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• January 2016

Messenger



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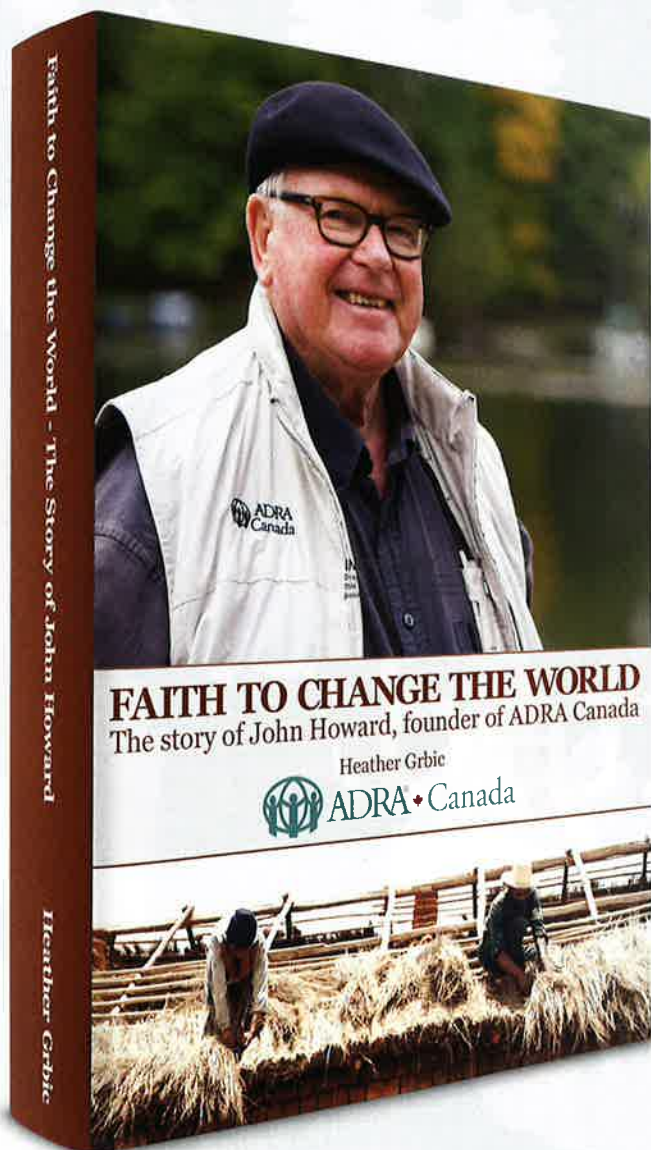
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“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” —Luke 11:1, ESV”

To pray like Jesus

One of the things I've noticed about Jesus is that He prayed. A lot. His disciples noticed this too. Something they saw when He prayed made them want to know how to pray as He did. It isn't as if the disciples hadn't seen prayer before. They had.

Deeply religious people back then were quite public about their prayer life. Examples of prayer could be observed in any synagogue. Scripture mentions that prayer took place on street corners as well. But despite all the disciples had seen, they appealed to Jesus to teach them to pray as He did.

Perhaps very few areas of faith have been the focus of such innovation as prayer. Some have viewed prayer as a religious version of Aladdin's lamp. Thus, if you or I pray with sufficient intensity, the positive outcome of whatever we wish is assured.

Or, you may have come across the concept of prayer marathons, organized, round-the-clock sort of events that seem to be rooted in Paul's admonition to “pray without ceasing.” There may be a place for these innovations, but the disciples saw that Jesus prayed differently.

So what was it like when Jesus prayed? My favourite author says it well. “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”¹ The prayers of Jesus were prayers to a Friend. Behind the complexities of language and expression, the Lord's Prayer was just that.

Prayer, then, is not so much about length, location, or loudness—it is about depth of communication. There are things we will tell a friend that we would never share with a stranger. And that's where prayer needs to be for each of us, available, spontaneous, with our Friend.

Is prayer about closeness to God? That's incredibly important if you are a person of faith. Ellen G. White says it well: “We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun.”²

In a confusing, changing, and increasingly dangerous world we need the direction and peace that closeness with God brings.

We ought to pray like Jesus. ■

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

¹ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 93.

² *Ibid.*, p. 99.



What's it Mean to You?

"It means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it."

MANS Parent & Total Praise supporter
Maskwacis, Alberta



"I will never forget it in my entire life," says Larell Littlechild, one of the Total Praise members who performed before NAD president Dan Jackson and GC president Ted Wilson. "I felt like we were famous."

Indeed, the six girls who represented Mamawi Atosketan Native School at the Year End Meetings were the face of missions in Canada. As President Jackson told the assembled presidents and representatives of the North American Division, MANS is the largest Adventist First Nations school in North America. To outside observers, it's a unique success story in First Nations education.

But for the parents, band council members, chiefs, and other members of the Maskwacis community, the school and the invitation to perform in Washington, DC comes down to this: Their children matter to the Adventist church.

Getting MANS' sign language group and director Cheri Notice to the NAD's biggest annual event took extraordinary cooperation between the school and the larger community. Not one of the students had a valid passport, but teachers, parents and other members of the band resolved to "Mamawi Atosketan" (Cree for "Working Together"), and by working together, they saw extraordinary things happen.

"I'm so proud of my daughter and the school," said Lori Baldry, parent of Jersey Threefinger Grade 7. "This is such an honour for the school and the students to get to go."

"Thank you so much for taking care of our kids," wrote another parent. "They may never get a chance to do something like this again in their life... We will never forget it. It is just like a big family here at this school."

As we show the Father's love in practical ways, walls come down. The family grows closer.

Watch Total Praise's October 30 performance at the General Conference offices for Presidents Jackson and Wilson, and hundreds of NAD delegates at www.mans1.ca (video section).

Pictured: Total Praise member Tashina Green in traditional Plains Cree regalia. Tashina is one of more than 200 students at MANS.



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What does the Lord require?

“WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?” The ancient prophet Micah posed the question and then answered it: “To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8, NKJV).

That question and its answer kept ringing in my mind as I met with the staff of ADRA Canada in November. I had been invited to serve as a member of the ADRA Canada board. Part of the orientation for a new board member was to visit the ADRA Canada office, meet with the staff, and learn about the projects undertaken to alleviate human suffering.

I was impressed with the team’s professional quality and their obvious commitment to serving God by ministering to those who live at the margins of existence. ADRA receives funding from public and private sources for responding to natural disasters, for assisting communities whose existence is threatened by economic or social conditions, and, most importantly, for helping these communities build a way of life that goes beyond mere survival.

We had recently moved from Maryland to Washington State and were getting acquainted with a new church family. Upon my return home from the ADRA Canada meetings, my wife told me about the Community Services program, a food bank operated by this church. The next week we joined other volunteers in a very intensive food distribution program for over 250 families. This event happens every week of the year.

It was these two experiences, meeting with ADRA Canada to learn about its international programs and meeting with our new church family to serve people in the local community, that reminded me of Micah 6:8. Doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God are all actions—not just ideas. They force me to think about the priorities in my life and how my spiritual commitments are expressed.

But I also thought about my global church with members in

over 200 countries of the world. The diversity of circumstances in which we live defies computation. Whether in situations of affluence or poverty, we are always surrounded by people in need. And the message from God is a summons to sensitivity and service (see Isa. 58; Matt. 25).

Seventh-day Adventists are committed to a worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The Great Commission of Matthew 28:18–20 is written into our DNA. With unceasing persistence we invite people to our evangelistic meetings, to our churches and campmeetings, to our media programs and a sampling of our products. The hope is that *they* will come to *us*. However, Micah 6:8 summons *us* to go to *them* in acts of service and in response to their cry for justice and their plea for mercy.

Much suspicion surrounds religion these days—and the suspicion is perhaps more so directed toward religious institutions. Public trust in religious institutions has been compromised in so many ways: lack of integrity by leaders, sensational claims that are discovered to be empty, and theological wrangling that makes a church look irrelevant and self-absorbed. But serving God by ministering to those on the margins of existence is the gospel in practice. Ministry of this kind earns its own right to be heard, for it is reminiscent of the ministry of Jesus, who “came to this world as the unwearied servant of [humanity’s] necessity. He ‘took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses,’ that He might minister to every need of humanity.”¹ ■

Lowell C. Cooper lives with his wife, Rae Lee, in Kennewick, Wash. He recently retired from 17 years as a general vice-president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Another Time

"God invites each of us to look beyond our present circumstances and fix our minds on another time."

Their home was the picture of perfection. With a humble home in the country, they were surrounded by gardens and an abundance of wildlife. The husband and wife who lived there knew that life couldn't get any better. Then one day everything changed.

Genesis 3:1 records the start of that drastic turning point: "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"'" (NKJV).

What followed that question was a downward spiral of choices that led to devastating and eternal consequences. First, Eve made a choice to engage in conversation with the serpent, that old ancient foe, whom she had been warned about. Then she chose to disobey God and eat the fruit that was strictly forbidden. And in an even more heartbreaking choice, Adam went beyond disobedience and made a decision demonstrating his lack of faith in God. He chose to join Eve in her sin instead of trusting that God had a plan to fix what had happened.

However tragic this story, God was not taken by surprise, as is poignantly described in the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

There appeared no escape for those who had transgressed the law The Son of God, heaven's glorious Commander, was touched with pity for the fallen race. His heart was moved with infinite compassion as the woes of the lost world rose up before Him. But divine love had conceived a plan whereby man might be redeemed None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again into harmony with heaven.¹

Although the choices made that day altered the course of human history, and although it may have seemed like the devil had taken control, that was not the end of the story. Fixing their minds on another time, God promised that there would be "enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). "Before they heard of the life of toil and sorrow which must be their portion, or of the decree that they must turn to dust, they listened to words that could no fail to give them hope. Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, they could look forward to the final victory."² Fixing their minds on another time, Adam and Eve anxiously anticipated that day.

God has worked the same way all throughout the history of His people. Joseph. David. Daniel. Esther. Jesus. Paul. Peter. They all faced incredible challenges. But they fixed their minds on another time, that day when "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout" (1 Thess. 4:16, NKJV). It is possible that 2015 brought you disappointment, possibly even tragedy or despair, or maybe it was even a good year for you. God invites each of us to look beyond our present circumstances and fix our minds on another time. And we should go beyond just looking forward; Peter says we should be "hastening the coming of the day of God" (2 Pet. 3:12, NKJV). It Is Written Canada exists to bring that message of hope and wholeness to all of Canada and around the world. ■

Chris Holland is speaker/director of It Is Written Canada.



¹Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 63.

²Ibid., 65.

teen talk

Q: I go to a private Christian school. Many of my classmates go to a church where they speak in tongues. I'm confused, because I've heard that it does not come from God. Are you for or against speaking in tongues?

A: I'm not for or against speaking in tongues. Neither do I judge those who have such gift. I pretty much follow Paul's take on it when he wrote to the Corinthians: "If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God" (1 Cor. 14:27, 28, NIV).

Some argue that being able to speak multiple current languages, like English, French, Spanish, have a modern version of the gift of tongues. Well, I speak all those languages and never considered myself "tongue gifted"! (although it seems that sometimes I need an interpreter because of my beautiful Spanish accent).

What Paul is saying between the lines is that (1) God dislikes confusion and (2) God's gifts are meant to be useful. He acknowledges that such gift exists, admits that it comes from God, but encourages the recipients to use it for the good of their brothers and sisters, or else keep it for their own personal prayers alone with God. That's all. He isn't against it or for it—he gives tips on how to use it.

Still, it is quite human to be suspicious of what we don't understand, and this case is not an exception. I'd suggest you listen attentively to your classmates, and if they ask your opinion, you can respectfully point to Paul's recommendations. ■



Short-beaked Echidna

And when He had fasted
forty days and forty nights,
afterward He was hungry
—Matthew 4:2, NKJV.

The echidna is a spiky, strange animal about the size of a house cat that lives in Australia and southern New Guinea. It looks like a hedgehog but has a longer, bare snout. Like a platypus, the female echidna produces a leathery-shelled egg inside her pouch. A baby echidna, called a puggle, hatches after 10 days and sticks itself to a milk patch, where it feeds and grows. When the puggle has grown spines, the mother puts it into a den and returns to feed it only once every five or six days.

Adult echidnas can also go for days or weeks without food. When it's cold, echidnas go into dormancy, a time of sleepiness. Like bears in winter, the echidna's breathing and heart rate slows, its body temperature drops, and it stops eating.

Think about it.

Eating is such an important part of our lives that it's hard to imagine not eating for a whole day—nevermind fasting for 40 days! After Jesus had been 40 days without food, the devil came with his most tempting tricks. Jesus fasted and became weak to show us how to be victorious under the most trying conditions. Through prayer, He held on to God's strength; and by the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, He conquered. You can too!

Do it!

Next time you feel like excusing your bad behaviour because you're hungry or thirsty or tired, or whatever, remember Jesus. Pray and take hold of God's strength for your battle against Satan and his tricky temptations. Use your sword (repeat your favourite Bible text), and by faith in Jesus' help, conquer in His holy name.



Over 300 visit campus



High school students from across Canada converge on the Burman University campus for U Experience and the Northern Classic Volleyball championships.

"...academy visits have been historically staggered throughout the first semester with two or three schools visiting at one time. This year things have changed!"

ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS WITH A STUDENT, faculty, and staff population north of 500, it is a significant event when over 300 high school students and their sponsors come to visit. For the first time ever Burman University debuted the Northern Classic Volleyball championships for our Seventh-day Adventist academies from British Columbia and Alberta. Overlapping with the Northern Classic was our University Experience (U Experience) for our academy Grade 12 students from British Columbia to Nova Scotia.

The Burman University Northern Classic Volleyball Championships is an opportunity for our academy students to interact with a greater Christian athletic body beyond their local church and city. It is also a chance for Burman to introduce the campus and its programs to more academy students beyond the high school seniors who come to visit during U Experience. Typically, during U Experience academy seniors visit campus from Sunday to Tuesday experiencing Burman University physically, academically, and spiritually. These academy visits have been historically staggered throughout the first semester with two to three schools visiting at one time. This year things have changed!

The Northern Classic began on Thursday evening, Nov. 26, 2015. Over 185 student athletes and their sponsors from 15 teams and eight schools arrived on campus and invaded the Burman University PE Centre. The following schools participated: Deer Lake School (Burnaby, B.C.), Fraser Valley Adventist Academy (Aldergrove, B.C.), Okanagan Adventist Academy (Kelowna, B.C.), Cariboo Adventist Academy (Williams Lake, B.C.), Peace Christian School (Chetwynd, B.C.), Chinook Winds Adventist Academy (Calgary, Alta.), Parkview Adventist Academy (Lacombe, Alta.), and Coralwood Adventist Academy (Edmonton, Alta).

The Northern Classic ended on Saturday night with the men's and women's championship games. The inaugural event had men's and women's teams of both Deer Lake School and Chinook Winds Adventist Academy playing for the championship. The teams played well, and all the other teams were there to cheer for the two schools, who split the championships—the Chinook Winds women won, and the Deer Lake men won.

For Esmon Emmons, teacher and Athletic Director at Deer Lake School, coming back to the campus where he gave his heart to Christ was special. In 1989 he decided to follow Christ, and after he graduated in 1990 he began working at Deer Lake School and has been teaching there ever since. He believes in events like the Northern Classic because they are opportunities for students to grow. "It allows young people to grow in faith, fans, and fellowship. It builds into the honest student athlete the belief that sport education and Christianity work well together. It shows to them that they are a part of a greater community other than their small school or church. It gives them one more reason to hold on to their faith community. It also builds Adventist Christian education in Canada," says Emmons.

The U Experience program was already in full swing as 170 academy seniors arrived on Friday afternoon. Joining the schools already present were Crawford Adventist Academy (Toronto, Ont.), Kingsway College (Oshawa, Ont.), Greaves Adventist Academy (Montreal, Que.), and Sandy Lake Academy (Bedford, N.S.). They



High school students from across Canada converge on the Burman University

were toured around campus before heading to the administration building auditorium for a vespers program with Burman associate chaplain, Pastor Cecile Moody.

Converting the U Experience to a weekend event gave the students a chance to see all the spiritual programming available on an Adventist university campus. Students were able to worship at one of Canada's largest Seventh-day Adventist churches and then watch the Burman Choral Union present their annual Christmas concert on Sabbath afternoon. The U Experience weekend ended on Monday afternoon after a morning session of classroom snapshots, scholarship information, and application time.

Domenick Jacinto, Kingsway College sponsor and Burman alumnus, stresses that this weekend is vital for the Grade 12 students, who are forming an opinion on what they are looking for in a university. "The weekend is important because it gives a glimpse of what Burman has to offer. It shows them that they can have a positive time at Burman and then will seriously consider attending Burman for the academics and spiritual value," remarks Jacinto.

At the end of the weekend the most important thing is that we remind our high school students that Canada has a place where they can be part of a greater Christian community and learn academically, physically, and spiritually. This is what Esmon Emmons learned from his time on campus and what he hopes for his two children attending Burman and the many students he teaches who choose to attend his alma mater. He says, "Burman gave me an opportunity to grow mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially, physically, and as a result financially. It helped me build life long relationships all over the world and gave me a sense that what I learned would matter now and in the world to come. I prayerfully desire this experience for my children and my students. I want them to answer God's call on their life." ■

JR Ferrer is the director of communication for Burman University.

Where Are They Now



Lowell and Rae Cooper

Messenger: Tell me about your childhood family and a memory that stands out.

Lowell Cooper: I was born in Medicine Hat, Alta., and have two brothers and two sisters. The primary/kindergarten teacher at church was a lover of God and children. She came to believe that I would someday be a missionary and a leader in the church. I had other plans, so these frequent reminders were quite unwelcome. I wanted to be a veterinarian.

M: Where did you complete your high school and post-secondary education?

L: My early schooling (Grades 1–8) was in a public school in a town named Irvine. It is no longer on the map. My parents had determined that their children should have access to Christian education. Thus they sold their farm and moved the family to Lacombe, Alta., so that their children could attend church school.

It was on the campus of Canadian Union College¹ where I completed high school and a Bachelor of Theology degree. The Alberta Conference sponsored me to the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary at Andrews University. After completing a Master of Divinity degree, we returned to Alberta. Later, I received a Master of Public Health degree and an Honorary Doctorate from Loma Linda School of Public Health.

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

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

M: Briefly outline the places you have served, including position and date.

L: Following our time at the seminary, my wife, Rae Lee (Figuhr), and I moved to Peace River, Alta., where I served as pastor of four churches with two church schools. In 1973 I was invited to serve in the Alberta Conference office with responsibility for Sabbath school and lay activities. In 1977 we received a call to serve in department leadership in the Pakistan Union. Two and a half years later we were asked to serve in department leadership at the Southern Asia Division Office in Puna, India. Seventeen years later we were invited to the General Conference, where I served four years as an associate secretary and then 17 years as vice-president. At the time of the 2015 General Conference in San Antonio I was about 18 days short of 47 years of service.

M: What was unique about mission service compared to the North American Division?

L: Mission service introduced us to new climates, cultures, foods, languages, and ideas. I am afraid I grew up with the idea that Canada was the centre of the world and a model for what the rest of the world should be like. Over the years it has been a very valuable experience to develop appreciation for the diversity in the world and our church. How small-minded we were when we left Canada! I think the

first lesson any cross-cultural worker needs to learn is respect for other ways of seeing, doing, and being.

M: Tell me about your family.

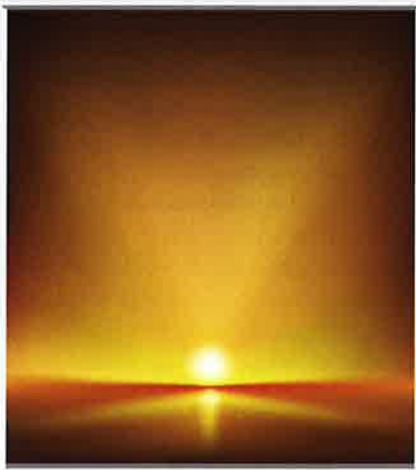
L: I am blessed beyond measure by my marriage to Rae Lee Figuhr, whom I met while her father was president of CUC. She has been a partner in every sense of the word, in my life and work.

We have two children. Our daughter, Jondell, is a nurse, and her husband, Rob Roy, a respiratory technician. Our son, Todd, is an oral maxillofacial surgeon and his wife, Holly, an emergency medicine physician. We are blessed with three grandchildren.

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

L: We have moved to Kennewick, Wash., where our children live. I am sliding into retirement. I will continue to serve for some time on a part-time basis as a special assistant to the General Conference president with specific responsibility to continue as the chair of the boards (university and hospital) at Loma Linda University and Adventist Health International. I continue to serve on the Adventist Risk Management board. In addition, I have recently been selected to serve on the board of ADRA Canada. ■

The Windows of Time



We have been here year after year. We have seen you when you were working hard to be who and what you are today, and we hope to see future generations aspiring to do the same.

Maybe some years ago you were a student here at Burman University¹ and pressed your palms and face against our transparent glass. Maybe you took a break from your busy class schedule to stand in front of us, grateful for the expansive clear barrier that we, the windows of Lakeview Hall, provided between Alberta's cold outdoors and the warmth of the college inside.

Maybe you were lounging one evening at Lakeview Hall and paused to look up from your reading assignment to catch a glimpse of the breathtaking aurora borealis dancing in the horizon. As you marvelled at the northern lights, you realized that life is so much bigger than that test you were worrying about. In that moment, you looked beyond Lakeview Hall's "backyard" and saw a bright and promising future.

And maybe today, years after you graduated, your child is now a student here also, enjoying a beautifully renovated and updated dormitory lobby, looking at that very same landscape you once viewed through us—the very same windows. The next generation marvels, as you once did, at the incredible, vast expanse outside while enjoying a supportive, tight-knit, and vibrant academic community inside.

We have been here year after year. We have seen you when you were working hard to be who and what you are today, and we hope to see future generations aspiring to do the same.

Sadly, we have seen time take its toll on this aging campus, and for a while the improvements our campus desperately needed were lagging.

The Committee of 100, a group of dedicated individuals who spearheaded improvements to our campus from 1973 to 1985, was revived in 2007 to meet the pressing needs of our campus. Over the last nine years it contributed to major projects, altogether costing over \$630,000, starting with the circular alumni plaza and sundial in front of the historic Administration Building.

In 2008 the committee helped purchase a multipurpose 15-passenger bus for special trips and shuttle services.

Another building that desperately needed improvements was the physical education centre, which serves not only the campus but also the nearby community. The old fitness centre within this building was simply too small to meet growing needs. The Committee of 100 supported the three-year project to dramatically expand the fitness centre, improve the overall building, and even put in a new well-lit parking lot by 2011. If you were a student here 10 years ago, you wouldn't recognize it today!

A year later, in 2012, the second- and third-floor lobbies of Maple Hall dormitory were renovated and refurbished.

In 2013, the committee raised funds to transform space in the Education Building into a 100-seat lecture hall to accommodate increased enrolment. The project also built lockers available for daily storage to our off-campus students.

Right after that, our very own Lakeview Hall lobby was due for a welcome update! The flooring, pillars, furniture, and reception area have had a complete makeover and now provide an even better common area for our students. And if you've ever been to our hall, you know that students absolutely love hanging out, reading, and playing games during free time here! This place is always bustling with activity.

You see, over time some things must change, while others need to stay the same. In order for Burman to guide future students with the same timeless principles, its brick and mortar must occasionally experience new life here and now.

So when you look through us, we hope you also see reflections of the faces of those who will come here after you. What would you want them to see years after you stood here? May your commitment to an Adventist education at Burman University live on. ■

Vesna Mirkovich is an alumnus of Canadian University College.

¹Formerly Canadian University College.

Alberta Woman Achieves Dream of Building School in Somalia



Zainab Mohamoud of Red Deer helps out with first brick going into the school foundation in Somalia. Mohamoud was on hand to see the school go up in six weeks this past summer.

Zainab Mohamoud knows the disappointment of not being able to attend school in her native Somalia. After civil war erupted in 1991 within the East African country, Mohamoud could not enter high school.

"I was so excited to go to high school, and [not being able to go] devastated me," said Mohamoud.

She moved to Ethiopia in 1994, where she lived for three years with no schooling or job. In 1997 Mohamoud came to Canada, where she was able to go to high school and later receive childcare certification and a social work diploma.

She never forgot those education struggles in Somalia. In July, the Red Deer, Alta., resident travelled to Bo'ame, a small town in northern Somalia, where she supervised the construction of a Grade 1–8 school. She grew up in another community, but Bo'ame is where her father's tribe comes from.

Mohamoud partnered with A Better World Canada, a Central Alberta-based international development organization created in 1990 as part of Lacombe's College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. It agreed to contribute \$10,000 and allowed people to donate online and receive tax receipts. Co-founder Eric Rajah also offered logistical support. Mohamoud sought support from Somali communities in the United States and Canada. Fundraisers in Central Alberta were held.

Mohamoud raised about \$48,000. However, after arriving in the Somali community and meeting with leaders, she learned the project was short \$10,000. So donors came through with another \$5,000. The Somali building contractor also helped bring down the total cost of the project by buying wholesale materials at a cheaper price from another city.

"I went to the construction site every single day," said Mohamoud. In six weeks, the school made of bricks was finished. It has been named Open the Door and contains four classrooms, four washrooms, a library, and office. The reward of helping out was so big for Mohamoud and, likewise, for anyone who donated to the project.

While attending the grand opening, she saw that the children were on their way to a better future. The community appreciated the new school, too.

"I was so happy," she said, "and people were so welcoming. They were helping to organize the opening."

About 200 children attend the new school. It is already full, because many parents like the fact that this school does not charge fees. The only other school in town charges fees, said Mohamoud, whose brother is the principal at that school.

Bo'ame is a farming community, and besides agriculture there is not much work available, said Mohamoud.

"There are a lot of people struggling and [there is] a lot of poverty there," she added. "I heard so many heart-breaking stories there."

The community buys into the project, meaning they are responsible for building maintenance. Sustainability is a key objective for A Better World.

Mohamoud said the community is safe to live in. "They never had war in that town," she said.

After spending two months in Somalia, Mohamoud returned home. She is looking forward to helping more children. She is raising \$100,000 for a boarding house so that children outside of Bo'ame can attend.

A fundraising gala will be held in Red Deer on Feb. 27, 2016. Mohamoud has also partnered with Manhal Charity organization in Kuwait, which will sponsor the schoolchildren's meals as well as teachers' salaries on an ongoing basis.

Mohamoud hopes the school boarding project will be done by 2017. ■

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

Going All In

This week Eli and I took a short trip to Whistler to celebrate his 10th birthday. (We were about 10 months late, but we finally got around to doing it.) Whenever a Dixit kid turns 10 years old, he/she is rewarded with an overnight trip with the parent of the same gender.

My calendar has been jam-packed and overbooked. To take a trip in the middle of the week was probably the worst idea; I was feeling stressed. My mind was running all over the place. *How will I finish my sermon? I have several counselling issues that haven't been resolved. The work is going to pile up. Maybe I'll take my computer with me and work late while he is asleep in the hotel.*

But once we made it up the mountain, I made a decision. ***I am going all in.*** No computer. I'm not going to check my phone, email, Facebook. I am going to concentrate on every conversation and celebrate the time we have together. It was hard at first. My fingers were twitching, wanting to check my emails. But I resisted.

We ended up having a blast together. We formed memories that only we will share for a lifetime. I learned new things about my son and developed a deeper love and appreciation for the purpose God has created for him.

I want to encourage parents to go all in. Take your kids on a date. Put the phone down from 6 to 8 p.m. until the kids are in bed. Figure out what your children's love language is. Try it out and let me know how it worked for you this week. ■

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.



Get Up



Words by God — 1 John 3:18, NIV

"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

As we take a fresh look at our communities and neighbourhoods this new year, what do you see? I see a lot of brokenness, poverty, *and* opportunity to show God's love to a place that is searching for hope. It reminds us to take the time to stop and help when we see someone in need. We often think about it and pray for the different needs we see in our community, but how often do we put those thoughts into action?

For instance, if someone is hungry or in need of warm clothes and we just brush them off by saying, "I hope you get some good food and find a nice jacket for the winter," but we have a few good coats at home that are collecting dust, and possibly some money in our pockets that could go for a sandwich, but don't do anything, what good are our words? "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17, NIV).

Jesus asks us to look after the poor and look out for the best interest of others, not just for ourselves. What does it look like to put someone else before yourself?

It can be a challenge sometimes, but it can also be as simple as stopping to chat with someone who is sad or lonely instead of rushing ahead with our plans for the day. We could check in on our neighbours to see if they need any help shovelling their drive or with the yard

work, or maybe someone in your own family needs a little extra encouragement today. It could also mean stepping out of your comfort zone and helping a complete stranger because you listened to that little voice inside saying, "You are my hands, you are my feet, and you are my hope in this world."

Our actions are the response to God's love in our lives. It is not by our works that we are saved, because Jesus already covered that, but our actions are the overflow of our heart's gratitude for what God has done for us. The overflow compels us to share that same love with those around us. Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of [us] look out not only for [our] own interests, but also for the interests of others" (NKJV).

This month I encourage you to look for ways to help those around you. When you see an opportunity, take it and enjoy the adventure of following God, who has given us so much love that we can respond by letting it overflow into our homes, our communities, and our world.

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



Refresh with Tia



Watch "I Refuse" by Josh Wilson:
<https://goo.gl/LfOSFY>



How Can I Pray to an Unfair God?

"How can I relate to a God who destroys people in hell for being born—through no will of their own—in a time or place where they have never heard the name of Jesus?"

I had a perplexing question for Roger Coon. At the time he was my professor and an associate director of the Ellen White Estate. I had prayed for understanding on a critical issue and was hoping that God would use Dr. Coon to answer my prayer.

For two hours in his Andrews University office (Berrien Springs, Mich.) on a hot August day in 1990 we talked about a question that sincere skeptics ask of Christians so often. My own family members had asked me the same question. It goes something like this: "How can I relate to a God who destroys people in hell for being born—through no will of their own—in a time or place where they have never heard the name of Jesus?" Since these non-Christians would not have committed to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, the reasoning goes, they are eternally doomed by the pronouncement in Acts 4:12, which says that aside from the name of Jesus, "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

This reasoning has caused many of our friends, neighbours, and co-workers to view God as unfair and arbitrary. Indeed, it is hard to pray to a God who is like a teacher testing students on something they had never been taught. It's just not fair. This is a fundamental character-of-God issue, and it has driven some to despair.

Dr. Coon had me turn to page 638 of *The Desire of Ages*. Together we read it:

Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them . . . Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. [They will not perish!] Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.

Even among the "heathen" there are loving people who are the "children of God." This Adventist teaching was a great relief to me. Here is what we can tell people: Over the centuries it is possible for people to have never known the name of Jesus and yet still be saved by Him. Even in light of this, Acts 4:12 is still true: Jesus, and Jesus only, is the Saviour of all humankind; it's just that some of the saved will not know that until they find themselves in heaven and ask the question, *How did I get here?* Then Jesus will say to them, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40, NKJV).

So I can pray to God because He is fair even in His dealings with people who don't know that they know Him. ■

Ern Brake is the assistant to the president for REACH at the British Columbia Conference.



barry's

blog

"It is very odd that a public square can have every imaginable kind of protest, march, rally and musical concert but cannot have a Christian choir ..."

The Naked Square at Dundas

It seems that the Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto is for everyone other than Christians. Located at the southeast corner of Toronto's Dundas Street and Yonge Street, it is Canada's own "Times Square." From crowd-pleasing performances by world-renowned artists, to marijuana smoke-ins, to the city's best New Year's Eve bash, it's a definite hot spot in the heart of the city.

It was also the spot where, since 2006, a Christian group known as Voices of the Nations (VOTN) has held its annual musical festival.

Voices of the Nations describes itself "as a non-profit founded in 2006 to unite and promote diversity within the Christian community by showcasing its mosaic of fine arts and music." They "work with various cultural groups, organizations, multi-denominational churches and artists to create events that worship Jesus and spread the gospel to people residing in Toronto and other cities throughout Ontario through the art of music, drama, and dance."

They applied for their usual August date at the square for 2016 but were denied. Why? Natalie

Belman, the events manager for Yonge-Dundas Square told VOTN that the singing by various Christian groups this last August amounted to "proselytizing." She said, "I've already advised Peter [Paresh, Director of VOTN] that we're not going to be permitting you guys this year for next year because of the proselytizing on the square, and that's a big issue for us." She also said, "It doesn't matter if it's speaking or singing. Either way, if you're 'praising Jesus' or 'praise the Lord,' and 'there's no God like Jehovah,' that type of thing? That's proselytizing."

Is that what this group is really doing? Or, rather, does this rejection ignore the Charter of Rights and Freedom's promise to protect religion and religious expression? The Yonge-Dundas Square is a public place for all citizens. It is not a "naked public square," where the quilt of diversity is thrown off and hidden from view. Instead, it should be inclusive and open to all.

If you were to take a walk downtown Toronto, you would see that it is a very diverse city. Indeed, the world has come to Toronto. The fact that such a

diverse community cannot only exist but thrive is certainly a world wonder. Toronto's diversity comes from not only ethnic backgrounds but also cultural and religious beliefs and practices.

Natalie Belman notes that "proselytizing" is "a big issue" for the city. Proselytizing is not going to be tolerated. I admit the meaning of words can be tricky at times. However, proselytizing by any standard dictionary definition requires much more than a choir or a praise band singing, "There's no God like Jehovah." Consider Merriam-Webster's definition of the word: "to try to persuade people to join a religion, cause, or group"; "to induce someone to convert to one's faith"; or "to recruit someone to join one's party, institution, or cause."¹

Those definitions of proselytize indicate—to me, at least—a much more robust, intense, and intentional conversation. To try to "persuade," "recruit," and "induce" is to try to convince another person, often on a one-on-one basis, but either way, it would require some active, intentional tête-à-tête effort. Perhaps the City of Toronto is afraid that the Christian lyrics are somehow more influential and will have the devastating effect of subverting the listeners' minds into following Christianity.

The city's position is also wrong in light of two recent Supreme Court of Canada's decisions on religion. In *Loyola High School v. Quebec*, the Court stated, "A secular state does not—and cannot—interfere with the beliefs or practices of a religious group unless they conflict with or harm overriding public interests A secular state respects religious differences; it does not seek to extinguish them."²

And in the *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay* case, the Court said "In addition to its role in promoting diversity and multiculturalism, the state's duty of religious neutrality is based on a democratic imperative This pursuit requires the state to encourage everyone to participate freely in public life regardless of their beliefs The state may not act in such a way as to create a preferential public space that favours certain religious groups and is hostile to others."³

It is very odd that a public square can have every imaginable kind of protest, march, rally, and musical

concert but cannot have a Christian choir or praise band because of the lyrics "praise the Lord." Consider for a moment that our national anthem is a prayer that specifically calls upon "God [to] keep our land glorious and free!" Should we, then, ban the singing of the national anthem from our public spaces? Indeed, we do have a glorious country, but with a decision like this we can hardly say we are as free as we used to be.

A free and democratic society can exist only if it is open to tolerating different views. It is a lesson we have learned from hundreds of years of struggle, and we simply cannot allow it to vanish. The most basic right is the right to be able to express, without hindrance or censure, one's views and understandings about life, its meaning, and its purpose. It is not surprising, therefore, that such deeply held sentiments find expression in songs and music. Religious communities, the world over, have created some of the most stirring human expressions in this manner.

Throughout the City of Toronto the world's religious groups share who they are through music. Allowing them to have access to the Yonge-Dundas Square is a recognition that they are part and parcel of the community. They belong. They have value because they can express who they are and what they believe. Their songs of praise to God form part of that quilt of diversity.

Canada has been lauded as a plural, liberal, free, and democratic society. Refusing to give the Voice of the Nations a license to continue with their music concerts in 2016 is the quiet stifling of the loudest voice for multiculturalism in Canada: Toronto. Let us not be ashamed to clothe Toronto with the dazzling quilt of the people it consists of, as diverse and rich as the world itself. Toronto is a microcosm of the world and should proudly continue that tradition. It never was, and never should be, a call to uniformity. The Voice of the Nations is as valid a representation of Toronto as any other group and should not be a voice silenced but a voice respected just as any other. ■

Barry W. Bussey is director of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. His blog "Intersection: A Current Discussion on Issues Involving Law and Religion," is found at www.cccc.org/barry.

1 Merriam-Webster.com, s.v., "proselytize," accessed Dec. 13, 2015, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/proselytize.

2 *Loyola High School v. Quebec (Attorney General)*, 2015 SCC 12, para. 43.

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



Almost vegan

Sometimes you have to try something that, at first glance, sounds strange and unappetizing. When we first came across the concept that we based this month's recipe on, it took a bit of courage and a renewed sense of adventure to try it. But once we got up the nerve to try it, we discovered that what had sounded weird at first actually turned into something good. As with most of our recipes, it took a few attempts and several adjustments until we perfected the recipe, and out came a delicious dessert.

The base for this dessert recipe is not something you would expect: avocado. But avocado is rich, creamy, and loaded with healthy fats, producing a rich and creamy base for the chocolate pudding. Serve this and nobody will know that there is avocado in it! People have even doubted that we were giving them a vegan dessert! ■

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

Chocolate Mousse Pudding

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup (250 ml) hot water
- 1½ cups (333 ml) dark brown sugar (packed)
- ¾ cup + 2 tablespoons (217.5 ml) cocoa powder
- 1 can (400ml) coconut milk (60%)
- 3 large avocados
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) vanilla
- ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) mint extract
- 1 ripe banana (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Mix hot water, coconut milk, sugar, and cocoa powder in small saucepan.
- Heat slowly, stirring continually until sugar and cocoa are dissolved and mixture is smooth.
- Let chocolate mixture cool, stirring occasionally.
- In food processor add avocados, banana, vanilla, mint, and chocolate mixture. Blend for several minutes until smooth, occasionally wiping down sides of container, as needed.
- Chill overnight.

Another Successful Year for VOAR's Fun Day

VOAR held its third Fun Day in July for under-privileged children, at Christian camp, Woody Acres. Children joined us from various organizations to participate in camp fun, such as boating, swimming, canoeing, wall climbing, zip lining and family fun, with over 40 children participating.

Registration was kicked off with our annual water balloon toss! It was entertaining to watch children's faces light up as their instructors became soaked after a miscalculated catch. With the temperature hovering around 12 C for the day, those warm spirits got us through.

Throughout the day, the sounds of happy squeals floating up from the waterfront let us know that this event is a good idea. These children came from many different religious backgrounds, and it was our privilege to chat and interact with them, have a laugh, and make new friends.

Toward the end of Fun Day, an announcement was made that sponsorship would be available for children to attend junior camp. The children were excited and begged their parents to let them go. Last year 18 new children attended summer camp at Woody Acres. This year, not only did most of those children eagerly return, but we also saw another six new children come to camp. They all just fit right in at Woody Acres; they loved everything about the camp. By the end of the week, children



The annual water balloon toss at VOAR's Fun Day.

who had known very little about Jesus earlier in the week were singing, worshipping, and praising the Lord. Each and every child had a wonderful time. They all made new friends and formed a closer relationship with God.

Thank you to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Camp Woody Acres, and all their staff for generously hosting us for another year. Huge thanks are also extended to the business community for their much-appreciated generosity, including Costco, Dominion, Sobey's, The Bakery Outlet, Homelife Realty, and the Custom Blind Shop for their wonderful contributions. ■

Tina Taylor is the communications director for VOAR.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE MONCTON AND HARVEY CHURCHES IN NEW BRUNSWICK (MARITIME CAMPMEETING).

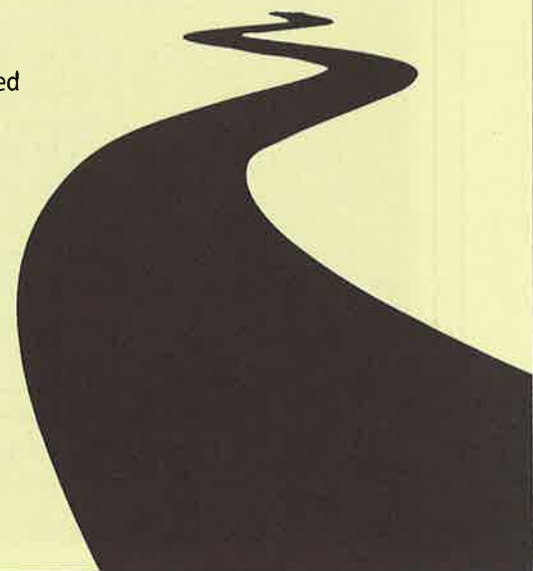
It is song service at church, and the next song is one you love to sing, but they jazz it way up. Do you sing it or not, and why?

Rahel Urban: I would sing it because I love to sing, and it does not bother me that it is jazzed up.

Jannie Cléonis: I would ask myself why they had to spoil the words with a tune that does not have anything to do [with the lyrics]. This is not the place for this type of tune. I would sing the song, trying to concentrate on the words.

Lisa Embleton: I would probably sing it. I wouldn't want to offend or discourage the song leader without knowing their heart and being able to discuss it with them. I might open a discussion later by saying, "Wow! I've never heard that song sung like that before!" (smile)

Marlene Michael: My son is a smart young man. He says, "There are some songs you just can't mess with." No, he would not sing it.



Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Chris and Debbie Holland joined the It Is Written Canada team in 2014. They are both committed to the gospel commission, and they are a joy to be around. I am honoured to call them co-workers and friends. Last year I interviewed Chris, and this time I want you to get to know his wife, Debbie.



Debbie Holland

EDITOR: *Tell us a bit about yourself.*

DEBBIE HOLLAND: I've been married to Chris for 20 years. I like to travel, read, hike, and cook. I am professionally trained as a nurse. I grew up in an Adventist home and am the oldest of four children. My dad was a farmer, but when farming got too difficult, we moved to Berrien Springs, Mich. My parents hoped to pursue better work opportunities for themselves and school options for us children. Despite living in a large Adventist community, I began to question and separate myself from some of the practices and teachings of the church.

EDITOR: *What convinced you to remain an Adventist? Was there a defining moment when you decided to choose Christ once and for all?*

DEBBIE: I had been going through a tough time, and I was praying that God would do something. At this time I met someone named Chris. He was interested in spiritual things and had questions about the Bible. This led me to renew my connection with the church. I was re-baptized, and that was a new beginning for me. However, that does not really answer your question. I don't know how to answer that question or how to

explain it, except to say that it was the unmerited grace of God—and who can explain that?

EDITOR: *What did it feel like to relocate to Oshawa? Do you have a favourite place in Canada?*

DEBBIE: Moving from the States, we were a bit apprehensive about moving across the border. We were careful to make sure that we had packed everything right and filled out all the paperwork correctly, but we were nervous that we still might have done something wrong. Thankfully, we did not have any problems. But that's kind of the mechanics of the move. Once we were here, it simply felt like we were home.

I have had the privilege of travelling to every province, most more than once. There are many special things about each of them. If I had to choose one place above them all, to the exclusion of others, having recently become a certified honorary Newfoundlander, I should be loyal to them. But when it comes right down to it, home is really my favourite place in all of Canada.

EDITOR: *What do you do as part of the It Is Written ministry?*

DEBBIE: My day-to-day activities include answering phone calls and letters regarding product, providing the content for a new website that we are developing, and editing printed materials and scripts.

When it comes to evangelism and meetings, I take care of our registration process and interest files, providing a resource centre and on-site Bible school.

EDITOR: *Do you have a favorite memory of how this ministry changed someone's life?*

DEBBIE: Last spring we aired a series of programs with Dr. Neil Nedley called "Depression: The Way Out." Many people told us how much the series had helped them. Dr. Nedley runs a residential depression recovery program in Oklahoma several times a year. In October someone from Ontario was the first person to attend his program as a direct result of watching *It Is Written Canada*. While there, she started to have correct, non-distorted thoughts, found the Lord, and gave her life over to Him. She reports being happier than she's been in her whole life.

EDITOR: *What "one thing" you would like to see in the future of It Is Written?*

DEBBIE: It's really what I would like to see in the future of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. I would love to see every church member demonstrating the ministry of Jesus—the gospel—in every aspect of

their lives. Individuals helping the homeless—but not because the conference has an initiative with a catchy title. Individuals cooking a meal for their neighbour who comes home late—not because the church board voted some "Be Nice to Your Neighbour" program but because the love of Christ compels them. I would like to see *It Is Written* be a catalyst to change how we see and do ministry.

EDITOR: *What can people tell their co-workers on how to take It Is Written's online Bible studies?*

DEBBIE: Click on the "Bible Studies" tab, the click "Discover Online." There is the option to do either the Discover Bible Guides or Focus on Prophecy lessons. They are graded by our Bible School volunteers and receive the same attention that the lessons done by correspondence receive.

EDITOR: *How can others get involved in It Is Written's ministry?*

DEBBIE: There are three main ways:

(1) Pray for the ministry. As your church service is about to start each Sabbath morning, remember that typically our program is just about to air. I would encourage you to offer a prayer right then.

(2) Participate with the ministry. We have a sharing DVD, a sharing card, and GLOW tracts that you can give to friends and family and use in door-to-door work. I like to leave them on airplanes and in washrooms. Another way that people can get involved is to participate in the outreach training and evangelistic activities that we or your local church conduct.

(3) Provide financially. *It Is Written Canada* is a donor-based, faith-based, prayer-based ministry with the fundamental purpose to "share hope and wholeness in Canada and throughout the world." If you would like to give systematically to this ministry or give a one-time special gift, please call our office.

EDITOR: *What favourite text would you like to share with Messenger readers?*

DEBBIE: "Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded" (2 Chron. 15:7). ■

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



ne of the most common questions that I am asked as I travel across Canada is “What does *It Is Written Canada* do?” While you will still find some people who have heard of Henry Feyerabend, there is a new generation of people who know nothing about the work of *It Is Written Canada*.

Another common question is

“Why is there an *It Is Written* in Canada

that is separate from the one in the United States?”

Both of these are good questions.

It Is Written Canada was founded over 40 years ago with the unique mission of sharing the gospel with Canadian people in a Canadian context. That mission was started with Henry Feyerabend, continued with Shawn Boonstra, carried on by Bill Santos, and now I forge ahead with that same mission. In the two years that I have directed the ministry, it seems to me that there are four foundations or pillars of *It Is Written Canada*: media evangelism, comprehensive city-wide evangelism, domestic mission, and worldwide mission. Here are some of the ways we are building on those foundations.



Left to right: Chris Holland, Shawn Boonstra, and Doug Bruce.

Committed to the Commission

Media Evangelism

Media evangelism is at the very core of *It Is Written Canada*. The average Canadian still watches over 30 hours of television per week. The younger generation watches almost 20 hours of television a week and spends almost an additional 24 hours a week online. Media is one of the most effective mediums to reach people.

Our main broadcast outlet is through CTV on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. across the nation. You can check your TV listing for additional stations and times that we are on. One of the highlights of this last year was the television series we did with Dr. Neil Nedley entitled "Depression: The Way Out." Dr. Nedley is a specialist in internal medicine and mental health. He has successfully authored a program to help people break free from depression. When this series aired, we were not prepared for what God was going to do. Our weekly call volume tripled as people were touched with this message of hope. Just listen to what some of the viewers of this series said:

"I was listening to your program on VOAR radio.... Please pray for me. I have depression/anxiety and am on medication that is not helping me.... Can you please tell me how I can get the DVD of this program? I am still weeping with relief to hear your program! Thank you so much."—British Columbia

"I am requesting the [Introductory] DVD on depression. However, I would love the entire set. I only caught the last one today and found it extremely helpful and want to study more. Thank you."—Ontario

One viewer found so much to be hopeful about in this series that they attended Dr. Nedley's residential program. This individual had been abused their whole life and had fallen into a deep depression. As they attended Dr. Nedley's program, they found a newfound hope and began to correct their distorted thoughts. They even won a prize for exercise during the program. In addition to all of the emotional, mental, and physical healing they experienced, they found a friend in Jesus and are daily being healed in their spiritual life.

Media is a non-threatening way of reaching out to people, as it allows them to hear and study the message on their own terms. In an effort to try to reach new viewers, we aired a series that addressed how philosophy and the science of probability build a case for God's existence. We are always looking for ways to reach more people, and we are developing a number of effective tools utilizing social media.

Comprehensive City-Wide Evangelism

While media is a significant part of what *It Is Written Canada* does, actually



Neil Nedley (seated on the right) appearing on an episode of *Written Canada* entitled "Depression: The Way Out."



contacting and reaching people face-to-face is essential. As a ministry we have committed ourselves to being a part of city-wide comprehensive evangelism.

What do I mean by comprehensive? We want to see entire cities changed for Jesus Christ.

As we follow His example in meeting physical, emotional, mental, and social needs, people will be led to hear the gospel message. And so, in each of the cities that we work in, we provide training to the church membership in comprehensive outreach.

In 2015 we visited Ottawa and saw God move in a mighty way. The churches in Ottawa, for the first time in a very long time, united to reach their communities with the hope found in God's Word. On opening night we had over 900 in attendance. We had people from all religions there—Muslim, Buddhist, and a Jainist, just to name a few. Many were baptized and several of the churches held a *Thunder in the Holy Land* follow-up study. Many are still being baptized as a result of that series.

In 2016 we are preparing to go to Calgary, Alta., and the Avalon region in Newfoundland. The Avalon region encapsulates the peninsula where St.

John's is located. Calgary is the fifth-largest metropolitan area in Canada, and St. John's is the 20th largest. In each of these cities we held training this fall. Over 50 percent of the active membership in the Avalon attended the training, and over 300 people attended in Calgary.

The members were trained in a variety of topics: how to reconnect with former and missing members, how to use *Thunder in the Holy Land* in small groups, how to do a Bible study, how to hold a health expo, how to conduct a vegetarian cooking class, how to conduct a vegetarian supper club, how to run a depression recovery program, and how to run an overcoming diabetes seminar. This training enhances the many outreach activities that are happening in these cities. We believe that it is only by practising the method of Jesus that we will see true success in taking the gospel of hope and wholeness to all of Canada.

Domestic Mission

Domestic mission deals with the reality that there are special people groups all over this great nation with unique needs. Nunavut, with its 40,000 Inuit people living among 25 communities, is one such place. Having recently become its own territory (in 1999), it has no formally

organized Adventist groups. There are a few hard-working volunteers in three of the communities, but nothing substantial. While 93 percent of the population claim Christianity, it was only two years ago that the Bible became available in Inuktitut, the language of the Inuit.

When we became aware of these needs, we wondered what we could do. It became evident that the call to help the people of Nunavut was too big for just one ministry to handle. Instead of having ministries competing with one another in unorganized labour, *It Is Written Canada* has partnered with the *Voice of Prophecy*, the Man-Sask Conference and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada to do something big for God in the North. There are four basic areas of need: (1) Bibles in the language of the people, (2) Bible study resources in the language of the people, (3) DVD resources in the language of the people, and (4) a centre of influence to be built for church meetings and outreach.

I visited Nunavut in June and met some of the volunteers. Each story I heard was a heart-warming account of the amazing grace of God. However, the most moving testimony was that of Ilisapi Angutimarik. Ilisapi is an Inuit



Churches in Ottawa united with *It Is Written Canada* to reach their communities with the hope found in God's Word. Many were baptized.



Ilisapi Angutimarik, an Inuit woman from Igloolik, found the truth she had been searching for while attending a small group that was studying a series of DVDs obtained from *It Is Written Canada*.

woman from Igloolik. Many years ago her husband suddenly passed away. She was left alone with her children and no means to raise them. She began to question God as to why this had happened to her. While her family supported her, she felt a deep void that was not being filled. She went to church at one of the local churches but felt as if the truth was not being taught there. She wanted something more. She met with the priests, only to find their answers unsatisfying. She longed for biblical truth. She resolved to begin saving money to build a church that would teach only truth from the Bible. At the same time, she began attending a small group that was studying a series of DVDs. She sensed that these DVDs contained truth, but she still felt confused.

In God's perfect timing, a missionary who had been trained by Shawn Boonstra in radical mission work came to Igloolik from Germany. Ilisapi invited this missionary to stay in her home. And in a direct answer to her prayers, this missionary took the time to have one-on-one Bible studies with her. She was excited as the Holy Spirit began to impress her heart with the truths of God's Word. As a result of those Bible studies, she desired to follow Jesus all the way and

in 2012 Ilisapi was baptized in the sea of the Northwestern Passages.

Now in Igloolik, a group of 20 to 30 people meet on a weekly basis (additionally, there are groups in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit). This small band of believers in the North has big dreams to take the gospel to all of Nunavut, and God is already at work to bring their dreams and prayers to life. *It is Written Canada* has sent over 100 DVDs to help start small group Bible studies. We are working with the Canadian Bible Society to get Bibles to them.

In addition, we are raising funds to help Ilisapi reach her goal of building a church, a centre of influence that will teach truth from the Bible in Igloolik. We believe the Inuit deserve to be given the opportunity to hear the gospel message in their native tongue. However, the mission of *It is Written Canada* extends beyond our national border.

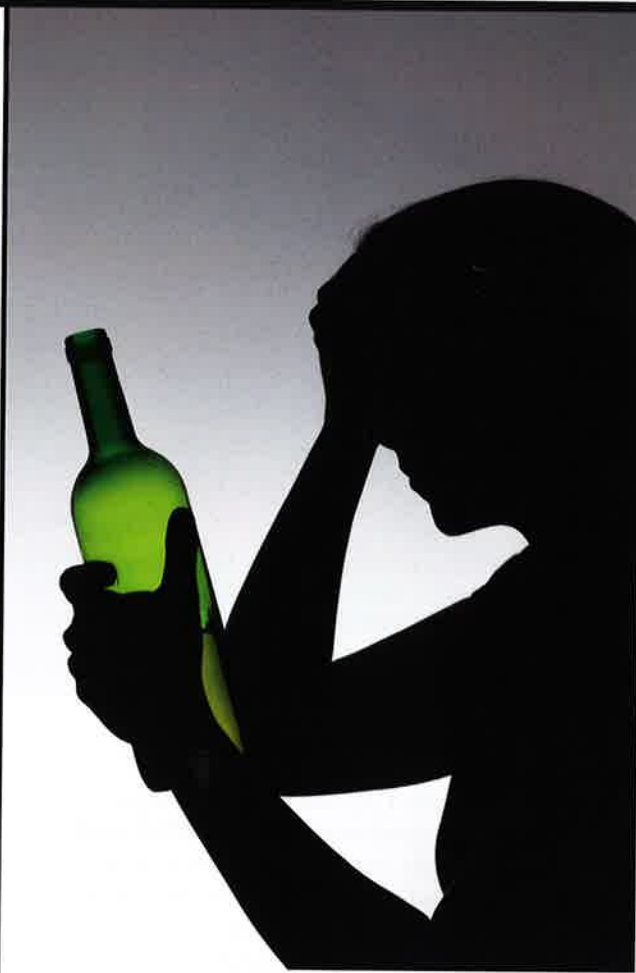
Worldwide Mission

Jesus commissioned believers to go to all nations. The primary focus of our ministry is on Canada; however, in obedience to Jesus' commission, we also go into all of the world. In 2015 *It Is Written Canada* descended upon San

Pablo City, Philippines. There our comprehensive ministry involved a dental clinic, a children's program, providing food to those in need, and an evangelistic series. Over 500 people received free dental care, many children were fed, and 175 people were baptized as a part of that effort. In 2016 *It Is Written Canada* will partner with *It Is Written International* to celebrate the 60th anniversary of *It Is Written International* by bringing the message of hope and wholeness of Jesus to the city of Gweru, Zimbabwe.

It Is Written Canada is your donor-funded evangelistic ministry in Canada. I have painted a small picture of the exciting opportunities God has given us to serve Him and others. Because of His faithfulness and your generous support, we have the rewarding task of reaching out to people every day. The needs will always outweigh the means we have, but by God's grace He continues to impress His people to supply all of our needs so that we can play our part in fulfilling the great commission He has given to us. ■

Chris Holland is the speaker/director of *It Is Written Canada*.



Rescue

Behind many homes and hearts are souls in need of rescue—souls one step away from hopelessness and death.

It was the summer of 2013, and Jean, a literature evangelist working in a neighborhood in Toronto, approached a house, walked up to the door, and knocked. A woman answered, and after explaining why she had come, Jean showed her some of her books. As they talked and shared, Jean thought that the woman, Michaela,¹ might be interested in the books on health. So she offered one to her. But Michaela, seeing the book *Peace Above the Storm* said, “I think this one will help me.” With that, she bought it and promised to read it.

Jean prayed with Michaela and was getting ready to go, when Michaela called over to a young woman passing by. The woman came, Michaela showed her her new book, and when the young woman left, Michaela engaged Jean in conversation once again. Jean sensed that Michaela wanted to talk, needed to talk. So she stayed with her a little while longer. When the time finally came for Jean to go, they exchanged contact information and said goodbye.

More than a year passed, and one day at church, Jean’s pastor challenged each Sabbath school class to give 10 Bible studies that year. Jean, who had already been studying with one person, began praying to God, asking Him to send her more opportunities. Then one day, as she rummaged through her things searching for something, Jean stumbled across Michaela’s phone number. It was a number she had tried to find several times before but without success. Surprised and delighted, she grabbed the phone and dialed the number.

“I’m so glad you called!” Michaela said. She sounded excited to hear Jean’s voice. “God has been so good to me, and He sent you into my life at the right time!” With that, Michaela began to share her story.

“I was in the hospital for several weeks last December and was put on suicide watch,” she said. “In fact, the day you came, I had been planning to kill myself. But then you came, and I listened to the things you told me, and I read the book you gave me over and over again. I struggle with alcohol addiction, so when I got out of the hospital, I joined Alcoholics Anonymous. I have now been sober for six months!”

Jean listened in amazement, and then she said, “Michaela, would you like to study the Bible with me?”

“Yes!” Michaela exclaimed. And a few days later she and Jean began to study together.

In Proverbs 24:11, 12, God speaks of the need for rescue. He says, “If you hold back from rescuing those taken away to death, those who go staggering to the slaughter; if you say, ‘Look, we did not know this’—does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it? And will he not repay all according to their deeds?” (NRSV).

Behind many homes and hearts are souls in need of rescue—souls one step away from hopelessness and death. If we do not know, could it be because we choose to hold back? Michaela’s life was rescued because Jean, unwilling to hold back, chose to go. Today we are given the same choice. The world needs you. God needs you. This year don’t hold back any longer. Choose, in the strength of Jesus, the path of rescue. ■

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. For more information, visit LifestyleCanada.org and GLOWCanada.ca or contact us at mail@lifestylecanada.org.



Body Image vs. Virtue

I caught a glimpse of my reflection in the mirror and double backed to take a closer look. "Oops!" I exclaimed at a seemingly unattractive image. "This is not the body I once loved!" I made a mental note to call the gym. *In the meantime, positive sticky notes for the negative thoughts!* I promised myself, forcing a smile.

Body image is how we perceive our bodies and how we think others see our bodies. The

media and even family and friends can influence body image. The website DoSomething.org has a well-referenced page titled "Eleven Facts About Body Image."¹ Referencing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it summarizes findings by saying that "body image is closely linked to self-esteem" and that "low self-esteem in adolescents can lead to eating disorders, early sexual activity, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts."²

It also cites a statistic originally referenced by the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD) that 58 percent of females surveyed at a college "felt pressured to be a certain weight."³

Also, the more reality shows girls watch, the more they value physical appearance.⁴ And as of 2009, 40 percent of women and nearly 20 percent of men agreed they were considering cosmetic surgery in the future. This finding is relatively consistent across gender, age, marital status, and race.

Why is it that ladies are so concerned about physical beauty (body image) instead of inner beauty (virtue)? Have our Christian women forgotten the messages of Proverbs 31? Should we be working with our adolescent ladies to relieve them of the pressures of today's media and to help them cultivate excellent character and positive self-esteem?

Recently, I was impressed with the Women of Virtue program, an initiative of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which teaches the virtues of Proverbs 31 in a practical way. It is a comprehensive look at women in their roles as daughters, sisters, mothers, wives, businesswomen, and homemakers. We are excited about the scheduled visit of author Sharon Platt-McDonald in June 2016, to train our Conference Women's Ministries directors and our local church leaders of Canada. To learn more, please email jrogers@adventistontario.org. ■

Joan Rogers is director of women ministries at the Ontario Conference.

¹"Eleven Facts About Body Image," DoSomething.org, www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-body-image, accessed Dec. 14, 2015.

²See U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Developing Adolescents," APA: American Psychological Association, 2002, www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/develop.pdf, cited in "Eleven Facts ..."

³National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, "Eating Disorders Statistics," ANAD: Support, Educate, Connect, 2015, www.anad.org/get-information/about-eating-disorders/eating-disorders-statistics/, cited in "Eleven Facts ..."

⁴Ayarza Manwaring, "Reality Television and Its Impact on Women's Body Image" (master's thesis, 2011), *Encompass: A Digital Archive or Research, Creative Works, and History of Eastern Kentucky University*, <http://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1049&context=etd>, cited in "Eleven Facts ..."

You've Got Answers and we want to hear them! For the March 2016 issue of the Messenger, editor Stan Jensen asks, "What is the one thing you reflect on with pride when you tell others of the Adventist church?" Send your answer, in 18 words or less, to messenger@adventist.ca.

You've Got Answers

Who would you say is the most influential Adventist of the 20th century (other than Ellen G. White)?

E. A. Sutherland had a tremendous impact on Seventh-day Adventist education. He served as the first president of Andrews University.



Grace Mackintosh SDACC

H. M. S. Richards, the founder of Voice Of Prophecy (VOP), was one of the most powerful evangelists.



Emile Maxi Quebec Federation

In terms of winning souls and the advancement of the work I would say W. D. Frazee



Paul Fournier Maritimes Conference

I would have to say, George Knight, who challenged us theologically, and also Dan Jackson, for the structure influences.



Ron Nelson Man/Sask Conference

Fritz Guy, a well-known scholar, author, pastor, and Adventist theologian and research professor at La Sierra University.



Dennis Marshall SDACC

Mark Finley, because he led thousands across the globe to Christ and membership into the Adventist Church.



Daniel Cho SDACC Board

George Vandeman, founder of *It Is Written*.



Steve Matthews SDACC Board

Earl E. Cleveland, evangelist extraordinaire pioneered the concept of evangelism in large cities and baptized over 16,000 across six continents.

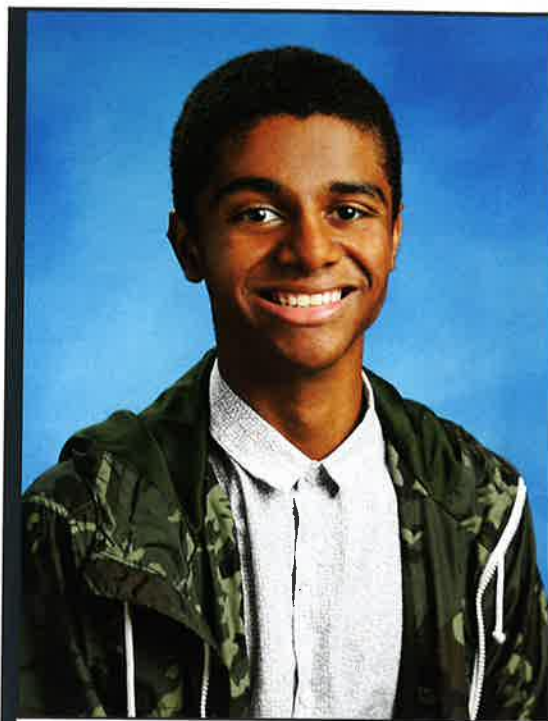


Reynold Hazelwood SDACC Board

A.G. Daniels, the longest serving General Conference president. He initiated the Ministerial Association and *Ministry Magazine*.



Daniel Stojanovic SDACC



Austin McGann,
a junior at Kingsway College,
sat down with me to talk about
his experience at Kingsway.

Christina Lister: *What is it about Kingsway that makes it special?*

Austin McGann: I would have to say the atmosphere. From the moment you walk on campus, you are greeted with smiling faces. It is very easy to talk to people about my religion because so many share my same beliefs. When I am struggling with something or and ask them without worrying about being judged.

Kingsway is also very multicultural. There are people from countries around the world such as Brazil, the United States, Germany, Ukraine, Bermuda, Korea, and China. We are given the chance to experience cultures we may not have had the opportunity to interact with. As with any school, it's not perfect, but we are a family here.

CL: *List a few of the things you are involved in on campus.*

AM: I have been a member of the Aerials team for the last three years, and I've really enjoyed it. I was elected

as the prime minister, or president, of the Student Association for the 2015/2016 school year, which has been a lot of fun. I also like to sit in on our senate meetings to hear what problems and solutions our senators find at Kingsway.

CL: *What do you think Kingsway has to offer our students?*

AM: Kingsway offers students the opportunity to reach their full potential academically but also spiritually, physically, and socially. Every student has the opportunity to join a touring group—Aerials, band, and choir—all of which tour around parts of Canada and the United States during spring break.

There are also other clubs that we can join, like Drama, Outdoor Club, Ski/Snowboarding Club, as well as the varsity basketball and volleyball teams. There are small-group Bible studies available, and there are opportunities to take part in yearly mission trips.

CL: *What is one of your favorite memories of your time at Kingsway?*

AM: I'd have to say the mission trip to Panama, which happened in December of 2014 with Maranatha Volunteers International. We were in Las Boquillas for 10 days and helped build the foundation of a church as well as a Sabbath school area for them. Though it took my blood, sweat, and money to help build this church, it was all worth it knowing we were bringing glory to God.

CL: *Has Kingsway influenced your relationship with God?*

AM: I grew up Adventist, but coming here to Kingsway has really shown me who Jesus is. On one of our Aerials spring break tours, I was having doubts about my faith and voiced this to my coach. I began asking him a lot of questions over the course of the tour, and he took the time to answer each one. The thing that will always stick with me is the desire he had for me to see Jesus. He went out of his way to buy me a book that had helped him in his relationship with God.

CL: *What do you think the benefit of Adventist education is?*

AM: This might sound really generic for some, but Adventist education really does help us as young adults. We are searching for answers, and our teachers and staff help guide us to them and, ultimately, lead us to Jesus. ■

Christina Lister is the development coordinator at Kingsway College.



Members of Total Praise performing sign language at yearend NAD meetings.

Total Praise Performs at GC-NAD Meetings

On October 30, 2015, six members of Mamawi Atosketan Native School's sign language performance group, Total Praise, preformed for the top administrators and conference presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the church's yearend meetings in the Washington, D.C., area.

"I will never forget it in my entire life," affirms one of the Total Praise performers. "I felt like we were famous."

With only two weeks to prepare, it was an incredible feat on the part of the school and the larger community to make the trip possible. Not one of the students had valid passports or had been on a plane before, but in true Mamawi Atosketan form, teachers, parents, and even members of the band worked together to make it happen.

"I'm so proud of my daughter and the school," said Lori Baldry, parent of Jersey Threefingers, Grade 7. "This is such an honour for the school and the students to get to go. And I wish I could go too! This program is absolutely amazing. It is both fun and mesmerizing to behold."

Another parent writes, "Thank you so much for taking care of our kids. They may never get a chance to do something like this again in their life. We love what you are doing here at this school, and it means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it. It is just like a big family here at this school."

After the whirlwind trip, the Total Praise director, Cheri Notice, remarked in a Facebook post that after spending time with "near Adventist royalty" like Ted Wilson and Dan Jackson, her students "commented that they loved all the care and encouraging words they received from these leaders. They don't know who these people are, but they will always remember how they made them feel. In the end, the girls were the ones who felt like royalty."

Opportunities like this can inspire others. A student who did not attend has already decided, "I'm going to join Total Praise next time so I can go too." They also have the potential to bring children closer to God. One student remarked, "I want to learn more about Jesus so I can tell other people. I really hope we get to do this again sometime." ■

Myken McDowell is the communications assistant for The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School.



Janet Aldea, Secretary to NAD President Dan Jackson and Ken Denslow, was so moved by Total Praise's performance she gave them scarves she had knit herself to take back as a memento. The girls were very appreciative of the gift.

"We love what you are doing here at this school, and it means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it."

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"I guess there's a purpose for me here at PAA."

Like many of Parkview Adventist Academy's students, Thembe Mhlanga came to school looking for a fresh start. "I had been in public school in Ontario," she says, "but I didn't really like it. The people were not very nice. I just wasn't comfortable there. We weren't allowed to read the Bible or talk about anything spiritual as a school."

Thembe's father encouraged her to move to Alberta with her older brother, a Burman University student, and just give Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) a try. Thembe is no stranger to being new, having moved with her family from Zimbabwe when she was 13. She was raised in an Adventist community and impressed with the importance of integrating faith at a very early age. Still, relocating across a foreign country takes courage and a willingness to try and fit in.

"At first, I thought that Adventist schools in Canada would be like the public schools, but I was pleasantly surprised. I saw how different it was at PAA."

The difference at PAA comes from the decidedly Christian approach embraced by all teachers and staff. In a place where every employee has a personal connection to God and all instructional periods begin with a prayer, the students take notice.

According to Thembe, "this school makes you draw closer to God and gives you a better relationship with Him. There are so many chances to worship together through chapels, vespers, and even dorm devotionals." She shares: "I usually try and stay on campus so I can have worship with my friends in the dorm and then go home and have family worship there, so during the school year I get double worship!"

Thembe's experience at PAA has changed her for the better, and now she is committed to helping others grow in confidence and in Christ.

"When I came to PAA," she says, "my accent was very thick. My classmates were all talking and laughing on the first day of school, and I was worried they would have trouble understanding me."

But she made good, lasting connections: "From the first time I came to church here, I was all alone, but I met people, and we



Thembe Mhlanga

just started being friends. Now I try to make sure everyone has friends. I look for the people who are by themselves and try to make them feel welcome. I guess there's a purpose for me here at PAA."

Now in her senior year, Thembe is serving as the pastor for PAA's Student Association, and she works closely with the school chaplain, Pastor Ted Deer, through campus ministries. She inspired her classmates at the beginning of the year by sharing her personal experience with the staff and students at PAA, reminding students that they can get through anything if they keep their eyes on God, pray together, and use the mentors and resources God has placed here at PAA—"like the principal, Ms. Bishop, whose door is always open. She is always ready to help. Or other teachers, who really understand you."

Thembe has learned from experience that all efforts dedicated to serving God will be successful. "As my dad says, when you know that what you're doing is putting a smile on God's face, you should do it. That's why I am trying to bring a spiritual focus to our campus. I love it when everyone is excited to go to worships together. It makes things so nice here at school."

With students celebrating the spiritual connections found at PAA, and with students like Thembe contributing something wonderful and meaningful to the campus, Adventist education certainly puts a smile not only on the faces of those who attend but also on God's face because He is welcome here. ■

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



“Like a Second Home”

GREAVES ADVENTIST ACADEMY, originally founded as The Montreal English Church School in 1899, has been in continuous operation since 1952. Rich in ethnic and denominational diversity, Greaves continues to offer a quality Adventist education to families from a variety of faith backgrounds. These students choose Greaves for a number of different reasons. Some are truly seeking a place to grow spiritually, searching for an education that is Bible-based. Others look primarily for quality academics or a safe environment. But regardless of their backgrounds or reasons for coming to Greaves, students quickly become part of the Greaves family and look back fondly at their experiences there after they've graduated. Recently, several Greaves graduates shared their experiences with Marc Bouzy, superintendent of education for the Quebec Conference.

“I got up unwillingly that day, hoping that day would never come. It's my fault. If I had not messed up, I would not be changing schools now. I would not have to go to some religious school. That's what I thought at the beginning of that school year. Many times during the year I would hear, 'Jean, get things done! Don't give up! You can do it.' Some years later, during graduation, teachers and parents were relieved and happy that the plan came through. At graduation, I felt compelled to go from teacher to teacher to thank each one for being patient with me. Thank you, Greaves, for believing in me.”—Jean

“I know I was not the best student. I know I gave some teachers a hard time. But I remember a lot that everyone told me. I'm thankful to Greaves for putting up with me. The moral lessons I learned there have helped me a lot. The teachers really cared for me, always encouraging me and reminding me of what I could be if I got my act together. Now I have my own business. Time flies by so fast. It was good to have been at Greaves.”—Ken

“Greaves was a place where I could learn but also broaden my knowledge about religion. The learning environment was good. I felt accepted by both the students and the adults. I appreciate so much the work the teachers did for me. The best thing about Greaves is the spiritual involvement. My teachers were interested in my well-being. They listened to what I had to say. They gave me extra help when I needed it. I learned to involve God in my school activities, which has been very beneficial. I made good friends and had a lot of fun. Currently, I'm in college pursuing a degree in the health sciences.”—Kimberly

Current students echo many of these sentiments. They are grateful for their teachers. They make new friends and learn the value of co-operation. They express appreciation for the lunchtime sports, conducted by an assistant, and for the new *ByDesign* science program and its hands-on experiments, developed by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

One student compared Greaves to the school he had recently transferred from: “At Greaves, I am not treated like a number. At Greaves, the teachers really encourage me to do my best.”

“It feels like a second home,” said another.

What a powerful testimony for Adventist education!

“Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and youth people,” Ellen G. White wrote more than a hundred years ago.¹ Now, more than ever, we need to put forth increased efforts to spread the message of hope and wholeness to our communities through Adventist education. Greaves Adventist Academy is committed to providing an education that is indeed for both now and eternity. ■

Marc Bouzy is the superintendent of education for the Quebec Conference.

¹ *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 165.



Building Community

“Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable.”¹

David Augsburger said, “Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable.”¹ That said, for a young adult, the opportunity to speak is such a privilege; and to be heard, even more so. And when young adults speak, they will often do so in the form of questions:

How do we as a church hope to connect? How do we remain relevant to the needs of an entire generation?

But how do millennial Canadian Adventist connect with a secular approach to what many would describe an outdated and out-of-touch church?² Let us first seek to understand this generation’s worldview in relation to the events previous generations have experienced.

After living through the scarcity that World War II brought, the post-war babies attributed material possessions and wealth to stability And now we see how capitalism restructured the way we do business in the interest of profit.

Capitalism has not only affected people here in North America but also created a society marked by self-interest. Take, for example, all the companies operating sweat shops and paying poor wages. It turns out that globalization, which was to bring economic stability, has broken down the framework of society.

In contrast to the baby boomers, my generation of millennials were brought up during the “empowerment” years: everyone wins and everyone gets a medal. Our parents nurtured us and structured our lives, and so we find safety and security in close-knit relationships. We were also encouraged to make our own choices and to question authority. As a pushback to the negative effects of capitalism, we see the emergence of companies that uphold ethical business practices and prioritize social good. Ingrained in our generation

now is an awareness of fairness and equality.

And yet, we are highly skeptical of organizations and people who claim goodwill. Our unlimited access to information about entities and religious practices allows us to make informed decisions [about what or whom to support]. We are those children who ask *why*.

With this worldview in mind, we can begin to understand how youth

a pastor interpret and process the events at the General Conference Session?⁴

People rarely walk away from the church because they want to walk away from God or disagree with the gospel message.

Many of us are walking away because of decisions at the institutional level of the church about issues that should require more than the quoting of Bible verses. We don't believe we have to choose between social advancements in common sensibility

gives the accessibility and transparency that contemporary businesses, organizations, and celebrities offer. I believe the Adventist message to be true and relevant. However, by not providing opportunities to viably connect, we miss out on an entire generation and their unique needs and avenues of connecting.

One of the greatest human needs is a place where they are understood and accepted, a place where they know they are loved and cherished. They are hurt

We have a **hard time** staying committed to **church decisions** that are **at odds with basic human sensibility** and with **our understanding of biblical principles**, when there are **far more opportunities** to be in **open authentic community elsewhere**.

perceive the notion of abiding by religious convictions.

Within these [yearend] meetings I have heard about Adventist education and its ability to evangelize. This is true. However, because of where we are in history and the ever-expanding information age, it behooves us to not only provide Christian education but also emphasize community engagement, namely, practical applications of our beliefs.

Younger generations detect cognitive dissonance in the way our church as an institution handles issues such as women's ordination³ and human sexuality. While I cannot speak for all young adults, I know that many of us are frustrated about the way our church implements Christian principles. How does my Adventist message teach me to relate to my close Adventist friends on campus who are gay? How do I as a woman training to be

and our religious convictions. We have a hard time staying committed to church decisions that are at odds with basic human sensibility and with our understanding of biblical principles, when there are far more opportunities to be in open authentic community elsewhere. That is why we need to collaboratively formulate how our beliefs translate into our current lives and issues. We want to be a part of a movement to change the world for the better, not to be left behind in a limbo between tradition and practical biblical principles.

In other words, young adults are looking for authentic, intentional, and relevant spirituality. We want to enter into conversation, into community.

How can we really build community?

We need to be intentional about how we choose to be in community with young adults. Being actively involved with Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

and lonely searching for somewhere to belong. I believe that the community that Christ promises is the hallmark of what makes Christianity speak to the core needs of humans. A friend of mine told me that we are all born with a desire and longing for something that fulfills us. That is Christ.

So help us. Mentor us. Teach us how to be adults. Let us know we are not alone in this Christian walk. Be real with us. "What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured."⁵ ■

Ashia Lennon is a third-year religious studies major at Burman University.

This article is based on a speech she presented to board members at the SDACC yearend meetings in November 2015 at Oshawa, Ont.

¹ David Augsburg is a theologian, author, and professor at Fuller Theological Seminary.

² Our church at large often speaks about ways it can appeal to secular society, but some view this endeavor as strange in light of the church's apparent disconnectedness from the issues that society at large deems important.

³ The ordination of women to pastoral ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

⁴ For information about the issue of women's ordination as voted at the 2015 General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists, see "Delegates Vote No on Issue of Women's Ordination," *Adventist News Network*, July 8, 2015, <https://news.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2015-07-08/delegates-vote-no-on-issue-of-womens-ordination/>.

⁵ Kurt Vonnegut, *Palm Sunday: An Autobiographical Collage* (Random House, 2009).

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Alberta

Calgary Homeschool Club and Operation Christmas Child



Alberta Calgary Central Homeschool Club getting ready to fill Operation Christmas Child boxes

There are many ways to reach out to our communities, both near and far. For the past three years, one of the ways our Calgary Central Homeschool Club has chosen to touch lives is through packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) on the first Tuesday of November. For many of us in the club, parents and children alike, this event is one of the highlights of the school year.

Our time together started with a devotional reading about

the story of six-year-old Sarah from Drayton Valley, Alta. The first shoebox she packed for Operation Christmas Child was in 1993, the year Samaritan's Purse's first introduced this annual effort. Although she excitedly hoped to hear from the child who received her gift, she didn't know the incredible impact her box had until six years later. This story reminded our group of how important every item in each box really is, not only to the child who receives it, but to their families as well.

Anticipation and excitement were on the faces of all of the 13 children as they stood around the tables with their empty Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes. Each was just itching to pack their boxes with special, handpicked items.

Our families contributed whatever new items they could, and then all the items were placed on four long tables end-to-end and organized into sections. Hygiene and school supplies, such as soap bars, notebooks, and pencil crayons are the most needed items; however, just as important to a child are balls, small stuffed animals, and sheets of stickers.

It took less than an hour and a half to get the job done, from assembling the boxes and filling them to adding a special personalized note to each one.

Every year we've managed to pack more boxes than the previous year. This time we packed a total of 50. In the past we've purchased plastic boxes to fill with items, but after taking a shift helping in the Calgary Operation Christmas Child warehouse last year, this time we chose to assemble and use the boxes they provide at no cost. We saw how much easier their boxes fit into the shipping containers, allowing them to send the most boxes and keep shipping costs down.

Samaritan's Purse's OCC program is not just a shoebox filled with some needed items. Instead, it's one of many steps in their well-planned system to introduce children and their families all over the world to the love of Jesus. Giving in this way not only helps our club to be a part of this system but also reminds us that Jesus needs us to cooperate with others to be His hands and feet here on earth to touch the world with His love. ■

—Joanne Burns, Calgary Central Homeschool Club

Adventist Band, West of Here, Wins GMA Canada Covenant Award



For over 10 years, brothers Matt, Taylor, and Tristan Adams have had a dream: to inspire audiences with their brand of inspirational pop and acoustic rock gospel music. And although they are all still in their early 20s and hail from a seldom-heard-of village called Alberta Beach, Alta., they have been living that dream for several years now.

But even with all that they have achieved in such a short time—forming a band called West of Here, getting air time for their original music on Christian radio stations, and being nominated for Gospel Music Awards Canada (GMA Canada) Covenant Awards two years in a row—it was still an unexpected surprise when the three Adams brothers, along with their drummer, Eric Fawcett, received a Covenant Award at this year's GMA Canada awards ceremony. They were nominated in two categories, New Artist of the Year and Rock Song of the Year, and won best Rock Song of the Year for their song "Run."

"Wow! What a night!" says Matt. "We had the honour of playing alongside amazing Canadian musicians as well as winning our very first GMA Covenant

Award. Our thankfulness cannot be put into words."

The band has been gaining exposure after being nominated for Covenant awards two years in a row, radio play for their single "Right Here With Me," and the release of their music video "Run." Add to that an opportunity to open for the up-and-coming Christian band called The Color, and these young men are on their way to making a positive influence in the lives of many fans, appealing to both the young and the young-at-heart.

"With so many young people leaving the church, we set a goal to write intelligent, thought-provoking music that would appeal to young people," explains Matt. "It is our prayer that we will be able to ignite a passion in young people that will carry them through their life's journey."

So how did these three Adventist brothers from Alberta Beach achieve their goals at such a young age? Well, it's taken a lot of hard work; support from their family, friends, and church family; and, of course, a talent that cannot be denied.

"They first discovered their love of music after our house burned down in

September 2000," recalls their mother, Jennifer Adams. "All our instruments were destroyed in the fire, and when we rebuilt, we included a band room with new instruments."

The brand-new instruments attracted Matt, Taylor, and Tristan, and by the ages of 12, 10, and 8, respectively, they had already been singing together for a while. They also played a variety of instruments: Matt strummed the guitar, Taylor played the piano and bass guitar, and Tristan kept beat with the drums.

Over the years, the primarily self-taught band has evolved, and Taylor has taken the role of lead singer and acoustic guitar player, while Matt and Tristan sing back-up harmony and play guitars.

Matt has also developed a passion for writing inspirational lyrics and creates original music for the band. His desire is that each song will be a sermon that draws the listener closer to God.

West of Here is excited that their long-awaited album *The Journey* is expected to be released in January 2016. To download their music and learn more about the band, visit westofhereband.com. ■

Ontario



Toronto Hungarian Seventh-day Adventist Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

October 10, 2015, was a two-fold celebration in the Toronto Hungarian Adventist Church.

On this Thanksgiving Day, we were reminded of God's blessings as symbolically illustrated by the richly decorated table containing the bounties of the harvest.

Together with the psalmist, our hearts filled with praise and adoration to our gracious heavenly Father: "Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:1, 2)¹.

One of our expressions of praise on that occasion was the 50th anniversary of our church.

We gathered for this festive occasion with fellow Hungarian believers from Toronto, Cambridge, Stoney Creek, Kingston, Lindsey, Oshawa, Courtice, as well as from as far as New York, New Jersey, and Ohio in the United States.

The Toronto Hungarian church was formally established in 1965, although a group of Hungarians had been meeting much earlier, in 1958, initially in the Ukrainian church, and later in the Yugoslavian church.

In 1965 the Hungarian church was organized under the leadership of Sohlmann Károly, a pastor from New York. During the past 50 years, the following pastors have served in the Hungarian church: Béla Lénárt, László Szerecz, Imre Móra, Gyula Kalmár, András Kapusi, and currently Károly Nagy.

Though our church has experienced setbacks and storms, the members have often experienced the words of Samuel through the years: "Thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Sam. 7:12).

The keynote speaker at our 50th anniversary was Dr. Dennis Marshall, general vice-president for the SDACC, who was accompanied by his wife and whose message served as real encouragement for the congregation gathered for the commemoration of this festive event.

With deep gratitude in their hearts the congregation has recognized once again that "the Lord has done great things for us" (Psalm 126:3).

This event has reminded the Toronto Hungarian congregation

to respond to God's mandate more intentionally and make a difference for Him among the Hungarians dispersed throughout Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

Our church desires to honour our Master's call by uniting efforts to make a difference for Christ in our community and sphere of influence! ■

Károly Nagy, Pastor, Toronto Hungarian Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Estevan Company Organized



Pastor Jeff Potts (far right) with new company of 19 believers.

On the Sabbath morning of Oct. 31, 2015, a new company of 19 believers was organized in Estevan, Sask. This joyful event is an example of the exciting growth happening in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference through a focus on church planting, small-group discipleship, and shorter but more frequent evangelistic series.

Pastor Federico Cela and his team of church planters have done an excellent job of befriending newcomers to the community of Estevan. They have helped many new immigrants get settled in and have introduced them to other new friends in the community. Over the past year the Estevan congregation has held Sabbath morning services every other Sabbath at the home of Pastor Federico and his wife, Eve, in Estevan. On alternating Sabbaths, the Estevan Church Planting Group would travel two hours round-trip to the Weyburn Adventist Church for worship.

In order to reach the community of Estevan, the new company of believers will be gathering for worship each Sabbath in Estevan from this point on. Worship space has kindly been offered by the Estevan Church of God. On the Sabbaths when this facility is not available, the congregation will worship in a room at the high school or at the Western Star Hotel.

The Cela family has also been conducting *Thunder in the Holy Land* Bible study groups on Thursday and Friday evenings at their home. *Thunder in the Holy Land* is a DVD series designed for small groups. Shot in high definition on location in the Middle East, it presents 26 Bible topics in documentary style and includes discussion questions for future study. Several families who are not yet Seventh-day Adventists have been attending these groups.

During the recent evangelistic series in Estevan, many of these pre-Adventist guests attended the meetings held at the Royal Canadian Legion. Several Weyburn church members

made the two-hour round trip every evening to support the Estevan meetings. The series content ties in visually with the *Thunder* DVD series to provide familiarity for those attending the study groups, while providing new content for deeper understanding. At the conclusion of the nine-day series, eight individuals were welcomed into the Estevan and Weyburn church families. There are now 24 dedicated church members in the new Estevan Company. Pray for their mission as they work together to help others in the Estevan area prepare for the soon coming of Jesus.

The growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Estevan is a good example of what happens when our church members make friends in the community and invite them to join *Thunder* groups. Wherever several such study groups have been established in a community and a short reaping series has been conducted, God has richly blessed the outreach. Since September 2014, we have welcomed 47 new believers into our Man-Sask Conference family through this simple evangelistic approach. ■

Jeff Potts, Executive Secretary,
Man-Sask Conference

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British Columbia



Photo: Danielle Rochford

Ten schools consisting of 21 teams from across British Columbia and Alberta came together to compete in the Annual CASA Flag Football Tournament at Okanagan Adventist Academy on Oct. 15, 2015. Students ranging from Grades 6–10 fellowshipped together, connected with God, met new people, and made lasting memories.

The games were played from breakfast to supper on Friday and then continued on Saturday night. Physical education teachers, volunteer adults, and student coaches led their teams through a series of games leading up to the finals. The sportsmanship that was demonstrated by all involved was truly impressive. Although these games were full of excitement and fun, the most important time of the weekend for these students began on Friday night and continued until Saturday evening.

On Sabbath, each student was given the opportunity to connect with God through an inspirational youth program. Speakers Rob Folkenberg, Abraham Samudio, and Mike Stevenson each led out in a service to inspire the youth and help them grow closer to God.

The finals of the tournament were played on Saturday night, with crowds of fans and family members cheering. Fraser Valley Adventist Academy's A and B teams won in each of their divisions. ■

—*Thanuja Nakka and Jared Jamieson, Grade 12, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy*

>> See more at: <http://goo.gl/7pej7p>.

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:

As of Nov. 30, 2015, there were 426 depositors with a total deposit of \$28,409,014. There were 86 loans with a value of \$25,288,027.

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



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The Windsor Adventist Elementary School along with the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church are celebrating their 100th anniversary next summer!

If you're a former teacher or former member and would like to receive information about our celebration, please register on the church website: www.windsorsda.com.

If you are interested in enrolling your child or have questions on registration, please visit the school website (link found on the church website) or email principal@waes.ca.



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- 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 submitable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
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Announcements

63rd TJA/CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend—Crawford Adventist Academy will be holding its 63rd Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 27–29, 2016, honouring TJA classes of 1981 (Grade 11), 1976 (Grade 10), 1971 (Grade 10), 1966 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991 and 1986. We welcome all our alumni and families, former and current administrators, board members, faculty and staff, parents, friends and supporters. Please contact the Office of Advancement, Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, 416/633-0090/toll-free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant, ext. 248, or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website, www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook, "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group."(5/16)

New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Melissa Rivard was baptized in Vernon, B.C., on Oct. 17, 2015, by

Steve Little. She is now a member of the Vernon church.

MARITIMES

Joanna Armstrong was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Paul Llewellyn. She is now a member of the Tantallon church.

Marcella Arsenault and Anthony Clark were baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Sept. 19, 2015, by Métard Salomon. They are now members of the Moncton church.

Marisal Baquero was baptized in Perth-Andover, N.B., on May 30, 2015, by Adrian Golea. She is now a member of the Perth-Andover church.

Patricia Ann Barker was baptized in Dartmouth, N.S., on Aug. 8, 2015, at Cyril Smith Golden Acres Park by Kevin Scott. She is now a member of the Dartmouth church.

Breanna Brown was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Ricky Schwarz. She is now a member of the Maranatha church.

Claudette Daigle was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Jacques Morris. She is now a member of the Bouctouche company.

George Edmond Dean, Ramona Clara Dean, and Steven Alexander Dean were baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Gary Belhomme. They are now members of the Maritime Conference church/Shiloh.

Maria Genevieve Thereasa Innes was baptized in Dartmouth, N.S., on Aug. 8, 2015, at Cyril Smith Golden Acres Park by Kevin Scott. She is now a member of the Dartmouth church.

Max Kuhle was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Paul Llewellyn. He is now a member of the Moncton church.

Sharlane Lumina Larocque was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on April 4, 2015, by Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

David LeBlanc was baptized in Miramichi, N.B., on Aug. 8, 2015, by Jacques Morris. He is now a member of the Bouctouche company.

Kerri Matthews was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

Weston Matthews (Henderson) was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Aug. 23, 2015, by Métard Salomon. He is now a member of the Moncton church.

Duke and Lyndsay Mighten were baptized in Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 24, 2015, by Gary Belhomme. They are now members of the Halifax church.

Myla O'Dell was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., at campmeeting on Aug. 1, 2015, by Victor Chant. She is now a member of the St. George church.

Sandra Parsons was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on May 30, 2015, by Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

David Rafuse was baptized in Halifax, N.S., on May 30, 2015, by Kevin Scott. He is now a member of the Halifax church.

Chani Salomon was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on April 4, 2015, by her dad, Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

Abigail Samara Stewart was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Gary Belhomme. She is now a member of the Maritime Conference church/Shiloh.

Audrey Stoker was baptized in Halifax, N.S., on May 30, 2015, by Kevin Scott. She is now a member of the Halifax church.

Crystal Lee Williams was accepted on profession of faith in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, during campmeeting by Gary Belhomme. She is now a member of the Maritime Conference church/Shiloh.

Eli Williams was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on Aug. 1, 2015, at campmeeting by Victor Chant. He is now a member of the St. George church.

Brook Zebeljan was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., on June 20, 2015, by Kevin Scott. She is now a member of the Fox Point church.

Births

Ana-Maria and Bianca Golea were born April 2, 2015, to Adriana and Adrian Golea of Fredericton, N.B.

Ernest Kgosl Sean Mogae was born Feb. 23, 2015, to Susan and Sydney Mogae of Bedford, N.S. A brother for big sister Oratile.

Birthdays

Ruth Mohns celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 2, 2015, with a celebration held at Pioneer



Apartments in Oshawa, Ont. Friends and family joined in an open house to wish a very special lady a very special happy birthday. Ruth has four children, eight grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Marjorie Alida (née Larson) Saylor was born on May 22, 1922, in Norway, Alta., and died on Oct. 8, 2015, in Strathmore, Alta. She will always be remembered for her sweetness, gentleness, and peace in life. When given adversity, she focused on the positive. She had a strong faith in God, and He gave her the strength and direction for each day. Marjorie is predeceased by her husband, Walter Saylor; parents, Oscar and Louise Larson; brothers, Ernest Larson, Reuben Larson, Roy Larson, and Orval Larson; half-brothers, Leif Elvedahl, Arnold Elvedahl, and Elmer Elvedahl; sisters, Ruby Larson and Lola Larson. Surviving: sons, Glen (Irene) Saylor of Tillamook, Ore., Donald (Jill) Saylor of Kelowna, B.C., Gordon Saylor of Calgary, Alta., Darrell (Carol) Saylor of Victoria, B.C.; daughter, Joan (Kenton) Ziegler of Beiseker, Alta.; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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Wanted: Looking for teachers for SDA elementary school (English immersion school) in South Korea. Starting at CAD\$2,500. Free full furnished housing, free round-trip airfare, medical insurance, national pension, paid vacation, etc. Basic requirements: proof of university degree. Work start dates: Feb. 23, 2016, or Aug. 22, 2016. Due date for application: anytime (visa processing takes 3 months). For more details, call Peter Kim at 604/997-1970 (elder, Vancouver Korean SDA Church, B.C.). Email: 311kim@gmail.com or kim76311@hanmail.net. (2/16)

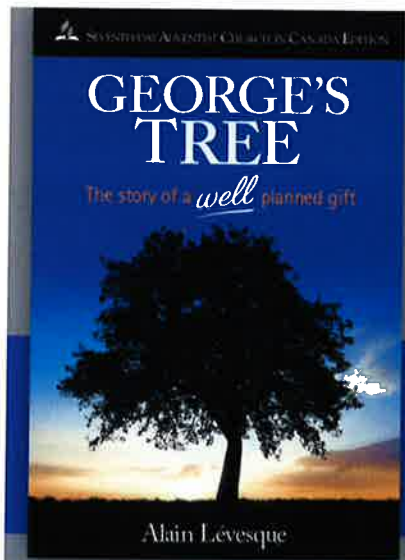
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Have you saved issues of Junior Guide published by The Review and Herald? I am a mom looking for *Guide* magazines published between 1950 and 1995 to replenish my supply of children's stories. I pay the postage. Contact Rachel at 780/383-2135 or trenchuksjoy@hotmail.com. (1/16)



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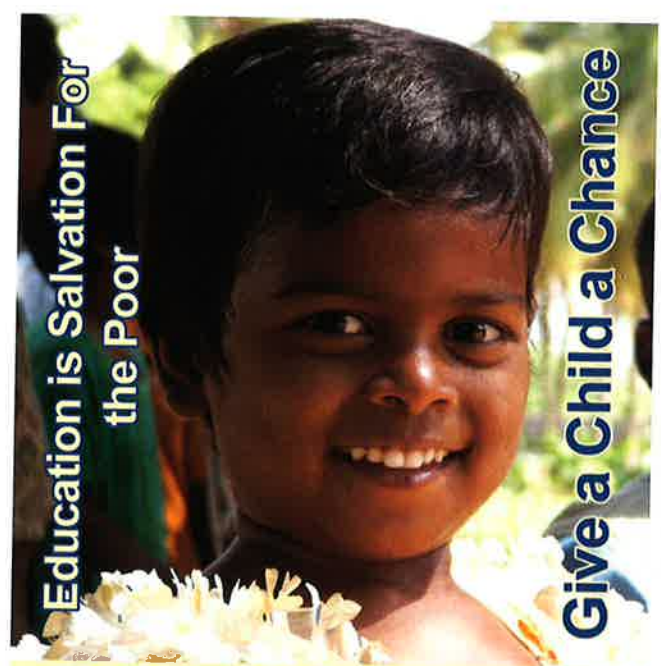
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from the editor

sharing hope and wholeness

THE TRANSITION FROM ONE YEAR TO ANOTHER IS ALWAYS REFRESHING TO ME. But I am not a fan of New Year's resolutions, because I believe, as do many, that we should respond to God's will for us as He reveals it rather than wait until the New Year to make decisions that will improve our quality of life and our relationships with Him and others.

I am reflecting on my joys and experiences over the past year. One of the events I was blessed to attend—and am looking forward to again in 2016—is the Partnership Event with *It Is Written Canada*. It is encouraging to hear the effects this ministry has on so many people. There is nothing more important to me than hearing the stories of lives changed by the blood of the Lamb. Chris Holland's continual messages of hope and wholeness are something everyone can be blessed by. His messages cause me to reflect on the changes I have made over the years as I mature in age and experiences with God.

The partnership meetings are open to all. The guest speakers are motivating, to say the least, and the musical talent that performs at these meetings are well worth the trip. Many people bring their co-workers and friends to the concerts—they are just that good. I find myself continually checking the www.IIW.ca website to find the upcoming dates and guest speakers.

I appreciate all who have come before this current team, and value Elder Holland's passion for Christ. One of the things he does exceedingly well is share his vision of sharing the message. For example, he is actively working with the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference and other ministries to help strengthen the work in Nunavut.

Please join me in attending next year's partnership meetings. I may not be able to go to all of them across Canada, but when I can attend, I look forward to seeing you there. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

PERUSING OLD ISSUES OF THE CANADIAN ADVENTIST MESSENGER IS LIKE TAKING A WALK THROUGH HISTORY.

Step back in time and read these excerpts from the *Eastern Canadian Messenger* and *Western Canadian Tidings* reporting on the Great Halifax Explosion of 1917 and its impact on Halifax Adventist church members.

HALIFAX

The following wire was received at the "Tiding's" Office, December 13, 1917:

"Elder E. M. Chapman and all our people in Halifax are safe. Three suffered slight injuries. Some of the laity lost homes and all they contained. The church is a total wreck.

(Signed) "J. L. WILSON."

Dec. 20, 1917—*Western Canadian Tidings*. (Vol. 6, No. 26, p. 8)



A view across the devastation of Halifax after the Halifax Explosion, looking toward the Dartmouth side of the harbour. IMO (involved ship) can be seen aground on the far side of the harbour.

arrived at our destination. Long before reaching the city we could see the lurid glare of the burning ruins against the inky heavens, and when ten miles out we began to notice the broken windows. At the outskirts of the city our train was brought to a standstill by piles of debris thrown across the tracks. Carrying our heavy luggage we groped our way in the darkness amidst the wreck and ruin. The air was filled with a sickening odor of burning flesh. Autos and wagons were hurrying to and fro as best they could with their loads of dead and wounded.

Arriving at Elder Chapman's home I was thankful to find him and his family alive and uninjured though every window in their house had been shattered and doors splintered. They were all seated in the dining room having family worship when the crash came. Flying glass and other wreckage fell in heaps around them and yet they all escaped without as much as a scratch or a bruise. Surely the protecting hand of God was over them.

Shortly after my arrival Elder Chapman and I went down to a large nearby hospital to visit a wounded sister. The awful scenes we there saw I would gladly erase from memory if it could only be

done. Every available space in the institution was filled with the wounded, the dead, and the dying. The beds were full, the floors in the hallways, rooms and everywhere were covered with the sufferers lying on mattresses or heaps of rags. Everything was soaked with blood. All had been cut and gashed by flying glass and bruised or crushed by falling timbers. Many were mangled and mutilated beyond recognition; their faces like pieces of raw meat with eyes gone, noses cut off, and ears missing. Many too, had been fearfully burned by fires that broke out in their wrecked homes. Doctors and nurses were working to the point of exhaustion setting broken limbs, extracting glass, splinters and plaster from wounds, cut-

Dec. 18, 1917—An excerpt from an article titled "The Halifax Disaster," *Eastern Canadian Messenger*. (Vol. 17, No. 50, p. 1)

After a search of two or three days we were able to locate all of our people and we are glad to say that with the exception of one little baby girl who was still missing when we left all are alive and most of them uninjured. This is marvelous, especially so in view of the fact that the majority of them lived in the section where every house was destroyed. They all feel that the Lord miraculously delivered them and they are praising God for his protection and care.

Dec. 18, 1917—An excerpt from an article titled "The Halifax Disaster," *Eastern Canadian Messenger*. (Vol. 17, No. 50, p. 2)

"Our church building is a total wreck. The pews in it were broken to kindling wood, and I fear we shall have to ask our brethren in different places to help us get re-established.

"You will remember Sister Hayward. Her house was smashed to kindling wood. A boy was blown out of another house right into her husband's arms, and she says they walked from the debris just as though they were on a smooth floor, with nothing in their way. All the houses around there,—east, west, north, south,—right up to their house, were burned up, and hundreds of people were burned up with them, but not so much as a splinter of their house was burned. Others of our people were delivered in a similar way, although some lost all their earthly possessions.

"Sister Case was standing at the telephone when the explosion came. Her house, likewise, was smashed to pieces, and she was protected in that one place just as if a little room had been built around her. They had to dig her out, and found that she had not received even a scratch.

"The ninety-first psalm was verily fulfilled in behalf of the Seventh-day Adventists in Halifax; although many of them lived right in the center of the destroyed area, they miraculously escaped. I do not think we shall live to see anything like it unless it be the seven last plagues. Those who passed through it

Jan. 3, 1918—Excerpts from an article titled, "Special Deliverances in the Halifax Disaster," *Western Canadian Tidings*. (Vol. 7, No. 1, p. 4)

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