



Canadian Adventist

september 2015

# Messenger

A Better  
World's 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary:  
**Celebrating  
what is right  
in the world**

**PLUS:**

The Neighbour (p. 3)

On the Front Lines (p. 6):

Fractured Praise (p. 16)

Stuffed Banana Peppers (p. 20)

The Flower Prayer (p. 29)

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# Messenger

September 2015 Vol. 84 No. 9

**Communication Director/Editor** Stan Jensen  
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

**Art Director** Joan Tanasylchuk  
tanasychuk.joan@adventist.ca

**Ad Manager/Circulation** Almas Perez  
perezalmas@adventist.ca  
messenger@adventist.ca

**Copy Editor** Vesna Mirkovich  
messenger@adventist.ca

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## Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East  
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8  
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

**President** Mark Johnson  
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

**VP Administration** Daniel Stojanovic  
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

**VP Finance** Joyce Jones  
jones.joyce@adventist.ca

**General VP** Dennis Marshall  
marshall.dennis@adventist.ca

### Conferences

**Alberta** 5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5,  
phone 403/342-5044

**British Columbia** Box 1060, Abbotsford, BC V2S  
4P5, phone 604/853-5451

**Central/Saskatchewan** 1004 Victoria Avenue,  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

**Maritime** 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E  
1A6, phone 506/857-6722

**Newfoundland** 1041 Topsall Rd., Mount Pearl NL  
A1N 5E9, phone 709/746-4451

**Ontario** 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H  
1H8, phone 905/571-1022

**Quebec** 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4M  
3M3, phone 450/651-5222

**Western/Alberta** 6730 University Drive,  
Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/762-3381

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heart to heart

“Wouldn't it be incredible if every Adventist church in Canada was known as an incubator of humanitarian ideas?”

## The Neighbour

“And who is my neighbour?” (Luke 10:29, ESV). These simple words introduce the story of a Samaritan who discovers an injured man on the road to Jericho. This question from the crowd arose after Jesus taught that salvation and care for those around us cannot be separated.

Lately I have been thinking a lot about my neighbour and yours as well. I have noticed that it is easy for people of faith to live in comparative isolation from those around them, focusing instead on people they know who are already part of their church family.

Christ's approach to neighbours, however, breaks the barriers of inhibition and self-interest that we struggle with and sees in others an opportunity to serve. And through that service, we mirror the life and ministry of Jesus. I would like to challenge you to find a way to serve others and, in the process, encourage others to join you in touching the lives of others.

I take inspiration from what I know other Canadian Adventists are doing to touch lives around them as well. Recently, Becky and I saw firsthand the excellent work of Eric Rajah and others through the work of A Better World Canada over in Kenya. The orphanages, schools, and clinics they are partnering with make a huge difference in communities there and elsewhere in the world.

Then there is Azalea Lehdorff. While a university student, she was inspired to involve many people in funding classrooms for women where they are needed most. What a difference her project has made!

And I think of Mel Boutilier out in Halifax who saw a need to provide food and furniture where it was really needed. What a blessing that has been!

There are many others that I could mention, but these three examples demonstrate what can be done when one person begins with a dream and turns it into reality. Each of these people have found a way to profoundly touch the lives of others. You can too. Discover something that is missing and do something about it. And make sure you involve other folks around you.

Wouldn't it be incredible if every Adventist church throughout Canada was known as an incubator of humanitarian ideas? What if we were known as people who did more than talk, people who rolled up our sleeves and actually changed lives through action? You and I can make that happen. ■

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





# School of Health & Outreach



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Mind



Spirit

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**Where:** **Toronto: Kingsview Village SDA Church**

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Rohan Watson - Certified Wellness Coach  
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### **For registration and for more information contact:**

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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## September 2015



### FEATURES

- 14** **BOOK REVIEW** Music and Worship—Contemporary Issues
- 22** **INTERVIEWS** Q&A—Stan Jensen talks with Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World.
- 24** **COVER STORY** Celebrating What Is Right in the World—A Better World Celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3** **HEART TO HEART**
- 6** **ADRA CANADA**
- 7** **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 8** **TEEN TALK**
- 9** **CREATION CORNER**
- 10** **BURMAN UNIVERSITY**
- 12** **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 13** **PLANNED GIVING & TRUST SERVICES**
- 15** **THE CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 16** **REFRESH WITH TIA**
- 17** **PRAYER LIFE**
- 18** **BARRY'S BLOG**
- 20** **ALMOST VEGAN**
- 21** **VOAR/ON THE ROAD**
- 28** **LITERATURE EVANGELISM**
- 29** **EDUCATION**
- 30** **KINGSWAY COLLEGE**
- 31** **MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL**
- 32** **PARKVIEW PROFILES**
- 35** **NEWS**
- 41** **A BACKWARDS GLANCE**
- 42** **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 46** **FROM THE EDITOR**



A simple ration meal.

## ON THE FRONT LINES

**THE TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD OF REXDALE** is not what comes to mind when one thinks about ADRA's mission of empowering communities and changing lives. We tend to think of food and water being given to refugees; of houses being built for disaster survivors; of families in poor countries being taught to grow their own healthy food.

Sometimes, however, the lives changed are our own.

Janice Smith is the ADRA ambassador for the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church. Energetic, humble, and with a ready smile, Janice is willing to do what she can to help people.

"Each of us are called for the specific work that God wants us to fulfill, and this is ADRA for me. My call is to work behind the scenes to help raise the funds from the Toronto West church to help the frontline workers for Christ. This is God's work. We are called to reach those in need."

Last summer Janice and three other members of the Toronto West church visited the ADRA office in Newcastle, Ont.

"I was inspired after my meeting at the ADRA office. I heard testimony after testimony of the struggles of my brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. My heart melted. I was also impressed with the operations of ADRA; how they efficiently manage our funds—renovating an old, broken-down seniors' care home into a new office, taking their own photos, creating their own graphics and materials, and so much more."

In October, Janice, the Toronto West personal ministries team, and 10 other members of her church took the ADRA

Canada Ration Meal Challenge. For one day they chose to eat nothing but the food ration that is typically given to someone in a refugee camp.

"The experience helped me to appreciate my blessings. I live in a country where I have access to choices. What I did was nothing close to walking in the shoes of those who have to survive on so little, but the experience gave me a good enough idea to say I don't want to be in those shoes.

It was just after Thanksgiving. I remember going to work that day. I prepared rice with salt, peas, and oil. I was motivated by the cause but still hungry, and I couldn't wait for it to be over. Not everyone was able to complete the challenge. This was definitely not an easy task. As I am one of the ambassadors, I felt it necessary to be an example and support the cause I strongly believe in."

Janice will be taking the Ration Meal Challenge again, even though she is not looking forward to eating the BP-5 biscuit bars that ADRA is using for this year's challenge.

As an ambassador, Janice is on ADRA's front lines because she is our link to her community. She is empowering her own community to help others and changing their lives by showing them how truly they are blessed. ■

*Sharmilla Reid is the director of donor relations for ADRA Canada.*



# Living the Dream!

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."—*John 10:10*

Recently the mayor of Clarington, Ont., Adrian Foster, visited the ADRA Canada offices. While we talked, he mentioned that he had recently met an acquaintance. To the mayor's standard question "How are you?" the individual's enthusiastic answer was "I'm living the dream!" The energy with which this acquaintance spoke these words gave Mayor Foster pause. "What do you mean?" he laughingly inquired.

The friend replied, "I live in one of the greatest countries on the planet. I have a good home, I am blessed with a loving family. I have good employment that keeps me challenged and rewarded. Yes, I am living the dream!"

The mayor paused and added, "We forget all too often how much we have to be thankful for. You at ADRA see so much misery that most of us cannot even comprehend. I appreciate what you do to bring about positive change."

The ministry ADRA performs with your partnership enlarges that sphere of people who are "living the dream." We hopefully follow the counsel Ellen White gives in *Welfare Ministry*: "Work disinterestedly, lovingly, patiently, for all. . . . Let the love of Christ be in your hearts, the law of kindness on your lips."<sup>1</sup>

In Volume 4 of *Testimonies for the Church*, White wrote, "I point you to the life of Jesus as a perfect pattern. His life was characterized by disinterested benevolence."<sup>2</sup>

Even a quick look at the Gospel stories reveals Jesus practising this characteristic. He met with all kinds of people: tax collectors, lepers, army officers, people on the margins. And His purpose? He articulated eloquently in His statement to the church leaders of the time, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, NKJV).

Abundant life. It sounds like "living the dream!"

Ultimately Jesus, and His friends, hope for something beyond quality of life improvements, for "if God's

people would show a genuine interest in their neighbours, many would be reached by the special truths for this time."<sup>3</sup>

In the Sept. 23, 1908, edition of *Signs of the Times*, Ellen White writes in a balanced way of the need for disinterested benevolence and distinct doctrinal presentations. Thus, I believe it is in the divine plan that the Adventist Church has developed a variety of ministries, departmental emphases, agencies, institutions, and media outreaches so "we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect [person], to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," as Paul says in Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV).

A picture of living the dream or the abundant life is painted in a passage found in *Christ's Object Lessons*, which I have adapted: "No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste is recognized by God. He is the Maker of all. All women, men, girls, and boys are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption. . . . His love is so broad, so deep, so full, that it penetrates everywhere."<sup>4</sup>

Like some divine WD-40, His love penetrates everywhere, reaching even those hard-to-reach places. Perhaps like earthly WD-40, it sometimes has to rest on the tight spot for a while, working its way past rust and corrosion in order to free up movement. But eventually, it is successful and we get the intended movement.

I hope you're "living the dream." If not, take comfort in the fact that Christ wants you to have abundant life. And we can partner with Him to ensure that many others get it too. ■

James Astleford is executive director at ADRA Canada.



<sup>1</sup> (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1952), 76.

<sup>2</sup> (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1948), 4218.

<sup>3</sup> *Welfare Ministry*, 192.

<sup>4</sup> (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1941), 386, adapted.

# teen talk

**Q:** I'm so disappointed. As a female young adult who has been called to pastoral ministry, I have to put up with people rubbing my face in the fact that it has now been proven to be unbiblical.

**A:** Being called by Jesus to pastoral ministry is very biblical, my friend. You don't need to worry! The church is committed to supporting both men and women as they respond to God's call to serve His flock. What the General Conference voted down in July was a policy change that would've allowed local divisions to decide whether or not to ordain women pastors in their territory. So, in practice, nothing has really changed. Female pastors continue to be welcomed, appreciated, and their ministry is crucial in our Western society.

Now, I can understand that you may feel disappointed in what other faithful Seventh-day Adventist members voted at our global meetings. But please, do not be discouraged!

Why? Because Jesus is bigger than our challenges to understand each other's cultural differences and even theological backgrounds. He's ready to work with us even if sometimes it seems like we really don't know what we are doing. If He was able to kick off His ministry with twelve less-than-perfect disciples, he surely will complete his mission with us, a big group of well intentioned, yet flawed, Adventist followers.

Keep loving your church. Don't hesitate to answer your call to pastoral ministry. But most of all, continue falling in love with Jesus every day! ■



Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca).



# Cobia

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

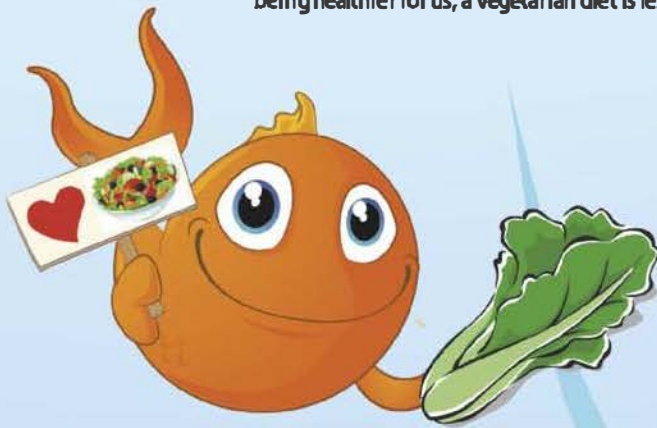
—Genesis 1:29, NKJV

Cobia are one of the greediest carnivores in the open ocean. While some fish, like the angelfish and parrot fish, are perfectly happy eating algae, cobia are not. Cobia hunt crabs, squid, and just about any fish small enough to catch. They will even tag along after sharks and rays to gobble up their leftovers.

So scientists were surprised when researchers showed that fish-farmed cobia could live on a diet made of plant foods. Cobia are popular on restaurant menus in Europe and Asia and are raised in fish farms in Asia, the United States, and Mexico. Feed for farm-raised cobia is made from wild fish caught in the ocean. Because of this, there are fewer and fewer of these small feeder fish in the ocean.

## Think about it.

Some people find it hard to believe that meat-eaters can live long healthy lives eating just plants. But God's original plan was for humans and all animals to eat plants, so it shouldn't be surprising that cobia or meat-eating humans and animals can live well when given a balanced vegetarian diet. In addition to being healthier for us, a vegetarian diet is less harmful to the earth.

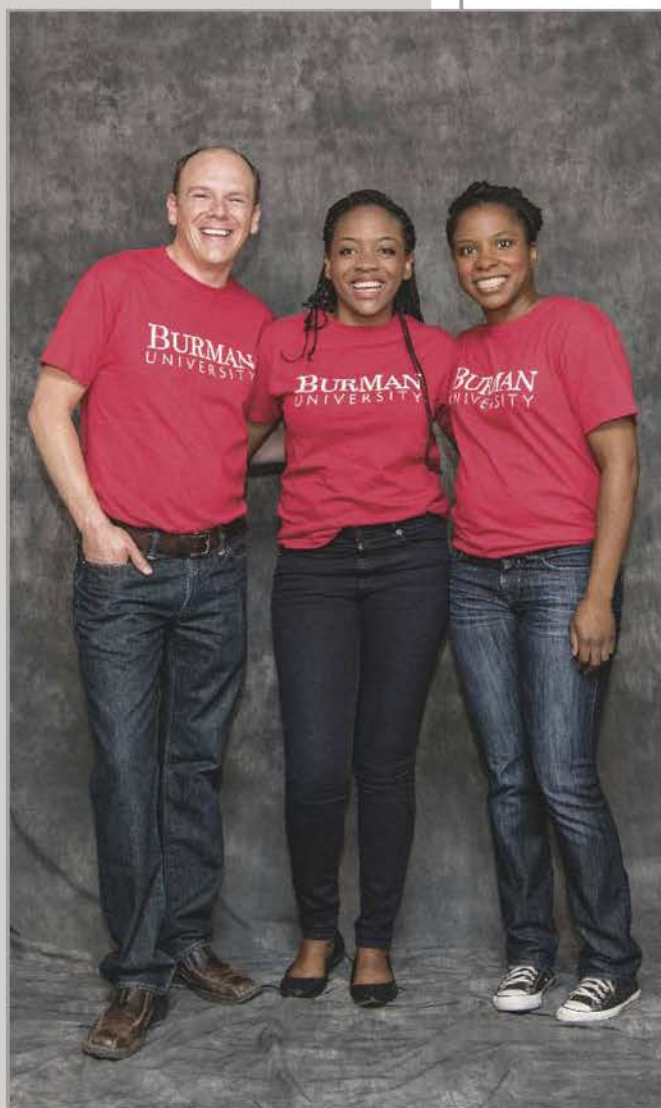


## Do it!

If you're not vegan (someone who eats no animal products at all), why not try it for 10 days like Daniel and his friends did? Better yet, try it for a month. Ask God to bless your efforts and be sure to eat a wide variety of vegetables, legumes, fruits, nuts, and seeds to ensure you're getting all the necessary nutrients.



# Campus Ministries: A yearlong Ministry



L-R: The Burman University chaplains. Adam Deibert, chaplain; Aisha Lennon, current student chaplain; and Cecile Moody, associate chaplain.

AFTER THE LAST PHOTO IS TAKEN AT GRADUATION IN APRIL, the Burman University campus becomes a bit quieter. But the stillness does not last long; business as usual continues with the start of the first summer session. More and more students spend their summers on campus taking classes, working, or both. Life on campus continues year-round, and for the past few years so does Campus Ministries.

This year's Campus Ministries summer programming has been one of the most active, thanks to the vision of the Burman University chaplains. Chaplain Adam Deibert and associate chaplain Cecile Moody believe that continuing the summer program is crucial to the continuity of campus ministries from school year to school year. This year's summer student chaplain, Aisha Lennon, a third-year religious studies major, has been integral in making sure that the programming has run smoothly.

"One of the biggest challenges for a student staying on campus over the summer is that immediately after graduation, programming drops off. It has become very important to provide a level of continuity in programming, as well as social and service opportunities. This is also in keeping with the holistic philosophy of Campus Ministries, which recognizes that meeting the spiritual, social, and recreational needs must be ongoing. From vespers and Sabbath school gatherings, from social activities to service experiences, we work to ensure that students who remain on campus over the summer have the chance to have fun and stay connected to one another and God," states Deibert.

Summer on campus can sometimes be different for those who stay. Friends have gone home and families are missed. The Campus Ministries summer programming is important in filling the emptiness with community. "It is important to provide the students with spiritually fun programming for what can be a lonely time on campus. Campus Ministries in its name implies the desired goal to provide ministerial opportunities on, by, and for the campus," states chaplain Moody.

Having a student chaplain adds a peer for students in a leadership position and enforces the campus approach of not only providing but also cultivating student leadership. As an upper classman in the religious studies program, Aisha Lennon was excited to continue her work with Campus Ministries throughout the summer.

"It's important because it keeps the campus connected throughout the summer months and gives students opportunity to participate and grow. It provides avenues to get involved with campus life to learn and grow together. Specifically, I want to engage students in such a way for them to know and feel supported and cared for and to be connected in community," says Aisha.

Students like Rebekah Maurice, a fourth-year English major, who stay for the summer greatly appreciate the programming. "During the year campus is always active and full of programming. But during the summer it can be harder to stay connected to God and to other students.

The programming this summer put on by our CM team has brought students together for worships and fun," says Rebekah.

A summer away from campus does not mean forgetting but rather continuing to be part of the community the student has been in for the past year, and getting excited for the year to come. As she enters another school year, Aisha is excited for what is to come. "This will be our first year under our new name, Burman University. I am excited to build a legacy for future generations. I am ecstatic and proud to be a part of a university campus that promotes an all-you-can-be mentality that is also Christ-centred and service-oriented. I want us to be passionately committed to building community that facilitates individual growth and utilizes our unique talents and experiences to bring others to the perfect image of love in Christ. I hope that we can be the generation that sees Jesus come back. ■



## Faculty Profile: Adam Kiš

*For the next few months we will be introducing our newest faculty members to you. These men and women will be the voices that young people will be dialoguing with during their time at Burman University.*

Professor Kiš is impatient. As Burman University's newest faculty member in the international studies program, he has yet to teach his first class on campus—and he can hardly wait!

Dr. Kiš comes to Burman University with his wife, Kristi, and two children, Zachary (10) and Julie (7). He has extensive experience in the international development field working with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on various projects and has served as country director for ADRA São Tomé e Príncipe. He has most recently served as director of the Asia Pacific Research Centre (APRC) and assistant professor of research and statistics at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. His experience and professional network will only enhance the curriculum and experiences of his future students.

"International Studies is an exciting field to be in! Which other program not only allows you to travel but also requires it? The world continues to shrink and globalize at a rapid pace; those with the skills to navigate between multiple cultures and social systems are at a distinct advantage in the workplace. Just as languages need translators in order to communicate ideas and concepts, cultures require people with the ability to navigate between multiple systems to help ideas get

across accurately. A degree in international studies will help you become a culture translator, not just a language translator," states Kiš.

Kiš brings with him book knowledge, practical field experience, and higher education experience, all of which will help each student excel. When a student graduates from the international studies program, Dr. Kiš would like them to have at least two of the three pillars: book knowledge and practical field experience. Kiš wants students to have travel and field experience, but he also wants them to be open about their perspectives and worldviews in light of the vast academic analysis available to them.

"Graduates of Burman University's international studies program must have both [book knowledge and practical field experience]. Thus, apart from coursework, which will provide students with book knowledge, students will also complete internships with international organizations in foreign settings in order to acquire that practical field experience that is so essential to a well-rounded graduate," states Kiš.

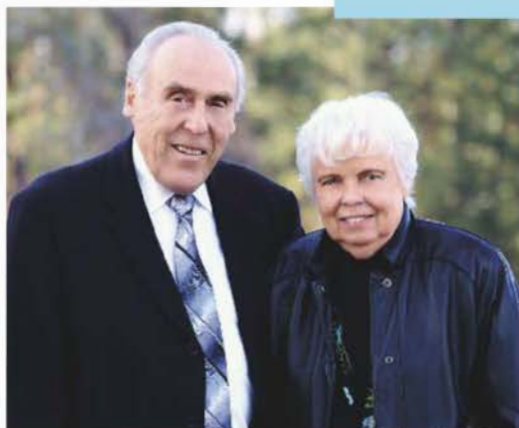
For more information about the international studies program and any other academic program, visit [www.burmanu.ca](http://www.burmanu.ca). ■

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*JR Ferrer is the director of communication for Burman University.*



# Where Are They Now



Bob and Myrna Tetz

**Messenger:** Where were you born? And tell me about your childhood family.

**Myrna Tetz:** I was born in Lincoln, Neb. We lived near Elm Creek, Neb., where my father farmed. My mother did not like the farm—she had come from Lincoln, a city! I have an older sister, Marilyn; and a younger sister, Carole.

**M:** Why did you move to Canada?

**M:** We moved from Takoma Park, Md., where my father was business manager at Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University). It was while there he was called to be president of Canadian Union College (now Burman University).

**M:** Were you happy about this move?

**M:** No, I wanted to stay in Takoma Park because my friends were there.

**M:** Where did you receive your education?

**M:** My first two years of college education were taken at Canadian Union College, and my last two at Walla Walla College, where I received my bachelor's degree in secretarial science.

**M:** Where, and in what positions, did you serve the church?

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

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

**M:** I first taught typing and shorthand at Walla Walla College Academy in College Place, Wash. Then I moved to Canadian Union College and continued my teaching career in secretarial science. There I married Bob Tetz, who was studying for his Bachelor of Theology degree. After he graduated, we were called to the British Columbia Conference, where he served as pastor in many districts and also as youth director. I was not only a pastor's wife at this time but also a grade school teacher and church secretary. During Bob's 10-year pastorate of the Vancouver Central Church, I was in charge of the communications department of the BC Conference.

Because we advertised the ministries of the 11 churches in Vancouver, we were offered a two-hour talk show on CJOR. Bob became the host of this program for four years, and I arranged for all the guests he interviewed. In 1989 we moved back to Canadian Union College, where I spent eight years as vice-president for Advancement. We moved to Silver Spring, Md., in 1997, where I was called to serve as the managing editor for the *Adventist Review* at the General Conference. During this time Bob pastored two churches in Baltimore, Md. I retired in 2002, and we moved to Durham, N.C. In 2007 we moved back to British Columbia. Bob continued to pastor,

serving originally as an interim pastor in Quesnel, B.C., and in Moose Jaw, Sask.

**M:** What is one of the most fulfilling experiences in your life of service?

**M:** I found my time as communications director for the BC Conference to be one of the most fulfilling periods of my life, as I arranged for the marketing of the church ministries for metro Vancouver through radio, television, newspaper, and billboard advertising. In this process I became acquainted with a representative from each radio and television station and newspaper in the city, and scheduled each guest on the radio program.

**M:** Tell me about your family.

**M:** We have two children: Gary Tetz and Linda (Keith) Shaw. Gary works for McKnight's as a video producer and writer in Portland, Ore. Linda is a nurse at the University of North Carolina. We have three grandchildren.

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

**M:** We live in West Kelowna, B.C., and I am still a pastor's wife, since Bob serves as the pastor of the Orchard City church in Kelowna. I also function as one of the consultants to editors for *Ministry Magazine*, and I volunteer to edit for *Gospel Outreach*. ■

# “An Entering Wedge...”

**CORA WAS NOT RAISED ADVENTIST;** however, she became a dear friend of the Adventist Church in her advanced years. This friendship was eventually revealed with an unusual gift.

Cora was raised Catholic alongside her six siblings and countless cousins in a western Ontario town that was home to many other immigrant Catholic families like her own. When Cora grew up, she married Bart, a friend of the family with a similar background. They worked hard, invested wisely, and provided a very comfortable life for themselves and their four children, which included ample savings for their retirement.

After their children left home to start their own families, Cora and Bart travelled. They loved cruises to the Caribbean, particularly St. Maarten and St. Thomas, where Cora frequented the jewelry shops.

There she purchased many finished pieces and loose stones that she had set into ornate brooches, earrings, and pendants by her jeweller at home. This became a hobby for Cora, and she eventually acquired a sizeable collection of high-quality jewelry.

Cora also loved to cook, and she loved to eat. All her life Cora struggled with her weight. She wanted to do something about it—something lasting—and her interest was piqued when the local Adventist church advertised health seminars and cooking classes. Cora figured, *What have I got to lose, except weight?* and began attending, at first occasionally and then—as she learned more, felt better, and saw results—faithfully.

Cora heard more than just a health message at these seminars and classes; she felt a spiritual calling. At times, she tried to share what she learned with her family but was met with resistance and disapproval, particularly from her brother and youngest son, both of whom were priests. The pressure to remain Catholic was strong and Cora relented. She did, however, continue to attend meetings

at the Adventist church and occasionally services as well. At her request, the health ministry leader visited her many times after the courses were over. Her friendship with this church endured to the final days of her life.

Shortly after her passing, the pastor was notified by an estate executor that a woman who was not a church member had left a jewelry bequest in her will to his church. The church board asked the conference to help with this unusual gift.

Several months later a box of jewelry arrived at the conference's Planned Giving Director's office, along with a letter from the executor and a copy of the page of the Cora's will stating that it was to be left specifically to the local Adventist church "to be sold and the proceeds used for their own use absolutely."<sup>1</sup> Two qualified appraisers

determined the fair market value of each piece,<sup>2</sup> and then the church treasurer issued a charitable tax receipt.<sup>3</sup>

Three estate jewellers were then contacted for advice: as a result, some pieces were placed on consignment, and the remainder was auctioned.

After all of Cora's jewelry was sold, the church received \$16,500.

When the board learned about Cora's relationship with the church, they voted to allocate all \$16,500 to their health

ministry department. A recognition event was held for Cora's family and close friends, during which an overview of the health ministry programs was presented and a plaque expressing appreciation for Cora's gift was given to her family.

Ellen White says, "When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart."<sup>4</sup> In this regard, health work is the right arm of evangelism. ■



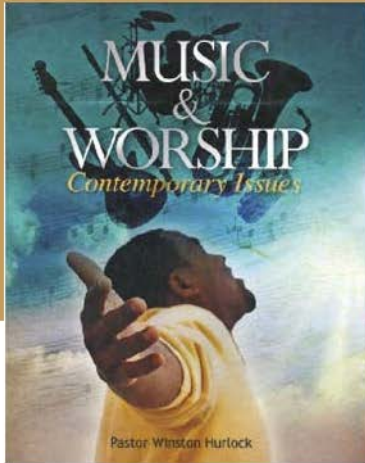
*Frances Chant, a retired planned giving director, and Leah Keys who writes from Newcastle, Ontario.*

<sup>1</sup>This type of gift is "unrestricted," meaning that the church board had complete control over how to use the proceeds once the jewelry was sold.

<sup>2</sup>Canada Revenue Agency strongly recommends a third-party appraisal when the value of the gift is expected to exceed \$1,000.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Testimonies for the Church (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1948), 6:327.



*Music and Worship: Contemporary Issues* by Winston Hurlock, published 2015. Available at ABC Christian Book Centre in Oshawa, Ont., (905/579-2311) [availability at other ABC stores to be confirmed]; Cornerstone Bookshop, North York, Ont., (416/224-8999); Canadian Bible Society Book Store, Toronto, Ont., (416/701-1761). Online: [www.PrayPraiseStudyWorship.com](http://www.PrayPraiseStudyWorship.com).

## Born to Praise Our God

*People laughed at my singing both at school and in church. So I asked Sister Sinclair,<sup>1</sup> who sang the loudest, to teach me to sing. Five minutes into our first and only lesson, she asked the month of my birth and assured me that people born in that month love to sing but cannot.*

I was devastated, I was 12 or 13.

Over half a century later, I am still self-conscious about my singing. Asked to review Pastor Hurlock's book, I saw the first word in the title—"Music"—and hesitated.

Eventually, I read all five words in the title and realized this book isn't about singing and isn't just about music. It's about why and how we should worship our God.

Occasionally, the book breaks into song. Yet I learned from its pages that I need not be a musicologist or a pastor, or be born in a certain month, to praise my Creator. Hurlock's own life was, in his words, "shaped" by "music and theology." But he notices from the story of the Samaritan woman that "Jesus addressed the teaching of true worship, not to a rabbi, [but] to a prostitute."

*Music and Worship: Contemporary Issues* outlines in rich, well-researched, and instructive detail what the 21<sup>st</sup> century church needs to know about music, worship, and the conflicts that threaten the worship hour.

Hurlock treats worship not as a heavy burden imposed upon us, but as a duty of love that we owe to the One Who gave His all. He shows why we should—in dress, song and worship style, indeed in the way we live our lives—demonstrate that the object of our worship is He whom Isaiah saw in vision "high and lifted up."

The author emphasizes that there are only two types of worship: false and true. In our praise and worship, we can either "worship false gods," "worship the true God in the wrong way," or "worship the true God in the right way with the wrong attitude." Or we can simply follow the path of "true worship."

The book overflows with eloquently crafted ideas about both personal and corporate worship. I would be surprised if you could find many more effective ways to heal the rifts around music and worship in the Christian church than you would in this book.

Drums, organ, or a cappella? Classical hymns or modern praise songs? Raised hands or folded fingers? Loud hallelujah or quiet amen? Dance or stillness? Hurlock, through material that is thorough, evidence-based, and grounded in Scripture, lights the way to intergenerational peace on the platform and in the pews.

He shows how the historical, technological, and cultural context of your times almost inevitably makes you want to worship differently from the way your parents did and leads your children to want to worship differently from the way you do.

And he keeps ever before us the fact that our prime gift to God is not our pipe organs, our drums, or the number of decibels in our singing or preaching. It is the submission of a sincere heart.

All chapters in the book end with exercises enabling the reader to reflect on his or her worship. Hurlock also suggests additional readings.

I am advised that there are few, if any, other Canadian books dealing with music, worship, and the related conflict in the thorough manner we experience in this book. So, despite the occasional typographical error, you will find this book worth every cent of your investment and every

minute of your time. ■

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*Frank A. Campbell is a member of the Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church. Despite his self-consciousness about his singing, the Lord blessed him with the lyrics to a Sabbath song, "I Ask Myself," which has been sung and enjoyed by a number of congregations in Canada and the United States.*

# Rethinking Evangelism

It was a hot, sunny day as we gathered along the banks of the lake. We were surrounded by the picturesque mountains that formed the backdrop of Lake of the Woods, a popular destination for the baptisms that take place during the British Columbia Conference campmeeting. Tess and her son, Ameer, had been waiting for almost a year to make their public declaration.

Tess and Ameer's conversion experience is different from many other evangelistic stories. In fact, this mother and son's conversation has some important lessons we need to recognize regarding the effects of secularism and the postmodern mindset.

## Longer Timelines Are to Be Expected

Tess and Ameer first attended the Oakridge Adventist Church in 2007. It took almost eight years before they made the decision to be baptized. There once was a time when a seeker would make a decision after a 10-night seminar series. Typically the major obstacle was moving a person who already had a Judeo-Christian background to a new understanding of the importance of subjects such as the Sabbath and the state of the dead.

The challenge today, however, is that the seeker is post-Christian. Such a person often lacks any background or comprehension of basic Christianity. Adventist evangelism now requires explaining the core basic tenets of the Christian faith instead of convincing someone with an already established Christian background to update their understanding of Sabbath sacredness and thus change their day of worship. Hence, we should expect longer timelines as an individual begins to get acquainted with Christianity.

## It Takes the Entire Village

It has been interesting to listen to Tess and Ameer's journey into the Adventist faith. There is not one person who can take full credit for their conversion. It was a friend who invited them to Oakridge Adventist Church back in 2007. However, that friend never took them back to church. After that one experience, the mother and son began to attend church infrequently on their own. There were many other people and churches who helped fill in the gaps over the years. Some members from the local Filipino Adventist church adopted Tess and Ameer by inviting them into their social circle. Others invited them to campmeeting, which opened their eyes to how big the Adventist Church is. After an absence from church for many years, mother and son decided to return to church again. Tess wondered if anybody would remember her. She was worried that people would judge her for her long absence from church. It was the kindness of church members who welcomed them back into the church.

Nobody chided them for their extended absence; rather the two were greeted with open arms.

## Discipleship Must Be Part of the Evangelism Process

When Tess and Ameer started attending church again, they started attending a discipleship program called Wednesdays Together. It was through this weekly program that they built friendships with others and started a regular Bible study program. Adventist churches have traditionally tried to cram our doctrinal beliefs into a person, rather than spending the necessary time to help a person grow in their faith journey with God. While doctrines are important, it is not just the intellectual knowledge that a seeker needs or lacks. They must learn basic Christian discipline such as prayer, Bible study, and accountability. If a new Christian is disciplined during the evangelistic process, he or she will more likely stay active and involved, rather than disappear through the backdoor.

## Assimilate Through Service Quickly

Tess and Ameer became active in ministry as they grew spiritually. Over the years I have given many baptismal studies to individuals. Many of them stopped coming to church after a time. I discovered that while our studies were rich and I had built a close relationship

with the candidate, I had failed to assimilate them into the church body. Their connection with the church was related (and sometimes dependent) on me. It is critical to foster an environment of service with the seeker. The more active they are through serving, there is a greater likelihood that seekers will stay involved. Once they have responsibilities by serving in the local church, they will build relationships with other members, grow a stronger commitment to the church, and develop a higher level of accountability.

## Questions for the church board and elders

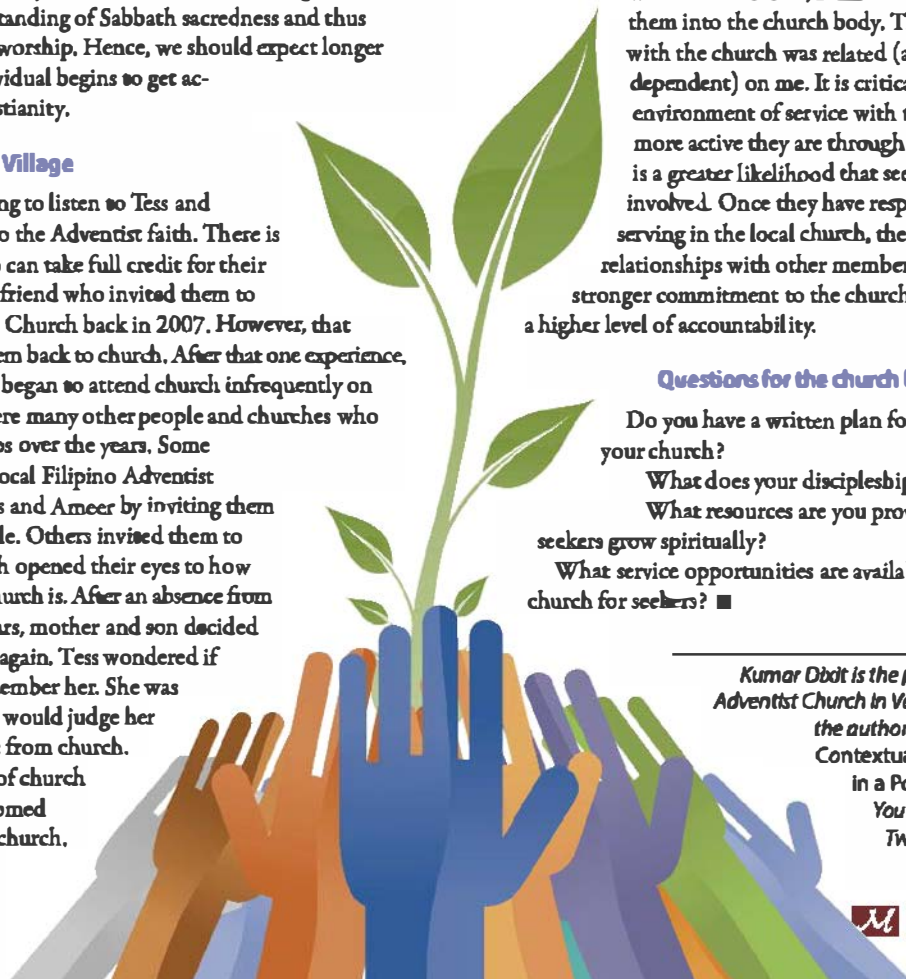
Do you have a written plan for evangelism in your church?

What does your discipleship plan look like?

What resources are you providing to help seekers grow spiritually?

What service opportunities are available in your church for seekers? ■

*Kumar Dbit 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 @kumardbit.*





## Fractured Praise

 Words by God —Psalm 34:1, NCV

It's hard to praise God through some of the struggles we face. Maybe we're too beat down and tired to put out the effort. Sometimes we have no answers for the terrible things that happen in life; instead they leave us waiting with our arms outstretched praying for God to help us. In those times when all hope seems lost, I believe we are practising the fullness of our praise and glory to God.

In Psalm 63:1-4 David cried out to God saying, "God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands" (NIV 1984).

He's saying, "God, I know I'm going through a tough time right now, but I'm going to praise you because I see how valuable and how amazing you are even in my struggle." It takes a lot of courage to find joy even in the pain and brokenness of life and have the faith to praise God when we don't have any answers and no way out. God is still there in the moments of despair and heartache when we can't see the light of day; He is still there in the silence.

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your

hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" (Psalm 139:7, 9, 10, NIV). It is easy to praise Him when life seems great and everything falls into place. In those times of grief and despair God is still good and He is still present and at work in our lives. I don't say this from a place of perfection but out of hard experiences. Even if you can't see where hope is, it's closer than you think. Our hope isn't in an event or great miracle; our hope is in God, the one who promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Sometimes a broken and fractured praise is worth more than a thousand songs of joy. Praise doesn't always mean amazing things are happening and we're shouting for joy. It is the surrender and faithful hope that, whatever the outcome, God will be glorified and His love far outweighs everything else. At times we have to go through those moments of "God, whatever you do, I will praise you" to truly understand what it means to praise God without thinking of ourselves but by looking to Him. God can use our broken praise for His glory and bring about a greater purpose than we can see right now as we wait in hope. Let our heart's song say, "I will praise the Lord at all times, His praise will be always on my lips" (Psalm 34:1, NCV).

Be Blessed. ■

*Tia Lawrence is 20 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—[refreshwithtia.com](http://refreshwithtia.com)*



 with Tia

 Watch "Praise You in the Storm" by Casting Crowns on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/1lqf3r>





# Experiencing God

*"It will be profitable for us to spend more time in secret prayer,  
in becoming personally acquainted with our heavenly Father."*

**T**he Great Wall of China is one of the world's great attractions. Boasting over 8,000 kilometres of wall with up to 25,000 watchtowers, it is an intriguing part of northern China. That wall would reach from coast to coast in Canada.

Until last November (2014) the Great Wall was just something my wife and I read about in books and magazines. We had never been to Asia. However, this all changed when we had the opportunity to visit China. On one day of our tour of China we were standing on a part of the wall near Beijing. Since much of the wall is built on hills and mountains, we did quite a bit of climbing. We took pictures at various points of the wall. We, along with our fellow travellers on the tour, shared the delight of experiencing the wall first hand.

Our experience with the Great Wall illustrates the difference between knowing about God and knowing God. For most of our lives we had known about the Great Wall but had no personal experience or encounter with it. Religion is like that for many people—it is a philosophy or a belief system that they read about or even commit to. However, the Bible goes beyond the intellectual knowledge stage to having a personal relationship with the God of the universe.

This personal relationship is ever a growing experience. The apostle Paul, whose life displayed an intimacy with Christ, said, "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings" (Phil. 3:10). Paul was always desiring to know Christ better and deeper. He wanted to experience the depths of what Christ experienced.

Ellen White recognized the importance of experiencing God. In the book *Medical Ministry* she says, "We must know Him by an experimental knowledge. It will be profitable for us to spend more time in secret prayer, in becoming personally acquainted with our heavenly Father."<sup>1</sup>

The apostle Peter goes a step further in clarifying what it means to experience God, saying that through the promises of Scripture we can be "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet. 1:4). As we study Scripture we can pray that God will help us to experience the reality of His teachings, the blessing of His promises, and the power of His own attributes and character. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we are transformed by the very life of God.

On a practical basis, how can this be a daily experience? No two people practise their prayer and devotional life in the same way. However, sometimes it is good to share what has become special to us.

Some time ago as I finished reading Henry Blackaby's book *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*, I noticed in the back of the book a list of the names and descriptions of God—hundreds of them. I found the list intriguing. So on most days now, I take one of those descriptions of God and journal about it. I study, reflect, and meditate on that quality. I praise God for that quality and seek how it can change my life. Naturally, there are many aspects to our devotional life that are rewarding, and I have found this time to be special. (Such lists about God's qualities can be found in other places.)

We live in a complex world with many challenges to our faith, many distractions to our walk with God, and many personal trials to test our perseverance. We will maintain a thriving Christian experience only if we have that intimacy with God which will be like a deep well caring for the longings and cravings of our soul. ■

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



barry's

blog

The state is required to "encourage everyone to participate freely in public life regardless of their beliefs."

## The Onward March of TWU Next Step: The Court of Appeal

*This is the first of a two-part article on the recent decision of the Ontario Divisional Court's rejection of Trinity Western University's (TWU) request that the decision of the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) be overturned.<sup>1</sup>*

### PART ONE: THE DEMOCRATIC IMPERATIVE

#### INTRODUCTION

The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) refused to accredit the proposed Trinity Western University (TWU) law school because the school requires students to sign a Community Covenant that (among other rules and principles) requires students to live in harmony with the school's religious teaching on marriage, a traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman. The LSUC decided against accreditation despite (1) the fact that the Federation of the Canadian Law Societies granted their approval; (2) the fact that TWU is a private religious university, exempt from BC human rights legislation; and (3) a 2001 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that rejected similar arguments of the BC College of Teachers, which refused to accredit TWU's education degree.

This Ontario case is one of three cases currently underway involving TWU. The other two are as follows: one in Nova Scotia which is now before the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal; the second is in British Columbia at the BC Supreme Court.

#### THE ONTARIO DIVISIONAL COURT'S DECISION

The Ontario Divisional Court held that though the religious freedom of TWU was infringed, LSUC's decision was justified because when deciding to accredit the proposed school, it was reasonable to take into consideration the discriminatory nature of TWU's admissions policy. However, the court did say that LSUC "will be duty bound to properly consider" the individual accreditation requests of TWU graduates to ensure their religious rights are minimally impaired.<sup>2</sup> While this may appear to be a major step back for Trinity's law school, it is really one step toward the ultimate decision to be handed down, eventually, by the Supreme Court of Canada. TWU has already announced that it will be appealing the decision<sup>3</sup> at the Ontario Court of Appeal. The following are interesting issues to watch on the appeal.

#### THE DEMOCRATIC IMPERATIVE

The Divisional Court's decision made no mention of the recent statements from the Supreme Court of Canada about the "democratic imperative." That imperative is "the pursuit of

an ideal: a free and democratic society.<sup>4</sup> The state is required to “encourage everyone to participate freely in public life regardless of their beliefs.”<sup>5</sup> The state has no business to create “a preferential public space that favours certain religious groups and is hostile to others.”<sup>6</sup>

The decision of the Ontario Divisional Court, however, allowed LSUC to impose a perspective of marriage, contrary to the deep religious commitment of a number of Canadian citizens. The LSUC does not like TWU’s practice of requiring its students to uphold and honour marriage as between one man and one woman within its community.

The question for the Court of Appeal will be “is the Divisional Court’s decision one that is in keeping with the democratic imperative?”

Many commentators suggest that when religious institutions are involved in the “public sphere,” they must remove their religious scruples and adopt the public norms. Their argument suggests that in the case of a religious university wanting a law school, it must be willing to put aside its religious practice to get public accreditation.

The Divisional Court appears to have adopted the view that the state can have a preferential view on religious beliefs and, based on that view, refuse to accredit religious institutions. The Court said TWU cannot compel the law society to accredit its law school “and thus lend [the law society’s] tacit approval to the institutional discrimination.”<sup>7</sup> Because, says the court, that would mean that “TWU could compel the [LSUC], directly or indirectly, to adopt the world view that TWU espouses.”<sup>8</sup> That is a telling statement of the court and is out of place with the recent comments of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court says the state cannot take sides on religious matters—it must be neutral. It cannot deny a service to a citizen because it disagrees with that citizen’s worldview. Herein what is at issue in this case lies bare. It is a matter of competing “worldviews.” The Divisional Court appears to be saying that if the Law Society does not like TWU’s worldview on marriage, then it can deny accreditation. That is legally untenable and practically incongruous. No state actor should hold back on its public duty on the basis of worldview differences.

LSUC should remain neutral on religious beliefs and practices and deal solely with matters within its own jurisdiction, which is understood as ensuring the legal curriculum equips the graduate with the requisite knowledge and skills to practise law. The Federation of the Law Societies of Canada has investigated

TWU and found that its proposed program would inculcate the required educational competencies. Even LSUC has no concern with respect to TWU’s curriculum. LSUC’s only reservation is with TWU’s faith-based standards.

The Supreme Court’s *Saguenay* decision<sup>9</sup> stated unequivocally that the state must be neutral on religious beliefs. The SCC said that government actors have a “democratic imperative” to pursue “a free and democratic society” that encourages “everyone to participate freely in public life regardless of their beliefs.”<sup>10</sup> The unqualified use of the word “beliefs” would arguably include beliefs on marriage, sacrosanct to religious adherents across Canada.

The fact that LSUC (the state actor) does not like TWU’s religious practice should not compel it to refuse to accredit the law school. The Supreme Court, in *Saguenay*, said that “the neutrality of the public space therefore helps preserve and promote the multicultural nature of Canadian society enshrined in s. 27 of the Canadian Charter [of Rights and Freedoms].”<sup>11</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The Divisional Court’s decision against TWU is a denial of the charter-protected promotion and preservation of diversity in this country. It is a denial of the democratic imperative, namely to make this country a free and democratic society where all, regardless of religious beliefs and worldviews, have an opportunity to prosper.

Note the following: TWU is the only religious law school in the country; its religious practice on the topic of marriage is to support marriage as between one man and one woman. That religious belief and practice is not against public policy but protected by the charter. Indeed, in 2005, the Marriage Act<sup>12</sup> was passed with this prescient clause: “WHEREAS it is not against the public interest to hold and publicly express diverse views on marriage.”

Watch to see how the Court of Appeal deals with the democratic imperative.

In the next article, I will discuss the Ontario Divisional Court’s treatment of the concept of discrimination and the right of a religious community to have a university. ■

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*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](http://www.lawandreligion.ca).*

1 *Trinity Western University v. The Law Society of Upper Canada* 2010 ONSC 4250, dated 2015-07-02.

2 para. 128.

3 “Ontario Court Rules TWU Religious Freedom Breached,” *Trinity Western University*, July 6, 2015, <http://www.twu.ca/news/2015/035-lsuc-decision.html>.

4 *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay (City)*, 2015 SCC 16, at para. 75.

5 *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay*, at para. 75.

6 *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay*, at para. 75.

7 para. 115.

8 para. 115.

9 *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay (City)*, 2015 SCC 16.

10 Emphasis mine.

11 *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay*, at para. 74.

12 *Civil Marriage Act*, S.C. 2005, c.33, assented to 2005-07-20, <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-31.5/page-1.html>.



Photo: Keith Chant

# Almost vegan

One question we are often asked, when jalapeños or other hot peppers are included in our recipes, is “How spicy is this going to be?” The answer to that always depends on the peppers used (some jalapeños are hotter than others) and how many you put into the recipe. We often include hot peppers for additional flavour rather than for the heat they impart to the dish, and when balanced right you can obtain a great flavour profile, without too much heat.

The seeds of hot peppers pack a punch of heat, and while some people like to include them for extra spice, we always remove the seeds before using the peppers. If you want to try one of our recipes but are nervous about how spicy it may be, reduce the number of hot peppers used; however, if you like your food spicier, add more.

The stuffing for this recipe is not very spicy, so we regularly kick up the heat by stuffing hot banana peppers or other peppers such as Cubanelle or poblano instead of the sweet banana peppers. This is a recipe that we like to serve with a salad or fresh vegetables and dip. ■

*Keith and Cheryl Chant, along with their son Ben, enjoy baking, cooking, and experimenting with flavours and recipes.*

## Stuffed Banana Peppers

### INGREDIENTS:

- 10 large sweet banana peppers
- 1-2 tablespoons coconut oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ green pepper, diced
- 1-2 jalapeño peppers, diced (and seeded, if desired)
- 1 hot banana pepper, diced
- ¼ package Yves Meatless Ground Round Original
- 1 can black beans, rinsed
- 1 cup cooked rice
- ¼ cup Tofutti Better Than Cream Cheese (in plain flavour)
- 1 cup Daiya Cheddar Style Shreds
- 1 medium tomato, diced
- salt and pepper, to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Sauté onions in oil until translucent.
- Add the diced peppers, garlic, and Yves vegetarian ground “meat.” Sauté until the ground meat is starting to brown, then add rice, beans, and tomato. Heat through.
- Add salt, pepper, and Tofutti cream cheese. Stir until melted. Add Daiya shreds to mixture, stir until melted, and remove from heat.
- Cut a slit lengthwise in each banana pepper, cutting to—but not through—the other side. Remove seeds.
- Spoon mixture evenly into each pepper and place in a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Bake at 350°F for 20 to 25 minutes or until tender. Hot banana peppers can be used instead of sweet for an additional kick of heat.

# Tending Towers and Watering Seeds



**V**isions of vast wheat fields and golden harvests quickly come to mind as you think of Saskatchewan's agricultural region. In Swift Current, nestled within this golden landscape almost halfway between Medicine Hat, Alta., and Regina, Sask., Gord Dowie and his wife, Joan, tend a different type of crop. As

members of the Swift Current Seventh-day Adventist Church, they are part of a team who tend to the needs of the Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) tower that services their community. Recent disruptions caused by the government's new emergency notification system require Gord to drive from his acreage to the tower site to make the necessary adjustments to get VOAR 91.9-FM back on the air. It's a sacrifice that is greatly appreciated by our staff and the many listeners who let him know that they notice when it goes off the air. Wayne Kushner of Robinson Electronics has also provided free technical assistance to help tend the towers.

Gord and Joan, along with others in the area, including Sharon and Graham Glover and David and Peggy Griffin, help to organize a VOAR booth at the annual fair as well as pass out note pads and brochures promoting the station. The feedback is very positive. Many people, including those from other faiths, comment how much they like the station and enjoy the Christian music. VOAR is one way of watering the seeds that the Swift Current church is planting. God is in control of the harvest.

If your life or the life of someone close to you has been touched by VOAR, please let us know! We would love to hear from you and share your story in the *Messenger* to encourage others. ■

*Christine Bergen is secretary/treasurer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland.*



Bebeque Johnson

## ON THE ROAD WITH

# Becky

AT THE ORANGEVILLE, MALTON, AND COLLEGE PARK CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

*If someone offered you one million dollars for your home and everything in it, except your clothes, would you take it or not—and why?*

**Mark Small:** "Yes, I would take it. Value is far greater than the house and its contents. The money would give me the opportunity to take a step back at work and spend more time with my family and be more active in my immediate community."

**Ciara:** "Yes, because then I could move out on my own and start over."

**Lydia Marks:** "Yes, I would. I would like to have a home where Jesus is the landlord, a home where I would live according to his will. I would use the home as a spiritual and health retreat to help those who are suffering physically and point them to the great Healer and Restorer of our souls."

# Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

*A Better World (ABW) is a ministry of the College Heights Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alta. One of its founders, Eric Rajah, has been a driving force in its success over the past 25 years. This month, let's find out more about the man behind the ministry.*



Brian Leavitt and Eric Rajah with two members of the Masai Mara community in Africa.

**EDITOR:** *When you first founded this organization 25 years ago, did you ever imagine that ABW would be the significant organization that it is today?*

**ERIC RAJAH:** I didn't anticipate the community support and involvement to this degree—both financially and in participation.

**EDITOR:** *How did ABW get started? What prompted you to found this ministry?*

**ERIC:** It comes from my own history. My mother's life was changed by Canadian missionaries who helped her out of poverty.

Brian Leavitt [ABW co-founder] and I saw the opportunity to engage the youth and church members at College Heights church and use the ABW model as a way to involve the community. We put up \$5,000 to be matched by our congregation, and they tripled it. This is how we saw our "evangelism" taking place in the community.

**EDITOR:** *It is my understanding that over 90 percent of your \$4,000,000 income comes from within a 50-mile radius of your office. Is that correct?*

**ERIC:** It was until recently. Now 75 percent of our donations come from the local area, and the rest come from across Canada.

**EDITOR:** *I view ABW as using a newer form of “ingathering,” as it seems that you have found that people from all walks of faith, including non-faith believers, are willing to contribute and even involve their families in making a significant difference. How did that start?*

**ERIC:** It started when key community leaders started travelling with us and seeing firsthand how diligently their money was put to use. They came back and told others.

Our success in engaging the community (non-members) comes from three strategies: First, we allow donors to take ownership of a project, see the results, and feel the difference. Second, we keep a clear separation between church beliefs and humanitarian causes. There is no hidden agenda when you are involved with ABW. We help and engage people from all walks of life. Third, we have marketed ourselves as the “gateway for service.”

**EDITOR:** *What is the best way that local churches across Canada can connect with aid and humanitarian ministries such as ABW to cultivate the same kind of involvement with their community?*

**ERIC:** Engage the community you have, designate a person(s) in the church who already has some connections, credibility, and involvement in the community. Pick a project that is not church-related—local or global. Our local project is branded “Neighbours.” The local church needs to own that project, not ABW. Once you start delivering, then people will follow.

Do not just ask for money; sell them the vision of making this world a better place and show them how they fit into that vision. Churches and organizations for the most part say, “Give us the money and we will carry it out,” but our model says, “We will show you how if you want that level of engagement.” A Better World can help churches organize a program for their community engagement.

**EDITOR:** *What is the approximate funding one has to raise for a medical trip, and are charitable donation receipts available?*

**ERIC:** \$5,500. And yes, charitable donation receipts are always available.

**EDITOR:** *How many medical professionals are needed to go on a community medical trip?*

**ERIC:** Usually we have three doctors, one dentist, eight nurses, and a host of non-medical support staff.

**EDITOR:** *What equipment is needed?*

**ERIC:** Dental people will need a lot of portable equipment—dental chairs, etc. We have some of it in the country.

**EDITOR:** *Besides medical, what other kinds of humanitarian trips do you organize?*

**ERIC:** We also host teaching trips, project management and evaluation trips, agriculture, and donor follow-up visits.

**EDITOR:** *Are the majority of people who volunteer with ABW Adventists?*

**ERIC:** Ninety-seven percent of those who travel with us are not Adventist.

**EDITOR:** *I understand that you brought some guests from Africa to Canada for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. What were their impressions of Canada?*

**ERIC:** They made a few observations about Canadians from their visit. First, people are hard working and not idling. Second, they trust one another, as there are no fences around yards. Third, they observed that people are humble.

As for the country itself, they noted that Canada is cold (they visited Alberta in April). There are not enough people, as they did not see many people walking around. Finally, they noticed that driving is very orderly in Canada.

**EDITOR:** *To misquote Mark Twain, the reports of your retirement have been greatly exaggerated. Is that right?*

**ERIC:** I am seeking to expand in new areas, thus “retiring” from my current role.

**EDITOR:** *Given the growth that ABW has experienced in the past 25 years, what do you see for this ministry in the future?*

**ERIC:** I envision an expanded board, including non-church members, that will function independently. I would also like to see ABW develop chapters in other provinces. ■

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



A Better World's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

# Celebrating what is right in the WO







**TOP ROW OF PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Pastor Ben and Nicole Sydorske presenting the Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. Ken and Hazel Hill. Volunteers and guests enjoying lunch and reminiscing over trips and events over the past 25 years. Eric Rajah, and Brian Leavitt, founders of ABW, welcoming guests to the celebration.



**MIDDLE ROW OF PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Cheetah in the Masai Mara National Reserve. The Goodwin Family with the children and staff of the Ubusu Primary School Project. Mark Johnson (President of SDA Church in Canada) receiving recognition from a community leader in appreciation for the work A Better World has done in their village. Cecy Johnson spending some time with the children at the opening of the Ubusu Primary School funded by the Helga and Tony Bairns family of Cambridge, Ontario.

rld

**A BETTER WORLD (ABW) ORGANIZED A MEMORABLE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH, APRIL 25, 2015.**

Special guests from Kenya were flown to Canada by ABW to join the celebration with volunteers dating back to the earliest days of the agency's development. Kenyan guests included Janet Auma, Bernard Opiyo, Charles Muraguri and Lawrence Mathea. Ted Proud and Dr. Ken Hill, who were both instrumental in launching A Better World's first project in Kendu Bay, were also present.

Proud, who now lives in Edmonton, was living in Kenya in 1989 and recommended the physiotherapy project to ABW co-founders Eric Rajah and Brian Leavitt. Hill, a retired physiotherapy professor, was volunteering with ADRA at the SDA hospital in Kendu Bay, Kenya, and managed the physiotherapy center for its first 10 years. Opiyo, a Kenyan physiotherapist, worked with Hill starting in 1994 and still collaborates with ABW at schools for disabled children. Muraguri was the driver and guide for Eric Rajah during his first monitoring trip in 1999 and continues to drive for him every trip.

Mathea is also a long-time driver. Auma, from the Kendu Bay area, is a well-known recipient of ABW's assistance, receiving more than 10 surgeries to correct burn injuries from childhood.

At the well-attended service, Rajah delivered a sermon of celebration: "What is Right in the World." Citing Matthew 25, he stressed that despite the misery and suffering that is easy to find in popular media, people of compassion who act on their beliefs show everyone what is right with the world.

A special luncheon in the Lacombe Memorial Center, attended by more than 250 people, followed the services. Eric Rajah and Brian Leavitt recognized the volunteers who help operate ABW.

ABW has grown exponentially over the past 25 years, and this day of celebration was a tribute to the many who have contributed their time, talent, and funds to make a visible difference in this world.

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIP**

In the foyer of the College Heights Church in Lacombe, AB is a map of the world with project cards for 103 sites in 24 countries where A Better World has completed





projects. Kenya stands out, not only as having the most project cards, but as the country where A Better World began its work 25 years ago in Kendu Bay near Lake Victoria. So it is appropriate that the organization conducted its anniversary trip to Kenya in March 2015 with a diverse group of 25 travelers, led by Eric Rajah. For 12 participants, this was their first exciting trip to Africa with A Better World; the rest of the team included volunteers who have supported ABW over the past 25 years.

Among the new participants were Mark and Becky Johnson from Ontario, where Mark is President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. From the other side of the country came the Boonstra family: Kevin and Julie, with Jordyn (17) and Max (15). Kevin is a lawyer in Abbotsford, B.C. It was exciting for the family to visit the Maasai Mara where the Irbaan Primary School has benefited from their financial support. For Ron and Nicole Sydenham of Lacombe, Alta., this was their fourth trip to Kenya with A Better World. Ron is senior pastor of the College Heights Church and chair of the charity's board.

Among the many highlights of this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip was a visit to Kendu Bay where A Better World initiated its first project in 1990, providing corrective surgeries for a few children with club foot. In the intervening years, with support from many partners, over 10,000 surgeries have been completed.

To join us on our next trip, visit our website [www.abwcanada.ca](http://www.abwcanada.ca) or flip to the back page of this issue for trip details.



**CITIZENS OF THE YEAR:  
DR. KEN AND HAZEL HILL**

At the A Better World 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, ABW presented the ABW Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. Ken and Hazel Hill, recognizing their years of service to ABW. The Hills have devoted a large portion of their lives to accomplishing the work of A Better World. Ken, a retired physiotherapy professor, was volunteering with ADRA at the SDA hospital in Kendu Bay, Kenya, and managed the physiotherapy center for its first 10 years. Their children Karen Leung (rehabilitation volunteer), Kelvin Hill (chair of steering committee) and Colin Hill (volunteer and traveler) have all supported and been heavily involved in ABW. We cannot help but think this passion has been passed down through their parents.

**JOURNEY OF HOPE BOOK LAUNCH**

A comprehensive book entitled *Journey of Hope: Celebrating 25 Years of A Better World Canada*, written by Cameron Kennedy, was also launched to cap off the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Cameron Kennedy, news editor with the Red Deer Advocate, has travelled to Afghanistan and Kenya with ABW, and blended his observations from the trips with interviews of volunteers, donors and recipients to provide a thorough perspective on the agency's history, present, and possible future. The book, a fundraiser for Tulwap School in Kenya, sold nearly 200 copies in its first week. The book is still available at [abwcanada.ca](http://abwcanada.ca).



This year's recipients of the 2015 EDGE Scholarship Program: Jessica Llewellyn, Kaitlin Grewat, Angela McKenna, Theresa Deakor, Rayna Sutherland, Kaitlynn Symonds, Hannah Hockett, Jacqui McCarty, and Rebecca Epp.

**\$20,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
TO TRAIN LEADERS OF TOMORROW.**

A Better World Canada is passionate about young people and always looking for opportunities to invest in the future generation of humanitarian leaders. The EDGE 2015 trip to Kenya is doing just that. A Better World established travel awards in the amount of \$20,000 for youth aged 17-25 with a passion for humanitarian work. The objective of the award is to train the leaders of tomorrow by enabling them to gain international humanitarian experience and expand their understanding of development issues. The participants will visit different project sites including schools, orphanages, and clinics. They will learn about ABW's five areas of focus: water, health, agriculture, education, and income generation. The awardees are currently engaging in a course that equips them

with knowledge in leadership, community development, and other humanitarian causes and issues. By investing in the future, ABW hopes that the recipients of these awards will be inspired to lead a life of service and humanitarianism, as well as develop innovative ideas along the way. ■

*Angela McKenna is an administrative assistant at A Better World Canada.*

**BOTTOM ROW OF PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Special guests Charles Njuguna, Janet Lumu, Gerard Opiya, Lawrence Mathew, Ken Hill, and Ted Frowd speaking about the first project of ABW.

Eric Rajala, Co-founder of ABW delivering the sermon at Co Bogo Heights SDA Church in Lumumba, Mo.

Cameron Kennedy signing his book at the A Better World Book Launch.

Julie Boe retro visiting with the children at the Nyaburi Physiotherapy Gymnasium in Kenya.





Silviu

# Beautiful Feet

*Silviu's feet are beautiful. Why? Because with them he goes to one door after another, one day after another, ... to tell others about the One who changed his own life.*

The Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) summer program was in full swing when the call came. “Afia, can you help us out with the CYC missionaries this week?” Karine, the leader for the Toronto team, had to be away for a few days and someone was needed to take the students from place to place. Eager to get an up-close look into the literature evangelism work, I gladly accepted.

Most of this year’s team members were familiar to me. There was serious, caring Henrick, sweet Mariana, happy Rayon, focused Rareş, and hardworking Dian. But when I met with the team, another student caught my notice.

Silviu had come from Romania just a few weeks before, but as I soon learned, he was no stranger to the program—this was his third year. It was immediately apparent that he was quieter, less forward, and more naturally reserved than the others. Yet every day CYC missionaries go into the field and interact with many different people in many different places and under many challenging circumstances. Given his personality, I couldn’t help but think that things had not always been easy for him. What, then, kept him coming back year after year? During a break that afternoon, I went up to him and asked him. Looking at me he said, “You know, I have had some challenges in my life, and God has delivered me. I want other people to know the Power that has helped me.”

This summer, while interacting with children at Vacation Bible School (VBS), I asked them to take a good hard look at their feet.

“Do you think your feet are pretty?” I asked.

“Yes!” one shouted.

“No!” another exclaimed.

“My feet are ugly!” said a third as the rest collapsed into giggles.

Had I asked Silviu the same question, he may have given me a funny look or secretly thought I had lost my mind. But I don’t need to ask because I already know the answer, and it is something we shared with our VBS kids. Silviu’s feet are beautiful. Why? Because with them he goes to one door after another, one day after another, one year after another, with one object in view—to tell others about the One who changed his own life.

Isaiah 52:7 says, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation” (NKJV).

The work Silviu does has been challenging, forcing him to go way beyond his comfort zone. But the love of Jesus moves him. A compassion for others drives him. And a funny thing has happened along the way. As he has gone out, God has given him the boldness and wisdom he needs to reach the different people in different places under challenging circumstances. As he has gone, God has gone with him, beautifying his steps along the way.

Many years ago another Man, driven by love and compassion, left a perfect home to come to an imperfect world. On dusty, tired feet He travelled from place to place, proclaiming the good news of His salvation. Those same feet led Him to a cross and to the crowning act of love that is the centre of our gospel. Today Jesus asks us to share His good news with others. Let’s be moved by His love and driven by His compassion to follow in His footsteps and go. ■

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 [marie@lifestylecanada.org](mailto:marie@lifestylecanada.org). We want to hear your story.

# the *Flower* prayer



The Grade 1 class at Peace Christian School in Chetwynd, B.C., proudly display their handiwork.



Meghann Diminyatz (first row centre right), Grade 1 teacher at Peace Christian School, outdoors with her students and classmate, Peary Walker (first row centre left).

I have often wondered what discipleship looks like. In my mind, I see a child planting a flower seed in the bare earth. Each day the child comes with a white tin watering can, waiting breathlessly for the flower to bloom. But how does one actually disciple other people for Christ? What do you say to plant the seed? When should one soil and when should one simply let the sun shine? What does discipleship look like?

On a glorious day in April 2014, I was given a position at Peace Christian School (PCS) in Chetwynd, B.C. I knew what I was getting into. It was the kind of school I had dreamt about as a child, reading books of courageous young women who headed way up north to challenge life and make a difference. I was going to be that young woman! I was ready for the challenge! Granted, this school had a few key differences from my books: It was not really in the "way up north," and instead of trying to find enough students to fill a room, it was trying to find enough rooms for all its students. With over 140 children of varied/non-Christian backgrounds enrolled, PCS was the essence of what I considered mission work. I loved the idea of teaching there, reaching out to a very tiny community who sleepily regarded the need for a Saviour. I saw the endless opportunities for service and creative discipleship. In my enthusiasm, I figured I knew the meaning of that word.

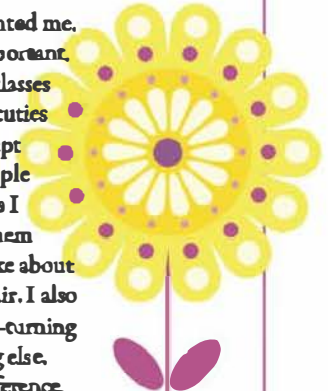
Well, luckily we have a God who never gives boredom when we wish for challenge. Nineteen seriously cute (and energetic!) Grade 1 students greeted me on the first day of school. I hoped by June these students would read, add, subtract, count money, understand good citizenship, and learn to be kind.

But as the year progressed, one question haunted me. Was this discipleship? I knew curriculum was important. I knew being kind was important. Yet all those classes (even Bible class) would not benefit these little cuties if we couldn't make Christ real, together. So I kept praying that God would help me somehow disciple my students. And I kept planting whatever seeds I could. I told them about Jesus. I tried to show them about Jesus. We planned acts of service and spoke about putting others first, even when it doesn't seem fair. I also diligently tried to share with them about prayer—turning to God when we are happy, hurt, and everything else. And I still wondered if any of it was making a difference.

Then one day in May we were getting ready for lunch. In our classroom the students take turns praying for the meal. But what usually happens is that, because they are nervous or lack prayer experience, the students ask me to whisper something for them to repeat. Well, on this day the boy whose turn it was to pray told me he could do it himself. I was very pleased and quite interested to see what he would say, since he wasn't from a Christian home. We bowed our heads, and he said, "Dear Jesus, please be with all the sad people and our sandwiches. Amen."

I guess it probably doesn't sound profound or prove anything, but I think it was the most beautiful thing I have ever heard. And because of that simple prayer, I want to encourage you to keep putting time into discipleship, even if you aren't sure of the how or when. One day that seed will grow into a flower and bloom. ■

*Meghann Diminyatz teaches Grade 1 at Peace Christian School in Chetwynd, British Columbia.*





Shuelette Williams and her mother, Smith Boyd.

# What is your greatest treasure?

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST TREASURE?

There are many answers to this very personal question. In fact, your most valuable treasure may seem insignificant to another person, but for you a simple item may be priceless. You are not alone!

My life as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian endowed me with a priceless treasure. It began with the best gift my mother could ever give me as a child: her personal choice to give her heart to the Lord and become a Seventh-day Adventist when I was only one year old. I was dedicated in the church, and from my earliest memories learned about Jesus, His love, and purpose for my life. When I entered school, my mother, who cherished the importance of Adventist education, trusted our divine Father in heaven to make provision, and He did.

One way my mother funded our Adventist education was through distributing Adventist literature door-to-door while

she, a student herself, was on her summer break. I was blessed with the privilege to go with my mother and other university students on an adventurous evangelistic trip to Jamaica, Mexico, and Canada. In fact, I got the opportunity to travel and share Jesus with others while earning student scholarships and making friends for eternity. My mother's commitment and our experiences shaped my vision and made me the young woman I am today.

When I was nine years old, my mother and I immigrated to Montemorelos, Mexico, to study. My mother studied medicine at the Adventist university, while I attended the preparatory school. Our life was never short of adventures, full of excitement and growth. I visited many cities in Mexico and immersed myself in the rich Mexican culture. Unfortunately, we were compelled to leave Mexico when social turmoil and violence escalated. We came to Canada

as student colporteurs. It was very hard leaving our church family, friends, and the beautiful country of Mexico behind; nevertheless, we were hopeful that God would open doors for us as we served Him faithfully in a new vineyard.

After my mother and I worked as missionaries for about two years, we had to face the reality that I was almost 18 years old and needed to complete my high school credits for university. I learned about Kingsway College through a flyer on the notice board of our local church, and with all my heart I wanted to attend this school. However, being missionaries we realized that it would be difficult to pay for an Adventist education.

I saw this as a faith-building opportunity. I credit my mother for having taught me to trust in God's providence all my life, and as I was convinced that this was God's will; I knew He would provide. That summer my mother and I prayed diligently for God to open a way so I could attend Kingsway College. I was able to attend Kingsway through the benefits of the Worthy Student Fund, the three-way matching program, Kingsway scholarships, and academic awards. God also sent a faithful steward to help pay my tuition. We were so happy and thankful that I was able to start school again.

Kingsway College has blessed me with the opportunity to strive for academic success while nourishing a deeper relationship with God. What do I admire most about my school? I have come to understand the value of Adventist education — which is to glorify God through a passion for excellence and selfless service to others. My future goal is to one day be a medical doctor and teach others about God's love. Through faithfulness to God, hard work, and help from my family and teachers, I plan to fulfill my dream. ■

*Shuelette Williams is a Grade 10 student currently residing in the dormitory at Kingsway College.*

> NOTE: Of the hundreds of students who have asked for financial assistance from Kingsway College over the past five years, we could not meet the financial needs of only five. If you think you cannot afford Adventist education, come talk to us. The conversation is free.

# The Kingdom's Pride *and Joy*

*Beneath a Bible verse painted on the wall by the gym door, the line for Awards Day assembly was impressive. Girls in fancy dresses and boys wearing ties waited alongside classmates in traditional regalia as they chattered in anticipation. Parents with cameras contributed to the buzz at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) on the last day of school in June.*

But the celebration wasn't all about earthly recognition. From the opening prayer to the very special award created by the staff—the Outstanding Achievement Award—students are reminded that building character is what will set them apart now and for eternity.

The parents of Larissa Roasting-Raine were among those who snapped photos and beamed as their children were called forward to receive a "Well done!" from Principal Gail Wilton. Some parents, including Larissa's, became regular participants themselves in the ceremonies, popping up three or four times as their child was recognized and photographed with the principal. To make areas for improvement easier to work on, three categories are rewarded: High Academic Achievement (Honour Roll), Attendance (90 percent and above), and Citizenship. If a student is awarded all three, the special Outstanding Achievement Award is cause for major rejoicing.

"Larissa loves it here," said her father. Her positive example is making an impression on her preschool sisters, who handled their big sister's awards as she passed them back for safekeeping. Larissa loves MANS so much, her father confided, that she gets upset when a snow day or other circumstances keep her from school.

Larissa is not alone. Several students had a perfect attendance record, but that distinction earned one Grade 7 student a special honour. While all five of the top honour winners are distinguished in their academics, attendance, and citizenship qualities, Shaneek Roasting's perfect attendance, combined with the other recognitions, garnered the top award of the day.

Grade 6 teacher Cheri Notice provides insight into the habits and values these top award students are internalizing.



Jahleel Roasting, Grade 6, receives his Outstanding Achievement Award from Gail Wilton, principal. Jahleel demonstrates the habits of mind and character that will benefit him and his community now and for eternity.

"Jahleel Roasting [who received an Outstanding Achievement Award] is a motivated student who works very hard to not only complete assignments but also understand them. It is this love of learning that drives him to be the best in everything he does," says Cheri. "From the basketball court to the classroom to being a caring big brother, Jahleel excels. He is very proud of his First Nations heritage and family, and this drives him to want to make his family and community proud."

Who knows how many times Jahleel has read that Bible verse on the wall outside the gym, or how its message of heaven's approval has given him strength to meet the challenges of reserve life? As the verse on the wall tells him every day, Jesus said, "These children are the kingdom's pride and joy" (Luke 18:16, The Message). ■

*Lynn McDowell was honoured to witness MANS's 2014/15 Awards Day and to meet some of the earthly parents of the Kingdom's pride and joy.*

# Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

*"Coming to PAA was like a fresh start for me."*

Not all people travel far to come to Parkview Adventist Academy. There are those born in rural Alberta who spend all of their grade school years on the Lacombe campus and still see the benefit to PAA's specialized focus on education. Madelin Leming, a recent graduate of the class of 2015, is one such student.

"Coming to PAA was like a fresh start for me," says Madelin. "I got the opportunity to meet new people and I liked being able to choose whom I would hang out with."

Madelin joined both the volleyball and basketball teams and enjoyed travelling to games and tournaments with her new friends. She says, "Being part of the team is exciting. It's a good family to have here on campus. I've even found my best friend here."

Those friendships became important in supporting Madelin through a very difficult Grade 11 year. In September 2013 she lost her grandma in a car accident. Then, on a ski trip in January 2014, she broke her pelvis in three places. Her injury came just the week before a big tournament, and while Madelin could not travel with the team, she still relied on her friends. "The only reason I could pass my classes is because I had friends to talk to and teachers who helped me a lot."

Talking with friends and teachers helped Madelin focus. She was able to evaluate her priorities, including faith: "I was able to make my own bond with God in the way I felt was best. God is very important in my life."

Within the PAA school community, faith and friendship together create an environment in which students can face both academic and personal challenges and, like Madelin, find success.

In addition to the challenges of her year, Madelin was fighting an ongoing internal battle. After she broke her pelvis, her biggest secret came out: "I had been struggling with depression and self-harm."

The journey to wellness is long, and as Madelin moved toward her graduation, she appreciated PAA more than before: "A lot of people here will actually listen to you," she says, "both teachers and students. If you are open to talk with someone, they will talk with you and really listen. I never had that before."

Her inspiring openness and progress have allowed Madelin



Madelin Leming

to become a student ally: "Those who need to talk to someone or want some kind of help or support come find me," she says. But her influence is not limited to her peer group.

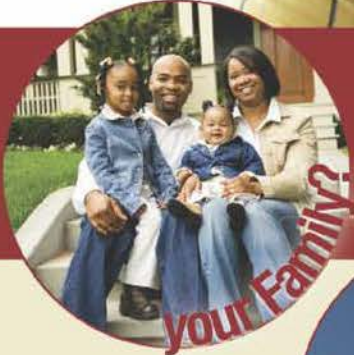
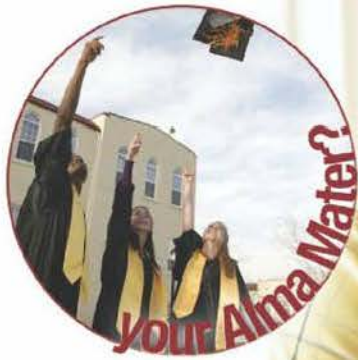
Just a year into her recovery Madelin participated in PAA's 2015 mission trip to Belize. "I was given the opportunity to really be a missionary, and I was finally shown how much of a difference I can make in one person's life."

While part of the building project, Faith FM Radio talk show, and the neighbourhood Vacation Bible School, Madelin recalls, "I never felt so much love at one time." Her heart was moved by the children and the needs of the community: "Everyone was so excited every time the saw us. It definitely gave me more motivation to help people."

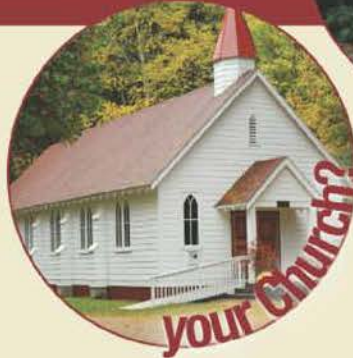
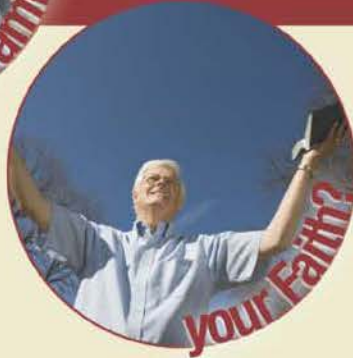
Madelin's desire comes from her own understanding that people need each other, and Christian communities are a great place to find encouragement. According to Madelin, "The people who are my closest friends are the people whom society might consider the most broken and messed up," and yet each one belongs in this larger caring community. Madelin's life is like the Rubik's Cube puzzles she enjoys solving: colourful in places, with darkness in between the broken blocks, constantly in motion to make a whole. For her, it is all about putting the pieces together because God's plan is for wholeness, and sometimes a backwards twist is needed to advance the solution. ■

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





# What Matters Most to You?



“Those who loved you and were helped by you, will remember you...”

*Charles Spurgeon*

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### ONTARIO

**Toronto Airport Marriott**  
901 Dixon Rd, Toronto, ON M9W 1J5  
*guest speaker* Derek Morris  
**Partnership\*** September 11-13  
**Sponsorship\*** September 12, at 2:00 pm  
**An Evening of Inspiration**  
September 12, 7:30 pm (open to all)



### BRITISH COLUMBIA

*guest speaker* Anthony Kent  
**Partnership\*** September 25-27  
**Camp Hope (Mountain View Camp & Conference Centre)**  
61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope BC VOX 1L0



**Sponsorship speaker** Chris Holland  
September 27, at 6:00 pm  
**Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
130 Gerstmar Road, Kelowna, BC V1X 4A7



### ALBERTA

**Sheraton Red Deer**  
3310 50 Ave, Red Deer, AB T4N 3X9  
*guest speaker* Dwight Nelson  
**Partnership\*** October 9-11  
**Sponsorship\*** October 10, at 2:00 pm  
**An Evening of Inspiration**  
October 10, at 7:30 pm (open to all)



### MARITIMES

**Sandy Lake Adventist Academy**  
435 Hammonds Plains Rd, Bedford, NS B4B 1Y2  
*speaker* Chris Holland  
October 3, at 11:00 am



### MUSICAL GUEST

**Christine D. M. Wollmann**  
*Toronto, Red Deer  
and Camp Hope*

*\*You must be a confirmed registrant to attend this event.*

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## Alberta

### #REACH1 Lethbridge



Pastor Shawn Brummond, (third from left) and some of his members help reach the community of Lethbridge for Christ.

As the Alberta Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) truck pulled up in front of the Lethbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, several members were eagerly waiting outside to greet the team that had driven all the way down from Lacombe. Tyler Pelly, a local Lacombe, Alta., fire fighter, as well as Jessica Francis, Chelsea Bartholomew, and Steve Sainte packed into the blue ACS truck attached to the 40-foot disaster response trailer.

After the Sabbath morning service Shawn Brummond, pastor of the Leth-

bridge church, announced that a church potluck picnic would take place in the park. In spite of the weather reports calling for rain in the forecast, the weather and the Sabbath afternoon in the park turned out to be beautiful. Many church members attended and brought delicious food to share.

By 2:30 p.m. it was time to hit streets of downtown Lethbridge for the #REACH1 Adventist Community Services outreach initiative. The church members showed up faithfully and were given bright mustard-yellow shirts to wear, as well as food and

clothing to give out to the community.

As all the church members went out into the community to engage with people on the streets, several tables were set up in front of the disaster trailer, which had food, juice, water, shoes, dresses, socks, hats, coats, and many other items people needed.

As the volunteers made their way back to the trailer, several shared personal testimonies of how God was seen through this experience of engaging the community. Pastor Shawn said, "We just did a flash mob with our group singing a song about

Jesus. A man joined in with his guitar and then sang us a song; it was a touching experience as he started to cry and tell us his personal story.”

Donna Mitchell, a young adult member shared, “We spoke with a business owner, who was impressed with what we were doing in the community.... We told him we have a community services donation centre at our church, ... so he said he would love to donate some of his clothing to our church outreach program.”

As the warm and sunny afternoon went by, it was evident that although we attended church service that morning, we had been the church in the community that afternoon. That afternoon, the community of Lethbridge got to experience the real church, a church beyond the four walls, a church that through the love, ministry, and presence of Christ followers allowed Christ to walk the streets helping and assisting those in need. The gospel was lived out in an amazing way; it transcended

the building, moved to a park, and entered the streets.

One member remarked, “Perhaps we should have church outside one day—in the park here, right in the middle of downtown.” I thought to myself, *Now there is a thought!* Besides, as the saying goes, “I’d rather see a sermon than hear a sermon any day.” ■

—Lyle Notice, Associate Youth Director, Alberta Conference

## Once a Master Guide, Always a Master Guide



Master Guides Colleen Ellis, Ken Wiebe, Lyle Notice, and Tendai Mash oversee the Master Guide Sabbath Celebration program.

“Once a Master Guide, always a Master Guide” was the phrase of the morning spoken by Tendai Mash, the Alberta Conference executive coordinator for Master Guides (of the Pathfinder Club). With over 60 master guides in attendance, the Master Guide Sabbath Celebration was underway. It was a full house that morning at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. An appreciative Mash stated, “We were delighted when Pastor Ron graciously agreed for us to have the special Sabbath celebration at his church.” The theme was “Sacrificial Service,” and Pathfinder Club master

guides from all over the province came together to honour and celebrate the many years of the Master Guide ministry.

As Mash welcomed the church that morning, he inquired who was the longest serving master guide and was surprised to see there was a church member who had been invested in 1959.

Ephraim Baragona, the Pathfinder club director for the Knights of God club in Edmonton, gave an impassioned report of the Pathfinder mission work being done in Kitwanga, B.C., and urged all pathfinders to join the mission trip scheduled for August 2016. Baragona was

presented an award for his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in the mission field. The second award of recognition was presented to Ken Wiebe for his many years of dedicated service in ministry and for being a faithful master guide who was always ready to report for duty.

Wiebe also delivered the sermon. He eloquently and passionately shared how the enemy is attacking youth and families on a daily basis. Wiebe highlighted the importance of understanding that since we are in the Lord’s army, we must be prepared for battle against the enemy everyday.

After enjoying a wonderful potluck together, it was time to go out into the community of Lacombe. Over 50 passionate master guides and families gathered together in front of the College Heights Church to pray and organize. Two groups split up and marched through the town with one goal in mind: to pray for the community.

Marching and praying was a great display of hope, faith, and trust that resembled that of the story in the Bible (see Josh. 6:15) where the people of Israel marched around the city of Jericho, expecting a breakthrough. In the city of the Lacombe that day, we are thankful that no walls fell down, but we hoped that spiritual walls would come down so that bridges to Christ could be built. ■

—Lyle Notice, Associate Youth Director, Alberta Conference

## Manitoba-Saskatchewan

### New Treasurer for Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference



Sergie and Mercy Ferrer.

We are pleased to announce Serge B. Ferrer as the treasurer of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. Serge and his wife, Mercy, will join the office team following the 2015 General Conference session. They are both excited to be coming back to Canada, where they will be much closer to their two children, Myla (Ferrer) Trenchuk and Jr Ferrer, who both live in Lacombe, Alta.

Sergie has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 38 years, having worked in the Philippines, Egypt, Cyprus, Russia, Pakistan, Eastern Africa, and in the British Columbia Conference. In 2005 Serge accepted the call to serve as undertreasurer for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD), where he is currently the treasurer, a position to which he was elected in 2011. We solicit your prayers for a strong outcome and smooth transition as we await the arrival of Serge and Mercy. ■

## British Columbia

### The Street Store: Oakridge Seventh-day Adventist Church



Volunteers from Adler University assist a client in selecting some "new" clothes.

Local organizations have to be careful when they ask to partner with Oakridge Adventist Church (OAC). Stephanie walked into the church on a Friday morning, ready to collect the first round of donations our church members had brought the week before. I think she was expecting a couple of plastic bags filled with worn and tattered clothes. Instead, she spent the next 20 minutes with the

pastor and the office manager, piling bag after bag of quality items into her car. As the last gigantic bag was being brought out, Stephanie's eyes got wide, and she exclaimed, "Wow, your church is really generous." She continued to thank us.

The next week, just as many clothes were collected. As they sorted the items, they found that instead of bringing in the junk that they wanted out of their closet,

our members had brought in real quality items that would be dignified for someone in need to receive. Stephanie is a volunteer from Adler University, and her team had asked OAC to be a partner in collecting items for their clothing drive as they prepared to host a street store in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The clothing collection occurred as our congregation was studying the book *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. In their reading the congregation committed to simplifying their lives and living minimally so that they could give maximally to those in need for the sake of God's kingdom.

Adler University set up a one-day pop-up shop on May 27, 2015, in a downtown neighbourhood where people are struggling and needs are great. But rather than tossing out charity, they hung up the clothes and displayed them similarly to the way a designer store would. With music and refreshments, the university threw a little block party and invited those in need to shop around the store. Clean, good-quality items were made available for people to wear at their next job interview, at that party they were previously too

embarrassed to attend, or their child's graduation ceremony. Their confidence increased as they received the clothes in a dignified manner.

Oakridge is just one community in

the larger neighbourhood of the Metro Vancouver area. We stick together and help one another out. We support and encourage one another in hard times. And we get excited when we have the

opportunity to support others in our neighbourhood. When we commit to a cause, we go all in. ■

—*Kyle Stiemsma, Assistant Pastor, Oakridge Seventh-day Adventist Church*

## Maritime

### World Day of Prayer

On March 6, 2015, the Tantallon church hosted the World Day of Prayer. This worldwide day of prayer is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.

This year's service was written by the World Day of Prayer committee of the Bahamas. Members of seven area churches (St. Luke's, St. Andrew's, and St. Mark's United; St. George's and St. James' Anglican; United Baptist; and St. Anthony's Roman Catholic), participated in the service with the title "Jesus said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?'"

Members of the Tantallon and Fox Point churches staged a short tableau of the foot washing service and provided special music. A video about the Bahamas,



Tantallon and Fox Point churches staged a re-enactment of the foot washing service. Renee Hamer played a steel pan.



then reflections about life in the Bahamas by Bahamian Cynthia Louis, and some music on a steel pan by Renee Hamer rounded out the program.

The congregation gave a generous special offering to support projects that

benefit women and children in need around the world. Refreshments in the community centre allowed attendees to chat and reflect on the program. ■

—*Reprinted from Maritime Pulse*

## Ontario

### Family Fun Day in Kingston

The Kingston Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kingston, Ont., held its first annual Family Fun Day on Sunday, June 14. Entertainment for the children was provided by a bouncy castle, games, Kingston Fire and Rescue, and a balloon twister. They were also invited to sign up for Vacation Bible School.

Agencies present were the Lung Association, Alcoholics Anonymous, Red Cross, Eden's Call Ministry, and the Creation Science Centre. Bee Happy Honey, Let It Grow Greenhouse, and the Adventist Book Centre were present selling their wares.



Members in attendance at their church's first Family Fun Day.

ADRA and Adventist Community Services had displays.

Our local church had two booths, one promoting healthy living and the other explaining who we are.

The kitchen staff served 250 people with a free vegetarian lunch. Sophie Kiwala, MPP, was favourably impressed with our involvement in the community. ■

—*Dorothy Knapp and Clive Strachan, Communications Team*

## “Marriage Matters” at Southern Ontario Regional Campmeeting 2015



Guest speakers, Mike and Gayle Tucker, of *The Faith for Today* television ministry.

All roads led to Southern Ontario’s regional camp meeting at Norfolk County Fairgrounds, Simcoe, June 5-6, 2015.

With this year’s cancellation of Ontario’s camp meeting at the International Centre, some members from other regions journeyed to Southern Ontario’s campmeeting, swelling attendance to well over a thousand people, including children and teens. For many visitors, it was their first trip. However, it is unlikely that it will be their last.

Organizers of the regional campmeeting once again planned an outstanding time of worship, learning, and fellowship. The friendliness of members from the region’s churches was itself a drawing card for visitors to return next year when the theme will be “Health Matters.” For this year, it was “Marriage Matters.”

The Marriage Matters theme did not seem to have put off

singles. There were many people who appeared to be single who seemed as engaged as the couples were by the lively presentations of guest speakers Gayle and Mike Tucker of *The Faith for Today* television ministry. The Tuckers, who used segments of their *Mad About Marriage* seminar in their presentations over the weekend, seemed sensitive to the mixed nature of the congregation and attempted to be inclusive. On Sabbath afternoon, their choice of topic—communication—clearly helped.

As they spoke about ways in which couples inflict damage on their relationships and how to avoid them, they had a keenly interested audience.

In the youth section, close to 150 teens and youths worshipped and fellowshiped. Guest speaker John Scott, pastor of the North West Brampton and Woodbridge Adventist churches, speaking about Joseph, told them, “You were not born to be someone else. You were born to be you and to fulfill your dreams!”

In the afternoon the youth took part in round-table discussions about relationships. Later they joined the adults for what has become one of the most anticipated features of Southern Ontario’s regional camp meeting every year: the concert! Even though most of the musicians and singers are featured yearly, campers enthusiastically received them and offered rich applause.

By the time the meetings came to an end, the congregation left with the reminder that next year’s meeting will be even more meaningful and applicable to their lives. No doubt, many visitors will be making a return journey to Simcoe next year.

Southern Ontario’s regional camp meeting takes place on the first weekend in June each year. ■

— Reprinted with permission from Ontario Highlights

## Spring Break 2015, Metro North Central Style!



Revival and renewal at the Metro Central Spring Break Youth Evangelism series.

With six youths baptized and hundreds of others re-committing their lives to Christ during and after the week-long Metro Central Spring Break Youth Evangelism, March 14-21, 2015, participants wanted more!

The district-wide evangelistic series with dynamic speaker Andrew Fuller from the United Kingdom drew a nightly capacity of nearly 400 young people to the Toronto Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It was not Fuller’s first visit to Toronto. The theology student from Newbold College had previously held a successful series at Mount Olive Adventist Church last year. Fuller, who was raised in the church but wandered away before returning to God, has a unique gift of relating to young people. It was not surprising, then, that so many young people turned out nightly and brought friends with them. They arrived on time, some early, eagerly awaiting God’s message. The more Andrew preached on the theme

"Faith Versus Reason," the more they were convicted and ultimately drawn closer to God. Fuller preached, but God's Spirit drew them.

"Be bold for Christ" was Fuller's mantra.

The week closed with a monumental Global Youth Day Outreach effort. Young people from all the churches in the district were involved in projects ranging from visiting senior homes and reclaiming lost members, to distributing tracts and offering help to people in their communities.

The celebration and joy at the end of the week made short memory of the challenges the organizers were faced with on opening night, when a power outage in Toronto left the venue in total darkness. It had been a monumental setback. However, youth leaders and pastors from some of the nearby churches in the district rallied together to obtain a generator, a Pathfinder candle stand, lanterns from hardware stores, and a projector.

Having overcome the darkness on the opening night, the immediate concern was whether or not youths would be dissuaded from attending as they learned of the blackout. All that could be done was to pray. Youth leaders prayed, concluding

that they could do all things through Christ who strengthens them. By the time the praise team opened the first night's service in the almost dark hall, nearly every seat was occupied.

The spirit of alignment remained with the youth leaders for the entire week. No problem was beyond their prayers and their willingness to find solutions. There were numerous takeaways from the series, one of which was that "to stay in the faith" means "to go out and to reach others with the gospel." Another was the spiritual lessons gained from the blackout experience and seeing how God is able to transform lives and take them from spiritual darkness into His marvellous light.

As youth leaders reflected on the week, they concluded, "All the glory and praise and honour belong to our Lord and Saviour, who led us. We thank Him for the revival and renewal which took place and look forward to an even more Spirit-filled revival in March break 2016. To God be the glory; great things He has done." ■

—Melissa Enmare,  
Youth Leader, Willowdale

## SDA Church in Canada

### Kingsway College Appoints New President



Lee Richards

We would like to announce the appointment of Lee Richards as the new president of Kingsway College. Lee Richards was born and raised in Moncton, N.B., and is married to Cheryl (née Girdauckis); they have two children, Alec and Ashley. Lee has 30 years of teaching experience from Kindergarten to Grade 12. He began his teaching career in a single-teacher, multigrade school and has worked all across Canada.

Although he now works primarily in administration, it was only in the past two years that he has not been in the classroom teaching. Lee says, "I firmly believe this is the ministry that God has called me to, because it was the last career I would have chosen for myself. But God in His infinite wisdom has led me to it, and really, as I look back now, there is nothing I would have enjoyed more. I love my vocation and look forward to each new day with eagerness and anticipation."

Lee would like each student at Kingsway

College to have the opportunity to meet Jesus and come to know Him as his or her personal Saviour. This year we are going to provide all the students with opportunities to learn about God and the meaning of the cross and to make their stand for Christ.

We are very happy to welcome Lee Richards into our Kingsway family but are also saddened as we say goodbye to Scott Bowes, who has been the president for the last five years. It was an emotional time for many of the faculty and staff when we had our goodbye luncheon with Scott. He has been a valued part of the Kingsway team since 1999.

Scott; his wife, Katherine; and two children, Ashley and Amber, accepted the call to move to Mississippi to fill the position of principal at Bass Memorial Academy. We wish him and his family all the best and God's richest blessings as they start their newest adventure. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of July 31, 2015, there were 432 depositors with a total deposit of \$28,048,765. There were 83 loans with a value of \$25,753,935. For more information or to make a deposit, contact Girly Quiambao—quiambao.girly@adventist.ca; 905/433-0011.



**FOR MOST FAMILIES**, September means one thing: the start of a new school year. Children may bemoan the impending arrival of homework but perk at the prospect of reuniting with their friends. Meanwhile, parents eagerly anticipate the return of routines.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church In Canada is blessed to have several academies throughout the country for our children to learn their reading, writing, and arithmetic in a Christ-centred environment. This month we take a look at some interesting moments from a few of our academies.

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July 1994—This advertisement from Parkview Adventist Academy encouraged students to “be part of the family.” (Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 63, No. 7, page 27)



July/August 1988—Group members at the Education Taskforce discussed issues and goals facing educators. (Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 57, No. 8, page 11)



July 14, 1981—Students gathered together at the ground-breaking ceremony for the expansion at Bradford Adventist Academy, formerly known as Toronto Harbor Academy, that enabled the school to provide a full Grade 12 program. (Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 50, No. 14, page 4)

## Way Opens for Several to Attend Academy



In front of new van are teacher G. Brown, Cynthia Harnish, Crystal Harnish, Karen Coolen, Keith Coolen and Mark Harnish. In front are Gina Harnish and Gordon Murray.

A poor fishing season in the Fox Point area for the second year in a row promised to eliminate the majority of the potential students from the area who were eligible to attend Sandy Lake Academy, Bedford, Nova Scotia for the school year 1980-81.

However, the Lord in His own wonderful way saw fit to perform a series of miracles. Programs and facilities were expanded at the school, funds became available for needy students and not of least importance, transportation was made available. A brand new 1980 Chev van with many luxurious options was obtained through the gracious and untiring work of Brother Mel Boutilier of the Halifax Church.

Seven students and a teacher now travel in comfort and safety for the 100 km. round trip, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Hector, President of Scotia Chev Olds, and his sales managers.

Goldson O. Brown, Correspondent  
 Fox Point

November 28, 1980—Sandy Lake Academy, though faced with economic hard times and the prospect of a drop in enrollment, moved forward in faith. They not only recruited more students but also purchased a van for student transportation. (Canadian Adventist Messenger, Vol. 48, No. 22, page 9)



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**■ New Members**

**ONTARIO**

**Kristia Agreavante** was baptized by **Oswaldo Swaby** on June 13, 2015, in Kingston, Ont. Kristia studied with Pastor Swaby every Tuesday after school for a year and was thrilled to publicly accept her Lord in baptism. She is now a member of the Kingston church.

**NEWFOUNDLAND**

**Marnie French** was baptized by **Jason Williams** on April 11, 2015, in Bay Roberts, Nfld. Marnie had been attending church with her husband for 18 months. Over the past year she has received weekly Bible studies from Jane Smalwood, baptismal preparation by Pastor Williams, and fellowship, support, and friendship from the entire congregation. She is now a member of the Bay Roberts church.

**■ Weddings**

**Mary Gordon** and **Shane Murley** were married on July 19, 2015, in Penacook, B.C., and are making their home in Alberta. Mary is the daughter of **Shadeen Gordon**, of Penacook, and Shane is the son of **Marilyn** and **John Murley**, of Beaumont, Alta.

**■ Anniversaries**

**M. John** and **Patricia (née Hirschhorn) Tutaryn** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on



Sept. 25, 2015, in Creston, B.C. The Tutaryns have two children and three grandchildren.

**■ Obituaries**

**Ruth Helen (née Rogers) Mooers** was born on Oct. 3, 1918, in Halifax,

N.S., and died on April 8, 2015, in Stoney Creek, Ont. Ruth was baptized in 1943, and she served as Sabbath school teacher, deaconess, church clerk, and treasurer, and was involved in many behind-the-scenes activities in Halifax, Moncton, N.B., and Richmond Hill, Ont. For 17 years she worked in the accounting department of Branson Hospital in North York, Ont. She is predeceased by her husband, **William Ronald Mooers**, and parents, **Lawrence** and **Helen Rogers**. Surviving: son, **Lawrence (Judy) Mooers** of Moncton; daughter, **Loanda (Wilf) Philpott** of Richmond Hill; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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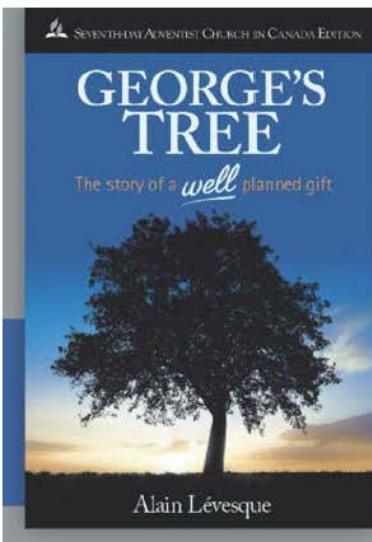
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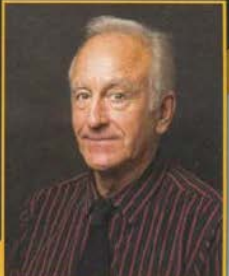
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teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, chair of Human Development, [dwhite@ucollege.edu](mailto:dwhite@ucollege.edu). Effective summer 2016. (10/15)

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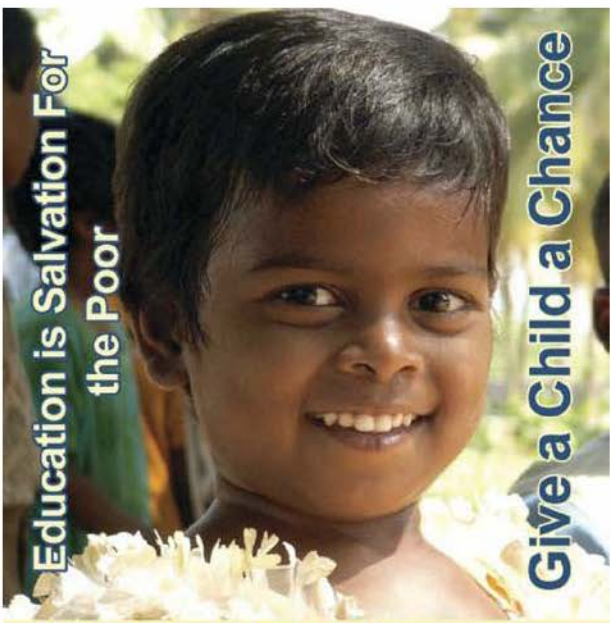
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## from the editor of trees and forests

**THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE MINISTRY OF A BETTER WORLD CANADA** may be familiar with Eric Rajah's story of seeing a school session being held under the shade of a tree in Africa. This sight prompted him to action, and a school was born.

I am thankful to those who plant proverbial trees for others to rest under their shade. Many will never know who planted those trees, but they have felt the tree's cool relief in the scorching heat of trying times.

The majority of A Better World's donors and volunteers are not Adventist. And yet, I praise God for every single person who accepts the mission of the Master, who bade us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and visit the imprisoned.

Trees can take the form of schools, clinics, and free medical and dental care, and education. Tree planters may be the pastors who touch lives and encourage weary souls, teachers who spend extra time with challenging students, or nurses who stop to comfort patients in pain. Forest planters are people like Eric Rajah for envisioning A Better World, and Paul Jones, founder of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance International, who built a school in the Dominican Republic to give disenfranchised Haitian refugees a safe place to learn. ADRA Canada plants forests around the world, thanks to thousands of faithful donors and the benevolence of our Canadian government. Praise God, they are not alone.

I see Adventists all over our nation planting trees so that others can live under their shade. These are unsung heroes—those who plant trees in the dark, not for recognition, but merely to serve.

What is your tree? A kind word to a shy acquaintance? A hot meal to a person in need? A visit to an elderly shut-in from your church? May our children, and our children's children who follow, find that we were faithful in planting trees, and may they do likewise. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor  
Canadian Adventist Messenger

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BURMAN  
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# Upcoming 2016 Mission Trips



## Kenya

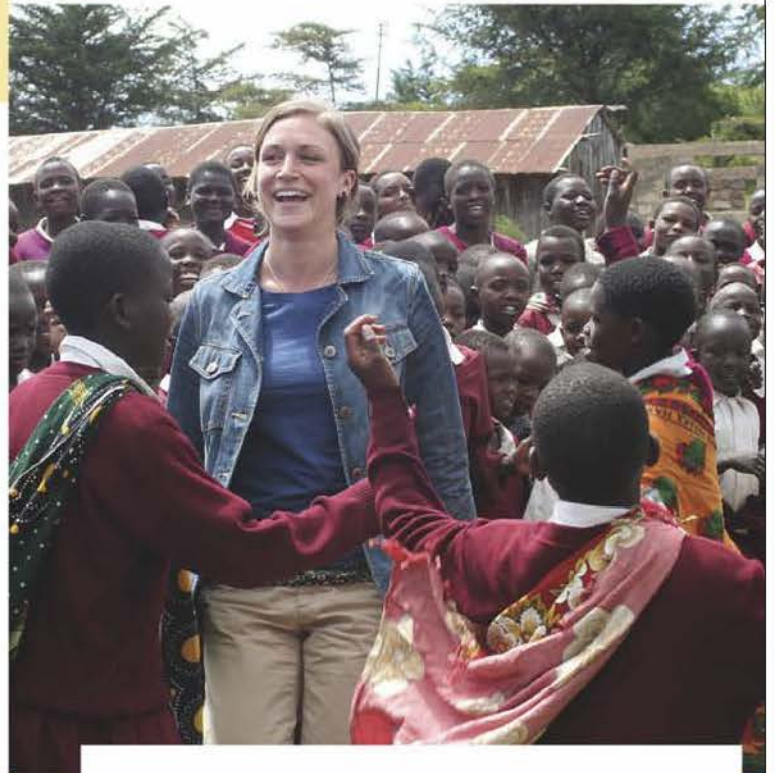
March 5 - 20, 2016

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. 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](http://www.abwcanada.ca).



## Tanzania Medical Mission Trip

October 7 - 21, 2016

**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](mailto:rdcomeau@abwcanada.ca) or visit [www.abwcanada.ca](http://www.abwcanada.ca) to submit your application.

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