under the pastoral care of Patrick Dupuis, have chosen to promote health and community service-based evangelism and this strategy has begun to bring dividends. Through the "Pastor's Column" seminars and workshops, the Sherbrooke and Granby churches are having a positive impact on their respective communities, and some



Author/speaker, Danièle Starenkyj, with Patrick Dupuis, pastor of the Granby, Sherbrooke, and Abercorn churches in Quebec.

of the attendees of the various health-oriented church-sponsored activities have visited the church for a Sabbath service or begun Bible studies. ■

SDA Church in Canada

Barb Bickford—A VOAR testimony



Barb Bickford

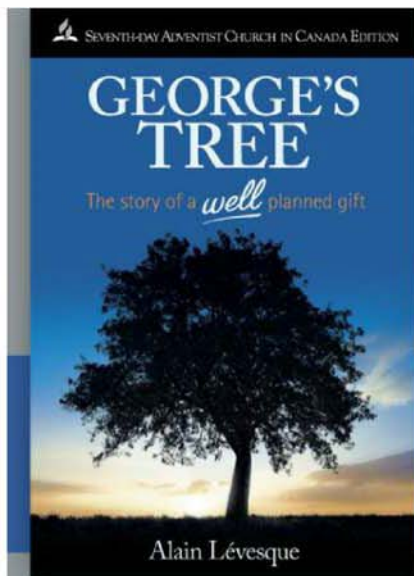
Barb Bickford grew up on Bell Island, and she was searching for the right church. As she was trying to find something to listen to on the radio, she happened to find Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR). Barb says, “I didn’t know we could get Christian radio, and I thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful music. I certainly never knew anything about the Seventh-day Adventist Church before then.”

Barb felt the Lord leading her to Christian fellowship. She said, “Even when you think you are all alone, you are not, and God will put someone in your path. Barb and her friend Sheila decided they would attend the Adventist campmeeting, just to check it out. It was there that Barb introduced herself to the VOAR staff. After this they would attend the Adventist church on Sabbath while still attending the Anglican services on Sundays.

The friends later attended a series of evangelistic meetings in the fall, at which point Barb made a decision to get baptized. She said, “God showed me what church I needed to get baptized in, and that was the Adventist Church. Barb says she’s thankful for VOAR’s ministry and for introducing her to the Adventist Church. She’s thankful for the opportunity to tune in each day for the wonderful blessings heard over her station. We thank God for Barb and for the people we hear from on a daily basis who have been challenged and changed through God’s Word. ■

—Tina Taylor, Communications Director, VOAR

To share your story with VOAR,
email communications director,
Tina Taylor, at ttaylor@voar.org.



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- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
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- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
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New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Yan Di Wang was baptized in Richmond, B.C., on Nov. 16, 2013, by Kevin Burrell. Yan, a recent arrival to Canada from China was invited to Bible study and guided by Annie Gao, Richmond church's resident Chinese Bible worker. She is now a member of the Richmond church.

Ray Hoglin was baptized in Richmond, B.C., on Nov. 16, 2013, by Kevin Burrell. Ray was a former believer who decided to recommit his life through baptism after he was befriended and encouraged by Israel Fisher, a vibrant member of the Richmond church. He is now a member of the Richmond church.

Joanne Ogawa was baptized in Richmond, B.C., on Nov. 16, 2013, by Kevin Burrell. Joanne was invited to Bible study by her longtime friends Ken and Peggy Takahashi. She is now a member of the Richmond church.

Daniel Su was baptized in Richmond, B.C., on Nov. 16, 2013, by Kevin Burrell. Daniel, a student who was seeking to learn about Jesus Christ, was guided into his decision by Darren

Gallyvitz. He is now a member of the Richmond church.

Hawking Tan was baptized in Richmond, B.C., on Nov. 16, 2013, by Kevin Burrell. Hawking, a young student and homestay resident with Richard Watson was brought to Jesus through the personal witness of the Watson family. He is now a member of the Richmond church.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Olive Powell was baptized in Corner Brook, Nfld., on Feb. 16, 2013, by Jerry Logan. Olive took Bible studies with *It Is Written* (IIW), and as she watched Shawn Boonstra's DVDs and had her many questions answered by IIW volunteer Leena Maattanen, she knew she had found the truth for which she had searched. Olive has made many dear friends and continues to study and grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus. She is now a member of the Corner Brook church.

Birthdays

Percella (Pearl) Harrison of Ajax, Ont., celebrated her 103rd birthday on February 23, 2014. One of God's faithful servants, Pearl is a member



of the Scarborough church and originally from Clarendon, Jamaica. Pearl's trust in God has helped her endure the journey of life on this very day, and she is a legacy and living testimony of God's endless love, grace, and mercy over one of his God-fearing mothers. God has blessed Pearl with four children, twenty grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

Reta Hill celebrated her 100th birthday on February 6, 2014, in Conception Bay South, Nfld., not far from where she was born, at Indian Pond. During the early years of her life, she lived in Montreal, Que., and then in Washington, D.C., where she married and



raised her son, Bernie. Reta has one granddaughter and one great-grandson. Her love for Newfoundland had her frequently travelling home, so after the passing of her husband she decided that her travelling days were over and settled down in Conception Bay South once again, where she currently resides. She praises and thanks the Lord that she is still able to live alone and care for herself. Reta counts her many blessings everyday for the Lord's watch and care over her.

Obituaries

Marjorie (née Williams) Barriault was born on November 20, 1933, in Curling, Nfld., and died August 3, 2013, in Corner Brook, Nfld. Marjorie loved her Lord and her church. Other than her family, her church was her life and she served faithfully and cheerfully as a deaconess and greeter for many years. Marjorie is predeceased by her husband, Everett; son, Peter, of Corner Brook; parents, Frederick and Gladys; brother, Albert, of Corner Brook; and sisters Erhel Blackler-Pike, of Corner Brook, and Julia (Rex) Park, of Sudbury, ON. Surviving: sons, Ralph (Tonya) and Michael (Wendy); daughter, Bette (Derrick) Rowsell; brothers, Fred (Winnie), Dave (Phyllis), and Raymond (Linda); sisters, Olive Hunt, Verna (Lloyd) Buekle, and Elizabeth (Phonse) Keough; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Ruth (née Hodgson) Bodrug was born on January 9, 1920 in Regina, Sask., and died on February 14, 2014 in Saskatoon, Sask. Ruth was a teacher and principal at the church school in Saskatoon for 37 years. She loved teaching and after she retired she enjoyed painting watercolours and living her life to the fullest. Ruth is predeceased by her husband, Joe; parents, Christopher and Sarah; and brother, Albert, of Moose Jaw, Sask. Surviving: Son, Bryan (Marilyn), of

Calgary. Also: daughter, Brenda (Brian) Frazer-Tataryn, of Saskatoon, Sask.; sister, Pearl West, of Walla Walla, Washington; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edwin Crombie was born on March 20, 1938 in Pontrilas, Sask., and passed away peacefully on May 10, 2013 in Red Deer, Alta. Edwin taught Sabbath School and gave sermons in the Nipawin church, and loved to sing. He also liked to share 3ABN videos with people, as he wanted people to know Jesus and accept Him as their personal Saviour. He looked forward to resurrection morning. Edwin is predeceased by his parents, William and Thea; and sisters, Norma Salls and Lillian Haines. Surviving: son, Dennis (Lisa); daughter, Debbie (Palmer) Halvorson; brothers, Kenneth, Calvin, and Donnie; sisters, Ruby Maier, Eileen Leach, Bernice Sabiston, and Evelyn St. Onge; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Gloria (née Sawyer) Deneau was born on November 7, 1923 in Amherstburg, Ont., and died October 22, 2013 in South Bend, Indiana. Gloria was a member of the Windsor church for over 65 years. She assisted and taught in the children's Sabbath School divisions, served as a deaconess, and assisted with ingathering and community services. She also volunteered with a non-profit organization called Caring Friends. Gloria was known for her poetry, as she would write poems on special occasions for family and friends, or if someone just needed encouragement. She was also a dedicated supporter of Christian education. Gloria is predeceased by her husband, Vince; son, Jeffrey; parents, Charles and Merle Sawyer; and brother, Clarence Sawyer. Surviving: daughter, Lynda (Gus) Bell, of South Bend, Indiana; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edward Gallant was born on November 22, 1929, in Canora, Sask., and died on February 4, 2014, in Kelowna, BC. Edward served as head elder for many years. He was the project manager in the design and building of the Charlesworth church in Winnipeg, Man. After his retirement, he was deeply involved in ADRA Welfare Services of the Rutland church in Kelowna, BC. Edward is predeceased by his parents, Anton and Mary; brother, Henry; and half-brother, Stanley. Surviving: wife, Mary (née Tataryn); daughters, Winsome (Edward) Crockett of Heflin, Alabama, and Janet (Paul) Tackitt, of Kelowna, BC; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Ethel Heinricks was born on June 7, 1912, in Inglis, Man, and died on February 16, 2014, in Winnipeg, Man. Ethel's grandfather, Julius Frolke, was a Lutheran lay pastor who bought *Bible Readings for the Home* from a travelling colporteur, and in time many in his family and congregation converted to Adventism. Ethel was actively involved in her church throughout her lifetime and served in many capacities. Until the end she sang her favourite song, "When We All Get to Heaven." Ethel is predeceased by her husband, Peter; parents; and all eight siblings. Surviving: daughters, Donna (Dwight) Rose, of Kelowna, BC; Joyce (Eric) Mueller, of Abbotsford, BC; Cassandra (Jon) Hamer, of Huntsville, Alabama; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Laurence E. Jerome was born on October 20, 1917, in Stettler, Alta, and died December 27, 2013, in Oshawa, Ont. Laurence assisted in building Kendalwood church. He was also a choir director and a song leader. He participated in over 30 Maranatha and ADRA trips in Central and North America. Laurence is predeceased by his first wife, Verna; parents, Frederick George and Agnes; brother, Howard; and sisters, Greta and Winona Evans. Surviving: wife, Florence; sons, Michael Wayne, David Ross, and Darryl Martin; step-daughters, Cheryl Logan, Lynette, Velma Popham, and Jillian Owega; 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Anne (née Kapiniak) Pearson was born on July 23, 1932, in Kerchen, Sask, and died on March 21, 2014 in Calgary, Alta. Anne was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church her entire adult life, serving the Lord as deaconess and children's Sabbath School teacher in the various places she lived across the western provinces. Anne is predeceased by her parents, Frank and Olga; brother, Samuel; and sisters Pauline (Ralph) Zachary, of Sandy Lake, Man, and Victoria. Surviving: husband, Harold; daughters, Valerie of Calgary, Alta, Gail of Kelowna, BC, and Colleen (Wilfredo) Maniuit of Kent, Wash; brothers, Joe (Joan) of Donald, Alta, Alex (Marlene) of Armstrong, BC, and Victor of Calgary, Alta; sister, Joyce (Willis) Adams of Calgary, Alta; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Larry Vogstad was born on June 22, 1937 in Athabasca, Alta, and died March 24, 2014 in Vernon, BC. Larry is predeceased by his first wife, Mary Vogstad; step-sons, Larry and Paul; parents, Armin and Inez; and brother, Arne. Surviving: wife, Susan Bartsch; son, Robert (Gabi) of Haida Gwaii.

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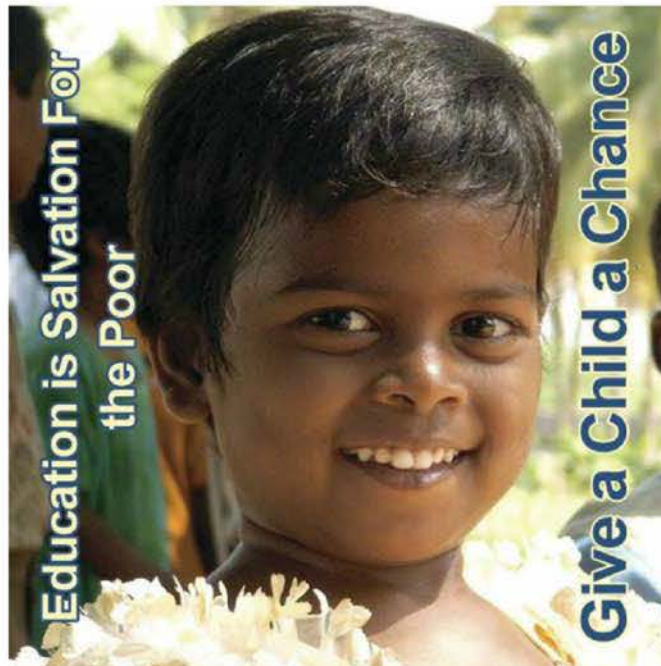
BC; daughter, Marla (Jim) Shidler of Lawai, Hawaii; step-daughter, Gail (Rick) McDonald of Haida Gwaii, BC; brother, Allan (Joan) of Agassiz, BC; 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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Wanted: The White Estate is looking for original photographs, personal items, or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. To discuss your item(s), please contact James Nix at 301/680-6557 or JimNix@WhiteEstate.org. All messages about your items will be answered. (8/14)



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Better Life Television is seeking broadcast engineer to maintain 20 TV stations and our Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcast engineering, FCC regulations. SDA member in good standing. Come enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest while helping to reach millions for Christ. Résumé: ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com. (6/14)

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Looking for authors who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800/367-1844. (7/14)

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from the editor

Digging a little deeper

It was an ordinary day in Israel. Our tour group, for which I was functioning as leader, stopped for lunch at a restaurant that I had enjoyed in my past trips to the region. It featured great falafel, a salad bar and a refreshing breeze coming off the Sea of Galilee. The restaurant, in the small yet endearing town of Magdala, sat on the road from Nazareth, Cana and Tiberias toward Capernaum.

But was there anything extraordinary about this little town? I decided to dig a little deeper. In September 2009 a synagogue from the time of Christ was unearthed. Chances are good that Jesus visited it on his journeys along that very road. I read that a scholar had estimated Jesus spent 80 percent of his ministry time in the northwest area around the lake, between Magdala, Capernaum and Bethsaida. Being in places that Bible readers easily recognize felt as if I was sitting on a gold mine of biblical history.

I dug even deeper, and it turns out this was the hometown of Mary Magdalene. The town of Magdala had the type of negative reputation as a place you would not want your children to even know existed. Even further, because Mary could freely travel with Jesus, some scholars have deduced that she had no family. And yet, even with her questionable background, Mary was last at the cross and first at the grave. Fourteen times the Gospels mention this person. Eight of those times she was with a group of sincere, godly women. Five of those times it was in connection with the resurrection of Jesus. Mary dug deeper and was transformed.

Fast-forward to present day. Here I was, enjoying a traditional Jewish meal while surfing the Internet in Mary's hometown. Going to Israel and Jordan brought the Gospels to life for our tour group. When we reread the Scriptures on-site, it was like reading them with fresh eyes. Biblical narratives came alive, and the events depicted felt real and almost tangible. Our hope in the Second Coming was refreshed.

Sometimes it pays to dig a little deeper to become a little wiser. ■

P.S. The Messenger and It Is Written teams will be taking people (limit 40) on a tour next March. Email us at messenger@adventist.ca and we can provide more information as it becomes available.

HENRY FEYERABEND STARTED ADVENTIST RADIO TELEVISION SERVICES (ARTS) in the early 1970s with assistance from Tracy Bravo (see this month's *Where Are They Now?*). When it began, ARTS produced material in Portuguese to evangelize native speakers in the Greater Toronto Area. In less than 10 years, the ministry grew tremendously, and by 1980 it was producing material in four languages and merged with *Amazing Facts* to broadcast around the country.

A ministry driven by devotion and funded by faith, ARTS changed countless lives and created a landscape of media ministry in Canada.



A Time for Reaping

by Henry Feyerabend, Director, Adventist Radio Television Services

Video Control Room of the Adventist Radio Television Services located in northern Toronto - 5000 Dufferin, Unit N, Downsview, Ont. M3H 5T5. Henry Feyerabend, inset.

The video control room of the "new" ARTS offices was a step up from their original location at 506 College St. in Toronto.

Canadian Union Messenger,
Volume 52, Number 2, page 4



Adventist Radio Television Services

506 College St., TORONTO, Ont. M6G 1A6

The Five Minutes That Changed My Life

by Adelino Medeiros

I can hardly believe what has happened to my life! Not long ago it was a fast life of drinking and gambling. Every Saturday and Sunday morning I would leave home and spend the day in the gambling houses, coming home very late at night. I would drink heavily and smoke a full box of cigars every weekend. One Sunday morning I left home to go to a soccer game. My team *Benfica*, lost the game, and I was furious. I went home and started to slam doors until my wife was afraid of what would happen. But she said very little knowing that at times like this one word from her could bring on a storm.

Later I turned on the television and there was a man talking in my language on the subject of baptism. This subject had interested me ever since I was a child, when I had seen a film on the baptism of Jesus. At the end of the telecast the speaker seemed to point to me and he said, "If Jesus were to come now, would you be ready?" I felt condemned knowing very well that I was *not* ready.

That program lasted only five minutes. At the end of the telecast the speaker promised to be back on the air the

following week. The next Sunday I stayed home and watched the clock, and when the program finally came on the air I called my wife to watch it with me. The program ended with an offer for Bible studies and I asked my wife to call the number that was given. Three days later there was a knock at the door. A man representing the program was there to give us Bible studies.

I was so thrilled to have this man in my house that I brought out my whole assortment of liquor, telling him that he could have his choice of a drink. He politely refused, and said that some day he would explain why. Every time he came to our house it seemed as if an angel from heaven had entered our home. I was so happy that I began to tell all of my friends about the studies.

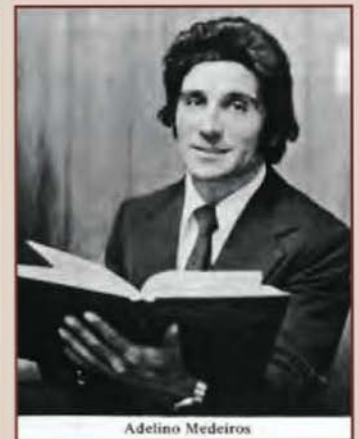
Some of my friends began to warn me. They said, "Be careful about that religion! All they want is your money. That church charges its members ten percent of their income." I was slightly alarmed and decided to get to the bottom of the matter.

The next time the Bible worker came to my home, I said to him "Sit right

down here and tell me the whole story." I asked him about tithing, why he didn't drink or smoke, about the Sabbath, and other questions. We had only received four studies, and he didn't feel that we were ready for all of these answers.

The next Sabbath morning my family and I were waiting at the front of the church when the doors were opened. It gave me a warm feeling when they asked me to sign the guest book and welcomed my family into the church. When the man I had seen on television got up to speak I was anxious to hear what he would say. Pastor Feyerabend seemed to be talking directly to us, and both my wife and I had a hard time keeping back the tears. Three weeks later we were baptized.

We have been members of the Portuguese church for over four years now. Our daughter, Christina, has since been baptized. A five-minute telecast changed our lives completely and today we are so happy to belong to the family of God.



Adelino Medeiros

This is a moving testimony from an accidental viewer whose life was changed when he heard Henry Feyerabend speaking in his own language.

Canadian Union Messenger, Volume 48, Number 1, pages 8-9

~ THE ~ BLESSED HOPE

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Alberta Sponsorship October 11 ~ Sheraton Red Deer



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