

november 2015

Canadian Adventist

# Messenger

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# Messenger

November 2015 Vol. 84 No. 11

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

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

**Ad Manager/Circulation** Almea Perez  
perez.almea@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 0Z6, phone 306/244-9700

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

**Newfoundland** 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl NL  
A1N 5E9, phone 709/746-4051

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

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heart to heart

“When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

—Matthew 14:14, ESV”

## Compassion

The context is the feeding of the five thousand people who had come to see Jesus. His simple representation of the character of God was so captivating that people could not get close enough to Him or spend enough time with Him. And while He was teaching, He saw the brokenness and pain in those who came near to hear Him speak. The passage speaks to His compassion and His act of healing.

Adventists are people with a message. We often talk about heaven, the Second Coming, the Sabbath and a lot of other things. This is good. We need to talk about them. Yet teaching cannot be separated from the ministry of compassion as practised by Jesus. I am encouraged by the many people within our churches who care deeply about the hurting people they encounter. May that spirit increase as we learn more about Christ.

Church leaders across Canada have discussed how best to minister to those around us who desperately need hope and wholeness. We have concluded that the process must be simplified so that every Adventist church, in every community it serves, can minister in tangible, effective ways to the very real needs that surround us.

The opportunities to serve are numerous. They include food and furniture banks, home rehabilitation, ministry to new immigrants, exercise groups, parenting workshops, ministry to the blind; the list can go on indefinitely. Each of these possibilities builds on the skills people in our local churches possess. It matches the compassion of Christ and His people with the needs of each unique community.

Our local churches and their conference leaders are the ones best equipped to move from dream to reality. Think of the many people around you who need to know that those who love Jesus will also love the people around them.

On December 12, in churches across Canada, we will receive an offering for Canadian inner city and community services. Please join me in generously supporting that offering. And please join me in showing the caring compassion of Christ in your community. ■

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



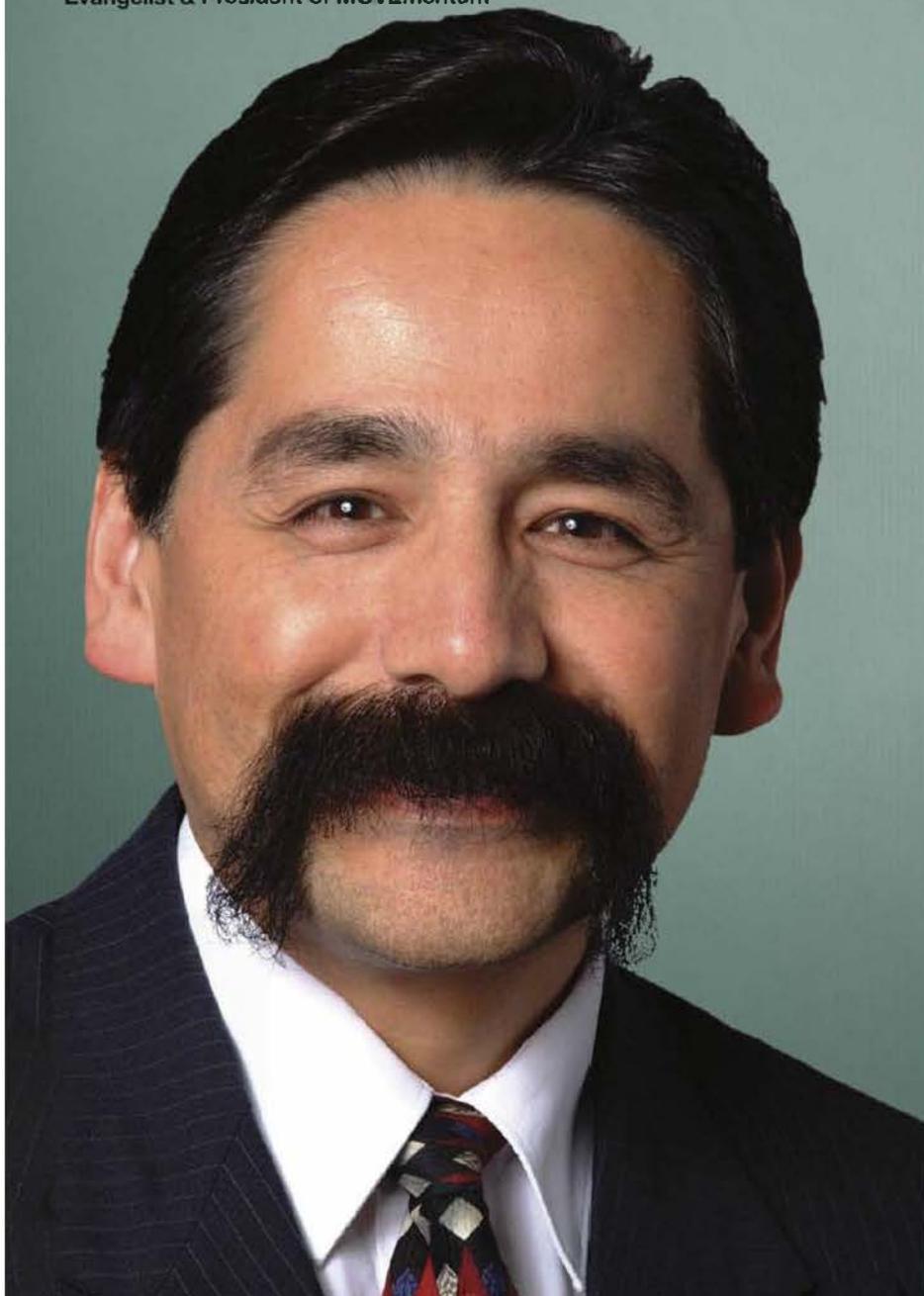
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# What's it Mean to You?

*"If it's real—if it's your people, you don't give up."*

Jose Rojas  
Past Director of Youth Ministry  
& founder of Volunteer Missions, North American Division  
Evangelist & President of MOVEMENTUM



Jose Rojas knows that hope and Adventist education can change a life.

"I grew up in East LA," says the Native American. "I witnessed my first homicide at the age of 8."

As one who still feels the stigma born by those with Aboriginal roots, Jose understands what drives so many of Canada's Aboriginal youth to despair and suicide—five to seven times more often than non-Aboriginal youth.

Jose knows it's hard for the average North American to grasp what it's like to come from a place where hope is limited. But he sees hope for the Cree of Maskwacis in Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS)—Canada's only Adventist mission school.

Jose believes that despite the best intentions of the Samson Cree Nation, which he visited extensively, its state-of-the-art high school will not stop the violence and suicide.

The reason is simple reason: "Cree kids need more hope."

That's why this August, Jose helped launch The Bridge Campaign to build a high school at MANS.

Jose found transformational hope through his Seventh-day Adventist education. His life and dynamic ministry stand in striking contrast to that of his brother Jerry—who did not go to an Adventist high school and died begging for his life on the streets of LA.

*"To see a Seventh-day Adventist logo at a place that needs it, to come in and see overcrowded classrooms," Rojas says with emotion, "I say, 'Thank you, Jesus!'"*

*"I am the result of those who sacrificed to give so that I might receive an education," Jose says choking back tears. "This is real, folks. We are the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These are our children."*

*"Lord, this school is a project of faith," concluded Jose. "Make us faithful—for the sake of our children."*



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# What Matters Most to You?



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

*Charles Spurgeon*

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# The Three Certitudes

"...the measure of love is to love without measure."

The following statement by the apostle Peter gives us some practical insight about sanctification by faith: "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love" (2 Pet. 1:5–8, NKJV).

### Spiritual growth is about God's presence.

Peter insists, "Add to your faith..." Notice that this action does not describe mainly what we should reduce or eliminate but rather what we need to add. Filling our minds with something greater, superior, or outstanding is the essential characteristic of Christian growth. Of course, the process of cleansing is fundamental, but discipline and restrictions will never fill our hearts with God's presence. And sanctification by faith is the process whereby God molds our hearts according to His plans. As Scottish-American theologian Hugh Black said, "Only God can fully satisfy the hungry heart of man."

### The starting point of spiritual growth is faith.

In our walk with Christ we recognize our true sinful nature when we contemplate the beauty of His character. However, we cannot start to climb the hills of spirituality with a defeatist attitude. We know whom we have believed in, and we enter in the process initiated by our Saviour with the certitude of victory. Charles Spurgeon said, "My hope lives not because I am not a sinner, but because I am a sinner for whom Christ died. My trust is not that I am holy, but that being unholy, He is my righteousness. My faith rests not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know, but in what Christ is, in what He has done, and in what He is now doing for me."

### The culminating point of Christian growth is love.

The ultimate goals of our Christian journey are not

more discipline, fewer mistakes, or more accomplishments. Our goal has more to do with love. If, in our growth, we go the wrong direction—for example, if we make our works the main point or overarching goal, such as striving for a life without sin—then the results will always be disastrous. D. A. Carson, a Canadian theologian confirms, "Christianity is never merely a matter of rules and regulations, of public liturgy and private morality. Biblical Christianity results in transformed men and women, men and women who, because of the power of the Spirit of God, enjoy regenerated natures." Ellen G. White developed the same idea, reminding us that achievements are secondary. "Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one works than the amount he does."<sup>1</sup>

My desire is to see all those who are walking with Christ to develop these three certitudes:

- (1) that our spiritual growth is always imbued with the presence of God;
- (2) that our sanctification is a process whereby Jesus Christ achieves the victory for the glory of His Father's name; and
- (3) that the ultimate point of sanctification is to live through the purest, heavenly, agape love.

This should be, based on my understanding, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. And when it happens, we will discover, as Augustine affirmed, that "the measure of love is to love without measure." Thus, righteousness by faith will make the difference. And this is what the world needs to see during the last-day events. ■

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



<sup>1</sup> Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 135.

# teen talk

**Q:** There's this classmate who, I'm pretty sure, wants to make out with me. So far we've just had a few steamy chats on WhatsApp, but we act normal in person. Some of my friends have already made out with her. I don't think I want to get physical with her, but on WhatsApp ... it's kind of safe ... and fun. Is it OK, though? We are not touching or anything ...

**A:** **From the Bible:** You know the next commandment pretty well, too: 'Don't go to bed with another's spouse.' But don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt" (Matt. 5:28, Message).

**From Common Sense:** If you play with fire, you get burned. You see, those instant makeout sessions that are so popular on TV happen mostly there—on the screen. In real life, there's a lot of flirting involved prior to the "action" part. What you guys are doing over WhatsApp is seducing each other. Fine, it is "online," but it is real nonetheless. If you two find yourselves alone, chances are that you'll get physical. Is that what you want? Is that the best for you? For her? What are your values? Review them. Like seriously, man. Do that. You'll find the answer to your question, which I think you already know but don't like it. :-)



# creation corner for kids

*"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."—*

Malachi 3:10, NKJV

## Impala

Impala are a type of African antelope that are known for speed and their ability to leap high into the air. The males have long, twirling, graceful horns. Less well-known is that impala have teeth in the lower jaw that were designed specifically for combing ticks and other parasites out of their fur.

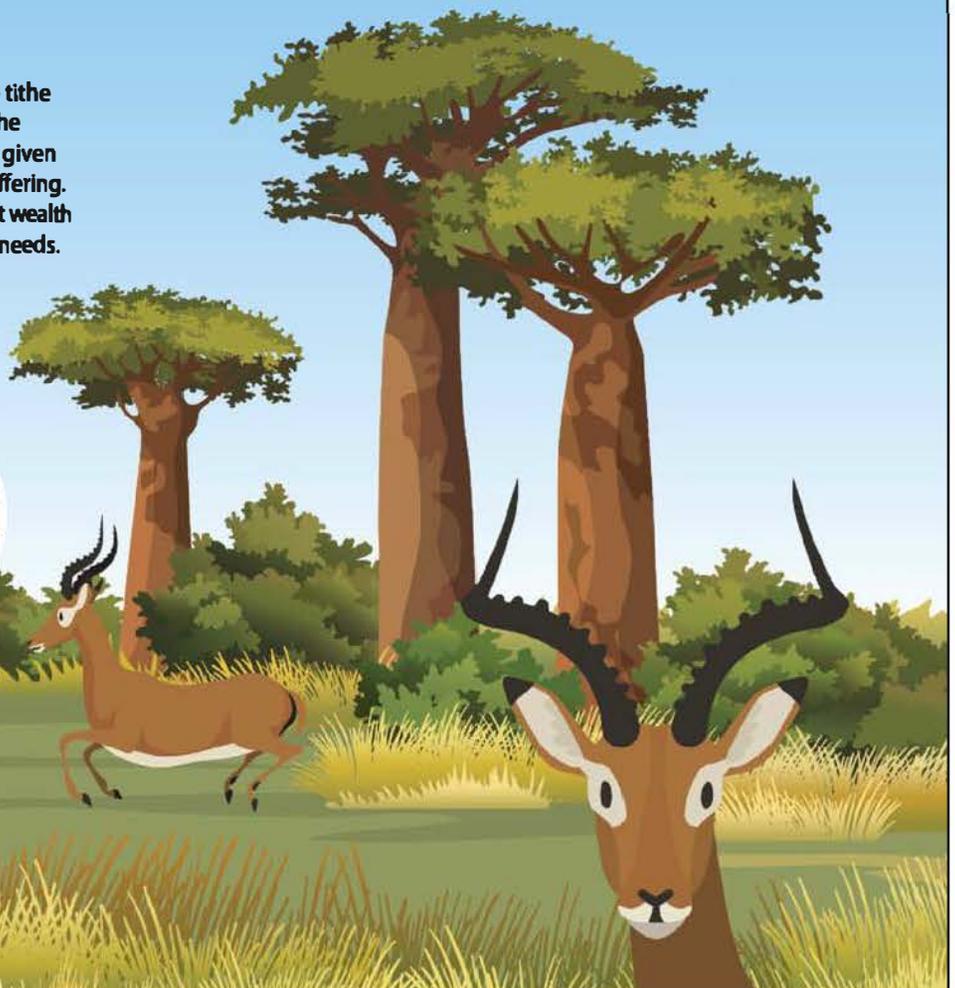
What's interesting is not so much how impala use their teeth for grooming but why they do it. Impala fawns take turns grooming one another when they are just a few days old. Even fawns raised by humans that never learned grooming habits from adults groom other fawns. Impala are born to groom.

### Think about it.

Greedy and selfishness don't seem to be traits of impala, because they naturally give to others. In the same way, paying tithe from an early age helps us not to be greedy and makes us a part of God's work. Giving back to God a tenth of what He gives us reminds us that everything we have in this life is on loan from Him.

### Do it!

Ask an adult to show you how to calculate the tithe and how to fill out a tithe envelope. Get into the habit of paying tithe on all the money you are given or earn. Pray about how much to give for an offering. Remember that God gives you the ability to get wealth (see Deuteronomy 8:18) and supplies all your needs.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at [tammie.burak@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.burak@gmail.com) or follow her blog at [www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca](http://www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca).

# Burman University Service Day



Burman University students, Alex Tardio and Sierra Lott, picking up trash along Highway 2.

THE CAMPUS IS SILENT, but all over the city of Lacombe red-shirted Burman University students can be seen all over the community. From the local care home to the hospital, from the city hall to the local trails, Burman students are out in force serving their community for our annual Service Day. Taking place toward the end of Burman's Week in Spiritual Emphasis (WISE), Service Day is a chance for students to put into action the thoughts and messages highlighted during the Week In Spiritual Emphasis meetings. This is also a chance for this campus to go out into our host community and share God's love in the form of service.

Jessica Richter, a second-year music education major, was this year's student coordinator. "Service Day is a unique experience! It's a day when people of different ages work together to do good for others. I believe the value in service is in being given an opportunity to be

other-centred! In taking our minds off our own problems, we can grow and be blessed while blessing others. We learn to be part of a community in giving and receiving actively. My favourite part of coordinating was being given the opportunity to say to the community, 'What can we do for you, for free?' It was such a blessing to be able to work alongside so many wonderful people in serving and being blessed in return," remarks Jessica. She continues, "I would say the best part of the day was more a general attitude rather than an event. It was amazing for me to see how the students responded to their service project! As I visited the project sites, I was met by enthusiasm and a beautiful spirit of happy giving. The most important thing I learned is that it takes a team to make something of this magnitude happen. I was so blessed by each staff, each faculty member, and each student who made this day possible."

The campus ministries team, along with the Service Day coordinator, managed over 26 projects utilizing over 150 students, faculty, and staff all over the city of Lacombe. No project was too small, and participants picked the project that best suited their individual gifts.

"This past service day I had the privilege of serving an elderly couple in their yard clean-up. Our team was able to beautify their home by raking acorns off their lawn, cleaning water drains on the roof, washing windows, and repainting their kitchen door, among other projects. One of the most exciting things, of course, was being allowed to use the power hose and the lawn mower. Another exceptional aspect was not having classes and seeing the efficiency and fun of students, faculty, and staff working alongside one another," remembers Ashia Lennon, a third-year religious studies major.

The importance of Service Day is not lost on the students. "At Burman University we cherish the value of serving the community of Lacombe in any capacity. Service Day allows students and faculty to spend time doing things we don't always have time to do. Whether it be painting garbage bins, picking up trash on the highway, painting walls, or working at the soup kitchen, we love reaching out and creating an intimate connection with our city. I personally enjoyed hanging out with fellow students while playing music at the local hospital for patients. Service Day is so important to me because it is through such a day that community is built and



Zahara McLean, Benjamin Amos, and Andrew Orpurn, painting dumpsters.

kept alive," says Nisha Johnny, third-year English major and Student Association president.

While Service Day falls under the Campus Ministries umbrella, the majority of the work is student driven and, most importantly, student staffed. All this is done under the grateful eye of the Burman University chaplains. "Jessica has been working toward this day since early summer—everything from making contacts with the community to arranging projects, to coordinating student and staff sign-up, to making sure everyone had a good meal and all of the supplies they'd need to do their jobs—and the results of her hard work have been exceptional. Campus Ministries exists to provide students with service, ministry, and leadership opportunities, and Jessica is a shining example of what can happen when young people are enabled to use their gifts and talents in direct and meaningful ways," says Adam Deibert, Burman University senior chaplain. He continues, "We are so proud of the students and staff for their record involvement in our Service Day activities. Together we made a huge impact on the greater community that shows that we take our greater calling as Christians seriously, and the response has been very positive from all involved. We hope to keep building stronger ties with Lacombe and Central Alberta so that Burman University becomes synonymous with making a difference in our community." ■

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

➤➤ **BURMAN UNIVERSITY IS ALSO LOOKING FOR A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION (VPAA),** one of the most important positions on campus. "As the coordinator of all academic activities on campus, the VPAA has the privilege of ensuring students receive a life-changing education at Burman University. Each aspect of the VPAA's work, from ensuring accreditation requirements to helping professors integrate faith and learning in creative and meaningful ways, is an opportunity to help students make their dreams of education, career, and Christian service come true," states Dr. Mark Haynal, Burman University president. For more information about the VPAA position, see our advertisement in the classifieds section. ■

# Where Are They Now



Ron and Polly Hosking

**Messenger:** Tell me about your childhood.

**Ron Hosking:** I was born in Lindsay, Ont., but grew up in the Petrolia, Ont., area. I have one brother and one sister. We attended the Sarnia, Ont., church. We are the fourth generation of Adventists on both our parents' sides.

**M:** Where did you meet your wife, Polly?

**R:** Polly (Pyle) and I received the greatest benefit anyone can get from a Christian school: that of finding a loving partner for life. We met at Kingsway College during the 1967/1968 school year and were married a year after graduation in June 1969. She was born in North Sydney, N.S., the youngest of 13 children. The North Sydney Seventh-day Adventist Church encouraged the young people to be involved in the church programs from an early age. Growing up in this small-town church strengthened her faith in God as well as provided a strong foundation in her relationship to the church.

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

**R:** I attended a one-room public school in the Enniskillen Township and then public high school in Petrolia. I completed the two-year college business program at Kingsway College and then articulated with a firm of chartered accountants in Simcoe,

**Messenger catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. In this issue we talk with Ron and Polly Hosking.**

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

Ont., and received my CA in 1975.

**M:** When I first met you, you and Polly did the auditing for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) and had your own business. Tell me about your work as a team.

**R:** Polly and I have a common attachment to accounting: I by training and Polly by natural affinity. We approach the problems we face in radically different ways. This gives us the opportunity to see more sides of an issue than we could individually. In the auditing world this is a considerable benefit. We have been able to use this synergy in many ways for our work assignments.

**M:** Briefly outline your positions of service to the church as well as when and where.

**R:** While self-employed as a practicing CA, I served as external auditor for the SDACC from 1978 to 1986. From 1986 to 1988, I was president of PEAC Industries in Lacombe, Alta. My next assignment was assistant treasurer for the SDACC from 1989 to 1993. I then accepted a call to the British Columbia Conference, where I served as associate treasurer and then treasurer from 1996 to 2004.

**Polly:** I worked with Ron doing auditing from 1980 to 1986 and in 1988/1989 was the senior accountant for

the SDACC. From 2002 to 2013 I was senior accountant/associate treasurer of the British Columbia Conference.

**M:** Dealing with church/school finances can be very challenging and stressful. How did you handle the stress that sometimes arose?

**R:** I was blessed to have been part of a very supportive team in the administrative posts I served. That is absolutely necessary for the work of our church to move forward. Sometimes, however, the concept of positive teamwork was difficult to extend to the relationship with others on the various committees. This can be explained and is understandable but does cause distress. I found the only way to deal with this distress was to believe fervently that God was an integral part of each decision that we made and that He would lead in every facet of church leadership.

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

**R:** Polly and I have three sons. Our eldest son died at 16. Our second son is an accountant, and our youngest son is a teacher.

**M:** Where are you now?

**R:** We are retired and live in North Sydney, N.S. We chose to come to the town where Polly grew up. In fact, we live in the same house she was born in and grew up. That is truly going back to one's roots! ■

# Faith's Fingerprint

## Annuity With a Guarantee

*Everyone has his or her  
own financial fingerprint.*

### GOD MADE US ALL UNIQUE IN OUR CHARACTER, LOOKS, PERSONALITIES

—and even our finances. Therefore, what works for one person doesn't necessarily work for the next. Everyone has his or her own financial fingerprint. And finding individual solutions for diverse clients is one of the reasons I love doing what I do.

Faith<sup>1</sup> told me over the phone she wanted to change her will; it had been on her mind to do so for some time. Now that she turned threescore and fifteen, she thought it was time to attend to her estate planning issues. She had taken the logical first step and met with her children to discuss changes, but neither she nor they knew exactly what changes to make.

Faith had heard about me through the Planned Giving department of the B.C. Conference. She knew an annuity could be an attractive investment vehicle for people her age because there is little or no tax on the income and annuities were safe. An annuity that paid an insurance policy did not make sense for her.

As I explored Faith's financial story, I learned that she wanted to give money to the church, and her children supported her wish. Faith wanted her children to get the family home when she passed away, but she had recently come into some money upon the sale of another family property, and this had given her some fresh ideas. She wanted to use this new money to give back to the church ministries that had helped her so much in life. *It Is Written*, in particular, had been an inspiration to her.

What ended up being the best solution for Faith was an annuity with a 15-year guarantee period. At age 75, almost none of the annuity income would be



taxed, and she was able to get the equivalent of 6.75 percent for life.<sup>2</sup> The 15-year guarantee meant that if she were to pass away in year 7, for example, there would still be eight years of annuity payments paid to *It Is Written*. A tax receipt would be given to Faith's estate for this donation.

Even though Faith lives on very little income, she is content. The extra income from the annuity will allow her to donate to her favourite causes. And, if Faith lives beyond age 90,<sup>3</sup> her annuity payments would continue to come to her; however, there wouldn't be any annuity payments left to pass on to *It Is Written* at that point. No doubt, *It Is Written* will still enjoy the benefit of Faith's giving nature because she is able to continue giving while she is still alive.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the Bible says, "God loves a cheerful giver" (NIV). Faith is certainly one of those.

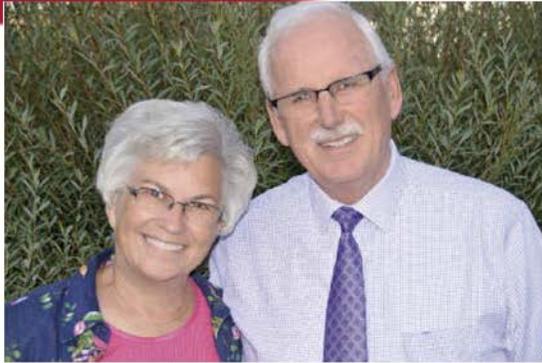
Since I started working with members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, many cases have caused me to be humbled and amazed by the generosity and giving nature of its members. God doesn't want us all to be poor, but He does ask that if we have wealth, to be content and generous. I know that His kingdom will be advanced here on earth as a result of the generosity and love of people like Faith. ■

*Rick Wiegel is an investment advisor in Victoria, B.C.*

<sup>1</sup> While "Faith" is a fictional name, this case is real and one I worked on recently.

<sup>2</sup> The return is dependent on an individual's gender and age.

<sup>3</sup> Statistically, Seventh-day Adventists live longer than others because of their healthy lifestyles.



Phyllis and Don Corkum, of Calgary, Alta., are raising \$10,000 to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



Marlene and Elmer Littman, of Lacombe, Alta., are raising \$3,000 to celebrate their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

## Married couples leave a legacy through **A Better World** Canada

**T**wo Alberta couples are celebrating their milestone anniversaries in a special way through A Better World Canada (ABW).

Don and Phyllis Corkum, of Calgary, along with Lacombe's Elmer and Marlene Littman, asked family and friends to donate to A Better World projects in their names instead of being showered with gifts themselves. Leaving a legacy through ABW is a natural step for these couples, both longtime members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"They have both dedicated their lives to serving others and have been great supporters of A Better World," says ABW co-founder Eric Rajah. The Littmans, who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Aug. 23, and the Corkums, who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Aug. 15, were keen to fundraise for the Central Alberta-based international development organization.

Elmer, a retired pastor, was the treasurer for A Better World for 16 years, while Marlene has contributed through many fundraising events.

Don Corkum, 71, pastored for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was an administrator in the conference office, for a total of 44 years. He and Phyllis have financially supported A Better World projects, including school construction in Afghanistan.

While anniversary parties were being planned, both couples had A Better World in mind. The organization was founded 25 years ago as part of Lacombe's College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. So the Littman Water Kiosk and Corkum Well projects were created. The former will supply water to 3,000 people in the Sopa village of the Masai Mara, while the latter will give water to more than 6,000 people in the village of Jerusalem within North Central Kenya. Both projects are underway, said Rajah.

And while people will find their 60 years of marriage inspiring,

the Littmans did not want to make it about themselves by receiving gifts. During their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they fundraised for A Better World, too.

The Corkums also wanted to show family and friends the importance of A Better World's work. "And I believe very strongly [that] what we receive is a blessing," said Don. "We are stewards, not owners, of the resources that God gives us."

The Corkums, who have three children and four grandchildren, attend Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Calgary.

Phyllis added, "So often in an anniversary or celebration like that, people expect to bring gifts. We preferred to have people give, if they wanted, to a place where our heart is at this time."

Leaving a lasting legacy means a great deal, too.

"This is an important mission to help those so they can live life in a better way," said Don.

Marlene and Elmer, both in their 80s, will likely never go to Kenya because of health issues. Like the Corkums, they believe wholeheartedly in what A Better World is doing in Kenya through partnership and sustainability among the locals. The Littmans, who have four children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, attend the Adventist church in Lacombe.

As the Littmans' daughter Raelene Taliaferro says, her parents are pleased that A Better World sponsorship dollars directly fund the project.

"It's people helping people," said Marlene, a retired school teacher. "There's so much pleasure in giving, and as the Bible says, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' [Acts 20:35]."

Anyone wishing to donate to A Better World can go online at [www.abwcanada.ca](http://www.abwcanada.ca) or call 403/782-0325. Donations are tax-deductible. ■

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

I love salt, cheese, Sugar Bables, and Big Franks. Can you tell I grew up eating unhealthily?

However, soon after my wife and I turned 40 years old, a drastic change in the eating habits in our home occurred—against my will. The junk food closet was cleared out. There were no longer chips and salsa for my late-night binge eating. Now there was a colourful array of fruits and vegetables. Sour cream was replaced with Greek yogurt. Chocolate bars were replaced with very dark (bitter) chocolate. Froot Loops and sugary cereals were replaced with steel-cut oats. My wife even attempted to replace the white basmati rice with brown rice (there was a big fight over this change).

Over the last couple of years, I have been introduced to a variety of new kinds of food, (kale, wheat germ, etc.). Let me tell you: If you didn't grow up with these types of food, there can be steep learning curve in taste. How do you change your taste buds? And yet, after making a decision to live a healthier lifestyle, I discovered I was more energetic, more alert, and less focused on the next meal.

There are some strong similarities between following a healthy lifestyle and jump-starting your spiritual journey. Both require you to adhere to new rules of order. So how do you change your taste buds? First, you must deprive yourself of what you once knew (see Eph. 4:22) because you must allow your taste buds to forget the bad stuff your body has become accustomed to. Second, you must give it time (see Dan. 2:21). Over the years, your body has developed a taste for what is unhealthy (see Gal. 5:17). Now you must continue to force yourself to eat the new healthy foods so your body can learn to appreciate the new taste.

There is a spiritual application to this.

Have you ever wondered why your spiritual life seems to be going nowhere? In the same way, you must shed your life of old, unhealthy habits in order to retrain the brain for something new. The Bible promises us, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek. 36:26, NIV).<sup>1</sup> Here we see the same principle of removal and replacement.

The analogy applies not only to our own personal relationship with God but also to our posture toward the mission Jesus has given us. Unfortunately, there is typically very little accountability in the church. We rarely promote the idea of discipleship in the local church. Even though Jesus said, "Go make disciples," we spend more time converting rather than growing. How do you grow as a disciple? First, you must deprive yourself of what you once knew. This may require you to fast from watching television, to retrain your mind about what you consider to be acceptable content to bring in to your life. Second, you may need to make a one- to two-month commitment to retrain your spiritual taste buds. Just as with your body's relationship to unhealthy food, you need to forget those spiritually unhealthy triggers. Finally, you will need to make a commitment to making spiritually healthy choices. Feeding your soul with godly material is one example. Once you are accustomed to this new spiritual diet, you will begin to notice the difference.

Philippians 3:7, 8; John 6:66. ■

*Kumar Dixit 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 @kumardixit.*

<sup>1</sup> See also Eph. 4:23.

# I love salt

*Have you ever wondered why your spiritual life seems to be going nowhere?*





## What's in Your Gallery?

 Words by God —Psalm 77:11-14, NIV

When life seems out of control, where do you turn for strength and peace? As for me, I look to the one who is greater than my problems and fears. Though, when no answers come, it takes a little more to have the confidence that everything will work out fine. You know the Bible promises and faith you hold on to dearly, but in the silence it can seem out of reach.

In those times when you can't see what God is doing or how He's going to get you through, it's time to dust the cobwebs off and open up all the boxes and remember God's faithfulness and goodness. If you are a visual person like me, I think of it as hanging pictures in my heart's gallery of all the things that God has done in my life, and visiting it often. Remember the stories and blessings that came with those pictures to find strength and courage in the hard times so that when the fear comes, you can answer it with the faith that God is holding the future as much as He has held the past. "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples" (Psalm 77:11-14, NIV).

The more you remember His faithfulness, the more those times of waiting will become times of praising God

for what He has done and everything He will do. His promises are faithful and true, and God's love will never leave you in the waiting room alone. He wants you to continue the marvellous legacy of trust and faith that you are on right now. It is a part of our story, our testimony, and can only be shared if we take the time to remember and talk about all the ways He has shown His faithfulness.

You don't have to look far for your answers; they are already in your heart. "Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always" (Psalm 105:4, NIV). When we begin to look at who God is and all that He is in our lives, it takes our eyes off the situation or problem that seems impossible, and instead helps us focus on Him. The God who paints each sunset is all powerful, all knowing, and loves you more than life itself; He is the One who is by your side in the next amazing adventure of your life. There you will find strength in hopelessness, courage in the midst of fear, and hope for tomorrow. "Build altars in the places where I remind you who I am, and I will come and bless you there" (Exod. 20:24b, NLT).

What pictures will you hang in the gallery of your heart?

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)*



 Watch "He's Still Here" by Chris August on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/K9Py1J>



# Transforming Prayer

*"The struggle to submit is often attempted in our own effort to form a right character but without having our hearts moved by the love of Christ."*

Looking at our history, some would say Christianity has failed. Personal observation would conclude that much of what is presented as Christianity has been unsuccessful in bringing about heart transformation.

Bruxy Cavey, in his book *The End of Religion: Encountering the Subversive Spirituality of Jesus*, aptly points out the many atrocities Christians have carried out through the ages that would support this conclusion. Take, for example, the crusades, during which men, women, and children—Muslim and Jewish—were slaughtered in the name of Jesus. Or the inquisition, which was established to uproot heresy, with the use of torture lasting for centuries. Or the witch hunts involving both Catholics and Protestants who sought the death of suspected witches.<sup>1</sup> Or how about the American Revolution with "Christians" on either side, killing each other, defending their right to either keep people enslaved or abolish the practice and set them free? All of these are worth pondering. More recently, the Rwandan genocide, during which an estimated 500,000 to one million people were killed in a country that was believed to be predominately Christian, illustrates that, at times, what is done in the name of Christianity or by religious people is far from the heart transformation that Jesus describes.

Even the comments and attitudes revealed in the discussion prior to and after the General Conference Session in July 2015 about the ordination of women to the ministry in our church make us painfully aware that our hearts are far from where they need to be to be able to reveal the love of Jesus.

Jesus was clear to Nicodemus, and to us, when He said, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3, NLT). Paul says, "Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him" (Col. 3:10, NLT). A new nature and renewal occur as we learn to know our Creator. Paul says we are being transformed by beholding the glory of the Lord (see 2 Cor. 3:18).

Ellen White describes this transformation with the following statement:

By the revelation of the attractive loveliness of Christ, by the knowledge of His love expressed to us while we were yet sinners, the stubborn heart is melted and subdued, and the sinner is transformed and becomes a child of heaven. . . . Love is the agent [that] He uses to expel sin from the heart. By it He changes pride into humility, and enmity and unbelief into love and faith.<sup>2</sup>

She declares that the greatest battle ever fought is the warfare against self. The struggle to submit is often attempted in our own effort to form a right character but without having our hearts moved by the love of Christ. Such a religion is worth nothing. Yet when Christ dwells in the heart and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten.<sup>3</sup>

So I propose that our prayer time be composed of contemplating Him, meditating on the attractive loveliness of Christ. As our hearts are drawn to consider and reflect on His attributes, our hearts will be transformed to become like the One we behold. ■

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Warren Kay, a pastor and life coach, writes from LaOmba, Alta.

<sup>1</sup> pp. 60–64.

<sup>2</sup> *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 76.

<sup>3</sup> See *Steps to Christ*, p. 44.



barry's

blog

"Religious freedom and protection of conscience are fragile rights."

## Navigating the Issues of Conscience

### INTRODUCTION

Kim Davis, a Rowan County clerk in Kentucky made international headlines for her refusal to issue marriage licenses. Her refusal came after the United States Supreme Court ruled that there was a constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry. Davis said her conscience could not let her issue the licenses, as she would be party to an institution that is against God's will. Her refusal led to a period of incarceration for her contempt to apply the new law. The media has reported a number of stories that question Davis's right to claim protection of her religious conscience since she is a public servant. Her public duty takes precedence over her conscience, is the argument.<sup>1</sup>

During the recent Canadian federal election campaign, Prime Minister Harper publicly stated that a woman should not wear a niqab when swearing the citizenship oath and that he would consider banning it among civil servants.<sup>2</sup> However, a number of women who wear the niqab say that they have a right to wear their religious face covering and that their conscience demands nothing less. They state that they have been subject to an increase in anti-Muslim sentiment as a result of this political rhetoric.

Physicians throughout Canada are alarmed at the imposition by some Canadian medical authorities that require them to be involved in medical procedures that violate their conscience. Dr. Michelle Korvenmaker said the new procedures put her in a dilemma. "As a palliative care physician," she said, "I could be faced with a request for a physician-assisted death, and this new policy would require me to facilitate and be involved in such a procedure," she said.<sup>3</sup> Consider the ancient Hippocratic Oath: "Nor shall any man's entreaty prevail upon me to administer poison to anyone; neither will I counsel any man to do so. Moreover, I will give no sort of medicine to any pregnant woman, with a view to destroy the child."<sup>4</sup>

### INCREASINGLY, ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE ARE A SUBJECT OF PUBLIC DEBATE

Throughout the western world, conflicts involving religion are on the rise. So much so that John Kerry, the United States Secretary of State, stated, "If I went back to college today, I think I would probably major in comparative religion, because that's how integrated [religion] is in everything that we are working on and deciding and thinking about in life today."<sup>5</sup>

We might be tempted to think that such conflicts involving religious conscience are a new phenomenon. However, that is not the case. We have been dealing with such matters for millennia. From the death of Socrates in 399 BC, the death of John Hus in AD 1415, to the present time, societies have had to deal with the issue of whether to accommodate conscience. It has never been an easy task, but it is a necessary task.

As we look back through history, we are able to see an ebb and flow of concern about conscience. Such controversies tend to repeat themselves. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that they are rhythmically connected rather than being exactly the same controversies.

For a number of decades, our society has marched to protect individual conscience—especially conscience motivated by religious sentiment. Such hypersensitivity came as a result of the suppression of religious freedom by nationalist ideologies that led to World War II. Our souls were shattered at the inhuman brutality of totalitarian regimes.

Today, however, protections of religious conscience seem, to some, to have run its course. The extremes of the last century no longer need a firewall to contain them. That was then. This is now. We are more tolerant, more advanced in our views. We would never repeat such horrors. And any suggestion otherwise, according to this view, would be foolhardy at best.

Yet, as memories fade, it is possible to forget the lessons of history. Religious freedom and protection of conscience are fragile rights. Vigilance is necessary. We cannot afford to ignore the toleration of religious conscience.

Brian Grim, an academic who has studied religious freedom extensively, has shown that protections of religious conscience are not only a necessary cornerstone to a free society but also necessary for sustaining development. This is done by fostering respect, reducing corruption, engendering peace, encouraging broader freedoms, and increasing mutual trust.<sup>6</sup> In short, our western democracies understood that religion provided not only a moral compass but also enabled a peaceful coexistence with diversity. We accepted the fact that we are different. Not everyone will agree on what conscience requires, but there was a general consensus that religious conscience required protection. This protection made society a safe place. When we remove religious protection for some, we undermine the protection for all.

When individuals are faced with a choice to follow conscience in a way that is at odds with society at large, they will necessarily face the consequences of their choice. It is the cost of navigating our complex world. The history of the West suggests that when we accommodate for conscience, we all win—personally, socially, and economically. However, should conscience be suppressed, we will all suffer.

The struggle that we are currently facing is what should be done when a conscientious stand contradicts a public norm that is meant to protect others. A Kim Davis has an objection to same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage is meant to expand rights. The claim that Davis cannot be accommodated is an admission that creativity is lacking. It becomes necessary, therefore, to provide a mechanism that does not suppress one right at the expense of another. A niqab-wearing woman should not have to face the public scorn simply because the public does not understand the importance of such apparel to the woman's religious or social sentiments. Finally, can we honestly say that we would have our physicians violate their conscience to be involved in the killing of their patients—even if it is legally acceptable?

We can accept that society must put limits on the expression of religious conscience. But to force another person to adopt a majority view on an issue that violates her personal religious conscience, when there exists an accommodation of that religious expression, is arbitrary, unfair, and brutal. We must recognize that not everyone is going to agree with our legal and moral norms. It may even be offensive to some, but the essence of a free and democratic society is to give accommodation to views that we do not like (or the essence of coexisting with others in exile is that we accommodate views we do not like). What is the purpose of only allowing views that the majority already agrees with? Navigating conscience means that we will necessarily have to put up with positions we may find repugnant. The principle, now applied to those we may not agree with, will be the same principle that will be applied broadly, whether to us or to others in the same position. Freedom creates a winning situation for all. ■

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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).*

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4 James Copland, ed., *The London Medical Repository, Monthly Journal, and Review* (London), Vol. 3, p. 258. Note: you can find this online at [books.google.com](http://books.google.com).

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6 "Seven Ways Religious Freedom Contributes to Sustainable Development," *Religious Freedom and Business Foundation*, Aug. 10, 2015, <http://religiousfreedomandbusiness.org/2/post/2015/08/seven-ways-religious-freedom-contributes-to-sustainable-development.html>.



Photo: Keith Chant

# Almost vegan

With winter around the corner and a chilly nip in the air, we start thinking about creamy, comforting soups to warm ourselves during cool evenings. Typically, when someone mentions the word *creamy*, we automatically think unhealthy and fattening, but that is not always the case. With just a little added fat in this recipe, we accomplish a creamy effect by cooking the potatoes in soy milk and then blending it thoroughly with the squash.

Our go-to squash has always been the butternut squash, and while we use it in this recipe, you can use different squash for flavour variety. For this recipe we typically use cooked squash, but you can use raw squash; just cube it and add it in with the potato and apple, adjusting the amount of raw squash to approximately 4 cups of cooked, mashed squash. ■

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

## Creamy Squash Apple Soup

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Tbsp coconut oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup potatoes, cubed
- 1 apple, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 1½ cups soy milk
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 4 cups cooked butternut squash, mashed

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a medium pot, sauté onion in oil until tender.
- Add potato and apple and sauté for a few more minutes.
- Add broth, milk, and seasonings; bring to a boil and simmer until potatoes are cooked.
- Add squash and return to boil.
- Purée with immersion blender. Serve.

# A Child After God's Own Heart



Jayden was born with a heart defect, and by the age of seven he had already undergone at least four heart surgeries!

I would like to challenge everyone who has had heart surgery to match my \$5! Last November I had the privilege of accepting Jayden's quarters and loonies as he proudly handed me his Shareathon donation and made his request. My heart wept for him. He could have spent his money on junk food or toys, but instead he chose to support Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR). It was a thank-you for the joy and companionship that VOAR has added to his life so far.

He often drops by with hand-drawn cards for the staff and always has hugs and smiles for our team. Along with his parents and sister, Noelle, they are quick to provide assistance when VOAR reaches out to the community. They were excited to bring baby clothes and toys when VOAR did its province-wide baby shower to collect items and funds for mothers and children in transition houses.

So why his "strange" request to have his donation matched by those who have had heart surgery? You see, Jayden was born with a heart defect, and by the age of seven he had already undergone at least four heart surgeries! His mom says that through it all he and his family have found comfort in listening to VOAR. VOAR airs a number of programs for children, such as *Adventures in Odyssey* and *Your Story Hour*, but when asked what his favourite show was, he said, "*The Request Show*. I love Tina!" His joy makes it clear that we all need a "heart transplant!" —exchanging our hearts for the heart of Christ. ■

Christine Bergen is the secretary/treasurer for the SDA Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Rebecca Johnson

ON THE  
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT BURMAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATION 2015,  
IN LACOMBE, ALTA.

*When you close your eyes and think of peace,  
what do you see?*

**Deanna Irish:** "A world filled with no more hate, and the return of Jesus, when we will go to the wonderful place of peace and suffer no more."

**Latoya:** "A river."

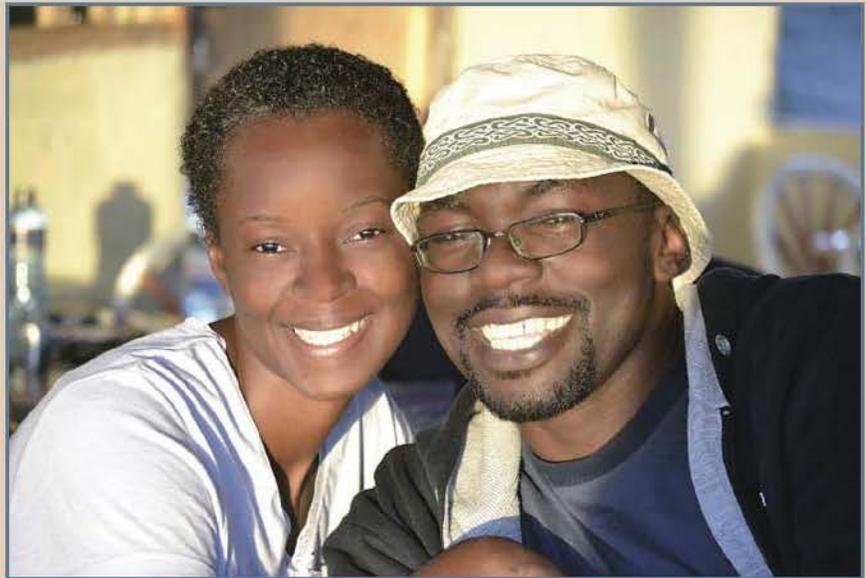
**Brittney Johnson:** "My most loved ones—they are smiling, probably outside, and we are embracing the gift of time together to share and truly connect."

**Milka Wierenga:** "Smiling and greeting anyone with kindness."

# Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

*I first met Anita when she joined the ADRA Canada team. I thought she must have amazing talent to be called by ADRA and relocate to Canada. Last year we travelled together in a group to Africa, and I was able to witness her talent in person. Now you can get to know her as well.*



Anita and Donald Okoroh

**EDITOR:** *Tell me about your childhood and family.*

**ANITA ODONDI:** I was born and raised in Uganda. Last month my mother and brothers came to visit me, and we counted a total of 22 siblings amongst us. My childhood memories are mostly about discipline from my father, aunties, and uncles to my siblings and me—so many stories that we laugh about now.

**EDITOR:** *Where did you go to university?*

**ANITA:** I did my first degree in business management at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton. These were the best years of my life. Donald and I went to the same university. We started dating in our third year and got married two years after we graduated. I later did my master's in international development with Andrews University.

**EDITOR:** *What sparked your desire to get into humanitarian work?*

**ANITA:** As part of the requirements for my graduation, I applied to several organizations requesting for internship in Uganda. The first organization that got back to me was a health service provider, where I interned as a sales and marketing executive for two months. In that time, I sold the service to one person, my dad's good friend.

By God's grace, just when I was sure this was not the path for me, ADRA Uganda called me for my internship, where I worked in different departments. I immediately felt a deep connection to the programs department because I got to visit the vulnerable people, find out about their need, and tell their story to a donor who would assist them. After I graduated, I applied and was accepted

to volunteer at ADRA Uganda for six months before they employed me as a programs officer.

**EDITOR:** *Where have you served?*

**ANITA:** I worked as a programs officer for six months at the ADRA Uganda head office in Kampala before I was sent to the field as a sort of punishment for “speaking up.” I don’t remember what it was, but the country director at the time told me, “In this culture, the women are not supposed to be as outspoken as you are. When you learn your lesson, maybe you’ll return to the head office.” In hindsight, this was God opening for me a large door of opportunity to learn and grow in service, starting at the grass roots. I worked in the field for five years.

During this time in the field, I was simultaneously doing my off-campus master’s program with Andrews University. When I graduated in 2005, it was time for my husband to do his master’s, and the most affordable option for us as self-sponsored students was AIAS in the Philippines.

Having lived only in East Africa until then, I had no idea that there was ADRA in the Philippines. I sent my CV to a friend for him to pass it around the campus for a teaching job. My friend responded and said, “Your CV has ADRA in it, so I took it to the ADRA office, which is three kilometres from AIAS.” The next day I got an email from the ADRA director saying I had a job! Nothing short of a miracle. My whole work life has consisted of similar miracles from God that saw me working in ADRA Indonesia, ADRA Myanmar, ADRA Haiti, and now ADRA Canada. My husband, too, worked with ADRA in Indonesia, Myanmar, and Haiti.

**EDITOR:** *What is your most memorable experience?*

**ANITA:** Each country has a special memorable experience for me. The funniest one has to be the Philippines, because of how naïve we were on our first overseas experience. We had no idea what would be available in the new country, so we carried almost everything we owned. And because all our belongings had to be in two suitcases that weighed not more than 23 kilograms each, our carry-ons actually weighed twice as much, and we each wore at least five layers of clothes (it was summer!) and stuffed hair oils, soap, and toothpaste in the pockets. Those were the good old days before the limit of 100-millilitre liquids.

**EDITOR:** *What is the most valuable lesson you’ve learned?*

**ANITA:** Three very valuable lessons for me:

That people are very valuable. Even when they are in their most vulnerable state because of circumstances

beyond their control, they need to be treated with respect and love, because out of these people come lifelong friends.

That I don’t know it all. Even with 15 years’ experience in humanitarian work, when I go to a new country, I ask God to help me to listen and learn and to share what I know. There’s always something to learn.

That God is real and prayer can make a difference. I have seen God taking care of the health in our family miraculously. God bringing my husband back to life. And God blessing ADRA Canada’s work not because we are special staffers but because we and the ADRA prayer angels dedicate all our work to Him.

**EDITOR:** *What do you do with ADRA Canada?*

**ANITA:** I’m the Emergency Management director; I get to work with ADRA offices in countries that experience natural disasters or civil wars or chronic crises like drought and famine. Together with the teams on the ground, we write proposals and request for institutional funding. Then I monitor the projects to ensure that the funds are being used for the right activities and that the intervention is relevant and effective to the needs of the people. I then give feedback to the institutional donors. I am also a member of some advocacy groups here in Canada, advocating for more all-rounded accountability, especially to the people we are called to serve.

**EDITOR:** *What is your favourite part of the job?*

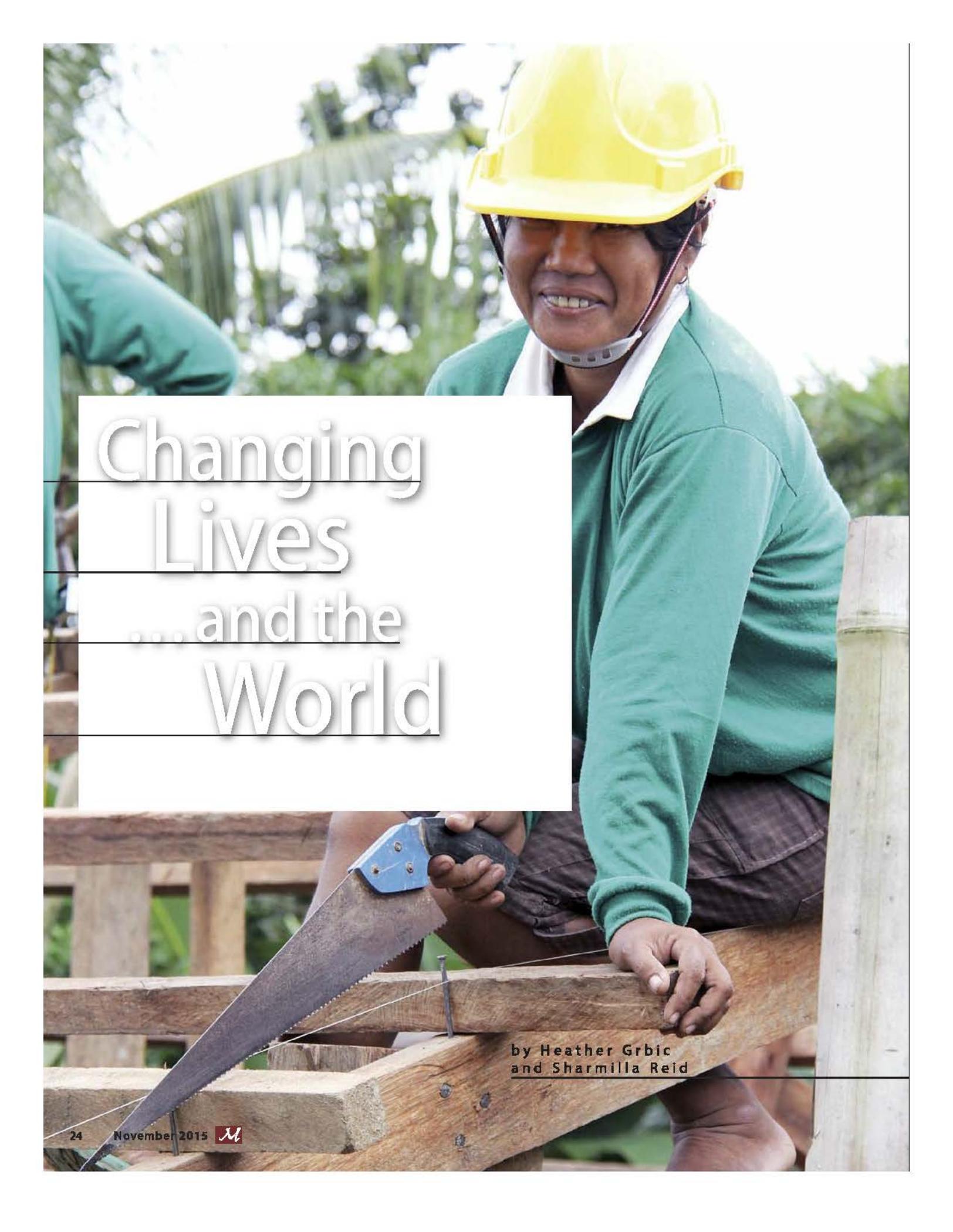
**ANITA:** Being in the field with the poorest of the poor. Talking with them, crying with them, and just listening to their stories that end in hope because they realize that someone cares. I must also say that I very much enjoy working with the ADRA Canada team—each and every one of them is awesome. The work is that much easier with such a fun team. They make a big part of Donald’s and my family in Canada.

**EDITOR:** *What is your favourite Bible verse?*

**ANITA:** Psalm 121:1–4: “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep” (NIV). ■

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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.*



# Changing Lives ...and the World

by Heather Grbic  
and Sharmilla Reid

**T**HE HALL ECHOED WITH THE SOUNDS OF purpose. Diplomats, ambassadors, presidents, and even royalty clustered in knots of conversation before the assembly resumed its meeting. English, French, Arabic, and Chinese mingled with the other languages being bandied about the room. Translators settled in to their booths, testing their microphones. At the sound of the bell the huddles of people disbursed. Delegates positioned themselves behind placards emblazoned with the names of the nations.

It was just another day at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, France. As an intern at the United States Department of State's Mission to UNESCO, Heather was involved in duties such as attending meetings, taking notes, and drafting reports to send back to Washington, D.C.

She could not have landed at UNESCO at a more exciting time.

Of the many exciting agenda items in the fall of 2013, one was of particular interest to her. Discussions, at times heated, were underway concerning UNESCO's and its member states' contribution to the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As successors to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose objective was the eradication of poverty, the sustainable agenda would build upon the progress made to create a better world for all.

On Sept. 25, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly, of which Canada is a member, adopted the SDGs, thereby setting the development agenda for the next decade and a half.

Looking at the 17 development goals, we are struck by their scope. There is breadth and depth to this agenda. Reading it, we as individuals might feel overwhelmed and frankly very insignificant in making an impact. But we know that our church has a global ministry that is already meeting these goals and indeed has been making much progress even before there were MDGs or SDGs.

That ministry of help is the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Through the dedication of its supporters across the country, ADRA Canada has played no small role in this ministry for the last 30 years.

The fact that ADRA Canada's current and proposed projects correspond to many of the SDGs speaks volumes about ADRA Canada's relevancy in the development world. Many of the SDGs can be traced in our work.



Boracay Island, in the Philippines, is so small that there are no cars or bicycles. Most of the residents rely on the local seaweed industry for their livelihood.



Typhoon Haiyan destroyed the seaweed farms on Boracay Island. These were an important source of income for area residents. ADRA Canada provided kits containing seaweed seedlings, ropes, and tools for affected farmers.

◀ He enjoys being a carpenter and says she will be one as long as there is work. She is now able to take care of her family without borrowing money. She says, "ADRA has made a big change in my life."





Albroito and Ehea. Albroito was overjoyed to learn that he qualified for a sponsored farm.



When ADRA came to Tov's village, he learned that his heart problems and breathing difficulties were because of his smoking. Tov made the decision to quit and now tells his friends about ADRA's stop-smoking message.

We cannot say that one project answers one goal, because in fact many goals are interwoven into each project. We will share some exciting examples.

**O**NE OF THE SDGs is to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” In Cambodia, for instance, we are focused on improving maternal, neo-natal and child health through education, better nutrition, improved sanitation, and community empowerment. Cambodia has one of the highest under-five-years-of-age mortality rates in the world. Forty-six percent of all children are stunted. Many are often sickened by contaminated water sources.

ADRA Canada is working with the local people to bring clean water to communities, to teach about proper nutrition and hygiene, and to build latrines. With safe water, better nutrition, informed hygiene practices, and proper sanitation, the health of the communities is improved and the children's future is blessed with brighter possibilities.

ADRA Canada has also reached out to Cambodian men. Tov is a striking example. He smoked for 25 years without giving it a second thought. Smoking a pack day, he would spend 46 percent of his family's yearly income on cigarettes, but the cost of his habit went beyond the money spent. He also paid for his cigarettes with his health, the health of his wife, and the health of his three teenage sons.

Then ADRA came to his village.

Tov learned that his heart problems and breathing difficulties were because of his habit. He learned that the reason his children had been sick so often was the

second-hand smoke. He had known that smoking was not good for his health, but he had no idea of how dangerous cigarettes actually were. He did not want to continue to endanger his life when his family was dependent on him. He did not want to continue to wake up in the middle of the night unable to breathe. He did not want his children to suffer because of his habit.

Three days after ADRA staff told him of the dangers of smoking, Tov made the decision to quit. He has never looked back.

“It was my commitment alone that made me stop smoking. I stopped because of my health, my family's health, and our budget.” He smiles when he speaks about his family. “They are very happy that they no longer have to smell the smoke.”

Tov has been telling his friends about ADRA's stop-smoking message. One of them has also stopped smoking.

Years ago, before ADRA began quit smoking campaigns in Cambodia, 80 percent of the population were smokers. Working with the government to spread information and pass laws regulating the tobacco industry, ADRA has lowered that statistic to 50 percent.

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages is certainly a part of ADRA Canada's work.

Two other SDGs read, “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development,” and “End poverty in all its forms everywhere.” Though there are several stories we could choose to share, one in particular shines out as reaching these two goals.

Dawahon Island, in the Philippines, is so small that there are no cars or bicycles. Most of the residents rely on the local seaweed industry for their livelihood. Underwater farms and seaweed drying areas surround

the island. The waters surrounding the island are some of the most biodiverse in the Philippines.

Typhoon Haiyan destroyed the seaweed farms. It also washed garbage and debris into the waters and onto the island's shores.

Albrelito and Rhea live on Dawahan Island along with their five children. Before Typhoon Haiyan they would salvage seaweed and seashells from the shore. Selling the seaweed would earn them approximately 900 pesos per year (US\$20). The shells would fetch 150 pesos per kilo (US\$3.48). Albrelito would supplement this meagre income by assisting his neighbours with their seaweed farms when work was available.

Sometimes they would beg their neighbours for food. They could not afford a home of their own, so they lived in his mother's house, until Typhoon Haiyan destroyed the roof.

ADRA went to Dawahan Island a few months after the storm to help the residents of the tiny island recover. A cash-for-work program allowed residents who had lost their incomes to earn money by cleaning up the waters around the island. Marine life that had abandoned the area is now returning.

Water filters were given to families to ensure a safe drinking supply. Disaster mitigation seminars were held to teach the residents how to minimize the effects of the next super-typhoon. The project also focused on getting the seaweed farmers back into production. Kits containing seaweed seedlings, rope, and tools were given to the farmers along with training on better agricultural techniques.

Albrelito was overjoyed to learn that even though he didn't previously have a seaweed farm, he qualified for one. Now he tends 92 lines of his own. They have been able to rent their own house and eat three times a day. It is safe to say that Albrelito and Rhea's lives have been changed forever. ADRA Canada helped to lift them out of the shifting sands of poverty and onto the solid ground of self-sufficiency.

ADRA Canada's response to the catastrophe of Typhoon Haiyan encompassed the well-being not only of the people but also the resource upon which they chiefly depended—the ocean. ADRA Canada intimately understands the importance of responsible and sustainable use of resources.

No less than four of the 17 SDGs are achieved in Monina's story. These four goals deal with lifelong learning opportunities, gender equality and women's empowerment, decent work for all, and resilient infrastructure.

Monina, her husband Edgar, and their seven children also live in the Philippines. They were both labourers until her husband was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy eight years ago. Now Monina is the sole breadwinner. Typhoon Haiyan destroyed their house and the rice fields where she worked. Monina was forced to salvage materials and borrow money to rebuild.

She wanted a better life for her family. When she

heard that ADRA was training carpenters, she went to the village leaders and asked to join the program.

When she arrives at a building site for the first time, the homeowners are very surprised that she is a woman, but they are happy when their new house is complete.

Monina enjoys being a carpenter and says she will be one as long as there is work. She is now able to take care of her family without borrowing money. She says, "ADRA has made a big change in my life."

**A**DRRA CANADA UNDERSTANDS that recovering from a disaster includes putting mitigation measures in place to prevent a future disaster from being as destructive. Resilience is a key word in our emergency response and preparation activities.

Tucked away at the bottom of the list of SDGs is a goal that has perhaps less appeal to most. It reads, in part, "Strengthen the means of implementation." This goal may conjure up visions of basement cubicles, silent but for the hum of computers and the tapping of programmers working on code. Except for those who get excited about developing technology, the process of achieving the user-friendly end result is just not that interesting.

However, ADRA Canada is active even here. David Kozarichuk, our Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, has developed an "ADRA App." This is an application that is downloadable to the cell phones of project staff and participants. Used during and after a project's lifespan, the app enables real-time data sharing and tracking of beneficiary participation and feedback. It provides the added benefit of significantly reducing the amount of time and effort expended on tracking project activities, freeing up staff for other things. The app also tracks GPS locations, stores photos, and more with a view to revealing how beneficiaries interact with the project over time. The information shared via this app is crucially important to interim and final reports to funders and donors.

In the last year alone, ADRA Canada empowered communities in 21 countries. We positively changed the lives of over 1.2 million people. We have accomplished all this in relevant ways, using best practices.

This year we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and look back at the amazing work that has been accomplished in that time. This work would not have been possible without the prayers, contributions, and encouragement of our many supporters across the nation. With hearts full of gratitude, we thank you. You are changing lives ... and changing the world. ■

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*Heather Grbic is the church relations coordinator, and Shamilla Reid is the donor relations director at ADRA Canada.*





Sybil Lake

# Why I Take the Bus

*"I have to do something.  
I just cannot stand by  
and let souls go if I can help."*

**T**he woman took off, running at full speed. The bus she needed to make was right ahead. Would she make it in time? Would it wait for her? She was getting closer and closer, and to her relief, the bus stood still. At last, she arrived, stepped inside, and paid her fare.

"Thank you for waiting," she said to the driver. "Because you waited, here is a gift." With that, she handed the driver a GLOW tract titled, "The Promise of Peace." And indeed, this was the very purpose for which Sybil Lake had taken the bus that day.

Some time ago at a personal ministries meeting, Sybil heard about GLOW tracts, which stands for Giving Light to Our World, and learned, for the first time, what they were really all about. A fire lit in her. Sensing a burden to share the gospel, she felt impressed that these little tracts were the way to go. So a little over six months ago, she had an idea.

As someone who owned her own car and had a driver's license, Sybil was accustomed to moving herself from place to place. But she began to contemplate about the fact that she didn't have access to other people while driving. In the privacy and seclusion of her car she could not meet with anyone or interact with anyone. So she decided that a few days a week, every other week, she would hang up her keys and take the bus instead. Armed with GLOW tracts, she boarded buses, rode through her city for three to four hours at a time, and left tracts in washrooms and other public places and shared them with the people she met. Today was no different.

The driver let Sybil off at her destination, and there she passed out tracts and ran other errands. Hours later it was time to go home. The bus arrived, and when the doors opened Sybil saw, to her surprise, that it was the same driver who had dropped her off earlier!

"Did you read the pamphlet I gave you?" she asked.

"Yes, I did," he responded, "This is what my wife and I have been talking about lately. There is a lot of substance to it."

Sybil and the driver chatted for a little while. Then she urged him to call the number on the back of the tract to get more information. The driver looked at her and said, "My wife and I will take up the challenge."

When I asked Sybil what motivates her, at age 71, to hang up her car keys and do what she does, she said, "I have to do something. I have to do something. I just cannot stand by and let souls go if I can help." Hearing these words I understood that Sybil was moved by the same thing that moved Jesus to come down to this earth: love.

It is the love of Jesus that moves human hearts to put self aside, be creative, and attempt everything for the sake of others. That love will not be hindered by age, fazed by difficulty, or defeated by challenges. Instead, to all who answer Jesus' call to go and seek the lost, it will bring wisdom, purpose, courage, and joy. Will you let it move you? Will you take up the challenge? ■

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.

# In a Strange Land



Marjorie Poes Souza

**BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT**, God had a plan for me to move to Canada and study at Canadian University College (now Burman University). I was an exchange student on a full scholarship at San Diego Academy, Calif., and pianist for the choir. In my senior year the choir director told me about a university in Canada. I replied that if God truly wanted me to be in music, He would find a way for me to attend a university in North America; otherwise, I would look for another path. I applied to Burman University, talked to Dr. Munroe, the music director, and sent a video of me playing the piano. A few months later, she contacted me by phone. It was the last day before I was scheduled to leave the United States to return home to Brazil. Dr. Munroe told me that I had been selected to receive a full scholarship to study music at Burman University. Not only had my dream come true, but God had also answered my prayer.

Weeks later, as I stood in the line at the Canadian consulate in Brazil waiting to apply for my Canadian visa, I noticed that monitors showing pictures of Canada surrounded me. Among the pictures were photos of icebergs and large areas covered by snow— photos that I later learned were of the Northwest Territories. I panicked. I had no idea what I was going to face, but my father, mother, and sister inspired me to continue trusting God's plan for me.

Once I arrived on campus, people were super welcoming, and I soon began to settle into the Canadian lifestyle. If it were not for my wonderful Christian teachers who helped me through the first years of college, even helping me with my grammar, I do not know where I would be today.

Even though I was in a strange land, all my teachers understood, were patient with my grammar, and were encouraging and supportive. I graduated with honours in both my Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and my Bachelor of Education.

My teachers even helped me find jobs on campus, and soon I was the monitor of the music hall, the Choral Union pianist, and the Chamber Singers pianist. Not only did I have quite a few jobs in music, I was constantly learning new things in music, travelling to spread the gospel through music, and making new friends. Soon my friends at Burman University became my family in a strange land.

At times I missed my country and my family, but my Christian friends were always there to encourage me. Many others hailed from other countries as well, including Mexico, Thailand, the United States, Haiti, Germany, Brazil, and Venezuela. Though we represented many different nations and cultures, no prejudice disrupted our "family." Truly, Burman University not only prepares students to earn a living but also teaches love and respect for all people, regardless of differences in ethnicity, culture, and even religion. I am very grateful to Burman University for the multiple opportunities I received on campus as a musician, a student, and an employee. I am thankful for the education I gained, but I am even more thankful for the opportunities I had to make friends, serve God, and meet my future husband. ■

*Marjorie Poes Souza graduated from Canadian University College with a B.Mus. in piano performance and a B.Ed. in secondary education. Currently, she and her husband, Bobby Li, live in Waskatenau, Alta., where she works as music and arts teacher at Holy Family Catholic School.*

# grateful and blessed



De'Meah Iris

De'Meah Iris is both Bermudian and American. She lives in Bermuda with her mother and sister.

De'Meah's older brother graduated from Kingsway College in 2014. De'Meah recounted to me her experience as a dorm student in Grade 9:

*When I started Kingsway, I missed home terribly, but after I started taking advantage of all the great opportunities, such as the teams and other extracurricular activities, I began to appreciate and love this school. I've grown to love Kingsway over the years because I feel like everyone is family here, especially being in the girls' dorm; it's like I have a bunch of sisters who I can have fun with and talk to and who look out for me. I remember in Grade 9, there were many senior girls in the dorm who took care of me; they showed me around and made sure I was OK. I love that now, when new girls come into the dorm, I'm presented with the opportunity to help them whether it may be with school, spiritual'ity, or just life in general.*

Throughout the time she has been at Kingsway, De'Meah has learned a lot about God and His relationship with us. She loves that our teachers take the time to bring God into the classroom, whether it is through a short worship thought, a prayer, or through the actual lesson. De'Meah said,

*I was a Seventh-day Adventist before I came to Kingsway, but I wasn't really connected. I wasn't bad or anything, but I never told anyone about my belief and I wasn't following the Adventist lifestyle too well; but after coming to Kingsway, I have grown stronger in my faith and I have been blessed to be surrounded by other*

*Adventist students I can relate to, and now I'm not afraid to step up and say I am a Seventh-day Adventist. In my experience, I have felt closer to Christ during many occasions at Kingsway, whether it's through prayer, praise, and worship or simply having discussions with my friends or in religion class.*

I asked De'Meah what led her to enrol at Kingsway. She said:

*My cousin was going to Kingsway when I was in Grade 8, and my mother was sending my brother to Kingsway for his Grade 11 year, so she brought me with him for the preview weekend. When I came, I ended up deciding to enrol too, even though my mother hadn't planned to send me. Every year my mother works hard to send me back to Kingsway, and it is through prayer and faith that I have gotten through three years and am currently in my fourth. The student work program has helped me financially. The money I earn here goes toward my school fee, which helps my mother, while the work helps me learn skills, such as working in a team, and gives me experience because someday I will have a job where I can exercise what I've learned working here.*

De'Meah's favourite thing about Kingsway has been all the wonderful friends she has made since Grade 9. She said, "I couldn't begin to express how grateful and blessed I am to have such wonderful people in my life." Over the years she has made lifelong friends with many students who have graduated and those who are still here. Her other favourite aspect is that the staff and faculty care for the students so much that they are willing to help us even when we don't want to help ourselves.

"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you." —Joshua 1:5, NKJV ■

Lydia Sala is the communication assistant at Kingsway College.

**AT ALBERTA CAMPMEETING** on the Sabbath of August 2, 2015, Jose Rojas (well-known pastor and speaker who has held many North American Division positions) spoke candidly during the launch of The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS).

Jose spoke about his aboriginal heritage, reserve life, and what MANS represents for kids living in an environment much like the one he was born into in East Los Angeles—where his brother died begging for his life.

The Bridge Campaign's goal is to change lives and a community—a reserve that is often regarded as the toughest in Canada. The method? An Adventist mission high school that can accommodate 160 students and provide hope. The price tag? \$4.9 million, \$2.3 million of which was already in place at the launch.

Following an eye-opening Sabbath school about the experience of our aboriginal neighbours, Rojas testified about his experience as a Native American whose life was radically changed by Adventist education (see page 4, "What's It Mean to You?").

Raised in a community filled with violence, limited in hope and opportunity, Jose recognizes the drugs, gangs, violence and homicides that drive the alarmingly high youth suicide rate<sup>1</sup> and the sad high school dropout rate among Canada's aboriginal youth—61 percent, as compared to 9.5 percent among non-Aboriginals.<sup>2</sup>

Some years earlier Jose travelled to the Central Alberta reserve with a team of social workers to conduct a community assessment. They visited reserve schools and spent time with tribal elders and local families. Jose went to the home of where a young man had been shot and killed through the window of his house. He met grieving families and hurting individuals.

"Then my inspiration hit a high note," reflected Jose. "I went to visit Mamawi Atosketan Native School."

Canada's only Adventist mission school serves students of the Maskwacis reserves exclusively. With a 95 percent daily attendance rate, a 25 percent enrolment increase over last year (now there are 218 in kindergarten to Grade 12), and learners eager to get to school and enthusiastic about what happens there, MANS is a haven of safety, caring, and hope.

"As the former leader of missionaries, sending out over 100,000 a year, [I can say] we need mission work right here," Jose declared emphatically. "Now is our time to act."

"We are the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Jose told the packed auditorium. "These are our children. To see a Seventh-day Adventist logo at a place that needs it, to come in and see overcrowded classrooms—I say, 'Thank you, Jesus!'"

"Give and invest in a life," Jose urged. "Let's make it count." ■

*Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving, Alberta Conference, and campaign manager of The Bridge Campaign to build a high school building at Mamawi Atosketan Native School.*

# Jose Rojas Helps Launch MANS Campaign



Jose Rojas, past director of Youth Ministries and Voluntary Missions at the North American Division, and current president of MUFBA Alberta, at Alberta Camp Meeting.



Sandra Elchibamchi Taras, MANS's first teacher/principal, lays out the "1-2-3 Principles" that creates positive change during the Alberta Camp Meeting launch of The Bridge Campaign. See the "News" section at [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca).

<sup>1</sup> Suicide rates among First Nations youth are five to seven times higher than non-aboriginal youth in Canada. National Chief Perry Bellegarde, "First Nations, Fiscal Equity, and Resource Sovereignty: The Path to Closing the Development Gap," April 29, 2015, Assembly of First Nations, <http://afn.ca/en/national-chief/highlights-from-the-national-chief/04-29-15-first-nations-fiscal-equity-resource-sovereignty-the-path-1>.

<sup>2</sup> "A First Nations youth is more likely to end up in jail than to graduate high school." Chiefs Assembly on Education, Oct. 1-3, 2015, Assembly of First Nations, <http://afn.ca/uploads/files/events/fact-sheet-ccoe-3.pdf>.

# Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

*"I'm not afraid to  
be myself here ..."*

Sometimes God's plans for us involve upsetting everything we've known to bring us to a place we could never have envisioned, only to enrich our spiritual experience in ways we couldn't have imagined. Sibusisiwe (Busi) Dzingirayi had not planned to live in Alberta. When her father relocated the family from Ontario for work, they always talked about moving back after the contract, and yet this Zimbabwe-Canadian family remains in Bearvallon, Alta.

Busi had always known the value of Christian education. "I've grown up in Adventist schools since kindergarten," she says, but Parkview Adventist Academy had not been her plan. Nonetheless, the impact she would have on our campus and the opportunities she would be given to grow her faith and talents were definitely on God's mind when He opened the doors to bring her to PAA for Grade 10.

Her initial experience is very similar to that of other new students. "I was very shy at the beginning, but then I got to be part of the team. Everything that I got involved in was so good," said Busi.

In 2014/2015, Busi's calendar filled up with choir commitments, basketball practices, dorm and chapel worships, as well as Dauntless ministries and other praise teams. "I liked everything about my Grade 10 year. Every day is a highlight," Busi shares. "There's nothing I can choose that is more awesome than the others."

Reflecting on her first year, Busi says, "When I had moments that I felt I didn't belong, those are the times when God put people in my life to remind me how much they wanted me here. Now I know I wouldn't fit in anywhere else."

In Grade 11, Busi has taken on more leadership roles and is focused on developing the kinds of relationships that helped her feel connected when she was a new student: "I was able to meet a few people from Burman University, and they're really nice and have great stories to share. When I got to be a student ambassador for PAA Days, it was so much fun! My goal was to look out for the people who didn't know what to do and looked lost. I went to find the people who seemed to be by themselves."



Busi Dzingirayi

Busi's spiritual gifts of friendship and prayer have allowed her to connect with many of her peers and lead them in bringing Jesus in to their own lives. She is often seen praying with her friends over upcoming tests and presentations, or any personal struggles that they may be having.

On one occasion, she was asked to randomly choose the names of students from a draw of PAA Days' participants. Remembering this moment, Busi smiles as she says, "I knew there were people visiting PAA who could only come if they got a scholarship, so I prayed over each name I picked. When I was here in Grade 9, I knew that God wanted me to come to school here when I was given the largest scholarship amount. That was His leading, and I knew He would lead again for these people, too." Today, there are PAA high school students whose presence is a direct answer to Busi's prayer.

"Being at PAA took me out of my shell and made me gain my confidence. I'm not afraid to be myself here, and if I have a question about life or anything, I can go to the chaplain, Pastor Tederick, or any of my teachers, because they're fun to talk to. PAA is awesome because I like making friends with people, and I love going to God-centred places!" Busi's Adventist education experience is preparing her for heaven like none other. She is learning, as all PAA students are shown, to love and live like Jesus. ■

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



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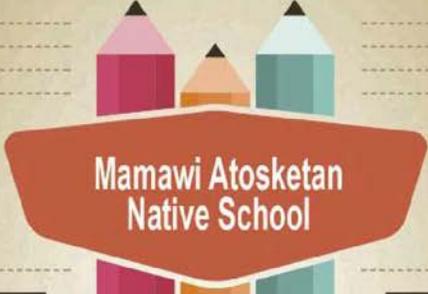
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*Can you imagine having a church of 400 and in a few short years having an active membership of only nine people? This was the reality for the Charlottetown Seventh-day Adventist Church in Prince Edward Island, the only Adventist church in that small province of Canada. However, a major change in the economy on the east coast resulted in many job losses and forced a number of families to move to other provinces to seek employment.*

*This situation also brought about many cases of depression and loss of hope, contributing to the drastic drop in membership in just a few short years. But God always has a way to bring hope out of seemingly impossible situations.*

## Prince Edward Island Mission Enrich

God gave Pastor Solomon, the current pastor of the Charlottetown church, a dream. In his dream he was driving a broken-down bus with his few members in the bus, and the bus was not driving well. It was so bad, in fact, that he decided to give up and get off the bus. God told him in his dream to keep driving, but he didn't listen and stepped off the bus. As he walked away, God told him to go back and get on the bus and keep driving, and so he did. But this time, when he got on the bus, it was brand-new and full of people; and then the dream ended.

When Pastor Greaves got wind of this story and heard the struggles this sister church was having, he was impressed to make that dream a reality by renting a bus and loading it with the Willowdale and Immanuel Pathfinders and embark on P.E.I. Mission Enrich!

After much planning, almost one year later on July 30, 2015, seventy-five pathfinders and parent leaders loaded a coach bus and made the dream a reality.

Twenty hours later they arrived at the University of Prince Edward Island, in Charlottetown, where the group would stay for the next eight days.

The plan was to put on a free Vacation Bible School (VBS) program for the community (which the pathfinders had already put on the week before in Toronto), and in the afternoons they would serve the community with some good Christian love: washing windows, helping out in the soup kitchens, giving out free health magazines and many smiles to bring awareness to this beautiful, newly built Adventist church in their area. The group also offered free seminars on grieving, employment and nutrition.

The team arrived Friday afternoon and spent Sabbath at Pugwash Campmeeting in Nova Scotia, which was a huge blessing. They decided to take the ferry ride back to P.E.I. that Sabbath, and there the first mission experience began. On the deck of the ferry, the pathfinders came together and began to randomly sing some Gospel



choruses in praise to our Redeemer. Before they knew it, they had many spectators enjoying these praises, and the captain of the boat invited the whole group for a special visit to the captain's deck. It was surely a highlight of the Sabbath.

Sunday was spent getting VBS set up and handing out even more invitations to VBS. But after the local church advertised in newspaper ads, radio broadcasts, and posters in the community, they still had no one registered. However, the team set up in faith and prepared for what they estimated would be 35 children.

Monday came, and they gathered together and began to pray, encircling the chairs. On bended knees they prayed in twos, once again asking God to use them in this community and fill the centre with children. That morning one child showed up from the community to register and one more by the end of the day. It was a little disappointing, but having the faithful few reminded the group that this was just a test of their faith.

Those two children enjoyed it so much that they told their friends—and like a chain reaction the VBS ended up having exactly 35 children registered by the end of the week! May God be praised.

Three of the families who came to VBS joined us for church on Sabbath, and two of them have since signed up for Bible study with the pastor. God is amazing!

Throughout the week some pathfinders helped at soup kitchens, the local food bank, the nursing home, and many other places. Everywhere they went they planted seeds of love and hope and left the locals with materials that included information about the church. They continued to invite people to visit any Sabbath they could.

Of course, the group managed to have some play time during the week. They visited beautiful Cavendish



Mission volunteers enjoyed time in the park.



Mission volunteers and community kids enjoyed singing the VBS theme song, "My God is Powerful."

Beach, Anne of Green Gables, as well as a fun water park and amusement parks.

This mission trip not only planted seeds for everlasting life in the hearts of many children and adults in the province but also brought hope to a fading church, increased the faith of our own young people, and created a new bond of friendship between all of our sister churches involved.

Canada is a vast and beautiful place with many cultures, breathtaking views, and such diverse landscapes. The Maritime provinces are no exception, and the mission group experienced that firsthand. However, nothing compares to the beauty of a life that learns about the salvation of Christ and accepts this free gift of eternity. Our 75 Willowdale and Immanuel pathfinders had the awesome privilege of being used by God to share this message, plant the seeds, reap some harvest, and in turn has increased all of our faiths. It was truly Mission Enrich! ■

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*Carolyn Nichol is a member of the Immanuel Adventist Church in Toronto, Ontario*



# SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

has chosen to recognize outstanding teachers and administrators in our school system. The award consists of a plaque and a cheque. We are pleased to recognize the following recipients for their exemplary contribution to Adventist Education.

## ADMINISTRATOR AWARD



Leidamae Solijon

**LEIDAMAE SOLIJON** graduated with a B.Ed. degree from Canadian University College in 2004. She has a variety of teaching experiences, having taught at Adventist schools in the Bahamas, South Korea, California, and Toronto. Currently, Leidamae is the teaching principal at Windsor Adventist Elementary School.

Leidamae has a love for learning and teaching. She believes that the best way to motivate students is by influencing their hearts first. Through encouragement and by appealing to the heart, she has seen difficult students transform into cooperative learners. Leidamae gets her satisfaction from seeing her students make the right

decision and act responsibly.

From early in life, Leidamae had an inclination to help others, and with the encouragement of her parents, she decided to become a teacher. She was privileged to be born in an Adventist home and educated in Adventist schools, which helped her, she says, to really know God and develop a good relationship with Him. As an Adventist teacher, she wants her students to grow up with a positive picture of God in their minds.

Leidamae enjoys travelling, food, cultural adventures, learning new things, and spending time with family and friends.

## TEACHER AWARDS



Dana Chant

**DANA CHANT** graduated with a B.Ed. from Canadian Union College in 1994. She and her husband, Jim, have two daughters, Madison and Macy.

Dana has 19 years of teaching experience. She taught in Unionville (Ontario), and at College Park Elementary in Oshawa, where she currently teaches.

Dana sees teaching as both an opportunity and a challenge. It is an opportunity to inspire another human being, but it is also a challenge, as many times learning is not the top priority for students. She believes that teaching involves more than following a prescribed curriculum; it must

reach the whole child and include things such as character training and spiritual development.

Dana became a Seventh-day Adventist teacher because she enjoys sharing knowledge with others. She views the teaching profession as an experience in lifelong learning where teachers grow and evolve and are influenced by innocent and enthusiastic students who keep them young as they remind them to smile through even the most frustrating moments.

Dana enjoys downhill skiing, skating, boating, and camping.



### APRIL DAWN COTTREAU

graduated with a B.Ed. from Canadian Union College in 1993. She is married to Ward Leonard Cottreau, and they have two grown children: Ferris Kyler and Cameron Forrest.

April has 20 years (full-time and part-time) of teaching experience, having taught in schools in British Columbia, Alberta, and Nova Scotia, where she currently teaches.

April has many memorable teaching experiences, but she recalls a particular event that had a profound effect on her students. A parent who was well dressed in suit and tie volunteered to clean up strewn litter, which should have been done by the student who was responsible for creating the mess. The kind man did all

the dirty work while the guilty boy looked on. Though the student wanted to help, the parent insisted that he should not. April said that that demonstration taught a powerful lesson of God's grace, cleaning up our sins when we don't deserve it.

April became a teacher partly as a result of some "lousy teaching" she endured; she wanted to become a teacher of quality. She chose to become an Adventist teacher because her "faith is not a separate part of who she is," and she wanted the freedom to express her beliefs in her daily work, knowing that if she couldn't, she wouldn't be able to produce her best work.

April's interests include reading, gardening, renovation and redesigning, writing, cooking, hearing jokes, and playing Scrabble.



April Dawn Cottreau

**CHERRI GERBER** graduated from Walla Walla University with a B.Sc. in 1980, and an M.Sc. in 1982. In 2010 she graduated with a Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) from Montana State University. She has four grown children: Shannon, Ryan, Shaun, and Caitlin.

Cherri taught for many years in different school settings in British Columbia. She is currently a teacher at Okanagan Adventist Academy in British Columbia.

One of her most memorable teaching experiences was working with her Grade 11 Science and Technology class to develop a database to compare height, leg length, foot length, and stride length as part of a

forensics unit. A focus of her educational philosophy is assisting her students in applying what they learn in order to build and improve their community.

Cherri chose teaching to share her love of learning with others. She said that one of the advantages of working in our school system is the opportunity it gives her to work with students of diverse talents and learning abilities in multi-age groupings. Our smaller school settings also provide her with greater opportunities to help students grow and develop into mentors and leaders.

Cherri enjoys reading, studying, geocaching, hiking, and quilting.



Cherri Gerber

**MAE SOLIJON** graduated with a B.Ed. from Canadian University College in 2006. She is married to Ed Solijon, and they have one two-year-old daughter, Alyssa Brielle Ria.

Since graduating from university, Mae has taught at Deer Lake School (British Columbia), Peel Adventist School (Ontario), and Crawford Adventist Academy (Ontario).

Mae recalls a memorable experience when one of her four-year-old Junior Kindergarten students said to her, "Look, Mrs. Solijon, I can read!" On another occasion, during a time of stress when Mae was "laying down the law," a student said to her, "Mrs. Solijon, I love you! I think we need to pray." This was a humbling experience for Mae,

for it reminded her that God is always willing to help us in times of need.

Mae knew she wanted to be a teacher when she was four years old, teaching her stuffed animals. She believes that God has called her into the teaching ministry, not only to teach children to grow and develop academically, physically, emotionally, and socially, but also to instill in them a love for others and, most importantly, a love for Jesus Christ.

Mae is a very active person with many hobbies and interests, including spending time with family and friends, music, running, playing various sports, snowboarding, hiking, travelling, and shopping.



Mae Solijon

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## British Columbia

### An Evening of Music With Frankie Bones



*"Music is my passion. Teaching it to others helps my ultimate goal, ... to be a good influence to incoming students."—Frankie Bones*

Six years ago I heard Frankie Bones play for the first time. I had just finished the song service for the evening meeting at Camp Hope and was almost ready to leave the back room of the auditorium, when I heard a beautiful piano piece being played for the offertory. It was played with so much enthusiasm and talent that I had to peek out the door to see who was playing. I was surprised to see a teenaged boy and thought, *Wow, can that boy ever play!*

Several weeks later I was watching the evening news and saw him again. It turns out that Dr. Richter, a university professor at Walla Walla University (WWU), had also heard Frankie play that summer and invited him to come to WWU to study university-level music courses. But there was a hitch. Since Frankie was in the foster care system, he wasn't free to study at WWU without permission from the Ministry of Children and Families, and they weren't giving him permission to go. His foster mom decided to make his story to the media, and the media attention influenced the ministry to take another look at the situation. Subsequently, Frankie was given permission to attend WWU. His mom said

that as soon as they heard the news, they packed the car and crossed the border immediately so that Frankie could begin his music studies at WWU.

Frankie was born and raised in Surrey, B.C. He is First Nations and has been raised by Esther Cordner, who is originally from the island of Grenada. This has given Frankie a very diverse cultural background. She sent Frankie to the Carillon Music School at the age of five, and though he says that he had no real love for music at that time, his mom recognized his talent and began to nurture it. And she keeps encouraging him. "I think the one thing I can truly say about my mom is that she always fought to give me the best education," Frankie said when asked about her influence.

Frankie will be graduating this year from WWU with a Bachelor of Music, with an emphasis on performance. He plans to attend Washington State University the following year for graduate studies. "Music is my passion. Teaching it to others helps my ultimate goal ... to be a good influence to incoming students."

My daughter met Frankie during her first year at WWU, as they both spent hours practising in the music building. Also a pianist, she appreciated the tips Frankie gave her for improving her technique. And that is where the idea for a concert at the Abbotsford, B.C., church took shape.

We chose September 12 for the concert and did as much advertising as we could. It turned out that Sept. 12 was a very popular date and several of the surrounding churches had major events happening at the same time. I cautioned Frankie that we might not have a very large attendance because of these other programs. Then I prayed a great deal about the attendance. By 7 p.m. on the night of the concert, we had more people in attendance than any of us had dared to hope!

The concert was inspiring! Those who came early got the best seats, the ones right by Frankie, so they could watch him play. And he put his heart into the pieces. We listened to inspirational favourites, such as "We Shall Behold Him," along with several classical numbers. Guest musicians added their own special touch to the program. We left the concert inspired and grateful that Frankie has chosen to use his talents to bless others. ■

—Joan Septembre, Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church

## The Good Samaritan

Our dad passed away from kidney failure, and the very next morning, my sister, Edith, who also had a failing kidney, went for surgery to prepare her for dialysis. She needed a machine to dialyse her blood five times a day, every day. Edith's body can only tolerate dialysis for so long.

It turned out that none of our family and relatives were eligible to be a kidney donor, so we had to look elsewhere. We started with emails to friends. We appealed on Facebook. We wrote letters to evangelists and churches, to pastors and mayors, and even to an astronaut. Prayer requests spread like fire for Edith.

Clutching a stack of yellow posters, I trudged all over the Lower Mainland (Greater Vancouver Regional District), asking shop owners permission to post, desperately hoping that somebody somewhere would respond to the plea to save our sister's life.

During the three years of searching for a kidney donor for Edith, we received a hundred of replies with a few potential kidney donors. As a result of the postings, we got calls from the news to go on television and from local papers for interviews.

By September 2014, last year, Edith got so ill that she was too weak to travel. We were very concerned she wouldn't last much longer without a kidney transplant.

And then it happened! Marianne had seen a poster at the Jewish Community Centre and volunteered as a donor but was not a match for Edith. She was still willing to donate a kidney to Edith on the Paired Exchange Program. The chances were still very small and could take a few years or so to find a match for the kidney. But a match was found.



Praise the Lord! In January of this year, Edith received a new kidney on her birthday at the local hospital from an unknown donor, and Marianne flew to London, Ont., to give her kidney for the exchange. The surgeries were successful, and the new kidneys were in spectacular shape.

Marianne is the Good Samaritan. When the children of God manifest mercy, kindness, and love toward all people, they also witness to the character of the statutes of heaven. Marianne did not pass by on the other side.

Thank you, Lord, for Marianne.

Indeed, God has granted us a miracle. ■

—Beryl Nicol, Vancouver, B.C.

## Ontario

### Bronte's Seniors Recognition Tea Social

On the afternoon of March 22, 2015, the Community Services Ministry in collaboration with Communications and Social Committee at Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with support from Pastor Saugh, hosted its first Seniors Recognition Tea Social. The purpose of the tea social was to honour the beloved Bronte seniors for their zeal, dedication, and faithfulness to the Lord's work. The well-crafted event was attended by approximately 50 participants. Many of the attendees who are members of Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church, brought friends and family members along to enjoy the afternoon.

The ladies arrived in style, dressed in a variety of vibrant hats—which they had been encouraged to wear for a hat voting contest. The winner of the hat contest was Yvonne Chambers, a beloved member of the Bronte church.

The afternoon's festivities included a brief history of afternoon tea, fun, and laughter as the attendees socialized, participated in quizzes, and listened to special music by two of Bronte's praise

team members, Camille Leslie and Susan Joseph. A sentiment of reflection set in as three current members of Bronte gave heartfelt and inspiring testimonies about their own personal journeys and service to the Lord.

In attendance were a number of founding and long-time members of Bronte who were recognized for their contribution and tireless service to the church. As a token of gratitude and appreciation, five members were presented with certificates. The recipients were Germana Avelino, Terry and Olga Cook, Alipio and Maria Patricia Geraldo, Antony and Yolanda Palzer, Nick and Christine Santini, and Peter Saelmayer. And in a moving tribute to the seniors, a poem written by Bronte's youth was read demonstrating just how much the younger generation appreciates their beloved seniors.

The afternoon concluded with a keynote speech by Pastor Theodore Sargeant, the director of Community Services for the Ontario Conference, who delivered a powerful message to the



Pastor Saugh (fourth from right) and Theodore Serpant (fifth from right) with long-time members recognized for their service to the church.

seniors on the value of getting older, the gift of wisdom God has granted, and the beauty of seeing how much more God can still accomplish in their lives and through their ministry.

By God's grace, the Seniors Recognition Tea Social was a success. Throughout each stage of the event—the planning, the

execution, and the aftermath—the Lord's hand was evident; and the Bronte church family is looking forward to celebrating the gift God has blessed us with through the ministry and service of our Bronte seniors. The plan is to make this an annual event. ■

—Vimbai E. Chikomo

## Ontario Conference Sponsors First-Ever Adventurer Family Camporee

For the first time in the history of the Adventurers' ministry in Ontario, the Adventurer Family Camporee was held on July 22–26, 2015, at Brant Park Conservation Area, located in a bend on the Grand River within the historic communities of Brantford and Brant County. A total of 865 campers representing 30 clubs registered for the camporee, with attendance swelling to more than 1,000 people on the Sabbath of July 25.

The Olympic-inspired theme for this five-day camporee, *On Your Mark: Ready for God's Game Plan*, was chosen in conjunction with the 2015 Pan-Am Games, also held that same month. Under the leadership of Pastor Edwin Martin, Ontario Conference Adventurer director, with the assistance of Velma Morgan and Ruth Weidner, Adventurer executive coordinator and administrative secretary, respectively, as well as with the support of Adventurer coordinators, club directors, staff, and a host of volunteers, the camporee was raved as a huge success.

The On Your Mark (OYM) camporee proved to be so well-organized that there was something for everyone of all ages: from bouncy castles and inflatables for the little ones (and some big ones, too) to canoeing, pony rides and horseback riding, fishing, photo fun, dodgeball, "Adventurers Got Talent" event, archery, softball, relay races, along with countless opportunities to earn awards, chips, and stars; and the show stopper—the



Kendall Brouet shared stories of David and Joshua in a very animated way.

1.25-acre swimming pool. Even though the pool was reported to be quite cool, it didn't stop the little campers from lining up daily to take a dip.

The nightly program showcased outstanding performances of Adventurer preachers, singers, and instrumentalists to everyone's delight. Kendall Brouet, from the Ottawa church, shared the stories of David and Joshua in a very animated way. Guest speaker

Roger Wade, Northeastern Conference youth director, emphasized to both young and old the need to be ready for God's game plan for our lives.

The highlight of the nighttime program was the On Your Mark drama presentation, which portrayed the importance of following God's plan and in giving all you've got for God. The stage play was written, directed, and produced by Emicil Dela Cruz from Mt. Zion Filipino Church. Assisting him were Susette Frias, drama coordinator and choir director; Melody Salmon-Hastick, assistant drama director; and Michele Salmon-Hastick, assistant drama coordinator. Countless hours were spent by the 19-member cast for rehearsals and video shoots. When the final curtain was closed on Saturday night, it was evident that all their efforts had paid off and it was all worth it.

Mansfield Edwards, president of the Ontario Conference, was also in attendance. He commended Pastor Martin and his team for having the vision to undertake such a great endeavor for the benefit of Adventurer children and their families.

The entire week was a time for deep spiritual connection and family bonding. Adventurers learned the importance of praying with and for one another daily; they also enjoyed worshipping God in the midst of nature, exploring the wonders of God's Creation, and strengthening the tie that binds them as happy families.

Another historic event was the first-ever mass Adventurer Investiture Service held at camporee on the Sabbath of July 25. A total of 133 Adventurers, Eager Beavers, and Little Lambs were invested. Also invested was Aundrea Belnavis-Sinclair, Agape Astroids Adventurer Club director, who was scarfed as Ontario's newest Adventurer Master Guide.

The smallest registered club (Berea) had only two members



The Adventurer Family Camporee had an Olympic-inspired theme. Here, Pastor Edwin Martin lights the "Olympic" torch.

present, and the largest club had 72 (College Park). But regardless of the club size, children and parents alike were beaming from ear to ear with screams of sheer joy and delight, as some of them got to experience outdoor camping for the first time ever. From pitching tents to building their camp entrances and setting their campgrounds, it was an experience that would be cherished forever.

On July 26-30, 2017, once again all roads will lead to Brant Park for Ontario's second Adventurer Family Camporee. By God's grace, let's start planning to be there. For more details, visit [www.ontarioadventurers.ca](http://www.ontarioadventurers.ca). ■

—Aundrea Belnavis-Sinclair,  
OYM Adventurer Camporee,  
Communication Committee Member



Happy campers take a moment to pose for a group shot.

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Sept. 30, 2015, there were 431 depositors with a total deposit of \$29,502,407. There were 84 loans with a value of \$25,349,473.

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





**Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
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**Births**

**David Richard Shcherbak** was born on May 23, 2015, to Marina and Andrew Shcherbak, of Halifax, N.S.

**Mallory Catherine June Willock** was born on Aug. 12, 2015, to Joseph and Mary Willock, of Halifax, N.S.

**Anniversaries**

**Tony and Betty Boutilier** of Timbelea, N.S., celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 28, 2015.



They were married in the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church and have been faithful and supportive members the entire time. Just three months before their 60th anniversary, they celebrated their 80th birthdays, Betty being one day older than Tony. The family celebrated the occasions on a cruise.

**Herbert and Dorothea Reincke** of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 18,



2015, at Gallagher Canyon Golf Club, attended by 130 guests from

Canada and the United States. The Reinckes have four children, Twyla Gimbel, Kenneth (Shirley) Reincke, Andrey (Lester) Begelew, and Debbie Schwarz; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Dwight and Donna Rose** of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 13,



2015, by taking trips to Australia and San Antonio, Tex., provided by family and friends. The Roses have three children, Lisa (Kevin) Brucka, Pamela (Armond) Manasian, and Shawna (Kirk) Campbell; and seven grandchildren.

**Carl and Alice Spencer** of Windsor Junction, N.S., celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 6, 2015,



with a host of family members. The Spencers have three children, Caroline Boehner, Judy Sanford, and Ruth Cadton; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Vernon and Bonnie Triebwasser** of Calgary, Alta., celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 30, 2015, with many family members and friends.



They were married in the Calgary Central church, and have made their home in Calgary. The Triebwassers have four children, Roger, Rick,

Cathy, and Donald; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Birthdays**

**Rita (née Lowe) Mack** of Halifax, N.S., celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 21, 2015, with many of her family



and friends. Rita is in good health and faithfully attends all Sabbath school and church services, including the recent evangelistic meetings in metro-Halifax. Her greatest joy is sharing Jesus and the Adventist truths she loves.

**Harold Reincke** of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 18, 2015, with immediate



and extended family from Georgia, Oregon, Manitoba, and British Columbia. Harold has four children, 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Obituaries**

**Beryl (née Duront) Baptiste** was born on May 1, 1937, in Grenada, West Indies, and died on Aug. 5, 2015, in Toronto, Ont. Beryl was a certified K-12 teacher who was passionate about her work. She was very active in all churches pastored by her husband, specifically as Sabbath school superintendent, health and temperance leader, and involvement in Vacation Bible School. Her hospitality and love for others were admired by many as missionary gifts. Beryl is survived by her husband, Clarence; sons, David, Peter, and Phillip; and sisters, Dora Durant.

**George Goodburn** was born on March 11, 1922, in Nottingham, England, and died on July 26, 2015,

**Announcements**

The Mt. Hope church is looking for the following missing members: Kendra Gallagher, Go-Jerick Walker. If you have a current phone number and address for either of these people, please contact Irene Locwen at 604/869-3667 or [irenelocwen@shaw.ca](mailto:irenelocwen@shaw.ca).

**Camp Friends staff 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration—held the detail** Camp Friends staff and their families are invited to Camp Friends' 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration, Thursday evening, June 30, through Sunday afternoon, July 3, 2016. This exciting event will include camp activities, campfires, and Canada Day celebrations. It will be an opportunity to reconnect with your camp family. Event details will be available soon at [www.campfriends.com](http://www.campfriends.com). Please contact Sharon Alka [alsharon8@gmail.com](mailto:alsharon8@gmail.com) or Steven Atkins at [satkins@andrew.edu](mailto:satkins@andrew.edu) with any questions you may have. (11/15)

**63<sup>rd</sup> TJA/CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend**—Crawford Adventist Academy will be holding its 63<sup>rd</sup> Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 27-29, 2016, honoring TJA classes of 1981 (Grade 11), 1976 (Grade 10), 1971 (Grade 10), 1966 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of

in Rocky Mountain House, Alta. George was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a deep conscience and as devoted husband, father, and teacher. George is predeceased by his first wife, Frieda Beck. Surviving: wife, Hazel (née Thomsen); son, Kenneth Goodburn of Toronto, Ont.; daughter, Joan Schochenmaier of Surrey, B.C.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**JoAnne (née Woolverton) McKay** was born on June 15, 1936, in Oak Flat, Tex., and died on March 8, 2015, in Lacombe, Alta. JoAnne is predeceased by her parents, Horace and Ada Woolverton. Surviving: husband, Len McKay of Milton, Alta.; son, Wesley Newman; brothers, Gene (Jeanie) Woolverton of Connecticut, Buford (Marge) Woolverton of Texas; sisters, Clara, Lottie, and Deltha of Texas; half-sister, Dale of Texas; four grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild.

**Paul Raymond Pangborne** was born on Oct. 16, 1927, and died on Aug. 28, 2015, in Halifax, N.S. He served in the Royal Canadian Airforce for 31 years. Paul is survived by his wife, Audrey; daughters, Jill Pangborne, Shawn Mole, and Kelley Murphy; stepsons, Donald MacDonald and Tony MacDonald; stepdaughters, Carol Ryan and Antia Arenburg; 12 step-grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren.

**Beatrice (née Ralls) Pierce** was born on Jan. 25, 1925, in Lenoir, N.C., and died on Aug. 30, 2015, in Apopka, Fla. She worked as an administrative assistant with the president of Canadian Union College from 1975 to 1989. She is predeceased by her mother, Majel Ivey; half-brother,

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- The Messenger assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements. Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

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Marrin (Jill) Seay of North Carolina; half-sisters, JoAnn Sandifer of North Carolina and Ivy Seay of North Carolina. Surviving: husband, Charles Pierce; son, Chuck Pierce of Hackensack, New Jersey; daughter, Ched Pierce of Sorrento, Fla.

**Charles L. Pierce** was born on Jan. 11, 1924, in Candler, N.C., and died on Sept. 10, 2015, in Taverner, Fla. He was chairman of the music department at Canadian Union College from 1975 to 1989. He also previously taught at Columbia Union College, Mt. Vernon Academy, Mt. Pisgah Academy, SDA College of Brazil, Forest Lake Academy, and Highland Academy. Charles is predeceased by his wife, Beatrice Pierce; parents, Lafella and Dorothy (née Graves)

Pierce; brother, Bruce (Doris) Pierce of Hagerstown, Md.; sisters, Trudy Michaelis and Helen Moyers.

### Advertisements

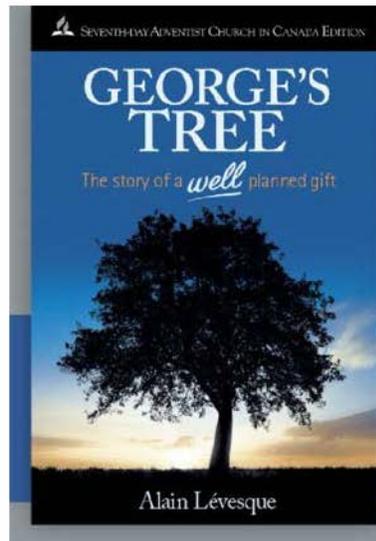
**Extra copies of Our Little Friend?** Primary Treasure? Share your love of Jesus! Be a missionary! Send extra copies to an Adventist school in Uganda, Africa. Put magazines in large mailing envelope. *Mailed direct:* Seventh-day Adventist Church Rwanda/Field, c/o Education Director WMM, P.O. Box 21 Kampala, Uganda, East Africa. Questions? 613/256-1153 *Maria Raffey (5/16)*

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**Wanted:** Looking for teachers for SDA elementary school (English Immersion School) in South Korea. Starting CAD\$2,500. Free full furnished housing, free round-trip airfare, medical insurance, national pension, paid vacation, etc. Basic requirements: prof of university degree. Work start dates: Feb. 23, 2016. Due date for application: Nov. 20, 2015. For more details, call 604/997-1970 Peter Kim (elder, Vancouver Korean SDA Church, B.C.). Email [311kim@gmail.com](mailto:311kim@gmail.com) or [kim76311@hotmail.ca](mailto:kim76311@hotmail.ca). (11/15)

**Burman University seeks Vice-President for Academic Administration.** Burman University requires an experienced academic leader to serve as Vice-President for Academic Administration (VPAA) and to act for the President in his absence. This position will provide leadership to the faculty and will work collaboratively with administration and academic deans to develop new programs and enhance the overall academic experience of all students. The VPAA will serve as a liaison with government agencies, accrediting bodies, and other educational institutions on academic issues; guide the recruitment, selection, retention, and promotion of superior faculty; and provide institutional leadership and support for the university's research efforts. The VPAA will maintain academic quality and ensure the availability of adequate academic resources and technology. Applications should consist of a substantive letter of interest addressing the listed qualifications, a curriculum vitae or resumé, and a list of at least five professional references with full contact information. For more information, visit [www.burman.ca/humanresources](http://www.burman.ca/humanresources) or call 403/782-3381 x4147 or email [adrey@burmam.ca](mailto:adrey@burmam.ca). (11/15)

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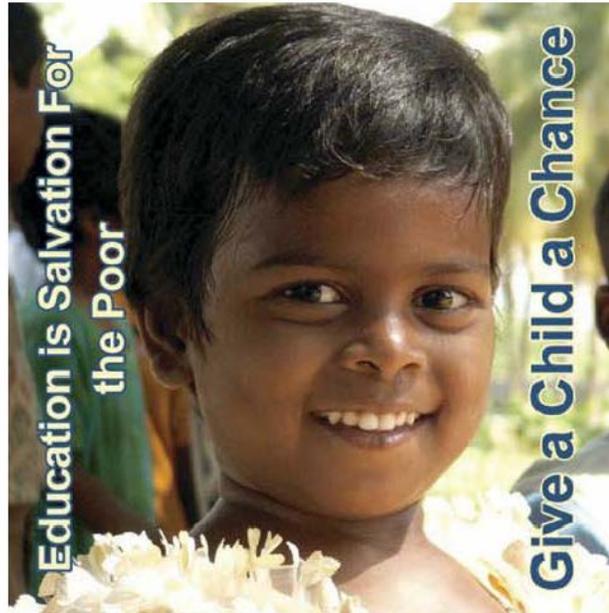
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## from the editor

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### Speak up

I RECENTLY ATTENDED THE ANNUAL SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS CONVENTION, which met this year near the General Conference headquarters. On Sabbath we were blessed by Pastor Chad Stuart of the Spencerville church in Maryland as he discussed a popular statement that has often been attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Stuart explained that this attribution is an erroneous one, since there is no record of its use before the end of the last century.

Now let me let you in on a little secret. This quotation has always bothered me, and to hear that I was not alone in my sentiment was a relief. Don't get me wrong. I understand the sincerity of heart that comes with that saying and the quality of life that can be improved in its adherence. Nor am I saying that we need to be in everyone's face all the time. But I often felt that it also diminished the potential impact of a ministry.

All too often, the "use words if necessary" quotation has been used as an excuse not to proclaim the three angels' messages we have been called to share especially in these last days. The responsibility of the gospel message, which we all bear, is not a passive calling for a passive life.

I am grateful to have Jesus' example of words and actions. Yes, He healed and He fed, but He did not witness in silence, with His lifestyle alone. He readily spoke up against injustice and hypocrisy.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), a wonderful ministry of the Adventist Church, also follows Christ's example. They not only speak up against injustice but also strengthen the lives of families and communities. When they speak up and take action, entire communities are changed.

Many people support at least one project in the annual ADRA gift catalogue ([adra.ca/gift-catalogue](http://adra.ca/gift-catalogue)), but I am challenging you to speak up and share it with your family, friends, neighbours, and even "frenemies." Speak up. Take action. Get others involved so they, too, can experience the blessing of selfless giving. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stan".

Stan Jensen, editor  
Canadian Adventist Messenger



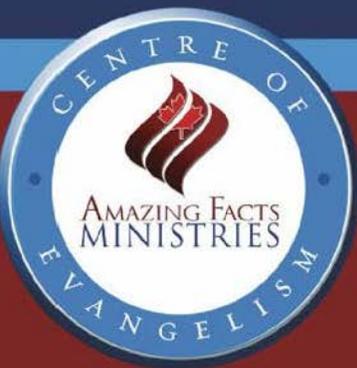

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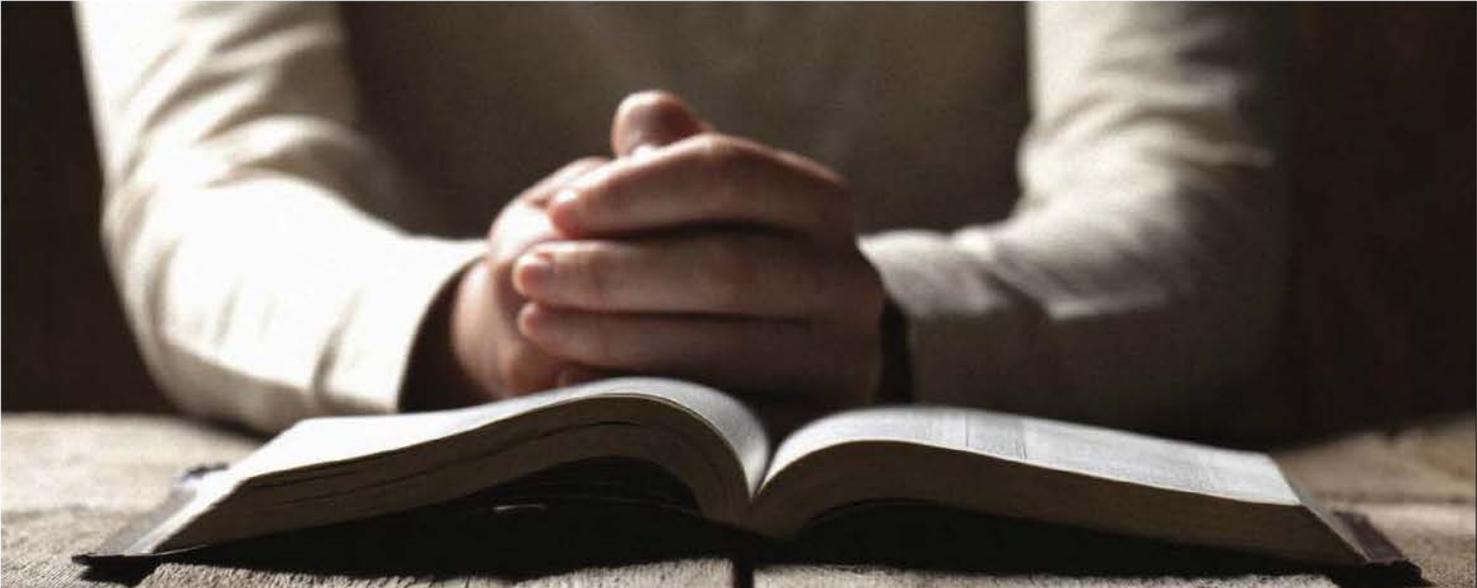
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