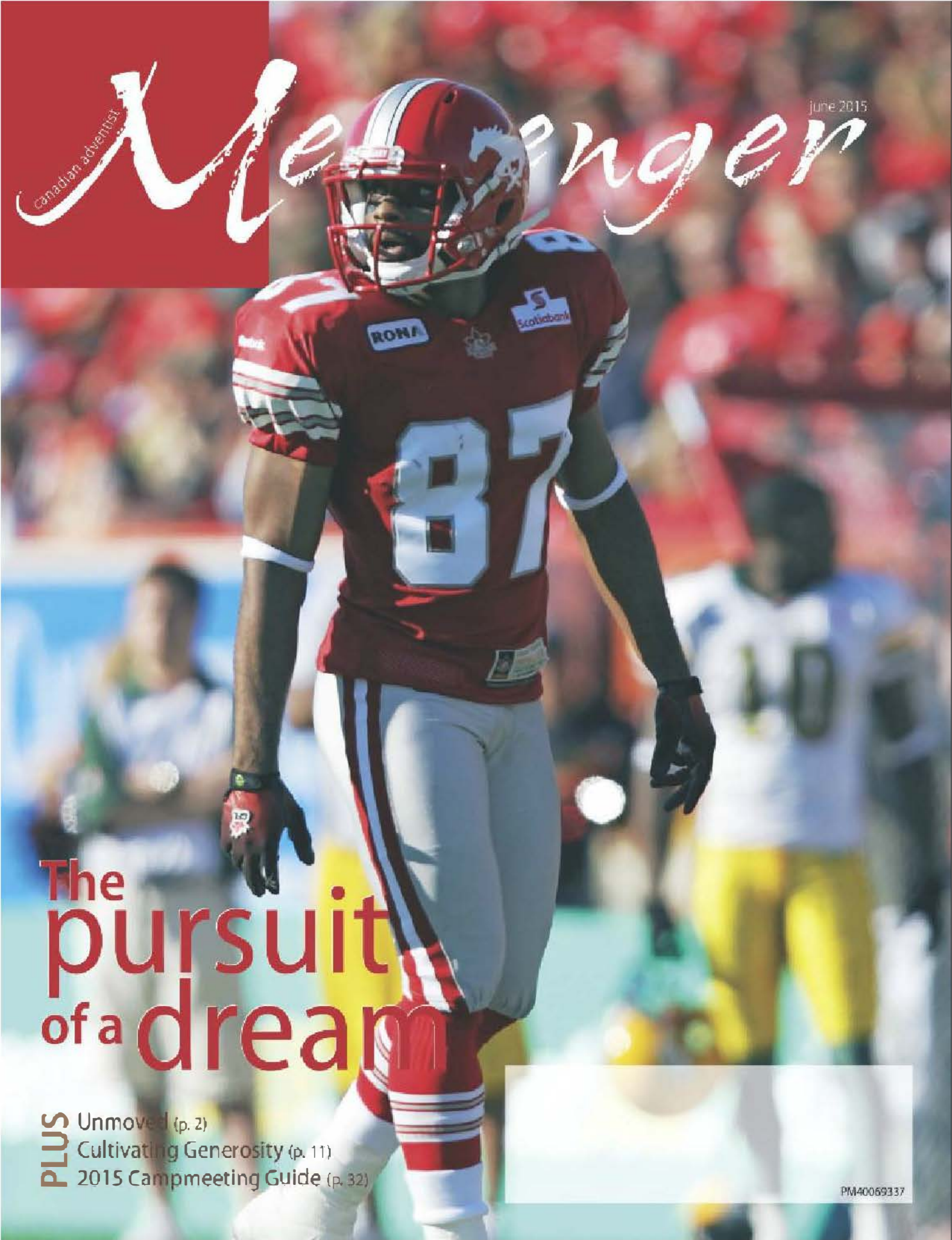


canadian adventist

Messenger

June 2015



The pursuit of a dream

PLUS Unmoved (p. 2)
Cultivating Generosity (p. 11)
2015 Campmeeting Guide (p. 32)

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“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

—John 14:27, ESV



Unmoved

Last month we reflected on the need for the church to pull together and our perception that the church is, at times, being pulled apart instead. Whether the issue is in your local congregation or something facing the world church, we should remember that in the end it is really His battle, not ours.

So if that is true, where do I come in? How do I relate to turmoil surrounding me, especially when it has to do with my faith? Not surprisingly, Jesus has the answer. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27, ESV).

Perhaps the biggest challenge in a life of faith is to hold on to the peace that Jesus has promised will be ours. If He has given it to me, then why should I let someone else (lesser than Him) take it away from me? And yet isn't that what so frequently happens?

Think about it. We read our Bibles and spend time in prayer. On the weekends we worship as a group. Both intellectually and emotionally we know that God loves us and surrounds us with both His peace and His power.

But then, somewhere along the way, something happens. A fellow Christian, a pastor, or a church leader disappoints us in some way, and now we feel restless, hurt, and upset. Or perhaps the church takes an action we do not understand and do not agree with. In our frustration we wonder what is wrong with the church, and sometimes we find our relationship to one another has been damaged.

Here is where Christ enters the picture. His promised peace is independent of surroundings. No one can take that away from us, unless we neglect it or permit someone else to take it away from us. It is ours! So let us hold on to it.

I like what Paul says. “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24, KJV). What Paul experienced can be ours today. But for that to happen, we must be willing to linger in His presence at the cost of ignoring the turmoil that surrounds us.

Shall we live in His peace ■

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

Messenger

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Cover photo and Table of Contents photo (top) courtesy of the Calgary Stampeders.

Upcoming Events 2015



Kenya 2015

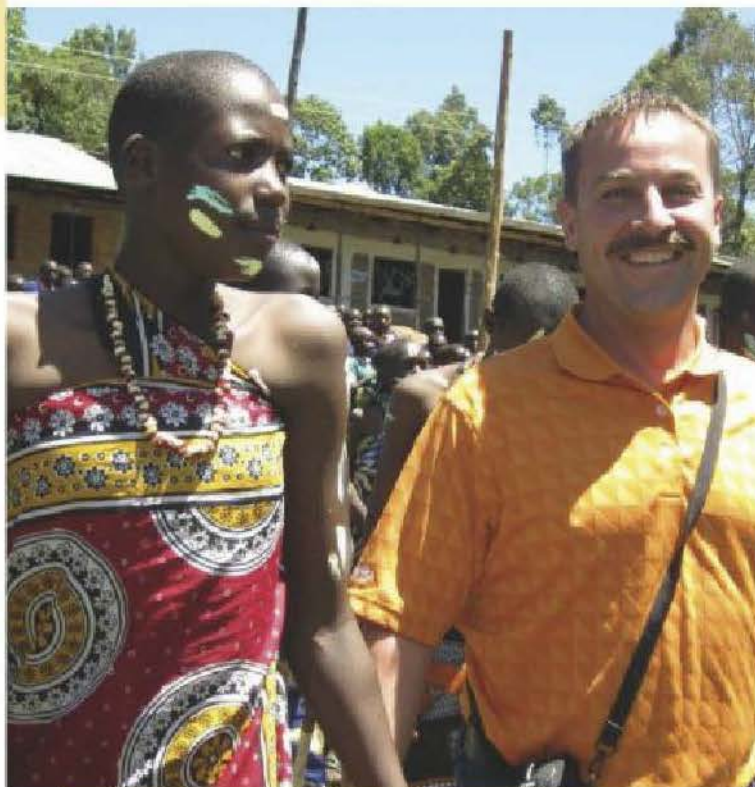
October 20 - November 4, 2015

Join us for 14 memorable days as you tour Kenya, visit A Better World projects, meet the people and see your investment in action!

- ✓ Fully escorted tour of Kenya and A Better World project sites.
- ✓ Help out at schools, orphanages and clinics.
- ✓ Explore the local culture and connect with communities.
- ✓ See the wildlife in the Masai Mara and enjoy the famous game park.

A Better World was founded in 1990 by the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Burman University (formerly CUC). A Better World involves community and church members and implements projects in direct partnership with local communities abroad. Over 2500 volunteers have travelled with A Better World!

For more information contact: Julie Stegmaier
jstegmaier@abwcanada.ca or visit www.abwcanada.ca.



Sustainable
change to improve
lives.

Tanzania Medical Mission Trip

October 20 - November 4, 2015

Needed: All health care professionals (Nurses, Doctors, Physios, Pharmacists and Dentists etc). Non Health Care Professionals are welcome as Support Persons on this trip.

To:

- Provide training for local health care workers
- Assist in the clinics built by A Better World
- Serve in rural medical camps

Team Leaders:

Dr. Ray Comeau & Deryl Comeau RN, BScN, MN
Directors of ABW Canada's Medical Health Projects
Together they have led medical teams for the past thirteen years. Early in their careers, they worked for two years at a remote island hospital in Vanuatu, South Pacific.

For more information: Please email the Comeau's at rdcomeau@abwcanada.ca or visit www.abwcanada.ca to submit your application.

A Better World Canada | www.abwcanada.ca
403.782.0325 | #103 5033 52nd Street Lacombe AB

Working together

to REACH our communities for Jesus

Someone once wrote, "How important are you?" More than you think! A rooster minus a hen equals no baby chicks. Kellogg minus a farmer equals no Corn Flakes. If the nail factory closes, what good is the hammer factory? Paderewski's genius may not have amounted to much if the piano tuner had not shown up. A cracker maker will do better if there is a cheesemaker. Just as Rodgers needed Hammerstein, you need someone and someone needs you."

We need one another! We need one another for support, encouragement, and help. We need to work together if we are going to grow God's kingdom in our communities. The apostle Paul admonishes us in Romans 12:10, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves"; in Romans 15:7, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God"; in Galatians 5:13, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love"; in Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love"; and in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."¹

These words of admonition from the apostle Paul clearly remind us that we need one another. We are called to work together! So let us be together! Let us be available for one another!

There is a story about a church work bee. The church members had to use a jackhammer to tear up some concrete in their church basement in order to install an elevator. The men decided to throw the chunks of cement in the church's dumpster. A few days later the trash company called the church and said they were not going to empty the dumpster until the church removed all the chunks of cement.

After a men's prayer breakfast at church, the pastor announced that he needed help right after breakfast to remove the cement from the dumpster. When the

breakfast was over, everyone got in their cars and drove away. He was left alone with the dumpster. So the pastor climbed into the dumpster and started pitching out those chunks of concrete. Because it was a hot day, he was sweating, but he also began to get hotter on the inside because everyone had driven away and left the task of emptying the dumpster to him.

After some time one of the men came back to help him. This man had gone home to change his clothes because he knew this would be dirty and sweaty work. It was not an easy job or a fun job, but together they got it done!

Life is not something we can do alone. We need to work together! When it comes to ministry, no one person should be expected to do the work that we all have been called to do! All of us are ministers!

In 1886 the Nevada State Fair had a mule team pulling contest. The first-place team pulled 14,000 pounds. The second-place team pulled 13,000 pounds. Someone said, "I wonder how much they could pull together? Could they pull 27,000 pounds?" They hitched up both teams, and together they pulled, not 27,000, but 35,000 pounds! We can always accomplish more in life together than we can by ourselves.

So dream with me! What if we took down all the barriers and all the walls, and we aligned all departments, schools, and churches, all for the purpose of saving lost men, women, boys, and girls for Jesus. What would that look like? All of us—working together for one purpose with one mission: to REACH our communities with a Christ-centered message of hope and wholeness. All of us working together to grow God's kingdom.... Could there be any greater joy? ■

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



¹ Bible texts are from the New International Version.

teen talk

Q: I'm a lesbian, but as a Christian, I believe that dating another woman is wrong. So if I can't be happy in an intimate relationship and I'm not happy abstaining, what's the harm in being in a relationship?

A: It is quite challenging to answer this question, since I've never been faced with such dilemma. I'll try to respond with a principle that may be applied in various instances, especially those that seem to be dead ends.

Oftentimes we make decisions based on what will bring us joy and happiness—there's nothing wrong with that. However, when we fall in love with Jesus, a new dimension comes into place, something that overshadows our original idea of happiness: to become like Jesus (see Rom. 8:29).

Although it may sound counterproductive at first, the outcome of shifting the focus from self to Jesus is overwhelmingly beneficial. Jesus knew we would struggle with this paradigm, so He made sure that His beatitudes message was recorded in the Bible. To paraphrase His words, those who set aside their own interests for the sake of Jesus will be blessed beyond their own expectations.

As you come to terms with your own sexuality and how to respond to it, aim to follow a path that will bring you closer to Jesus. The satisfying peace that will result from such attitude may very well surpass your initial concept of happiness. ■



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

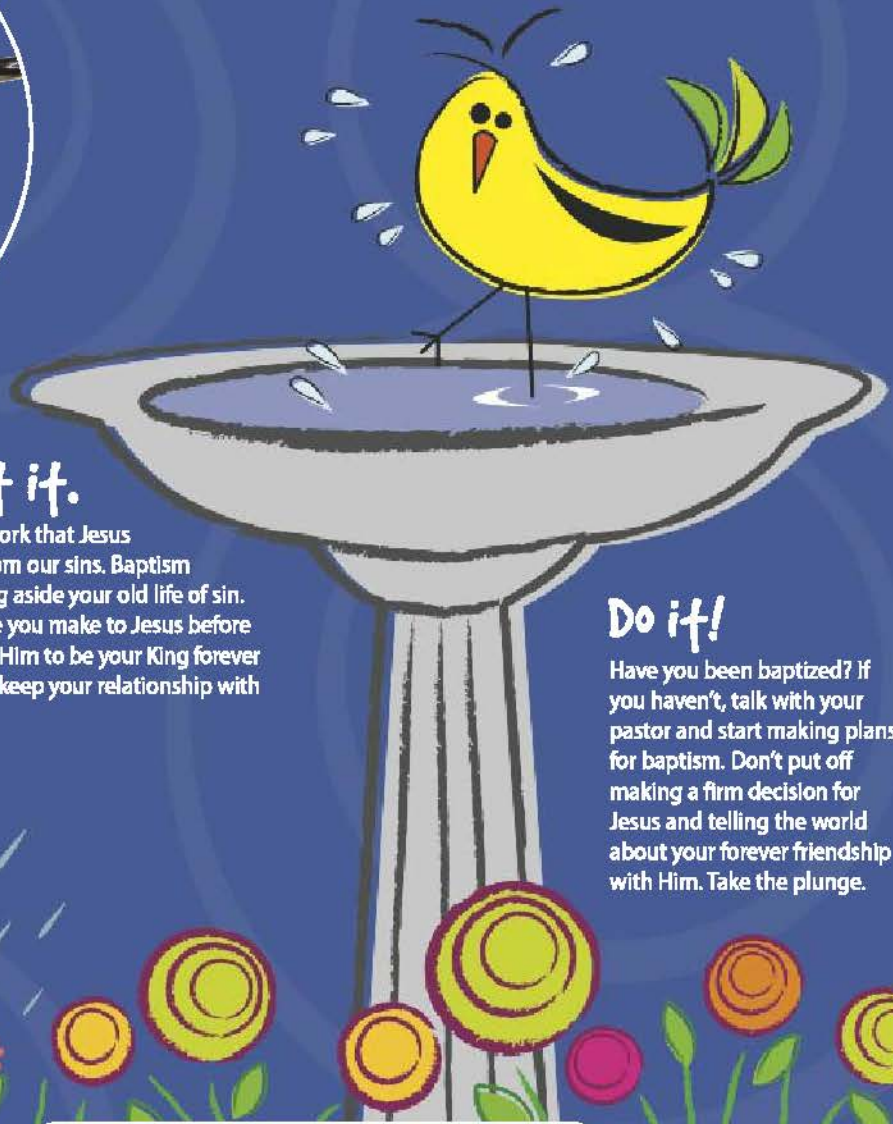
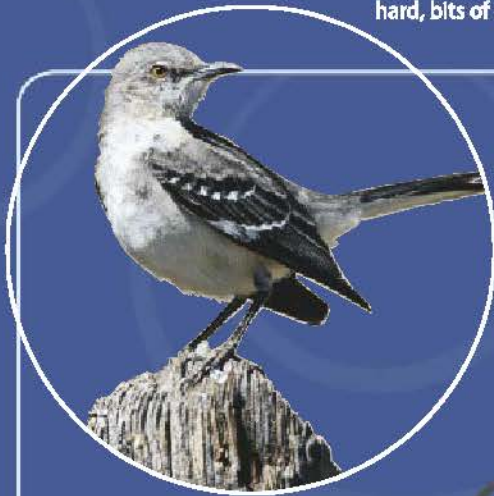
Creation Corner for Kids

*Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,
calling on the name of the Lord.—Acts 22:16*

Northern Mockingbird

A northern mockingbird arrives at a basin of water set out on the lawn. At first, the bird just stands on the rock in the basin and drinks, turning its head this way and that as it looks out for danger. It dips its beak again and again and begins flicking water with its beak. It bends its knees and gently shakes its wings, watching all the while for danger. Assured that it is quite safe, the mockingbird takes a couple of small steps down the sloping rock. The sparkling water is irresistible. The mockingbird plunges its head underwater, shaking its wings vigorously and splashing its neck, back, and tail. It does this about 20 times, then flies away.

There's something fascinating about birds when they take their baths. They just seem to enjoy the water so much. Of course, birds bathe for a good reason. When they soak their feathers and then shake them hard, bits of dust, dead skin, and insects are flung off. Bathing keeps their feathers in good condition.



Think about it.

Baptism stands for the work that Jesus does to wash us clean from our sins. Baptism declares that you've flung aside your old life of sin. Baptism is also a promise you make to Jesus before witnesses that you want Him to be your King forever and will do all you can to keep your relationship with Him in good condition.

Do it!

Have you been baptized? If you haven't, talk with your pastor and start making plans for baptism. Don't put off making a firm decision for Jesus and telling the world about your forever friendship with Him. Take the plunge.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

Changing narrative. Creating culture



Nichia Johnson

MY CHARGE TO BURMAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

*The world is full of different places to choose from. But why is it that we are **here**?*

When I look at my campus, I see the faculty, staff, alumni, and future professionals, and I want to congratulate all of these individuals. Congratulations on choosing this place, on being part of this historic journey, on making this hilltop a light for the world. As the last Student Association president for Canadian University College and the first for Burman University, I am honoured to offer my well wishes.

We have the responsibility to be the walking and talking reflections of what Burman University should look like. We need to be the mirror, the looking glass

that will enable the local and global community to see the school pride, the culture, the diversity, and the excellence that is Burman University. We have the privileged opportunity to build on the legacy that our pioneers have left us.

We are required to take a step: to change our narrative about the uncomfortable, the familiar, the beautiful, and the memorable experiences we encounter here to a narrative that is positive, one that truly embodies our mission to serve and to love. In composing a set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize an organization, you and I can play a significant role in developing the culture on campus.

What do you want Burman University to look like? What do you want Burman University to feel like? Unless you are ready to join me in taking steps to mould the culture on campus, the answers to those questions will remain just that, answers.

Shortly before the school year ended, members of the Student Association and Campus Ministries met with local conference leadership, who led us in dialogue. When asked what we needed Burman University to be, members responded with sentiments such as "We need to be more caring," "We need to reach out," "We need to build relationships," "We need to build community."

Here are the five simple steps emerging from that discussion that we can take and practise:

Talk about it—Start conversations with your faculty, staff, peers, and leaders on campus about what you want Burman University to look and feel like.

Define it—Help define and pinpoint the kind of culture you want for our university.

Live it—Do something about it. What simple measures

can you take in your day-to-day life on and off campus to help us develop and facilitate a certain atmosphere?

Measure it—Are you seeing a difference? Keep an eye open and an ear to the ground to measure and gauge the difference, no matter how small or big. Remember, every little step counts!

Reward it—Celebrate even the smallest of victories. It goes a long way. Encourage one another positively when you see a fellow peer or colleague taking steps toward achieving this goal!

Just as universities have obligations to cater to our needs as students, we, too, have the responsibility to give back and find our purpose here at Burman. We have the responsibility to take the good and make it great. We have the responsibility to take the great and make it greater. It is time for us to throw away our dirty, old shoes and put on new ones. We cannot settle for mediocrity, so let us do something about it.

The scariest part about the future is that it is in our hands. The most exciting part about the future is that it is in our hands.

I am excited to see what we can accomplish for the future when we come together as a school family, as a community, as a university.

Aren't you?

On behalf of the student body, we are Burman University. ■

Nisha Johnny is a third-year English major, the last Student Association president for Canadian University College, and the first Student Association president for Burman University. This article is her challenge to students, part of which was used at Convocation.

June 5-6	Southern Ontario Campmeeting, Norfolk County Fairgrounds, Simcoe, Ont.; Tinie! Parredon-Pelley, Enrolment Advisor.
June 28-July 1	2015 NAD Pastoral Family Convention, Austin, Tex.
July 2-11	60 th General Conference Session, San Antonio, Tex.
July 25	Maritime Campmeeting, Pugwash, N.S.; Mark Ilaynal, President; Proclaim.
July 25	BC Campmeeting, Hope, B.C.; Cecile Moody, Assistant Chaplain.
Aug. 1	BC Campmeeting, Hope, B.C.; Mark Ilaynal, President; Jerrold Ritchey, VP for Advancement; Proclaim.
Aug. 8	Alberta Campmeeting, Bowden, Alta.; Mark Ilaynal, President; Jerrold Ritchey, VP for Advancement; Proclaim.
Aug. 8	Manitoba-Saskatchewan Campmeeting, Theodore, Sask.; Rhonda Bonet-Graham, Capital Campaign Manager.

Burman University on the road



Rhonda Bonet-Graham
Office of Advancement,
Burman University,
Lacombe, Alta.



Mark Ilaynal
President, Burman Uni-
versity,
Lacombe, Alta.



Cecile Moody
Assistant Chaplain,
Burman University,
Lacombe, Alta.



Tinie! Parredon-Pelley
Enrolment Advisor,
Burman University,
Lacombe, Alta.



Jerrold Ritchey
Vice-President,
Advancement,
Burman University,
Lacombe, Alta.

For our full campmeeting schedule, visit our campmeeting website at www.burmanu.ca/entheroad.

Where Are They Now



Marjorie and Mike Fortney

Messenger catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. In this issue we talk with Marjorie (Weber) Fortney.

Interview by J.D. Victor Fitch, Messenger Staff Writer.

Messenger: Describe your early childhood.

Marjorie Fortney: I am the second of five children and was born in a log cabin in the small village of Bellsite, Man. My father was a soldier in the Canadian army, so he was not home at the time of my birth. After Dad was discharged from the service, he took up farming. I loved living on the farm.

M: Where did you go to school, and what degrees did you earn?

Marj: All of my elementary and secondary education was completed in Manitoba. I have a Bachelor of Education degree from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., taken at Canadian Union College (now Burman University) through a partner campus agreement. I have a master's degree in leadership and administration from La Sierra University in California.

M: What were the factors that influenced you to choose education as a career?

Marj: At age 16 I was teaching the junior Sabbath school and leading out in Vacation Bible School. I enjoyed this work, and one dear saint, whom we called Aunt Millie, told me that I was a "born teacher." I took that as a good direction for my life. I have enjoyed every teaching assignment,

even those that were very challenging.

M: Briefly outline the places you have taught and the positions you held.

Marj: I have taught in all the conferences from Ontario west to British Columbia. My first assignment was in Bellsite, Man., in a one-room school with eight grades and 22 students. In Ontario I taught in Simcoe; in Alberta, at Sylvan Meadows Adventist School; in British Columbia, in Chetwynd, Creston, Vernon, Burnaby, as well as Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Abbotsford; and in Saskatchewan, at Curtis-Horne. In a number of these schools I served as the principal. I officially retired in 2007 and moved to Saskatchewan, where I was asked to be director of Education. After three and a half years I retired again.

M: What did you find the most rewarding about serving in Adventist education?

Marj: I loved my work because it was not just a job; it was a ministry. I got to teach a captive audience about Jesus and the plan of salvation. I got to help find solutions to issues that were sometimes challenging. I learned so much about many things, and God used my teaching to grow and develop my own character. I got to travel and meet so many committed Seventh-day Adventist leaders. Helping many students who struggled with reading become successful readers brought great

satisfaction. I have been very blessed.

M: I know the Lord blessed you in your service, and because of that you received special recognition. Please comment.

Marj: In 1992 I received the Dr. Reuben and Frances Matilo Award for Excellence in Teaching. The other award was from the Fraser Institute. The first year I was principal of Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, the Fraser Institute came out with a report on the academic standing of all the high schools in British Columbia. Our school scored very low. We rallied as a team and established a new paradigm of student assessment. It worked, and the improvement was so significant that it was recognized by the Fraser Institute and I was awarded The Garfield Weston Outstanding Principals Award. I give all the honour and glory to my heavenly Father.

M: Tell me about your family.

Marj: Mike and I will celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary this July. We have one son, Greg. He and his wife, Hollie (Rowe), have two daughters.

M: Where are you now, and what are you doing?

Marj: We live in Biggar, Sask., and are working with several others at planting a church in the town. ■

The day had come for Charlie and Marie to leave the farm. This was the place where they had spent over 50 years of marriage and raised their six children. The kids had all grown up and moved away, and subsequently, caring for the farm had become too difficult for the aging couple to manage. They sold the land; it was time to go. Deciding how to let go of the farm machinery would have been difficult had they not carefully prepared a plan for that very purpose.

Just a few years earlier, Marie suggested to her husband that they attend the specialized estate planning seminars being held in their local area. It was here that they were surprised to learn that a will is the basis of any solid financial plan. Charlie was embarrassed to admit that they did not have a will.¹ They also found out how important it was to work with professional advisors, including a lawyer, financial planner, and tax accountant.² The self-assessment questionnaire the couple completed proved to be a very helpful planning tool when meeting with their advisors. Encouraged to include their children in the decision-making process, Charlie and Marie held several family meetings. Together, this family made important decisions under the guidance of their team of advisors.

Because most of the family members volunteered in the community and were strong believers in helping those less fortunate, Charlie and Marie's children suggested making a donation to the Adventist Community Services (ACS) centre at their church and to several other local outreach ministries. Charlie and Marie happily agreed, and it was decided to donate some of the farm machinery. So, Charlie contacted the conference vice-president of finance, who confirmed that gifts of machinery were definitely acceptable for the purpose of charitable giving. After selecting and identifying several pieces of machinery, the conference office contacted a third-party professional appraiser (not associated with the donors or the conference) to establish fair market value.³ A gift agreement was then prepared and signed by all parties. Charlie and Marie received a charitable tax receipt from the conference representing the fair market value.⁴ The machinery was then sold by an auctioneer, and in the end, Charlie and Marie were delighted to find out that they were able to donate \$149,000 to the ministries they had chosen.

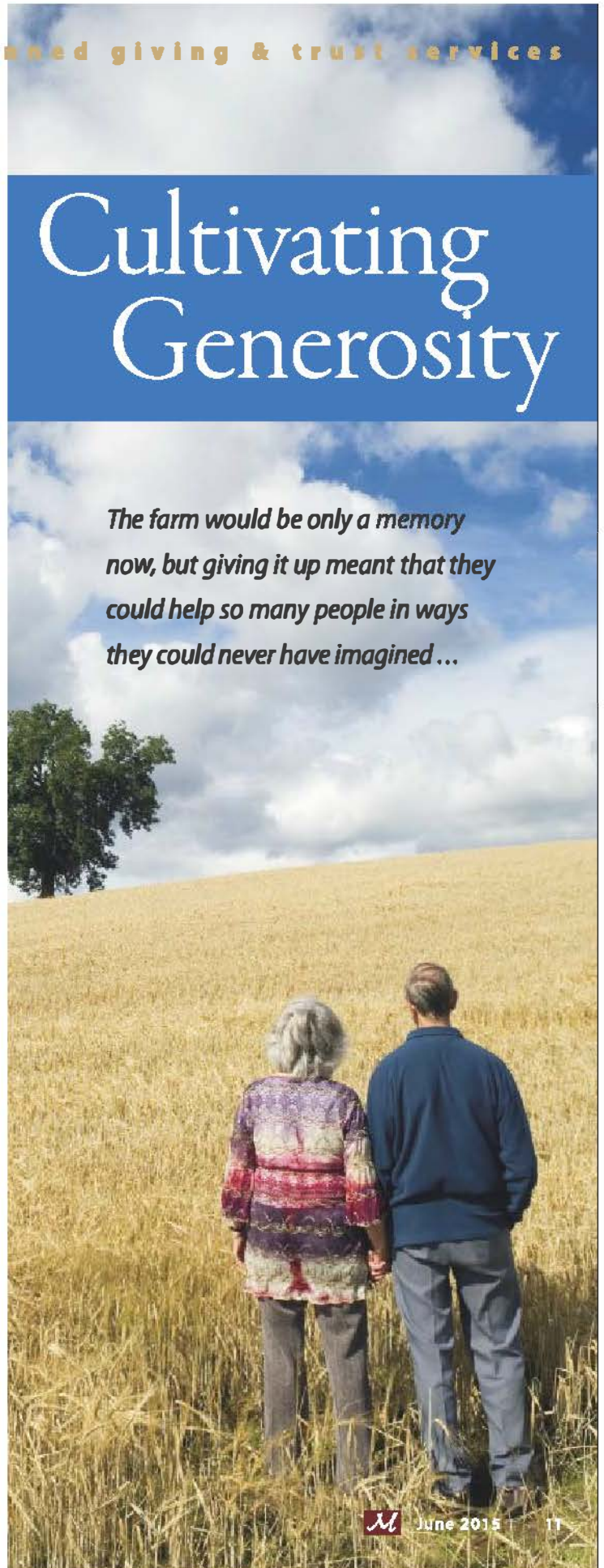
Through the whole experience of settling the farm, Charlie, Marie, and their children gained a great sense of peace, joy, and satisfaction. The farm would be only a memory now, but giving it up meant that they could help so many people in ways they could never have imagined without the help of their professional advisors. With one chapter so neatly closed, Charlie and Marie looked ahead, not with sorrow, but with excitement about what the next chapter of their lives would bring.

Giving is indeed a blessing. "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17, NIV). ■

Frances Chant is a retired planned giving director.

Cultivating Generosity

The farm would be only a memory now, but giving it up meant that they could help so many people in ways they could never have imagined ...



¹ A recent poll reveals that 56 percent of adult Canadians do not have a will.

² Always seek professional legal and financial advice before making major decisions.

³ The Canada Revenue Agency Charities Directorate does not require an appraisal by a third party but strongly recommends it if the donated item is expected to be valued at over \$1,000.

⁴ The charity is required to ensure that the fair market value is documented. Without a fair market value, a charity cannot issue a charitable tax receipt.

Schooling pays off for discriminated children in

Rwanda



Debra Brosseuk (centre back) meets with Twa potters in Encyiru slum where she is offering their children a chance to attend school. A Better World Canada paid for the construction of this shelter.

In Rwanda's capital lies a large slum that is home to a highly discriminated group of people. These people are known as the Twa, a former pygmy tribe of Central Africa that settled in places like Kacyiru within the city of Kigali. Debra Brosseuk from Kelowna, B.C., has been helping the Twa since 2010 and has made a big difference in their lives, thanks in part to A Better World Canada. The Central Alberta-based international development organization was formed 25 years ago as part of Lacombe's College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Brosseuk first learned about the Twa during a volunteer trip with UNICEF in 2010. "They're the most marginalized, discriminated group in Rwanda," she said. "They're the artisans of Rwanda; they're musicians and dancers and predominantly work as potters."

According to Brosseuk, about 8,000 people live in this slum, situated on a hillside. Any water from the slum drains down into a creek where the residents then get their drinking water, she added.

Brosseuk launched the Kacyiru Primary School Project to sponsor the potters' children so they could go to school. Although education is deemed free in Rwanda, children must pay for everything from school fees to backpacks and shoes and uniforms. A Twa potter makes less than \$1 per day, on average, so an education is costly, Brosseuk said. Plus, discrimination is a big factor why Twa children don't attend school, she added.

She began sponsoring 50 children in 2010, and now that number is 55. Everything the students need is provided for, including a daily nutritious meal consisting of a protein, carbohydrate, milk, and fruit. A teachers' bonus is also paid for. Originally she was budgeting \$18,000 a year, and now it's \$20,000 annually.

Brosseuk paid the entire amount herself the first two years. Since then, she has sponsored about half the amount each year,

the remainder coming from fundraisers she holds.

"I believe that education is the way out of poverty," said Brosseuk. "That's where you have to start."

Every fall she visits Rwanda. "People are begging me to send their children to school, so they are seeing the importance and value of education," said Brosseuk. Even the teachers at the Grade 1 to 6 school are seeing positive changes. Two of the sponsored Twa children are at the top of their class.

Brosseuk approached A Better World Canada co-founder Eric Rajah about the school project, and the charity agreed it was a great idea to get involved. She fundraises in A Better World's name, which makes the project more accountable in the eyes of those who donate. A Better World also supports projects aside from what Brosseuk is committed to. It has paid for health care premiums for potters and their families—200 individuals in total. It invested in the construction of a covered shelter for Twa potters to use.

A Better World has paid for medical needs, including that of a boy who needed eye surgery. Hearing aids were purchased for a girl.

Brosseuk likes what A Better World stands for, which is why she is proud to be a sponsor.

"I like that they're a development organization and a Christian organization that does not proselytize—and that there's local community involvement," Brosseuk said. "It's managed by volunteers, so there's minimal overhead."

With such a great partnership, she envisions this important work of helping the Twa thrive in Rwandan society will continue for years to come. ■

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



Communicating the Urgency for the Lost

When I was 15 years old, I worked on staff at Camp Mohaven in Ohio. On one particularly hot day, we were short on lifeguards. The camp director asked some of the auxiliary workers if they would stand guard by the pool to serve as an extra set of eyes. I volunteered.

It is easy to let your mind wander. Even though you are standing only feet away from children in the pool, daydreams can become the reality of the moment. In just a few short seconds my mind had escaped into an imaginary paradise. Suddenly, I snapped out of my fantasy to witness a youngster drowning in the swimming pool. There was panic in his eyes. He was slowly bobbing up and down, trying to catch his breath in the brief seconds when he was able to make it above the surface. Our eyes connected. He knew I had seen him. He dipped back down under the water. It was as if there was an invisible undercurrent pulling him down to the bottom of the pool.

I froze. It was as if time had stopped. I could hear the other children in the pool laughing and enjoying the hot summer day, unaware of the tragedy that was unfolding. I couldn't move my body. I lost my voice. I was motionless. From my peripheral vision I saw Mandy starting to descend from her lifeguard chair. She was about 10 years older than me. She wore a bright red swimsuit that validated her authority and training. She didn't say a word. She didn't run, scream, blow her whistle, or panic. She fixed her eyes on the drowning boy, never turning her head or losing focus. Mandy walked past me

and quietly slipped into the pool. Less than 30 seconds later, the nine-year-old boy was lying on the concrete, crying and burping up chlorinated water.

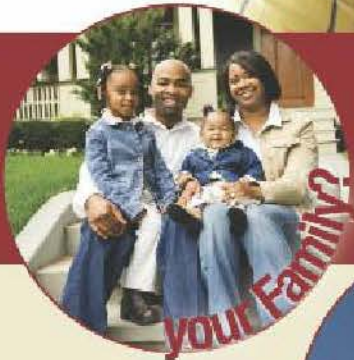
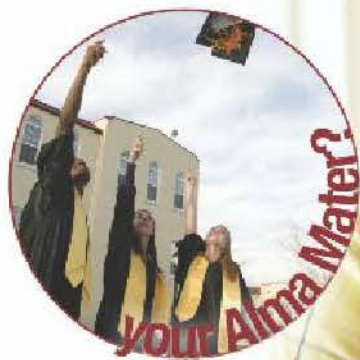
Who are you in this story? Are you the drowning victim who is hoping and praying for a rescue? Are you the untrained volunteer who doesn't have a plan? Are you Mandy the seasoned lifeguard who, thanks to training and preparation, saved a little boy?

There are many churches in our denomination that are drowning. Is your church one of them? How do you save someone from drowning? How do you save a church from drowning? Based on this story, here are two questions that your board and elders should consider:

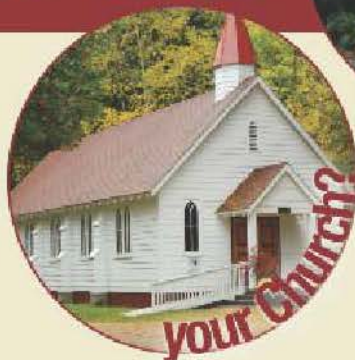
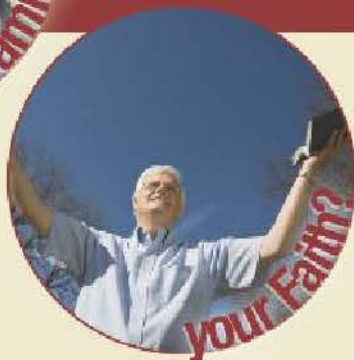
Who are the people in your church keeping an eye on those who may be drowning? It's so easy to lose track of members and assume they are on vacation or attending another church. If a member is missing from church after two consecutive weeks, do you have a ministry team who will follow up with a phone call?

What kind of training do your leaders have? Are the church leaders prepared to resuscitate someone? Do they have the skills? Have they practised and role-played? How can the leaders receive the necessary training to identify a missing person and follow up with a caring and compassionate response? ■

Kumar Dabit is the pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardabit.



What Matters Most to You?



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Charles Spurgeon

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review

Keith Chant, Manager, IT Services, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App: General Conference Session App

In Brief: Are you attending the General Conference session this summer in San Antonio, Tex.? The General Conference office has put together an app to help you while you are there. This app is a one-stop location for finding all the information you need, from hotels, maps, and local weather to speakers, meeting schedules, and attendees. It includes a map of the convention centre with help to find the exhibits you are looking for and information about the exhibitors. The app is easy to use and has helpful on-screen hints when you access an area of the app that you have not used before.

Wow Factor: Easy to use and helpful hints along the way.

Meh Factor: Convention centre map was sluggish to use.

Developed for: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Price: Free

Works on: Android, iOS

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



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

prayer life

Answered prayer or just a coincidence?

The problem is not with prayer. It has to do with understanding how God works.

Rick's Christian friends told him that God *always* answers prayer but that He sometimes says yes, sometimes no. *How, then, is God's unpredictability in answering my prayers any different from the luck of the draw?* he wondered.

The problem is not with prayer. It has to do with understanding how God works. Yes, God asks us to bring our petitions to Him. But He also lays out conditions for answered prayer. For example, Psalm 66:18 says God will not listen to our prayers if "I regard iniquity in my heart." Proverbs 28:9 says our prayers are an abomination to God if we turn away from His law. And 1 Peter 3:7 says the husband's prayers are hindered when he does not give understanding and honour to his wife.

So if we are knowingly clinging to sin, we must start our prayer life with confession—not petition—asking for forgiveness and repentance before making other requests of God. Sometimes

God is just waiting for our hearts to change. If that is the case with you, here is a prayer you can pray: "God, I recognize my sin and I confess it to you now. [Then name the sin.] I ask you to forgive me and come in to my heart. Give me strength to live a life that honours you as I study Your Word."

If you sincerely prayed that prayer, then you are a "new creation" in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Now you are ready to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8). Be open to hearing the voice of God in the Scriptures, circumstances, other people, and your own conscience.

Applying these principles, you may know that next week's coincidence will likely be God's providence! ■

Em Brake is the assistant to the president for REACH at the BC Conference.

What Does the Future Hold?

By James Astleford
Executive Director
ADRA Canada

Walking up to the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp outside of Erbil, in Kurdistan, Iraq, Project Manager Stephen found a young boy wondering about disconsolantly in the field. "What are you doing here?" he asked kindly.

"I'm looking for my father," the boy replied tearfully.

"Not here, not now," Stephen replied gently. Stephen was aware that the boy's parents had been killed in the ISIS violence. Gathering the boy in his arms he carried him back to the camp. What does the future hold for this boy? For one thing, his short term opportunities are better because of ADRA.

In the IDP camp various UN and NGO (non-government organization) agencies are operating, including ADRA. As you come in to the camp you see the ADRA tents right away. There children come for classes that are a cross between school and play school. The children are also guided through careful conversations about how to deal with the trauma and loss they are experiencing. A couple of

doctors are on hand to provide medical services and they write prescriptions for medicines that are filled by another agency working in the camp. Classes or group meetings are organized for the women and topics cover everything from washing hands and personal hygiene to dealing with sexual assault. The men also have their own group meetings.

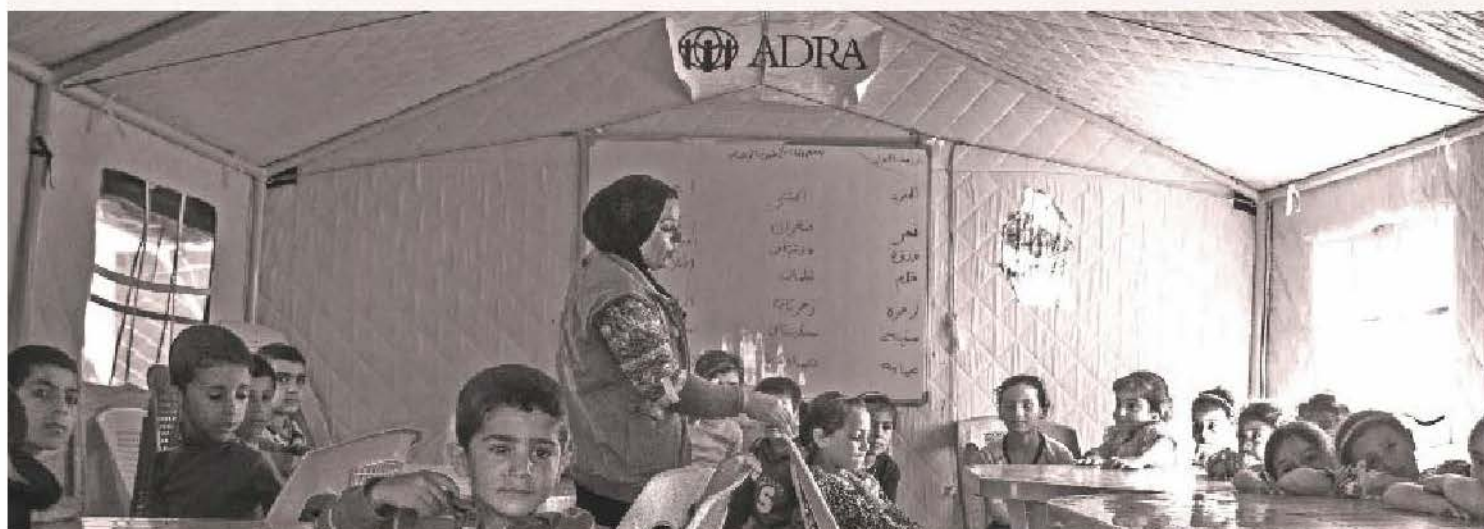
I was told that many agencies turn up at the camp for only about an hour a day or less, but that the ADRA team is there all day. This is highly appreciated, but it is not only the hours of interaction, it is the level of respect they encounter that makes a difference. "We do not beat the children in our classes," an ADRA staffer told me, "but this happens in other situations. Although other agencies even provide free toys, the children prefer to come to the ADRA tent and find refuge."

A young local community mobilizer at the camp comes from Telafar. Her membership in a particular sect which is considered "infidel" by ISIS brought her into danger. They kidnapped her father and most likely killed him while the family tried to escape. The young woman is the only supporter of her mother and younger siblings.

"ADRA has helped me financially and emotionally," she says, "and my life has been changed for the better." This story is a sample of hundreds. ADRA Canada, with your support, is providing assistance to this project along with ADRA offices in Australia, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, UK and USA.

Meanwhile ADRA, which has been legally registered in Kurdistan, continues to provide winterization kits for hundreds of vulnerable families. With funding granted to ADRA Canada from the Canadian government (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development) blankets and warm clothing are provided to internally displaced people and refugees. For people who have had to flee their homes, leaving behind their security and normal way of life, this assistance provides physical and psychological support.

Your support of ADRA Canada enables us to secure such grants and thus multiply the value of your gifts many times over. Together we are bringing hope to many thousands of people otherwise trapped in poverty and distress. Thank you!





WHERE CAN I GO

TO BE SAFE?

There are more than 50 million people who have been forced to flee their homes because of war, famines, and other disasters. ADRA Canada is helping people in Iraq, South Sudan, Ukraine, and other areas cope with the hardship of homelessness. To find out how you can help, visit www.adra.ca/refugees-and-idps.

June 20, 2015 is World Refugee Day.

20 Robert St. W.,
Newcastle, ON L1B 1C6
www.adra.ca
1-888-274-2372



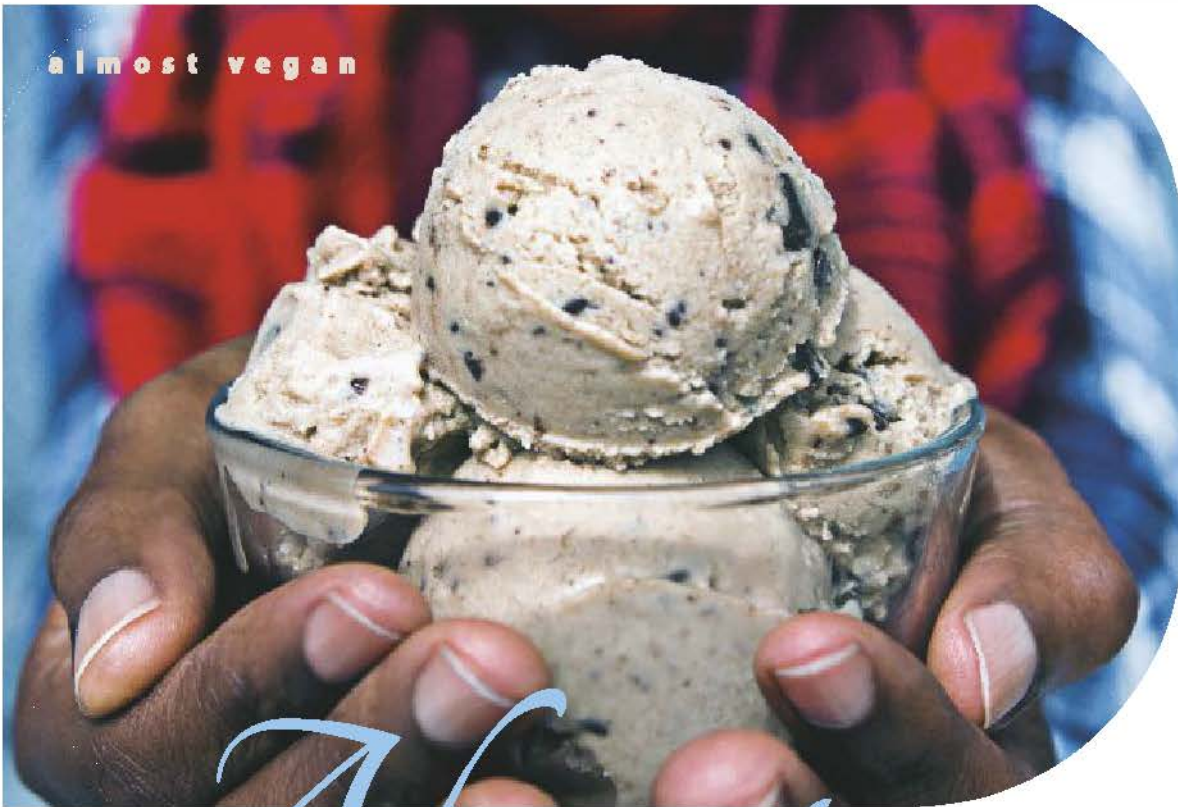


Photo: Afia Donkor

Almost vegan

Really? No more gelato? As I leaned against the countertop in the kitchen one afternoon, the full implication of my decision to go vegan hit me squarely in the face. Gelato, Italian ice cream, was a serious favourite of mine, and I felt slightly devastated at the thought of never tasting it again. But I had not been contemplating my loss for very long when a thought came to me, *Maybe God can help me make a vegan version.* So I prayed. Then sometime afterward, I got out some ingredients and turned my kitchen into an ice-cream lab. Mixing, blending, churning, and tasting, I came up with three prototypes and took them to friends to sample. One was too creamy (yes, that's possible!), one was not creamy enough, and one was just right. With the winning concoction I attempted my beloved gelato.

You know that "eureka" moment inventors get when they make a major breakthrough? Well, when that first spoonful of cold creamy goodness hit my mouth, I was shouting "Eureka!" I neatly leapt and did a happy dance because God had hit this one right out of the park. Then again, He is God! So for this, my very last, installment of Almost Vegan, it's ice cream time. And today, a flavour that has become my absolute favourite: Date Carob.

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Happy summer, happy cooking, and happy living, for Him. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

*This calls for the use of an ice cream maker. If you do not have one, a quick search on the Internet provides tips on how to make ice cream without an ice cream maker.

Date Carob Ice Cream*

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups cashew cream
- 15 dried pitted dates
- 1 cup water
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ cup carob chips, roughly chopped

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Blend cashew cream, dates, salt, and water as smooth as your blender can get it.
- Transfer mixture to a saucepan and cook on medium-high heat, whisking constantly until mixture just begins to boil.
- Remove from heat, transfer to a heat-proof container, cover with plastic wrap, and place in refrigerator to cool.
- Freeze and add carob chips according to your ice cream maker manufacturer's instructions. Enjoy!

TIP:

Ice cream hardens quite a bit when completely frozen. If you are not serving this immediately after making it, remove from freezer and put in the refrigerator for 30 minutes to 1 hour before you serve it.



VOAR Influences Spiritual and Political Leaders

On April 1, 2015, Premier Paul Davis of Newfoundland and Labrador invited local faith leaders to his office to discuss the provincial government's controversial decision not to fly the Christian flag on one of the four poles outside of government buildings in St. John's during the Easter season.

I was glad to be one of the leaders from the eight faith groups invited to the premier's office, as this attested to the influence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland. I was even more delighted to learn of the favourable influence the Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) ministry has had among those who were present. Two of the faith leaders went out of their way to mention to me that they are listeners of VOAR. One other leader had even been interviewed on VOAR regarding the request to raise

the Christian flag on the government flagpole. A fourth leader, now head of his denomination for all of Newfoundland, said he had faithfully donated \$1,000 annually from his church in support of VOAR back when he worked as a local pastor in St. John's.

Finally, one of the two political ministers present at the premier's office, in fact the deputy premier, was a friend of VOAR and had volunteered at the station for a number of years. VOAR is a leading-edge influence for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the spiritual and political leaders of communities where VOAR is being broadcast. ■

Ken Corkum is president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Conference.



Rebecca Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH Becky

When you get to heaven, whom (aside from Jesus) would you like to talk to first and why?

WITH PREACHERS' WIVES FROM THE OWEN SOUND, MOUNT ZION FILIPINO, ST. THOMAS, AND OTTAWA FRENCH CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

Cathy Pollington: "My sister. She died of cancer and I would have liked to spend more time with her."

Mae Anunciacion: "Mary. I would like to ask her how she brought up Jesus. How did she prepare herself for being a mom to Baby Jesus? She was very young, and it seemed that everything happened so fast. I am interested to know about motherhood. When Jesus was a baby, when Jesus was growing up, when he was a teenager, youth, and adult."

Wanetta Atencio: "Moses. I would like to hear in more detail what it was like to walk through the parting of the Red Sea."

Eveline Manigat: "My parents."



barry's blog

"Without the rule of law, those in power will inevitably use the rubric of "law" to do whatever they want ..."

The Strange Case of Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Appeal of the TWU Ruling

Despite the resounding loss at the Nova Scotia Supreme Court in January, the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS) has decided to appeal. Justice Campbell ruled that Trinity Western University's (TWU) Community Covenant was "not unlawful" and that TWU "like churches and other private institutions ... does not have to comply with the equality provisions of the Charter."¹ He continued, "The Charter does not apply to TWU. TWU is not engaging in unlawful discrimination. The fact that the NSBS and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission do not like it does not make it unlawful."²

In his searing response to the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's action against TWU, Justice Campbell clearly stated that the Charter is not "a blueprint for moral conformity." However, it appears that the NSBS intends to use the Charter as a blueprint for moral conformity anyway. In its announcement of the appeal, the society gave the following rationale to justify its appeal:

If left unchallenged, this ruling may significantly restrict the scope of the Society's authority to uphold and protect the public interest in regulating the legal

profession. It may also prohibit the Society from continuing to take on a wider role in the promotion of equality in all aspects of its work, including in the administration of justice.³

This statement speaks volumes about what is motivating the NSBS. First, they claim Campbell's ruling would restrict the scope of the law society's authority. Justice Campbell made it very clear that the Society has absolutely no legal authority to regulate law schools—especially those in another province. Even if it did, it was unreasonable in its lack of concern for the religious freedom issues.⁴ However, the Society does not want to be limited by the current state of the law; it has much grander plans.

Second, NSBS is wanting "a wider role in the promotion of equality in all aspects of its work, including in the administration of justice." That remarkable statement helps us to see more clearly what Canadian society, and the religious community in particular, is up against. The issue is no longer about the law; it is well beyond that point. In its rationalization, the NSBS has unapologetically declared that it is taking on "a wider role in the promotion of equality in all aspects of its work," in effect asserting

the cause it is championing is in the public interest and for the greater good. That is an incredible statement of admission because, in effect, a law society has now appointed itself as chief advocate of its own definition of equality at the expense of religious freedom. We are indeed entering disconcerting times when, under the guise of upholding a charter “freedom,” institutions are using the charter as “a blueprint for moral conformity.”

NSBS’s statement not only attests to Justice Campbell’s wisdom in upholding the rule of law and rejecting the NSBS’s overreach but also reveals his prescience about how far NSBS’s radical ideas would go in trampling other charter freedoms. The radical nature of the NSBS agenda has been laid bare. Religious freedom of a religious university is clearly in the crosshairs of the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society as it takes on “a wider role” to promote equality. In other words, “Step aside! Mere religious freedom will not stop us in our attempt to make Trinity Western University free!”

Have we arrived at the point where our law societies can flagrantly disregard the law to push their own agendas? This is no longer considered far-fetched. After all, a bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia was clear about his perspective on the law when he said, “We are the law!”⁵ This is a no-holds-barred attempt at the very moral conformity Campbell warned against.

Justice Campbell stated that the NSBS decision against TWU “amounts to a quota system by which TWU graduates, who are more likely to be Evangelical Christians, are discouraged from applying so that the proportion of LGBT lawyers is raised. A more direct approach would be to directly limit the number of heterosexual articulated clerks to reduce the disparity. That is every bit as strange as it sounds. That is not how social progress is achieved in a liberal democracy.”⁶

It is strange—more than strange—for a law society to

be so willing to make the role of promoting one right (equality) over another (freedom of religion).

Given the radicalization of law societies in this country, it is clearer than ever that people of faith and religious organizations have got to stand up to this drastic approach by institutions that were meant to protect the public interest. It used to be that the public interest that law societies served was to uphold the rule of law. Now they seek “a wider role.”

The rule of law is our protection against exactly what NSBS is now doing. The rule of law inherently recognizes that the law has its limits. The law was never meant to interfere with civil society and destroy the organizations and communities that make a liberal democracy a place where we can mutually live lives in accordance with our deep moral and ethical commitments. Without the rule of law, those in power will inevitably use the rubric of “law” to do whatever they want—including forcefully interfering in our religious and personal space.

At one point the secularists said words to this effect: “As long as religionists stay to themselves, we will leave them alone.”⁷ The religious community that founded TWU tried to do that: establish its own religious university as permitted by law and guaranteed by the charter. To be able to operate in a community separate from the secular world. Such universities are not new; they have been around for about 1,500 years.⁸ Now, unfortunately, the tables have turned. The law is being disregarded by those who claim to operate in the “public interest” as they seek “a wider role” in ensuring those universities are not left alone, despite the fact that the universities follow the law and want to be left alone. Strange indeed. ■

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.

1 para. 10.

2 para. 245.

3 “Society Will Appeal Court Decision in Trinity Western Law School Matter,” Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society, www.nsbs.org/news/2015/03/society-will-appeal-court-decision-trinity-western-law-school-matter, emphasis added.

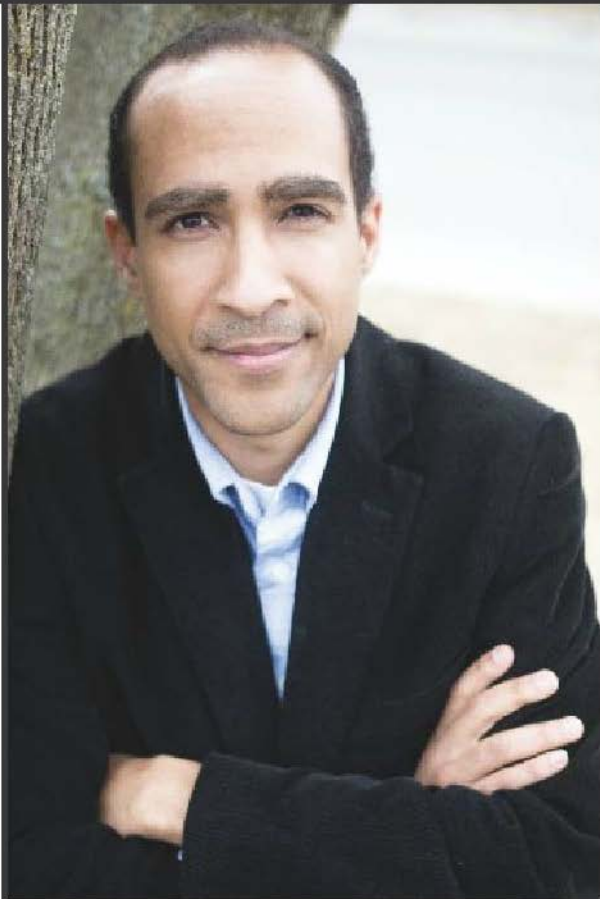
4 para. 3, 4.

5 Joe Arvay, Bencher BC Law Society: “I don’t recognize that law, that kind of law in this country. I don’t recognize a law that is so divorced from justice that we are bound by it. We are the law; we are the law-making body charged with making a decision at hand. So long as that decision is a reasonable one and that reflects both the objects of our statute and the Charter values we are bound to embrace, it will be a law that the Supreme Court of Canada respects.” See “Bencher Meeting,” The Law Society of British Columbia, April 11, 2014, transcript, pp. 46, 47, www.lawsociety.bc.ca/docs/newsroom/twu-transcript.pdf.

6 Para. 247.

7 Richard Rorty, for example, argued that it would be bad taste “to bring religion into discussions of public policy.” “We shall not be able to keep a democratic political community going,” he argues, “unless the religious believers remain willing to trade privatization for a guarantee of religious liberty.” R. Rorty, *Philosophy and Social Hope* (London: Penguin, 2000), pp. 169, 170.

8 Christian universities have been around at least since the sixth century. See Pierre Rich , *Education and Culture in the Barbarian West* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1978).



Jonathan Zita

"...or else I will turn my back on you forever."

Seventeen-year-old Jonathan approached a door and knocked. For several weeks he had gone from street to street and from house to house doing the one thing he had said he would never do: work as a literature evangelist. Shy and reserved, he had been having a difficult experience that summer, and some nights he even cried himself to sleep, wondering why God had brought him here to do this work. But as Jonathan knocked on this particular door, the very last door at the end of a very long day, he came to understand why.

A woman answered, and Jonathan gave his presentation. He showed her the books he had available, and, looking through them, she chose two: *Peace Above the Storms* and *God's Answers to Your Questions*. Then Jonathan offered to pray for her. She agreed and invited him inside. As they bowed their heads, Jonathan offered a simple, short prayer that God would watch over her and provide for her needs. When he finished and looked up, he saw that she was crying. He stood, silent and awkward, looking on as tears flooded down the woman's cheeks and she began to weep. Minutes passed and Jonathan stood silent, waiting. Finally, wiping the tears from her eyes, she said, "God sent you to my house."

"Why?" Jonathan asked. She said, "You know, I've been praying to God for months now, and it seems like my prayers just go up to the ceiling and come right back down. This morning I got down on my knees for the last time and told God, 'God, if You exist, if You even care, I want You to send someone to my house today, or else I will turn my back on You forever.'" Looking at Jonathan, the woman said, "And God sent you."

Back outside, Jonathan gazed up at the sky. It was a dark, clear night and the stars were shining brightly. Looking up, Jonathan sensed for the first time in his life how personal God was. An unknown woman, an absolute stranger, had prayed, and God in answer to her prayer had sent him. And because he went, a woman who had been standing at the edge of faith was rescued.

That moment was a turning point in Jonathan's life. He realized that God could and wanted to use him to help others, and that realization was instrumental in his decision to dedicate his life to full-time ministry.

Many in our world today are standing on the edge of faith. As they look around at this shattered world and look into their own shattered lives, they are ready to give up and permanently walk away from a God who, to them, seems silent. But God does have a voice, and He chooses to communicate His existence and His love through ordinary people. So He calls us.

Maybe God is calling you to weave ministry into an ordinary life. Maybe He is calling you to full-time ministry. Whatever the call, we have a choice, and the weighty but awesome truth is that the destiny of another human soul depends on the answer we give. To those who are ready to turn their backs on hope and on love forever, God says, "Go." Will we say yes?

Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada Education Service.

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES), a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada, if your life has been impacted by the literature ministry, please contact us at mail@lifestylecanada.org. We want to hear your story.

a Student's Perspective on Adventist Christian Education



Chareece Jackson

I was attending a public school in Ajax, Ont. My grades were low, I didn't care about school, and I spent more time hanging out with my friends than working hard.

I found school boring and unchallenging. My parents were frustrated, even though I was still getting fairly good grades.

One evening in May 2013 we sat down as a family to have dinner. After grace, I was about to dig in, when I noticed something: the silence. It was discreet, but piercing, and only sporadically interrupted by the scraping of forks and the Global News anchor droning in the background.

As soon as I looked at my parents, I knew that something was up. My two younger siblings also seemed puzzled at the bizarre silence.

"So," I began, "how was everyone's day, today?"

My parents just looked at each other. I tried again. "Um, how was work, mom?" I looked at her expectantly.

"Well, your father and I have decided to send you all to Crawford," she said, completely ignoring my question.

I would have loved to say that I didn't know what or where Crawford Adventist Academy was, but that wouldn't be true, because my friends at my church had been saying some bad things about it the week before. So when my parents said they were sending us to Crawford, I just stared at them as if they were a newly discovered species.

Before my brother could say anything, I said, "Ha-ha. That's a joke, isn't it, Mom?" I tried to laugh, but it caught in my throat before it could be heard. I was really, really hoping that they were joking. They had to be, right?

No, they were serious. Their facial expressions were very clear to read.

"You're going to Crawford this coming September," said my father, smiling as if this were a good thing.

I should have been happy to attend Crawford. After all, it's a Seventh-day

Adventist school. Although I refused to admit it, I was attending a school that was breaking apart morally. Academically, I lacked inspiration. Spiritually, I didn't see the need to have a closer relationship with God. So, to attend school that can uplift me should be a good thing, right?

Let's consider this analogy. If our country was to be hit by a tsunami, and there was a rescue plane leaving the country, wouldn't you take it? Well, my parents wanted me out of the tsunami. They made sure they put me on that rescue plane, but I didn't realize it at the time. I resisted, argued, fought, and struggled with the thought.

My friends at school fueled my resistance and encouraged me to fail the entrance test, but I knew my parents wouldn't have it. They were determined that I would attend Crawford.

After a long and miserable summer, I walked through the doors of Crawford Adventist Academy. My first day in Grade 8 was actually my very best experience in an academic institution! The teachers were amazingly warm, the students were welcoming and cool, and the staff caring and helpful. The school environment is playful and fun, but it really challenges us to achieve our best.

The best part about Crawford is what I call "the four-wall care" because of its emphasis on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual care. The school ensures that every student has the opportunity to grow in each area to the best of his or her ability.

Currently, I'm in Grade 9, and I love every minute of my daily experiences at Crawford. It has transformed me, and, for the first time, I'm inspired to work hard!

Were my parents right to send me to Crawford? More than you know! ■

Chareece Jackson is a Grade 9 student at Crawford Adventist Academy. She is president of her class and aspires to be a medical doctor.

A photograph of a football player in a black and red uniform celebrating on a field. The player is wearing a red helmet with a white logo, a black jersey with the name 'FRANKIN' and the number '77' on the back, and red pants. He is holding a football in his left hand and has his right arm raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is a large, dense crowd of spectators in a stadium, many wearing red and white clothing. The text 'The Pursuit of a D' is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

The Pursuit of a D

By Aimee Perez

ream

Grain and stars. Peculiar dreams they were. When Joseph shared those dreams with his resentful brothers, I will bet none of them had any idea where they would lead.¹ Dreams are a funny thing; they can lead you down a path you never could have imagined during your waking hours.

Arjei Franklin is a dreamer. As a young boy growing up in the Toronto area, he loved sports. This led him to dream of two things: to become a professional athlete so he could play all day long, or to become a gym teacher and play all day long.

He poured his energy into his first athletic passion, baseball, but also began to play football in high school. He endeavoured to play for as long as he could. In university he converted his love of sports into a bachelor's degree in human kinetics. During his studies in human kinetics he fell in love with Afia, who was in the same program and was a year behind him. But Arjei had not forgotten about his interest in teaching, and upon graduating from the human kinetics program, they both enrolled in an after-degree Bachelor of Education program to obtain their teaching certificates.

But a funny thing happened along his path to becoming a teacher. Just as did Joseph, Arjei had endeavoured to follow God and do his best, no matter where it took him. He continued to play football in

university, but when he started receiving wider attention, he began to realize he had the talent to go further.

The Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Football All-Canadian team is an honour awarded annually to the best players in Canadian universities according to the players' respective positions. As a star player at the University of Windsor, Arjei was selected to the CIS All-Canadian team two years in a row, cementing his position as one of the best receivers in the country.

¹See Genesis 37 and onward.

Photo courtesy of the Calgary Stampeders.



Arjei enjoys instilling a love of reading into his students.

And then he was invited to participate in a Canadian Football League (CFL) Combine, which is an audition of sorts that puts draft-eligible prospects through their paces, testing strength, agility, and speed. Arjei was tasked with running routes, catching passes, and meeting with coaches from all nine CFL teams. At the end of an intense three days, Arjei knew he had left everything on the field. He had done all that he could do. He recalls a special moment with his father, who had accompanied him to the event. Sitting in the car, his father told him, "Son, you're gonna be drafted." And together in that car, after the giddiness of that realization had passed, they prayed. Leaving it in God's hands, Arjei prayed that God would lead him to an organization where he could grow—not only in his career, but more importantly, spiritually.

The next day Arjei was drafted to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the third round, 19th overall. In 2005, Arjei was eligible to be drafted but he had not yet finished his teaching certificate to complete his Bachelor of Education. Not wanting to leave it unfinished and having always known that he wanted to be a teacher, Arjei deferred his CFL draft for a year to ensure that he could complete his Bachelor of Education. He was then drafted as a professional football player in 2006.

While being drafted to the CFL is not something that most people will ever

experience, Arjei did face a common human dilemma: fear. He had done it. He had achieved his dream. He was becoming a professional athlete. And the fear of failure nearly paralyzed him. Afraid of making mistakes, Arjei could feel himself holding back on the field. He watched as players outran and outjumped him. Finally, he was called in to his coach's office. There the coach told him, "You have to start playing faster." The ultimatum remained unspoken, but its implication hung in the air.

From then on Arjei realized that the only way he could play the game and live his life was to give it everything he had and stop holding back. The next time he stepped on the field for practice, a new player emerged, stronger, faster, and determined to make a difference for his team. The difference in his stats from his rookie year to when he finally overcame his mental block, speak for themselves. From 161 receiving yards in 2006 to 452 yards in 2007 and 620 yards in 2008, Arjei's new outlook, quick feet, and nimble hands unlocked his potential.

Another major life event happened during Arjei's rookie year, in 2006: he proposed to Afia. The following year they were married.

But life in the professional leagues can be quite tempting for an up-and-coming athlete. All over the media, athletes are seen getting caught up in scandals and violence. Arjei was not naive enough to

believe that he was immune to such temptation, even with his Adventist background. So right from the start he was determined to seek out people and players who would encourage him in his faith and keep him accountable. In Winnipeg he found numerous mentors from a variety of religious backgrounds who demonstrated a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ. His foundation remained unshaken even during a transition in 2009, when he was traded to the Calgary Stampeders.

Arjei's dedication to his beliefs was evident to all who interacted with him. He took care to avoid a hedonistic lifestyle by remaining committed to his family. A particularly proud moment in his career came after his team, the Calgary Stampeders, played in the 2012 Grey Cup against the Toronto Argonauts. They did not win the big trophy, but that evening Arjei received the Gord Barwell Award for exemplary Christian conduct both on and off the field. The late Gord Barwell, besides being a legendary receiver for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, served as a minister after retiring from the CFL. His ministry helped establish the non-profit organization Athletes in Action, which provides a chaplain for each team in the CFL.

In 2011 Arjei and Afia's first son, Miles, was born. This milestone changed everything. In fact, having a newborn son spurred Arjei to re-evaluate his priorities.

Arjei describes his decision to retire in 2013 as three-fold. Time was running out; new players were cropping up every year who were younger, faster, stronger, and pushing for their own chance at the limelight. Injuries were beginning to sideline him more and more often. The real deal-breaker, however, was his family situation. With an infant son at home, being away from home six months out of the year for games and training camp took its toll on both Arjei and Afia. It was at training camp that Arjei decided that he could no longer put the pursuit of his career before his family. When he announced his retirement from the CFL, Arjei acknowledged, "Football will always be a passion of mine, but I realize that the time has come for me to be physically present in my family's lives year-round.

Lastly, I would like to thank God for blessing me with this unbelievable experience."

During his professional sports career Arjei had taught in both the public and Adventist school systems as a volunteer and supply teacher in the off-seasons, keeping his love of teaching alive. But despite the fact that Arjei knew he wanted to be a teacher after hanging up his cleats, the transition out of football was still a difficult one. It was during this time that he became involved with Life Choice Dynamics, an organization dedicated to helping professional athletes prepare for "life after the game." Statistically, the propensity to fall into depression, bankruptcy, and breakdown of relationships is alarmingly high in the first two years after leaving professional sports. As such, Life Choice Dynamics equips players with services such as life and career counselling, financial planning services, and stress management. Arjei was so impressed with the work of Life Choice Dynamics that he now sits on their board of directors.

Since retiring from the CFL two years ago, Arjei has prioritized his role as the emotional and spiritual head of his household. Besides being physically present, Arjei's sole priority is to be a good father and a loving husband. He has instituted valuable new traditions, including family worship each evening, as well as couple devotional time with his wife. In putting God and family first, Arjei's life has been transformed.

Although Afia was not a baptized Adventist when they met (she was raised in a Christian and Catholic home), she and Arjei followed an Adventist lifestyle throughout their marriage. Arjei knew that in her heart, Afia was a lover of God, so he decided to let the Holy Spirit convict her of baptism in His own time. She had chosen to begin Bible studies several years ago, but it was last year during a sermon for their younger son Elijah's baby dedication that she felt moved to make a stand for Jesus Christ and make her decision public through baptism. Afia was baptized by Pastor Marian Kossovan at Windsor Adventist Church in 2014.

Long-time teacher Linda Bastien, upon her retirement, invited Arjei to

apply for a full-time position at Windsor Adventist Elementary School. Now both Arjei and Afia teach at the same school, where he shows admirable dedication to his job and his students.

Having attended public schools throughout his own educational career, Arjei fully appreciates the blessing it is to now teach in the Adventist system. His mission as a teacher is to inspire his students to develop a love for themselves, each other, and most importantly, Jesus Christ. He cherishes the ability to make faith an active component of his classroom, praying with students, and establishing a family atmosphere in which students are encouraged to help one another. When I phoned Arjei to interview him, our conversation was interrupted a few times. I soon discovered that he was speaking to me from the hands-free Bluetooth device in his car as he drove students home from school. Not many teachers provide shuttle service for their students. Additionally, Arjei's love of children even extends beyond the classroom: he is actively involved in his church's children's ministry department.

As if being a former football player turned Grade 2 teacher, full-time family man, and church volunteer wasn't busy enough, Arjei does occasionally find some spare time for himself. Working

out is a passion for both Arjei and Afia, and he also enjoys running and reading.

A new ministry for Arjei has been public speaking in schools and other forums for young people. There he shares his strategies for overcoming fear. He often speaks on 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (NKJV).

God can lead you on unexpected journeys when you commit your life to Him. Joseph may have had an idea of what his dreams about bowing grain and stars meant, but their true meaning and significance to the nation of Israel were certainly beyond imagination. Even so, we can learn that obedience in seemingly insignificant events as well as faithfulness through difficult circumstances are essential to following God's will. Likewise, Arjei undoubtedly faced trials and temptations on his journey through professional sports, but his dedication to God and commitment to use his talents in ministry enabled him to live a life of confidence and conviction. From a pit to a palace. From the stadium to the schoolroom. That's what happens when you follow God's will with all your heart, mind, and energy. ■

Aimee Perez is the Canadian Adventist Messenger secretary and a staff writer.



Afia and Arjei Franklin with their children, Elijah, 1, and Miles, 4.

Parkview Profiles

"PAA pushes you to be the best individual and student that you can be."



Jonathan Ringer

Jonathan Ringer grew up on Adventist campuses in the States before following his family north in 2012 when his dad accepted the position of administrative dean at Burman University.

Like the biblical Abraham, the Ringer family felt called to go to a place God would show them. "We moved from Pennsylvania to Tennessee without a true direction, only knowing that God was preparing a place for us," says the family. And through God's leading, it has become very clear that Parkview Adventist Academy is the place God prepared for Jon.

The graduating senior is actively involved in almost every aspect of campus life. On the athletic front, Jon has toured with the talented Acronaires gymnastics team and enjoyed the "family worship feel" of each practice. He also assists CUC's Marketing and Enrolment team with the live streaming of campus events. Jon's academic curiosity has prompted him to pursue many learning experiences outside of the classroom and also aided him in securing early admission to Andrews University's physiotherapy program with significant scholarships.

In his two years at PAA, Jon has served as the Student Association spiritual representative and assisted the chaplain in planning events, coordinating with class pastors, and helping to run the AV and programming elements of chapel services.

"Being part of the team of leaders here on campus gave me the opportunity to make decisions along with other students that could affect school life," Jon says. "I've had such great experiences going through the Adventist school system. PAA pushes you to be the best individual and student that you can be."

One thing on the Canadian campus that stands out for him is the quality of teachers and educational programming at PAA. Jon shares, "Just because you're really smart doesn't make you a good teacher, but here

the teachers really care for you and are also great in their fields of study."

With teachers who are willing to push themselves as far as they push their students, PAA is a thriving learning environment. According to Jon, "the practical classes are incredible here, like welding, woodshop, and mechanics. There is also a very strong math and science program. PAA really prepares you for higher education and a future."

Jon's future certainly involves an exciting and active life of service within the church, as that is the path he has already chosen. Having spent all of his developmental years in Adventist schools, he says, "I've had nothing but wonderful teachers who are so patient and enthralled with helping me." The concern he has been shown is the same attitude that Jon takes into his future career. "I enjoy helping people develop and grow long-term," he says.

In 2014, PAA chose to present Jon with the NAD Caring Heart Award for Christian Service. Jon arranged to complete his Grade 11 school work a few weeks early so he could join the staff at Camp MiVoden in Idaho, and as a result, he missed receiving his award at graduation. The award, however, did eventually make its way to him. Jon recalls, "One of the highlights of being at school here is when Ms. Bishop came to visit me at camp. She was on summer vacation and showed up to present me with my award for personal commitment to spiritual life. This just goes to show that PAA's principal and teachers are passionate about their students."

Jon's experience at PAA makes the goals of the school abundantly clear: PAA exists to serve students in their pursuit of personal, spiritual, and academic success, and we celebrate with those who continue to follow God's leading in their lives. ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.



"I want my students to be secure enough with themselves to be goofy," says Holly, who is known for her eccentricities. "I must practice what I preach, or they will not believe that it is safe to be themselves." (Holly Kay and Grade 5 students.)



Holly and Brad Kay with their two children, Cassandra (6) and Hunter (5).

Year-end reflections of a MANS teacher

As June approaches, I look back over this school year and evaluate not only my students but also my actions. Have I made the difference that God needed me to make? At these times I find that the thoughts of my six-year-old usually provide the most insight.

At bedtime Cassi and I always spend a few moments talking about her day. That night the conversation went like this:

"Mommy, will Hunter [her little brother] be taller than me one day?"

I had seen the growth charts, so I responded, "Well, one day he'll be taller than you. You are supposed to be about as tall as mommy, but you'll probably be skinnier."

She looked at me as if I had come from Mars—and her response stopped me in my tracks.

"Mom, we all have the same skin."

Applying basic rules of English grammar, Cassi was right: "Skinnier" should mean someone with more skin. Regardless of her misinterpretation of

the word, it is obvious that to Cassi, skin is pretty irrelevant. She is living the many sermons we have all heard on the theme "The Lord looketh on the heart."

When do we lose that pure perspective? When do we cease seeing people as the same? Cassi does not see fat people, ugly people, nerds, or jocks. She sees classmates, people, and friends everywhere! At what point does that change, and how do I stop it from happening to her? How do I keep myself from doing that very thing?

As teachers, we see this evolution in our classrooms, and we fight against classification all day long. But am I doing it? Does the child who scowls at me get the same love as the sweet little thing that draws me pictures all day? Do they look the same in our eyes? It is one of the hardest things about being a teacher, I think.

And I know this plays out in our lives outside the classroom too. We all do it, whether we are teachers or not. We look at the single mom, the divorced couple,

the tattooed, the pierced, the coffee-drinker, the meat-eater, the conservative, the liberal, the you're-not-doing-it-my-way people, and we judge. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23)

If we have grown up in a Christian environment, we have heard the "Don't Judge" sermons all our lives. So when do we finally start making it real every day? I need to tap into my inner six-year-old and see each child as they are: a person with the "same skin" as mine.

"God, help me to see each child as someone who has the same skin as mine, and please help me to be more like you so I can love each and every one of them as you love them and see them the way you do."

Amen. ■

Holly Kay teaches Grade 5 at Mamawi Atasketan Native School, Canada's only Seventh-day Adventist mission school.



Lynette, an ADRA volunteer.



ADRA Volunteers unloading more food food kits (which is part of the network response).

“I WILL HELP OTHERS.”

—ADRA Volunteers in Vanuatu.

IT WAS PERHAPS THE WORST NATURAL DISASTER IN THEIR HISTORY. Cyclone Pam took its time as it ripped through the island nation of Vanuatu with winds reaching up to 250 kilometres per hour. Even before the storm hit, ADRA had been making preparations for its aftermath by stockpiling food, water filters, and shelter kits.

When the storm passed, 11 people had died. All power and communications were lost. According to some reports, the destruction was so complete it was as if a bomb had gone off. Schools, hospitals, transportation, water systems, crops, and homes all felt the brunt of Cyclone Pam's ferocity.

ADRA was immediately on the ground, responding to the needs through its staff and a host of volunteers. In addition to distributing emergency supplies, ADRA supported 10 evacuation centres with toiletries, cleaning supplies, and sanitation awareness training so the evacuees could protect themselves from the diseases that often follow a disaster like Cyclone Pam.

Undaunted, the inhabitants of Vanuatu did not wait long before beginning to rebuild. Within days of the storm's passing one could hear the echoes of hammers and saws. ADRA's teams of volunteers are helping to clean up and rebuild homes.

Lynette, an ADRA volunteer, marshalled 31 other volunteers as skillfully as any military commander. Being a mother of five children, including a disabled six-year-old daughter, organization and delegation are familiar to her. Each day Lynette and the

volunteers dispersed throughout the community, working all day helping others clean up their yards and rebuild.

“We rebuilt two kitchens in one day; the boys are very skillful,” Lynette said with a proud smile.

Her efforts are all the more remarkable because Lynette is also without a home. “My family went to a safe house, but my son and I stayed at our house. I was crying a bit, and I told my son to hide under the table. We were praying, but the wind was so strong, the roof just flew off.”

When the storm abated, she ventured outside to discover that not only her roof was gone but also her kitchen and bathroom.

“Early in the morning I told God, if you save us, I will help others. And that's why I am here today.”

No stranger to disasters, ADRA's response to Cyclone Pam was immediate and continues still as the islands rebuild. With many of the islanders homeless, water sources contaminated, and crops devastated, the needs are extensive. ADRA has been working with the people of Vanuatu for nine years and we will continue to support them during this time of recovery.

Through the prayers and gifts of its dedicated supporters, ADRA is able to respond to disasters like this all over the world, bringing help and hope to those in distress. ■

Heather Grbic is the charitable worker for Youth and Church Relations at ADRA Canada.



MEET US IN SAN ANTONIO

It Is Written Canada Will Be At GC Session 2015



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director It Is Written Canada

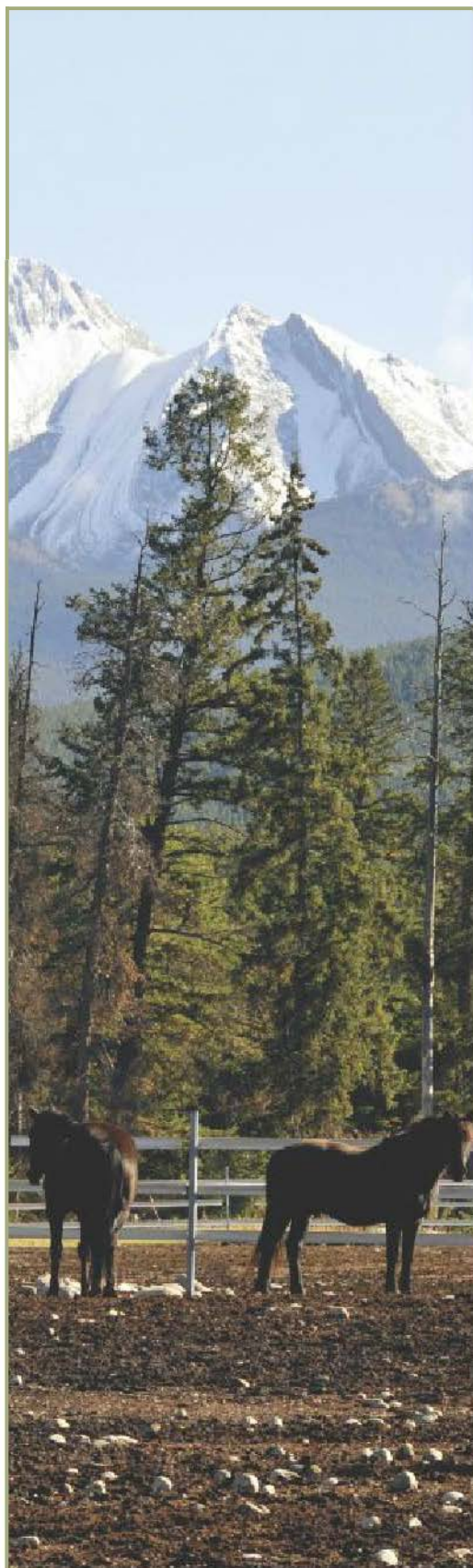
Come to our booth inside the North American Division section to:

- meet Pastor Holland
- get better acquainted with the ministry
- learn how It Is Written Canada can help you in outreach

**We'd love to
see you there!**



Show us that you're a Canadian and receive an exclusive gift at the booth



Go! Alberta Campmeeting

July 31-August 8, 2015 at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alberta



Jesse Bevel
Retired Author/Pastor



John Blake
Volunteer Coordinator,
Deaf Ministries, Alberta
Conference of SDA



Myrna Candalaria
Teacher, English
and Drama, Takoma
Academy, Maryland



May-Ellen Calen
Asst. Director, Sabbath School,
Personal Ministries; Director,
ACSI, General Conference



Don Corlann
Church Plant Director,
Alberta Conference
of SDA



Martin Feldbush
Crisis Care Coordinator
for Western U.S., ACS



Reynold Ferrary
Pastor, Alberta
Conference of SDA



Brian Hawes
Retired Pastor, Director,
Adventist Chaplaincy
Ministry



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written Canada



Mark Johnson
President,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Oliver Johnson
Volunteer Coordinator,
Prison Ministries, Alberta
Conference of SDA



Warren Kay
Prayer Ministries
Coordinator, Alberta
Conference of SDA



Sung Kwon
Director, Adventist Com-
munity Services, North
American Division of SDA



Jessie Lopez
Pastor, Georgia-
Cumberland
Conference of SDA



Leslie Pollard
President, Oakwood
University, Alabama



Darlene Reimche
Director, Sabbath School, ASAM,
SAGE, Children's Ministries,
Alberta Conference of SDA



José Vicente Rojas
President,
MOVEmiento,
Maryland



Jonathan Runnels
Chaplain, United States
Air Force, Texas



Christine Wallmann
Chapel Records Artist

Reach Up British Columbia Campmeeting

July 24-August 2, 2015 at Camp Hope, Hope, British Columbia



John Bradshaw
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written
International



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



Dick Overlsen
Assistant to the
President, Maranatha
Volunteers International



Ron Halvorsen, Jr.
President,
Ohio Conference of SDA



Michael B. Kelly
Senior Pastor, Mt. Rubidoux
SDA Church, Southern
California Conference



Justin Kim
Director, Communications,
Sabbath School; Associate
Director, Campus Ministries,
Michigan Conference of SDA



Jiwon Moon
Youth Director,
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Gordon Pfluer
Vice President, Media
Ministries, North
American Division of SDA



Adem Ramalin
Youth Director, North
England Conference,
United Kingdom



Nathan Renner
Senior Pastor, Central
California Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Resale Reyme
PhD Theology student,
Trinity Evangelical
Divinity School, Illinois



Abraham Samudio
Religious Studies
graduate, Burman
University, Alberta



Wesley Torres
VP, Administration,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in British Columbia



Mike Tucker
Speaker/Director,
Faith for Today
Television



Kevin Whitley
Director, Health and Prayer
Ministries, Washington
Conference of SDA



Michael Wixwat
Vice President, Finance,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in British Columbia

Seminar Speakers

Chris Bradford, Educator/Consultant
Field of Domestic Violence

Barry Bussey, Vice President, Legal Affairs,
Canadian Council of Christian Charities

Beverley Edwards-Haines,
Registered Dietitian

James Kneller, Electrophysiologist/
Cardiologist, Kadlec Health System

Bill Oversidge, Speaker/Director,
Creative Media Ministries

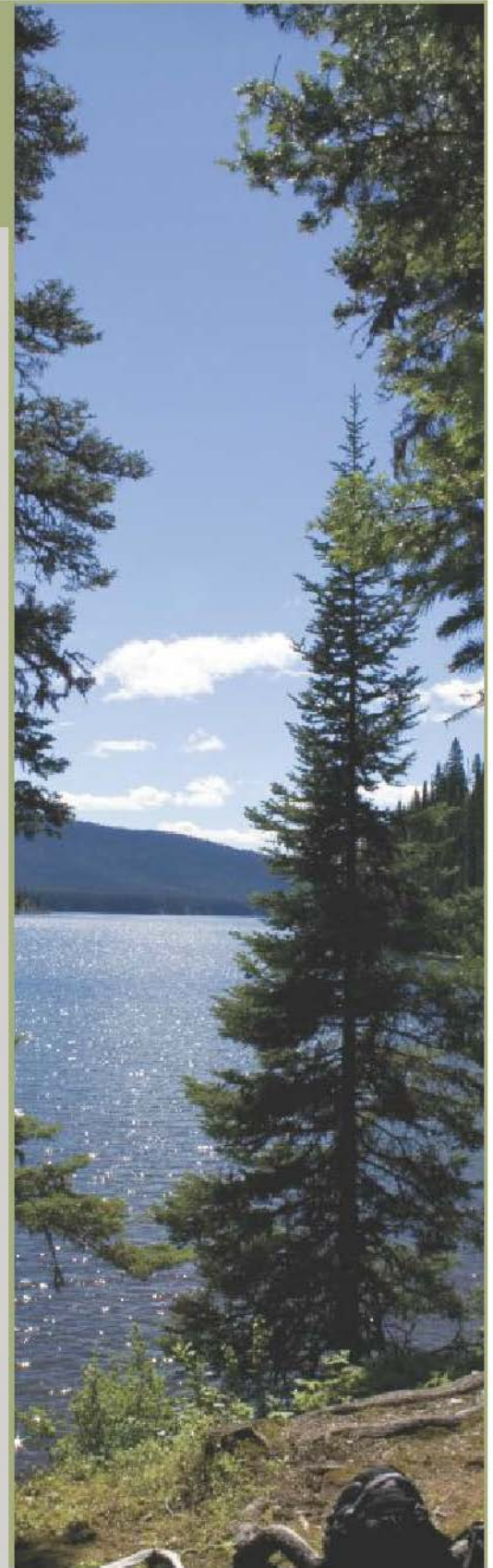
Maureen O'Kane,
Retired Marketing Executive

Arthen Rippen, Vice Principal,
Deer Lake Seventh-day Adventist School

Melvin Somas, Pastor, Nashville First Seventh-day
Adventist Church, NAD Liaison for Discipleship

David Thomas, Dean, School of Theology,
Wall Walla University

Kenda Thompson, Speaker/Director,
A Loud and Clear Call Ministries



Arise, Shine, Jesus is Coming Alberta FilCan Campmeeting

August 27-30, 2015 at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alberta



Ramon Y. Galdivino
Senior Pastor, Filipino-
American Capital
Seventh-day Adventist
Church, Potomac
Conference of SDA



Glenn L. Sta. Ana
Assistant to the
President, Asian/
Pacific and Family
Ministries, Arizona
Conference of SDA



Marriage Matters Southern Ontario Campmeeting

June 5-6, 2015 at Simcoe SDA Church/Norfolk County Fairgrounds



John Scott
Pastor, Ontario
Conference of
Seventh-day
Adventists



Mike and Gayle Tucker
Speaker/Directors,
Mad About Marriage

Christ, Our Victory Manitoba-Saskatchewan Campmeeting

August 7-15, 2015 at Camp Whitesand, Theodore, Saskatchewan



Kevin Burrell
Assistant Professor,
Burman University,
Alberta



Jim Gaul
Chaplain, Fraser Valley
Adventist Academy,
British Columbia



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



Song Kwon
Director, Adventist
Community Services, North
American Division of SDA



Derek Morris
Editor, Ministry
magazine, General
Conference of SDA



Tim Resenberger
Physician/Speaker,
Health, Preventative
Medicine



Daniel Stojanovic
Vice President, Administration,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Lilya Wagner
Director, Philanthropic
Service for Institutions,
North American Division of SDA



Life Without Regrets—Only “One” Choice Newfoundland Campmeeting

July 17-25, 2015 at Woody Acres Camp,
Southwest Pond, Newfoundland



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



William A. Fagal
Director, Ellen G. White
Estate, Branch Office,
Andrews University



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written Canada



Mark Johnson
President,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Lornie Melashenko
Former speaker,
Voice of Prophecy



Daniel Stojanovic
Vice President, Administra-
tion, Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Just Give Me Jesus Maritime Campmeeting

July 24-August 1, 2015 at Camp Pugwash, Pugwash, N.S.



Rémy Ballais
Speaker/Director,
Il Est écrit, Quebec
Conference of SDA



Bruce and Dorothy Hayward
Wellspring Family Life and
Counselling Ministry,
Michigan Conference of SDA



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written Canada



Pam Lisber
Executive Director,
The Quiet Hour
Ministries Canada



Dwight Nelson
Senior Pastor, Pioneer
Memorial Church,
Andrews University



Will Ferguson
Brangellist, 1888
Righteousness by Faith
Study Committee



Tim Amersberg
Pastor, Idaho
Conference
of SDA

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Alberta

Helping Hands Adventurer Family Camp 2015



As the Adventurers poured into Foothills Camp last Friday, the buzzing of laughter and excitement flooded the campground. It was Adventurer Family 2015 Camp. Families all across Alberta joined together in nature to celebrate our adventurers and fellowship together in unity.

It was our largest Adventurer Family Camp event yet; close to 400 families registered. With some families staying in the lodge, cabins, and RVs, Adventurer families made use of the entire campground.

Our theme this year was "Helping Hands," and with the help of Andy "Handy Andy" Roy, a performer from Seattle, Wash., the weekend was a huge success. The theme was selected in order to help Adventurers know that God can use their hands to do great things for Him. At one point during the weekend, Handy Andy shared his powerful testimony of how God uses his hands as a talent to encourage people and bring glory to Him.

Over the course of the weekend, Handy Andy shared many object lessons as he used his suitcase of props displaying nuggets of truth that adventurers could understand. One parent said, "To be honest, at first I wasn't sure if it was a good idea to have tricks performed at family camp, ... but when I saw how Handy Andy used Bible truths and connected a spiritual lesson with each trick, and seeing the kids so excited and engaged, I thought of Jesus and how He used object lessons to make His point known."

With the help of a great Adventurer conference team, the executive coordinator and area coordinators planned a great



Andy "Handy Andy" Roy enlists the help of Athena Dube to demonstrate a spiritual lesson

program that inspired our adventurers to use their hands to help others.

As the weekend came to a close, one of the highlights of the weekend was a concert organized by Sheila Beaudoin, Central Coordinator. It was an amazing experience to see adventurers share their songs, stories, and skits. The adventurers cannot wait to come back again and enjoy another family Camp. We are grateful that with God's blessing our Adventurer ministry is growing each year; last year alone, four new clubs were formed. We look forward to Adventurer Family Camp 2016. ■

British Columbia

British Columbia Conference New Ministerial Director



Kumar Dixit and his wife, Rajirisa, and children, Jaslin, Elijah, and Wilhelmina.

Kumar Dixit has accepted the position of Ministerial Director in the British Columbia Conference. His focus will be on mentoring and training the 18 young pastors who are on the ordination track in the conference. In addition, Dixit will oversee the young adult ministry of the conference by working with local churches in developing new methods to keep their young people in the church. Dixit follows Ern Brake, who accepted the position as assistant to the president of REACH. Dixit recently co-authored a study for the North American Division (NAD) on attracting and retaining Millennials in the local church. The study will be published in CALLED, a digital NAD magazine, and in the special General Conference edition of *Ministry* magazine.

In addition to serving in the conference, Dixit will remain on staff at Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver as senior pastor. "I think it is important to practise ministry if I am going to be training and mentoring other pastors," he explained. "The most important place for ministry is the local church, and I want to provide support to every pastor who is serving in this capacity."

Dixit has spent most of his professional ministry in the United States. He has been a university chaplain and served on the pastoral team of a church that grew from 250 to 700 in attendance. He earned his doctorate from Wesley Theological Seminary and has authored two books and dozens of magazine articles. ■

New Church Plant Bayanihan Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Church



It was like planning a wedding. There was much to consider: the venue, the parking, the program, the service, the food, the participants, the guests, the attire, and the presents. The momentous, inaugural Sabbath was on Feb. 14, 2015, when we, as core members of the newly formed Bayanihan Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Church, dedicated ourselves for the Lord's service and accepted Pastor Levi Estores's charge to go, preach, and teach with love, support, and care in our community. Our hearts were warmed as our core values were expressed in the acronym WELCOME, which stands for Worship, Excellence, Lifelong learning, Community-oriented, Openness, Magkaisa (Tagalog for unity), and Embracing.

God lovingly blessed our first Sabbath at 930 Cumberland Street in New Westminster with 54 attendees, young and old, and a surprise visit from some of the youth of our mother church, the Vancouver Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church. Also, we felt doubly blessed to have our youth pastor, Matthew Reyes, conduct a Bible prophecy seminar and witness our friends in our community attending.

Truly, it was such a delight to see new faces, strengthen ties with old friends, and exchange greetings with family and loved ones.

We fervently pray that we will continue to move forward in faith, like the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, and declare that “there is no earthly power, or skill or learning that can supply the place of God’s abiding presence” when we gather

to worship. Our desire is to never forget our “first love” and to celebrate Adorata—which means “the blending and union of two hearts”—and experience the joy of interconnectedness as we labour for the Lord. ■

—Rachel Pedernal,
Bayanihan Canadian
Adventist Church

Maritimes

March Break Mission Adventure



These delighted girls each received a pillowcase dress.

On March 13 and 14, Ashley and Brooke Boehner, along with their parents, delivered dresses to Dove Missions Youth Development Centre in the Dominican Republic. Almost 200 children are enrolled at this mission, which provides a safe haven for them during the hours they are not attending school. The following is Ashley’s account of their mission adventure:

“This was my first experience serving in a developing country, and what an eye-opening experience it was! The children were so kind and welcoming. We had the opportunity to visit some of the families. Everyone warmly welcomed us into their tiny houses, made out of cardboard or tin. Their houses generally consist of a living room with a couple of chairs, a bedroom (which usually has a double bed that everyone in the family sleeps on), a bathroom (really just a hole in the ground), and a tiny kitchen. The water truck only comes two times a week, so

they have to fill all the buckets they own to collect all the water needed to last them until the water truck returns later in the week.

Last year I became involved in a program called Dress A Girl Around the World. My school and church held a sewing event and made over 150 dresses from pillowcases. I was able to take these with me on our trip. I had been waiting to see the reaction on these girls’ faces for a couple of months. Their reaction was priceless! They couldn’t stop smiling as they grasped the dresses like children clasp their teddy bears.

Recently I have become Dress A Girl Around The World’s youth ambassador. I was privileged to talk to a group of young girls who will be making dresses in April.

These girls wrote little notes for the girls in the Dominican Republic telling them how much they are loved and how much God loves them. They also made necklaces with beads and string. The girls at the mission loved the notes, even though they couldn’t understand what they said. They all ran to the teacher and begged the teacher to translate the notes for them. They treasured the necklaces as if they were gold lockets.

This trip was one of the most amazing experiences I’ve had in my life. Thanks to financial donations from members of my church as well as friends, we were able to bring many other supplies the centre needed. I will treasure this experience for many years to come. These children have so little but wear the biggest smiles on their faces everyday. Some of them have gone through so much more than I can comprehend. I am truly so fortunate to live in Canada and to have all that I have and to be blessed with such a supportive, loving family. I am so very grateful! ■

—Heather Harrington,
Promotions, Sandy Lake Academy

Quebec

More than 130 Community Guests Attend Stress Management Seminar

During the month of April, the Granby and Sherbrooke churches each organized a one-night Stress Management seminar with author and speaker Danièle Starenkyj. Using their weekly "Pastor's Column" published in the local newspaper to promote their venues, 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 both churches hosting a combined 167 guests.

The purpose of these seminars was also to promote a four-night Stress Management workshop offered by churches located in the Eastern Townships of Québec. Following the seminar 17 people attended the follow-up workshop on how to better manage stress offered by the Granby Adventist Church, and 18 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 direction of Patrick Dupuis, have chosen to promote health and community service-based evangelism and this strategy has begun to bring dividends.



Danièle Starenkyj, author and speaker, and Patrick Dupuis, pastor.

Through the newspaper column, seminars, and workshops, the Sherbrooke and Granby churches are making a positive impact on their respective communities, and some attendees of the various health-oriented church-sponsored activities have attended Sabbath services. ■

*Patrick Dupuis, Pastor,
Sherbrooke/Granby churches*

Forever Faithful

During the month of August, our very own Crusader Pathfinder Club had the privilege of attending the Forever Faithful International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. Our Pathfinder club is not only based on learning about God but also on sharing His words with family, friends, and the community at large. This could not be done without the great leadership we have as well as an amazing team to work with.

We wanted all our Pathfinders to share an incredible experience at camporee. In order to have them all participate, we had to fundraise. We were able to do a citrus sale, bake sale, car wash, bagging, and of course our annual Pathfinder banquet, which was most exquisite. In all, we were able to raise \$30,000. What a blessing!

On the very first day of camporee, we had to pitch our tents and set up camp. Once our tents were pitched and everything was in place, the weather changed for the worse. The rain was pouring, but it did not stop us from enjoying ourselves. We were able to meet many people and make friends with other pathfinders from all over the world, such as the South Pacific, the Caribbean, and the United States, to name a few. We exchanged our pins and did our honours. Once the day was done, we would all sit down as a family and have dinner while we talked and shared laughs about our daily activities.

Every night was a blessing as we witnessed Daniel's faithfulness

presented through the medium of drama. We also had the chance to see Pathfinders accepting Christ as their Saviour. Every day pathfinders from different clubs came forth with the desire to be baptized. Over 2,000 pathfinders were baptized. Every day was an entirely new experience to some, and every morning we all woke up with a new goal in mind. There were some challenges here and there, but we managed to overcome all circumstances.

As one of the first clubs to register for camporee, we were also given the opportunity to go on a backstage tour to meet some of the actors from the play. As a club we took our own field trip to the biggest water park in America. There we also had the chance to meet many people and have fun. It was sad to have to leave behind all the friends we had made. However, it was magical to have been around people who share common beliefs.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank those who took their time and energy to help us get to camporee, parents, church members, and of course the entire club. Most of all, on behalf of the Westmount Crusader Pathfinder Club, we would like to thank our beloved director, Elizabeth Charles, for her hard work. She ensured that no child was left behind in taking in the full camporee experience. Also, thanks to all the counsellors who made sure our tents were leak-proof during the downpour on our first night. Thank you to all. We aspire to be "Forever Faithful" just like Daniel. ■

—Natasha Arnoldis Ndlovu

SDA Church in Canada

No Longer Be Called Canadian University College —But Burman University



Mark Johnson, president of the SDA Church in Canada, speaking at university convocation.



Mark Haynal, president of Burman University, along with two students at the church service.



Joy Fehr and Doug Matade, holding the ceremonial mace, at university convocation.

Name changes occur a number of times in Scripture. For example, Genesis records, "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee" (17:5). Name changes recognize enhanced blessings, resulting in greater opportunities and responsibilities.

Since its beginning as The Convassers' School in 1907, the school has had five name changes corresponding with stages of academic growth. And now all Burman University courses are evaluated and approved by the same criteria as the public universities and thus are fully accredited.

To celebrate this change, a weeklong program of events, 14 in all, were arranged. It was launched on Thursday, March 26, 2015, with a noon "Lunch and Listen" event at the Lacombe Memorial Centre. All the citizens of Lacombe were invited. "I want them to know that Burman University is their university," said President Mark Haynal, "and I want to forge an even closer relationship with all Lacombians as they enjoy with us the academic, cultural, and fitness benefits Burman University has to offer."

Friday afternoon the Acrobaires presented their first of two shows to a packed house at the Physical Education Centre. A second show was performed on Sunday afternoon. Friday evening the Choral Union Spring Concert ushered in the Sabbath with inspiring musical selections. The highlight of the celebratory events occurred on Tuesday at university convocation. Haynal said, "While it is our new name that has brought us to this event at this time in this place, it is my hope that we will celebrate much more than simply two words, Burman University.... Today let us celebrate the thousands of graduates of this institution, who, like Charles and Leona Burman, made great sacrifices to establish and sustain places of learning and healing to powerfully transform lives."

Congratulatory greetings were extended by four individuals representing four constituent groups, Nisha Johnny, Student Association president, representing students; J. D. Victor Fisch, president emeritus, representing the alumni; Steve Christie, mayor of Lacombe; and Rod Fox, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka, who brought greetings from the premier and the Minister of Advanced Education. Fox complimented the school on its hard work and growth to become Burman University. Mayor Christie declared, "This institution and Seventh-day Adventist community have a long history right here in Lacombe and, in my opinion, are the leaders in Christian education in Alberta."

Daniel R. Jackson, president of the North American Division, was the keynote speaker. "I was surprised," he said, "when I heard the university was going to be called Burman University. I do have to say the more I have pondered the whole idea, the more I have come to the conclusion that the board and those polled got it right. By naming this institution Burman University it is almost as if we have come full circle—back to our roots. This institution must never forget and cannot forget the heritage that is being passed on to it as it becomes Burman University."

God bless Burman University. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of April 30, 2015, there were 432 depositors with a total deposit of \$27,718,770. There were 82 loans with a value of \$24,309,356.

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

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- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about Messenger announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'write s guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

Missing Members

The Sedgewick church is looking for the following missing members: Leonardo De Jesus (Leo) Lopez Camacho. If you have a current phone number and address for him, please contact church clerk D. Gordon at jearygordon@telus.net or 780/385-2419.

Anniversaries

Lalabe and Elsie Ralluoli Chhangto celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 3,



2015, in Aizawl, Mizoram, India. They lived and worked in Northeast India for 15 years, before moving to St. John's and Comer Brook, Nfld. They have made their home in Courice, Ont. The Chhangtos have four children and three grandchildren.

Birthdays

Patricia Clark of Pitt Meadows, B.C., celebrated her 90th birthday on March 15, 2015. Her church family



from Maple Ridge church presented her with cards, a corsage and bouquet of flowers, and cake. Photo

Dorothea (née Dow) Reinecke of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated her 95th birthday on March 14, 2015.



Congratulations were given at Rutland church and again at a fellowship dinner. Dorothea has four children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Lorraine June (née Pettite) Follett was born on April 13, 1919, in Milwaukee, Wis., and died on Jan. 20, 2015, in Loma Linda, Calif. She served as an elementary school teacher, music teacher, administrative assistant, and school registrar/secretary. Lorraine is predeceased by her husband, Ira, and great-granddaughter Emma Gonzalez. Surviving: daughters, Yvonne (Arthur) Kapiniak of Lacombe, Alta.; Linda Follett of Kelowna, B.C.; Chede

(Louis) Dale of Snoora, Calif.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gwendolyn Frances (née Irving) Wentzell was born on Feb. 19, 1931, and died on March 10, 2015, in Halifax, N.S. She was a long-time member of the Halifax church and served as greeter, deaconess, and many behind-the-scenes activities. Gwen is survived by her husband, Owen; sons, Brian Wentzell of Dartmouth and Bruce Wentzell of Lower Sackville, N.S.; sister, Joan; one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter.

David Henderson was born on Aug. 30, 1932, in Picton, N.S., and died on Dec. 26, 2014, in New Glasgow, N.S. He was a long-time member of the New Glasgow church where he served as organist, pianist, church elder, and treasurer. He also played the organ in all churches in his hometown of Picton. David is predeceased by his parents, Ezra and Pearl (née Johnson) Henderson. Surviving: sister, Catherine "Kay" Johns.

Virginia (née Albrecht) McCann was born on Sept. 16, 1939, in Stony Plain, Alta., and died on March 22, 2015, in Onoway, Alta. She served at the Alberta Beach, Stony Plain, and Onoway churches as Pathfinder leader, children's division teacher, and Sabbath school superintendent for many years. Virginia was passionate about community outreach and service. Virginia is predeceased by her parents, Victor and Elizabeth Albrecht. Surviving: husband, Edwin McCann; sons, Kelly (Ema) McCann of Hnhards, N.S., Russell (Cheryl) McCann of Surrey, B.C., Roger (Cheri) McCann of Spruce Grove, Alta.; daughter, Shelley (Loree) Agrey of Muak Lek, Saraburi Thailand, and Heather (Darian) Swartz of Armstrong, B.C.; sisters, Leona (Gene) Augusta of Tillamook, Ore. and Elaine (Hal) Ohlmann of Onoway; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

George Schafer was born on Oct. 21, 1934, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Aug. 17, 2014, in Hope, B.C. He was an educator for many years in Alberta, Newfoundland, and British Columbia. He was known for his generosity, work ethic, and sense of service. George is predeceased by his parents, Samuel and Emilie Schafer; brothers, Fred Schafer and Donald Schafer; sister, Evelyn Nary. Surviving: wife, Dorothy (née Ganz) Schafer; sons, Randal (Lois) Schafer and Todd (Stephanie) Schafer; daughter, Wendy (Garry) Lowe; brothers, David (Shirley) Schaefer, Elmer (Viola) Schafer, Irven (Harriet) Schafer, Herbert (Carole) Schafer,

Robert (Roberta) Schafer, I.eon (Joyce) Schafer; sisters, Selma (Horse) Poochka, Ruth (Levern) Krenzer, Carol (Howard) Smith; and 12 grandchildren.

Sharon (née Boon Huat) Wu was born on Feb. 17, 1925, in Singapore, and died on Feb. 12, 2015, in Markham, Ont. Surviving: husband, Stephen Yuk Hin Wu; sons, Arthur Joon Wei Wu and Richard Joon Teck; daughter, Grace Ramby.

Tribute



Obit., Linda Maria (née Brown) Sept. 9, 1948–Oct. 14, 2014

Linda passed peacefully surrounded by her family. She rests safely in God's hands, awaiting the Resurrection Morning.

Linda was the beloved wife of 45 years to Claude; loving mom of Marka Lynn; dear sister of John (Karby) Brewer of Weston, Ore., Judy (Norm) Howe of Whinby; Sonie Stamp of Oshawa; and elder-in-law to Byron (Linda) and Scott (Patti) Bastien of Windsor, Ont.

She will also be remembered by her well-loved nieces and nephews and their children on both sides, as well as the many students she nurtured over the years.

Her teaching career, which she treasured, took her to British Columbia, New Brunswick, Paris, Ont., and finally Windsor, where she was affectionately known by her students as "Auntie Linda."

A memorial service will be held on Jan. 25, 2015.

Advertisements

SDA Business Connections is an online directory for Adventist church members to find services offered by fellow church members. We are looking for more businesses to enlist. Are you self-employed or a business owner? Visit www.sda-businessconnections.com or call Albert 647/772-3762 or Lisa 905/438-1770. (6/15)

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Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend Sept. 18 and 19, 2015: All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2015 honour classes are: 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980. Location: Gano Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Make plans to attend. For more information, contact Allayne Peterson Marching, 402/312-7368 or email allaynemarching@gmail.com. (6/15)

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Northwest Adventist Amateur Radio Association Annual Retreat, July 17-19th, 2015, at Fountainview Academy in Cillooet, B.C. Ham radio testing if enough people want them. Reports from mission trips. Registration forms available at www.nwara.org. For further info: keithcarllo@charter.net or 509/540-0544. (7/15)

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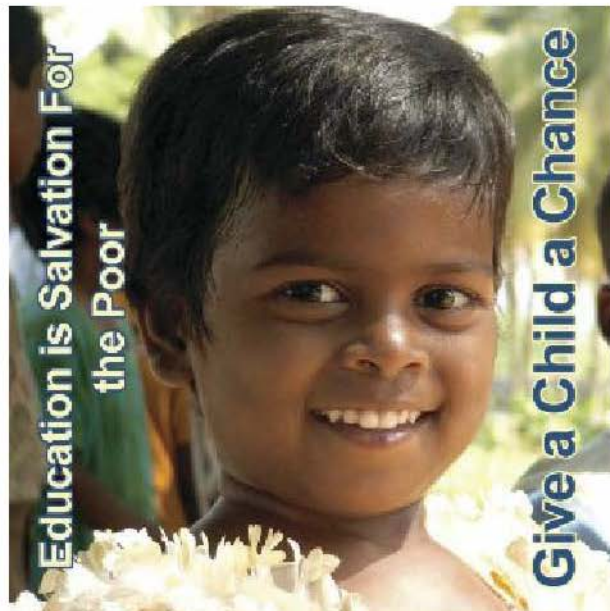
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A Better World (ABW), a humanitarian ministry of the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, is searching for an Executive Director. This opportunity is a volunteer position with an honorarium. The successful candidate will support ABW in its mission to deliver sustainable foundations to improve lives. Qualifications preferred are a bachelor's or master's degree in international development, or a related field, a minimum 5 years' administrative, international development experience, cross-cultural leadership skills, fundraising and public relations experience, and must reside or plan to reside in Central Alberta. If you are interested in this position, please contact Kelvin Hill, chair of search committee, at khill@abwcanada.ca. To find more about ABW, visit our website at www.abwcanada.ca. (6/15)

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from the editor

Campmeetings

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I LEARNED AFTER BEING BAPTIZED was that Adventists love campmeeting. It happens every year in most conferences, and yes, it is a huge event for us.

Campmeeting is about family, friends, and fellowship. Many families book their vacation time around campmeeting, taking the opportunity to disconnect from the hustle of the city and spend quality time with one another in the great outdoors. Christian brothers and sisters enjoy solidarity, spiritual refreshment, and fellowship. Children meet other children their age from towns they have heard of but not visited. Lifelong friendships and even courtships are ignited at camp.

Campmeeting is about commitment. At Camp Pugwash in the Maritimes, much like other conferences, baptisms are performed on the last Sabbath of campmeeting. Attendees witness new believers go down to the watery grave and emerge as new beings in Christ. Being at campmeeting is a gift in itself, and to be part of this event warms the heart.

Campmeeting is about our church. Single mothers come to the big auditorium, often from small struggling churches, and I can see them put their arms around their children and say, "See, we are a strong people." They hear breaking news, reports, and testimonies from around the world. Seminars are offered to enhance our experience, our witness, and our lifestyle.

Campmeeting is also about books. Books educate and solidify growing Christians. Do you feel your spiritual tank running on empty? Fill it up with quality reading material from our Adventist publishing houses. Campmeeting has become known as the time when people load up with books for themselves and their loved ones.

But this year, because of the General Conference Session, some people may not get to attend campmeeting. Just so that no one misses out, we have partnered with Pacific Press to include their campmeeting catalogue in the *Messenger* so that every Adventist home in Canada can take advantage of their great offerings.

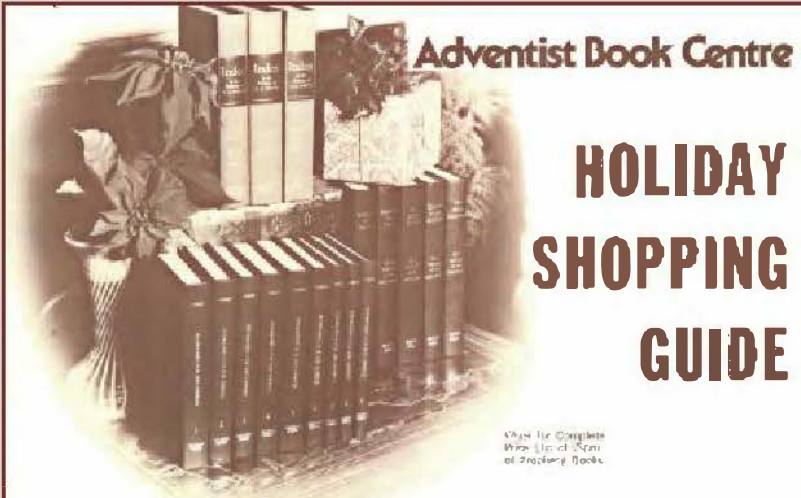
This year, whether or not there is one being held in your region this summer, let us get back to the basics of campmeeting: family, friends, fellowship, commitment, church, and books. It will grow you emotionally, relationally, educationally, and spiritually. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Stan Jensen". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

THE ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE, commonly known as the ABC, has long been a source for religious materials and vegetarian food. Because of changing times in the economy, ABCs across North America have been forced to reinvent themselves in order to survive. While we may not be certain of the form ABCs will take in the future (or even that they will retain the same name), we do know there will always be a need for church resources (and vege meat).


This month, we take a look back at ABC advertisements and promotions of yesteryear.



Adventist Book Centre

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

View the Complete View List of New and Preorder Books

SPiRiT OF PROPHECY 77 

Right now is the best time to complete your Spirit of Prophecy Library with a 25% discount for you.


Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 46, No. 28, p. 9 (Oct. 28, 1977)—The Spirit of Prophecy has always been an essential addition to every home library.

**\$10.45
A YEAR**

Is your health worth it? What would you think if someone offered you better health for only \$10.45 a year? That it was a hoax or some new miracle drug offer? Believe it or not, you can enjoy better health for only \$10.45 a year with *Life & Health*. Once a month you and your family will receive the latest preventive health information on exercise, diet and nutrition, mental health, and family living. \$10.45 a year. Isn't your health worth it? Order through your local Adventist Book Centre.

Expires 8/31/79.

Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 47, No. 19, p. 12 (Oct. 5, 1978)—\$10.45 for an annual subscription to a health magazine seems like quite a bargain these days.

 **adventist book centre**


BOOK CENTRE SPECIAL FOR JULY-AUGUST


Introducing the 26-volume **Biblearn Series of Books**

People from the Old Testament and the New Testament have been described by superior writers and portrayed by excellent illustrations. Based solely on events related in the Bible, each book is sound Christian material for children in grades one through six.

The Biblearn books make excellent reference and resource materials with the Sabbath School lessons.

Regularly priced at \$132.70. Special introductory offer only \$69.95

 New International Version—children's edition Bible with every order for the "Biblearn Set." This hard cover Bible is a \$11.95 value. (Offer expires Aug. 30, 1980.)



Adventist Book Centre
2016-19th Ave. N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 6E7

Adventist Book Centre
Box 289
4180-19th St. S.
Calgary, Alberta
T2C 1L8

Adventist Book Centre
Box 1386
Windsor, O. E.
N9C 5R9

Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 49, No. 14, p. 14 (July 17, 1980)—The ABC book sale has been the perennial highlight of our preceding season.

Eastern Canada
Adventist Book
Centre

FANTASTIC!

Western Canada
Adventist Book
Centre

 **February Food Sale**

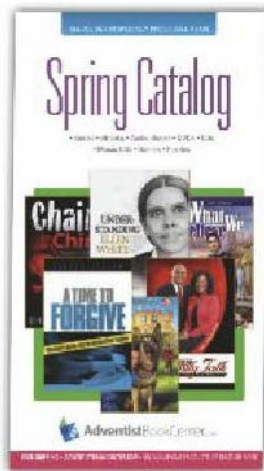
The tradition continues! One of the coldest months of the year always brings the hottest prices on case lots of vegetarian food. Check with your Church Personal Ministry Secretary and get the sale price list for all of your favourite Worthington, LaLoma and Natural Touch products! Truckload Prices. Free shipping on large orders. The best time of the year to purchase food by the case!

Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba call 1-800-661-6131. Ontario and the Maritimes call 1-800-283-3791

24 MESSIAH FEBRUARY 1980

Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 68, No. 2, p. 24 (February 1980)—Adventists love a good sale, and possibly none more so than a case lot sale at the ABC.

Increase Your Spiritual IQ



Read a Book

Check out the enclosed 2015 catalogue

ALBERTA ABC
1-5230 COLLEGE AVE.
LACOMBE, AB
(403) 782-4416
(800) 661-8131

BRITISH COLUMBIA ABC
1626 MCCALLUM RD.
ABBOTSFORD, BC
(604) 859-2566
(800) 765-6955

EASTERN CANADA ABC
95 CLARENCE BIESENTHAL
OSHAWA, ON
(905) 579-2311
(800) 263-3791