

canadian adventist

Messenger

march 2016

Sowing Seeds

Every believer's calling



PLUS Changing Lives in Laos (p. 6)
The Bay Swept Our Car Away (p. 11)
Do You Believe in Miracles? (p. 17)

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"But good men will be generous to others and will be blessed of God for all they do."

Isaiah 32:8 Living Word Translation



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“You and I don’t have the same touch that Jesus had, but our compassion can be the same.”

Sight and Seeing

If you were to make a list of the 10 things you’ve experienced that have moved you the most, what would be on that list? Would your list include something you’ve heard? Or maybe it includes something you’ve tasted. How about an event you’ve experienced, something you’ve seen, or perhaps a place you’ve been? Such a list involves our senses—things we experience because we smell, taste, hear, feel, or see something.

As I think about my top-10 list, it includes many things I’ve *seen*. I’ve wondered how that list would differ if my vision were diminished. If I were blind, the B.C. mountains, the tidal bore in the Maritimes, the canola fields of the prairie would not be the same. I am enriched by what I see.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus met many who needed to be made whole. I’m moved by the story of one of those encounters. “And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him” (Mark 8:22, ESV). People knew that if only Jesus touched this fellow, his life would be changed—and it was. Do you suppose that experience was high on this man’s most-moved list? I’ll bet it was.

You and I don’t have the same touch that Jesus had, but our compassion can be the same. That’s why Adventists sponsor Blind Camps every year across Canada. Through our Christian Record ministry, we try to create moving memories and provide continuing connections between our blind friends and local Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Last year I was deeply moved by the response of our church across Canada. Thank you so much for what you gave. Those gifts created moving experiences that were deeply appreciated. Through your gifts you acted as the heart and hands of Christ.

This month we will again receive an offering to make those camps possible. Please be generous in your support. And if, by chance, you happen to miss that offering, please consider making a donation to Blind Camps on your offering envelope.

You can build memories for Christ. ■

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



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Changing Lives in Laos

THE FIRST TIME THAT I VISITED THE SMALL COUNTRY OF LAOS in 1996, one sign at the airport said, “Show All Weapons.” That sign spoke volumes about the frontier nature of the country.

Over the last 20 years much has changed in Laos, but thankfully the nation still retains a beautiful rustic quality, making it a wonderful country to visit.

Laos is home to 150 colourful ethnic groups, many of whom still follow ancient tribal traditions as they make their living on the mountain slopes. Using slash-and-burn methods, they grow rice and a few vegetables. The crops rarely yield enough to provide adequate nutrition for all. Close to half of the children under five suffer from stunting and malnutrition. With lowered immune systems, one in 11 children will not survive to their fifth birthday.

ADRA Canada has been working hard to reduce child mortality in Laos since 1994.

One important step has been to help villages develop water systems. Before ADRA’s help, people used the steep jungle inclines on the outskirts of the village when “nature called.” This proved especially difficult in the middle of the night during the rainy season! ADRA provides the pipes, cement, and engineering expertise, while the villagers provide the labour. With water, it suddenly becomes practical for every family to have a latrine just a few steps from their homes!

Water also helps people grow kitchen gardens near their homes. ADRA nutritionists teach mothers how to cook and preserve the new vegetables, fruits, and herbs that provide balanced nutrition for their families.

The health and sanitation information that ADRA shares is enthusiastically implemented. People begin to sweep their villages clean and keep their animals from wandering freely.

I always enjoy visiting the beautiful mountain people of Laos. Their gentle nature is inspiring. Their gratitude for the help that they have received from Canada is touching.

Rhia Vang, of the Hmong ethnic group, had this to say:

“Since ADRA started working in our village, everything has changed! Now the children can bathe right here at home. Now it is so much easier to keep our house clean. I can wash our food before I cook. We can wash our clothes, our dishes, even our blankets! It used to take me two hours every day just to make one trip to the river. Now we are only a few steps away from water! ADRA has also given us a lot of training on health, hygiene, and sanitation. We have learned a lot about what makes our children sick and all of the things that we can do to keep our children healthy. They have shown us how to cook nutritious meals for our children and to make sure they are full before we send them to school.

The work that ADRA is doing in Laos is saving children’s lives. We are grateful for the support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and our generous supporters. ■

Frank Spangler is communications specialist at ADRA Canada.



Dream

“Now therefore, give me this mountain ...” —Joshua 14:12

The biblical record indicates that Caleb was a man of faith and action and that he remained undaunted in his resolve to fulfill God’s will. I am inspired by his life and witness and believe that he demonstrated many admirable qualities we need to develop in our own lives as we each seek to fulfill God’s will.

Today I would have us reflect upon three leadership qualities that I believe are essential to realizing our full potential as a people desiring to hasten our Lord’s coming.

The first quality is *Receptivity*. Ours is a fast-paced world, and we need to be supple before God, in terms of our approach to the issues and opportunities we face. I encourage leadership today to be focused and receptive to God’s revealed will and be willing to join God in His efforts to advance His kingdom. Our God is creative, and His resources are boundless.

By God’s grace, it is our privilege to create atmospheres for God’s voice to be heard. Once individuals experience a deeper revelation and call from God, it is our work to help them remain faithful and in the centre of His passion. Being receptive instruments and vessels of grace in ministry to others should be our first priority and the fruit of our individual relationship with Jesus.

The second quality I would have us consider is *Resiliency*. At times we must be willing to lay aside our preconceived agendas and fully embrace the collective will of God through His Spirit’s leading in people. Let us be willing to let God, through collaborative action, clarify His next step to facilitate and direct His work. His desire is to develop people. The task at hand is simply His context. The larger work is to prepare a people to live in heaven. Only the Holy Spirit can fulfill the wonderful experience of conversion in the hearts of people. Our work is to remain available to reflect God’s grace through personal testimony and witness. What a privilege!

And finally, *Resolve* is a quality that involves our conscious choice to surrender to His revealed will: to humbly embrace His will regardless of our circumstances. The acronym **DREAM** has helped me to embrace this concept more fully. If we are to take the “mountains” before us, then I believe we must DREAM:

- D** Determine and decide to do God’s will.
- R** Route the enemy with prayer.
- E** Earn the trust of those whom we serve.
- A** Act responsibly and respect consensus.
- M** Engage in Mentoring Relationships

May the Lord bless us as we work together in partnership with the Holy Spirit. We have a kingdom to advance, and like Caleb, may we be found faithful to our privilege and calling to serve God. ■

Ron Nelson is president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.



teen talk

Q: A friend of mine is being severely demonically attacked. She has seen ghosts and been choked, and this evening while on the phone, a demon was speaking through her. If you can, please pray that the demonic presence be rebuked in Jesus's name and that she accepts Christ Jesus as her Saviour.

A: Make sure that you pray *LOTS*. Being among demons is not just terrifying but extremely dangerous. Pray (and I will, too) for your friend, but also pray for your own protection.

Do you know of a local pastor or elder who could visit you? * This is a big deal, and you need as much support as you can get! By no means should you take this situation on as a "solo project." You cannot do this by yourself. Do not engage in a conversation with the demon that is attacking your friend. If it happens over the phone again, hang up right away, pray hard, and call your pastor. If she has a demonic possession in your presence and you are alone and unable to get help, **DO NOT** talk to the evil spirit; talk with Jesus instead. Ask Jesus to rebuke the demon. That is His job, not yours. Remember that Satan is powerful and extremely persuasive—he fooled a third of God's angels!

Pray, seek help, and never talk with a demon. ■

** (Dear readers, I've contacted this teenager, and we're following up. Please pray!)*





Mongoose

Think about it.

Jesus went out of His way to find and save a demon-possessed man. The poor man couldn't even ask for help; the demons spoke for him. But Jesus would not be chased away. He fought demons to save the man who lived in the tombs. He wants to save us from our sins and demons, too. You can be safe from the venom of Satan, that old serpent, if your life is hidden in Christ.

An angry mongoose rushes out of its hole in the ground and faces four hungry lions. Only about the size of a large house cat, but with a longer tail, the mongoose runs at the lions with teeth bared and screams a warning. One lion tries to stand its ground and takes a swipe at the mongoose but then backs away. The mongoose won't give up, won't run away, and won't go back to the safety of its home.

Mongoose look a bit like large weasels. They have pointy faces and long slender bodies, and, like weasels, they are carnivores. They live in tunnels underground or in trees. Some mongooses are aquatic and live around water. But the most amazing thing about mongooses is that God has given them a trait that protects them against snake venom.

Do it!

Do you want to be safe from the venom of Satan, that old serpent? Be sure your life is hidden with Christ in God. Read Colossians 3:1–4 and ask Jesus to help you to keep your love and thoughts on Him.



Student Profile

Burman University



Brian Christopher Cruz

Name: Brian Christopher Cruz
From: Los Angeles, Calif.
Major: Religious Studies, Year 4
Involved in: Religious Vice-President, Student Association
 Men's Volleyball Team
 Lifestyle Coach, *Your Best Pathways to Health*

What do you hope to do after you graduate?

I want to dedicate my life to encouraging people to grow, find purpose and fulfillment, and build community in Christ. I'm thinking of taking the Master of Science in Chaplaincy at Loma Linda University. If not, then perhaps answer a call to ministry. I'm also taking pre-nursing classes to keep that option open.

How is the Burman experience preparing you to meet your goals?

First, I think it's important to come to university with the intention of seeking an education and finding purpose. Burman provided the environment for growth in Christ in a community of like-minded believers. And the education was superb. I especially loved Dr. Tennyson Samraj's classes. Many of the classes I've taken have helped me in practical life. World Religions, for example, helped me gain a better understanding of what binds us together as people, and this has helped me in my ministry.

Can you share some stand out experiences from your time at Burman University?

The friends that I've made here, particularly my best friend. We've gone through a lot together and witnessed our faith grow and change these past four years. My other standout experience was the ministry opportunities. I was on East Hastings in Vancouver last year with our Urban Ministries group. I also really enjoyed being part of the Serve Lacombe Day ministry. Since the founding of Burman University, by Charles and Leona Burman, this campus has been about service and giving back. Following that tradition, our students, faculty, and staff continue the legacy of the Burman with the annual "Service Days" activity. The students participate in Services Days to give back and share with others what Christ has done for them. Whether through cleaning roadsides and parks, visiting the elderly in the community, or painting garbage bins, as I did, we all worked together to give back to the community. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of this activity was the "precious awareness" that for a few hours Burman University students were the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Can you tell me about Your Best Pathways to Health and your involvement in it?

Your Best Pathways to Health was a \$6 million ministry that provided comprehensive medical services to residents of San Antonio, Tex. I was involved in lifestyle coaching, which all clients were required to attend. I loved this ministry because I love medicine, particularly the idea of wholeness in body, mind, and spirit. If I get into the medical profession, I would love to partner with a ministry like the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network. ■

>> To see and hear more profiles of our Burman students, visit burmanu.ca/stories.

JR Ferrer is the director of communication for Burman University.

The Bay Swept Our Car Away!

"Do whatever it takes to save me and my husband!"

It was one of the hardest decisions we have ever made: to leave our home of six years in sunny Visalia, Calif., and come to cold New Brunswick, Canada. When anyone in California asked about our future plans, we would always say, "The Lord brought us here, and we will leave when He calls us elsewhere." And He did just that! He called my husband, Ricky, to pastor three churches, Barnesville, Hampton, and Saint John. He told us the work would not be easy but promised to be with us and "establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:17)!

We experienced God's care in a dramatic way as we ended the first month of ministry in our new district. We were in Barnesville for prayer meeting. About 100 centimetres of rain had been expected, and it was raining very hard when we finished. We prayed for everyone's safe travels before we left.

Ricky and I had separate vehicles. I drove my parents' car, and Ricky drove ours. As we started our 45-minute journey home, the seriousness of the storm became evident. We both prayed for safety as we drove through the darkness in the wind and pouring rain. We knew many others were praying for us, too.

Before we reached the ferry crossing, we encountered two flooded areas on the road. Ricky's car stalled in the water, so I went around him to keep me from stalling, too. He was able to get the car started, and I slowed to let him go ahead of me. As we rounded the next corner, the Lord told me to pull over until someone could come get us. I phoned Ricky, but he didn't answer.

About a minute later, the road dropped out from under Ricky, and he crashed into the wall created by the drop. I thought he had stalled again, so I drove very slowly to go around him. As I did, the front wheels of my car dropped over the edge of the pavement, suspending them mid-air. Ricky jumped out of his car and ran back to help me. He prayed for God's angels to help us, then pushed, and the car, a front-wheel drive, backed right up onto the road! Just after the car backed up, the road in front of me dropped three feet!

Ricky's car had struck the wall at 60 kilometres per hour, but he never moved in his seat on impact! The airbags had deployed but hadn't touched him! He had no whiplash, no airbag injury, no injuries, not even a scratch! We didn't have health insurance coverage yet, but God provided miraculous coverage.

All our important documents were in the car Ricky was driving. The Lord told him to retrieve specific items from our car three different times. After the third time, water and trees came rushing through and swept our car into Belleisle Bay.

Later, I was looking in my phone where I often write prayers. I found one I had forgotten. Exactly one week to the day before the accident, I had written this prayer: "Do whatever it takes to save me and my husband!" We believe God spared our lives and praise Him for everything He has done for us.

We experienced several miracles of God that night and look forward to the miracles He will perform to accomplish His work in our district and the Maritime Conference. ■

Stephanie Schwarz is a registered nurse and lifestyle coach. She is in ministry with her husband, Pastor Ricky Schwarz, in the Barnesville, Hampton, and Saint John district in New Brunswick.

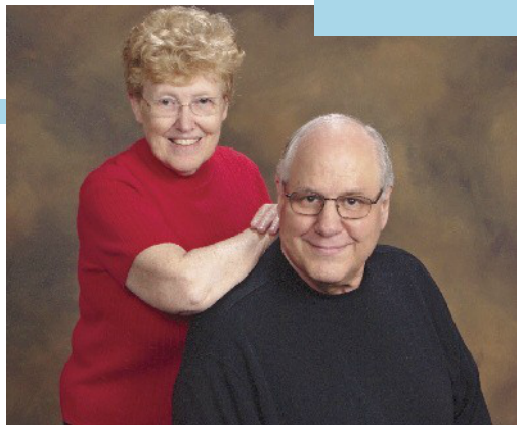


The Schwarz's car not long before it was swept away. Ricky is salvaging important documents from the vehicle before it is too late.



In the light of day, Ricky poses where an entire section of highway was swept away along with their car. Note the guard rail and posts dangling in mid-air!

Where Are They Now



Sherry and Bob Lemon

Messenger: *Tell me where you were born, and about your family and childhood.*

Bob Lemon: My parents, Phil and Elizabeth, went as missionaries to the Belgian Congo, Africa in 1945. My sister, Jean; my brother, Wayne; and I were all born and raised there. We had a great time as children growing up in the Congo. The period up to 1960 was peaceful, but the last three years, after the Congo received its independence, saw war and unrest.

M: *Where did you receive your education—elementary through university?*

B: Other than two years, my elementary education was from Home Study International (now Griggs University) with my mother as teacher. My first year of secondary education was at Andrews University Academy in Michigan, and my last three years at Gem State Academy in Idaho. I graduated from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in 1972 with a B.Sc. in Business Administration. My wife and I then served in Africa for 11 and a half years, and upon permanent return to the United States I completed my MBA at Andrews University in 1988.

M: *As a business graduate, what influenced you to work for the church rather than the business world?*

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

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

B: My parents' example was the greatest influence, but I was also greatly influenced both by my teachers and by my academy dean, who demonstrated true Christian service.

M: *In what areas, and in what capacity, did you serve the church?*

B: Accountant, Hackettstown Community Hospital, Hackettstown, N.J. (1972–1974); Auditor, Zaire Union (1974–1978); Treasurer, Zaire Union in Lubumbashi (1978–1982); Assistant Treasurer, Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Abidjan, Ivory Coast (1982–1985); Director of Financial Records, Andrews University (1985–1988); Treasurer, Alberta Conference, Red Deer, Alta., (1988–1992); Treasurer, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, Oshawa, Ont. (1992–1995). My last 20 years were at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md., with the first three years (of that 20-year-period) as Associate Treasurer, followed by four years as Under Treasurer, and the last 13 years as Treasurer/CFO until my retirement in 2015. I was ordained as an Adventist minister in 1978.

M: *What was the greatest challenge you faced as treasurer of the General Conference?*

B: During my time at the General Conference I had the privilege of working with a great team of leaders. Although

there were challenging times, such as the recession in 2008, probably the greatest challenge we faced was trying to find dedicated and talented personnel to fill the many treasury leadership positions around the world.

M: *What brought you encouragement in that position?*

B: Knowing that it was in the Lord's hands. One of my favourite passages is by Ellen G. White in *My Life Today*, page 10: "If we were left to ourselves to plan, we should make mistakes. Our prejudices, our weaknesses, our self-deceptions, and our ignorances would be manifest in many ways. But the work is the Lord's, the cause is His; He never leaves His workmen without divine directions."

M: *Tell me about your family.*

B: Our son, Jamie, works at the General Conference; and our daughter, Tami (Ray) Thombs, is living just north of New Orleans, La. They have three boys, Austin, Parker, and Jackson.

M: *Where are you now?*

B: Sherry and I live close to the village of Needmore, Pa. For the last 15 years we have enjoyed our country cabin on 77 acres. We are active in our small church of 35 members. Since my retirement, I continue to assist on a part-time basis with special assignments from the General Conference. ■

Navigating the Waters

Wills, Trusts, and Policy Changes

Economic calms and storms, as well as the headwinds of government and political change, make it necessary to alter the course from time to time.

In my 20s I got my commercial pilot license and also sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to South America in a 29-foot sailboat. Both of these things require knowledge about navigation: you need to know where you are and where you are going and then plot a course for how you are going to get to your destination. However, winds and seas change, storms come, and courses must be altered accordingly. God willing, you still arrive at your destination, but the intended course may be somewhat different from the actual course taken.

Today as a portfolio manager and investment advisor, I am constantly challenged by economic calms and storms as well as the headwinds of government and political change. These challenges and changes don't mean that I and my clients won't attain our goals; however, they make it necessary to alter the course from time to time to avoid damage or disaster.

Recent changes to policy regarding *spousal trusts* presents one of these challenges for some of my clients. A case in point is Saul and Hope. Years ago this young couple came to see me to talk about creating a financial footprint to leave to their family and favourite charities. God had been loving and generous to them, and they were looking to the future to extend God's love and generosity to others when they passed on—something that would have purpose and meaning. At the time, setting up a *spousal trust* made the most sense.

This was both Saul and Hope's second marriage. Saul had children from his previous marriage; Hope had no children but wanted to leave her legacy to her nieces and nephews and her favourite charity, ADRA Canada. Originally, we set things up so that if Saul predeceased Hope, Saul's money would go into a trust called a "spousal trust" (also called a "testamentary trust").

The trust was set up in his will and would provide Hope with income for the remainder of her life. When she passed away, the trust would then be dispersed according to Saul's wishes—it would go to his kids and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Her will was set up in much the same way, in that if she predeceased Saul, her legacy gifts would be put into a spousal trust for Saul's benefit and then passed on to her nieces and nephews and ADRA Canada when Saul was laid to rest. The benefit in setting up a spousal trust for both Saul and Hope was that in the event the death of one or the other, the trust would continue to benefit from graduated tax rates in the same way an individual would.¹

However, the government has changed the rules surrounding spousal trusts since Saul and Hope set up this arrangement, and, therefore, the goal posts have now moved. What happens to these trusts greatly depends on the wording and how they were originally set up. In Saul and Hope's case, they might receive graduated tax rates for three years, but then the trusts would become taxable at the highest marginal tax rates after that. To make things worse, Hope's legacy could end up paying for any tax on Saul's trust before it would be distributed to his heirs and vice versa.

New legislation (that took effect Jan. 1, 2016) has caused Saul and Hope to re-evaluate their spousal trust situation, their wills, and their gifts to their respective charities. The effectiveness of spousal trusts has been significantly changed, and they may have to plot a new course of action.

If you have a spousal trust set up in your wills, please call your trusted financial advisor to discuss the new legislated changes for 2016.

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

¹ For example, no tax on the first \$11,138 of income, 15% of the next \$43,953, 22% of taxable income greater than \$43,953 and less than or equal to \$87,907; 26% of taxable income greater than \$87,907 and less than or equal to \$136,270; 29% of taxable income over \$136,270.



A Warm Welcome With a Stuffie



Words by God — 1 John 3:17, NIV



Twelve volunteers visited temporary housing locations in Vancouver, B.C., to distribute hats, mittens, scarves, and stuffed animals to Syrian refugee children.

As Tia Lawrence watched a video depicting the experience of Syrian refugees, her heart dropped as she observed a small boat full of men, women, and children attempt to make its way to the shores of Greece. The passengers were desperate to make it to shore, huddling close together in order to stay on board and stay afloat. Tia had been following the Syrian refugee crisis for a while, finding it difficult to stand back and do nothing. In hopes of finding a way to help, she prayed a simple prayer: “God, I don’t know what You want my part to be, but please use me.” The next morning she woke up with the idea of the Stuffie Drive.

It was early December 2015 when Tia was given the idea of the Stuffie Drive. The Canadian government promised to settle 25,000 Syrian refugees across the country. Three thousand of those refugees will settle in the province of British Columbia. Living on Vancouver Island, Tia wanted to extend a warm welcome to the refugees settling in her province of B.C. After researching how many refugees would arrive in B.C., she set a goal to collect 1,000 stuffed animals, hats, mittens, and scarves for the refugee children.

“The text 1 John 3:17 was really important for the beginnings of the Stuffie Drive. It means being the face of welcome and the hands of kindness,” Tia explains. “Following Jesus’ example and being His hands and feet. Showing His love to new Canadians who needed to know that we’re happy to have them here.”

Inspired by 1 John 3:17, Tia reached out to other individuals who could possibly help her reach the goal. In the first week of the Stuffie Drive, Tia canvassed businesses and individuals, hoping to get their support. Ten local businesses and two local churches joined in support by becoming drop-off locations for the donations.

In the first 10 days, the Stuffie Drive collected 1,154 stuffed animals, exceeding their goal of 1,000. Tia was not alone in following the experience of the Syrian refugees. “The community really wanted to get involved and help in some way,” Tia reveals. “A lot of people wanted an opportunity to get involved, but they didn’t know where to start.” The Stuffie Drive gave them the opportunity to start somewhere.

Soon the cause gained momentum. People were volunteering their time, resources, and efforts, while the local news station, newspaper, and radio picked up the story. The community rallied together in order to offer a warm welcome to incoming refugees who were hoping to settle in their province. “People just ran with the idea,” Tia joyfully expresses. “We picked up a lot of volunteers on the way!” In addition to stuffed animals, the team was also able to gather hats, mittens, and scarves. With a significant outpouring of support, the Stuffie Drive was able to make their first drop-off to a group of children on Jan. 12, 2016.

Seven volunteers made their way to the St. Gregory Armenian Church in Richmond, B.C. They were invited

to meet with the refugees at the church's Christmas party. St. Gregory Armenian Church sponsored 92 refugees, hoping to help find permanent housing for all. "It was a lot of people for one place, but they [the volunteers] were able to do so much to help," Tia says.

During the party some of the church members helped the volunteers communicate with the refugees by assuming the role of translator. As the volunteers handed out stuffed animals, each child would choose their own stuffed animal with a smile on their face and joy in their eyes that brightened up the room. "It was such an incredible opportunity to see their smile and to see that such a small thing can make such a big difference," Tia fondly recalls.

On Jan. 22, 2016, twelve volunteers made their second trip to Vancouver to visit four temporary housing locations. "We had volunteers from all walks of life," Tia discloses. "From the Adventist Church and other denominations in the valley, from the military base, and from the community—everyone came to help." The 12 volunteers travelled in a 15-seater van and crossed the waters on a ferry in order to reach their destination.

At their four destinations, the volunteers were able to really sit down, spend time, and chat with the refugees. They set up the common room market-style, allowing the children to pick and choose their hats, mittens, scarves, and stuffed animals from each box. As the volunteers handed out the goodies, a refugee mother asked if the people who made the hats knew they were being sent to the refugees. When the volunteers assured her that those who hand-knitted the hats were aware of its destination, the mother was overcome with gratitude, touched that someone had taken the time to make something for them.



Megan Rutledge (left) and Tia Lawrence (right) pack this vehicle to overflowing with items from the donation boxes.



Some of the items collected through the Stuffie Drive.

The Stuffie Drive has given hats, mittens, scarves, and stuffed animals to approximately 450 children so far. They are organizing and scheduling more trips as the refugee families trickle into the province. Refugees will continue to arrive in British Columbia until March 1, 2016.

Tia Lawrence, the organizer of the Stuffie Drive, continues to work hard alongside the volunteers of the project. "I want to continue to bring a smile to a child's face, to welcome people with open arms, to look for ways to help others and to make a difference in my community," Tia determines. "We have the opportunity to make a change, to be an example of Christ's love, character, and heart. That's what I've taken away from this whole project. It doesn't start and end with the Stuffie Drive. It should continue for the rest of our lives." ■

Kryzia Abacan is a recent graduate of the MA in Communication program at Andrews University.



with Tia

❧❧ If you are interested in following or helping Tia Lawrence and the Stuffie Drive team with their goal, you may connect with them through their Facebook page, Stuffie Drive.



Three visionary women educate Afghan girls



Children surround Gail Misk during a trip to Afghanistan in June 2012. She visited schools she supported as part of A Better World Canada's 100 Classroom Project.

Three Canadian women are making a positive change for hundreds of girls in Afghanistan, and it all started with hearing one young woman's dream for change.

Gail Misk of Surrey, B.C., Helga Bairos of Branchton, Ont., and Mary Lou Figueiredo of Cambridge, Ont., are major donors of A Better World Canada's 100 Classroom Project because they were inspired by Azalea Lehndorff's desire to see more girls go to school. They met Lehndorff and were impressed by her dedication to the cause and its ties with A Better World Canada. The Central Alberta-based international development organization, created in 1990 as part of Lacombe's College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, is overseeing the project and took on Lehndorff as project manager.

Knowing all that, the women were convinced this project was a worthwhile investment and are encouraging others to sponsor the last leg of the project.

Lehndorff was a student attending Canadian University College, now called Burman University, in Lacombe, Alta., when she began raising money for classrooms in Afghanistan in 2010.

Gail Misk, a retired teacher, and her husband, Paul, a contractor, also wanted to build schools for the world's poor.

Although he died in 2007, Misk yearned to pursue their dream. The Seventh-day Adventist member in Aldergrove, B.C., became the main financial contributor of the Kinara Secondary School (2012) and at Quanchugha Girls High School (2015). Misk visited the projects in June 2012. Bairos and Figueiredo contributed to Qara Kent Girls High School. All ABW-sponsored schools are found in Jawzjan province in northern Afghanistan. Lehndorff said the women were instrumental in seeing these schools built, partly because their donations inspired others to support. The 28-year-old, now in her first year of medical school at University of Calgary, will return to Afghanistan in March. Her goal is for the remaining 29 classrooms or three schools to be finished by the end of 2017. One classroom equals \$13,000 CAD or one school equals

\$130,000 CAD (10 classrooms plus four rooms for teachers and lab and library).

Bairos, a retired office manager, decided to contribute after being impressed with Lehndorff and her project.

"I just felt that God has blessed us and that we have to bless others," said Bairos, a member of Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. "I have high respect and trust for A Better World and what it does."

A Better World uses everyone's sponsorship dollars directly toward the project. No money is held back for administrative costs, since A Better World is volunteer driven.

Figueiredo said she wanted to give back because it will help girls succeed in life. Plus, she likes that the local communities are involved in making these school projects self-sustainable.

As a result of Lehndorff's persistence to bring more schools to Afghanistan, there are now 15,300 students enrolled, \$800,000 invested, and 71 classrooms completed. ■

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

Do you believe in miracles?

Do you believe in miracles? Do you really believe that healings and miracles have a relevant place in our church today? If so, why don't we pray for these acts of wonder in our churches?

A few months ago we held a miracle night at my church. We invited anyone who was sick or in need of a miracle to attend a special evening worship. To be honest, I wasn't sure what to expect. Would people really come out? Would they be honest about their spiritual and physical needs?

Before the evening program started, I invited the church elders to meet me a couple of hours early for prayer and training. We were already participating in Ten Days of Prayer (a North American Division-wide initiative), and several of our leaders had been fasting and praying.

During the training, I taught the elders how to facilitate discussion in their prayer groups. We practised by role-playing possible situations. We formed a circle, and I stepped into the middle to demonstrate how the healing could take place. I needed to think of something—an ailment; I had to give them an example. *My hips*. Ever since I moved to Canada three years ago, my hips have been aching. The damp Vancouver weather has taken its toll on my body. I have experienced chronic pain in my hips. On many days, I have found it difficult to get out of bed or walk without the constant ache.

After describing the body pain to the elders, they laid hands on me. Pastor Steve Mirkovich rubbed olive oil on my forehead. He asked God to liberate me of my pain. Would you believe me if I told you that *instantly* my hip pain disappeared? To be honest with you, I hadn't planned on mentioning my aching hips that evening. I just randomly brought it up because I needed to give my elders a teaching example. But God had something bigger in store for me.

Later that night we prayed for many other people. About 50 people attended the program. We prayed for marriages, financial distress, physical and emotional healings. It was an incredible evening to witness God's faithfulness.

As a pastor, I usually receive a request to pray or anoint someone during the final stage of his or her life. Seventh-day Adventists often treat an anointing like last rites. That isn't biblical, however. If you were to take a careful look at the passage that we commonly use, James 5:14–16, it says, "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up" (NIV). Why do we wait for someone to be on his or her deathbed before we call the elders to pray? The verse explicitly says that if you are sick, call for help. In fact, the preceding verse addresses anyone who is "in trouble" and instructs them to make it a matter of prayer!

Jesus reminded His disciples, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and *even greater works*, because I am going to be with the Father" (NLT).¹ Imagine if we lived according to the promise Jesus has given. Imagine the incredible life changes that would occur in our churches! ■

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.



¹ Emphasis mine.



barry's blog

"Let's stop making charities the political football."

Charity Political Activities Audit: Good Riddance

Some charities have similarities to the Roman orator Cicero. They are hated by one emperor but loved by another. The Trudeau government's announcement that it will scale back the political activity audits of charities by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is good for charities and good for Canada. Good for charities because they will be encouraged to do charity and not worry about participating in the public debate for fear of a political audit. And good for Canada because the country will benefit from the expertise of groups on the ground who have innovative ideas on how best to help those in need.

A charity, by definition, cannot have a political purpose. That does not mean that what a charity does and what it says will not have a political consequence—invariably, it will. Charities become politically salient only because their particular cause shows up on the political radar. It is through no fault of the charities. The political winds just happen to blow their way. Their charitable activity becomes the *cause célèbre du jour*. For example, assisting refugees into Canada is not a political activity. However, we are currently in a political context where the subject of refugees is very political—so much so that any involvement of a charity

making a statement on the issue one way or another could be criticized. Statements supporting the plight of refugees may suddenly be deemed political or even partisan, depending on the circumstance.

The Harper government was concerned that environmental charities were receiving funding from foreign sources and were causing unnecessary havoc with the oil interests. In the March 2012 budget some \$8 million was set aside for the CRA to conduct random political audits on charities. While politicians were concerned about environmental charities, the political audits, to be fair, had to have a broader target. Every charity was put on notice.

CRA recognizes that a charity may be involved in “political activities” as it carries out its charitable purposes. For example, a charity assisting the homeless may organize a protest at city hall to change a city anti-loitering bylaw to protect the homeless from prosecution. According to the CRA, a political activity is (but is not limited to) “any activity that ... communicates to the public that a law ... should be retained, opposed, or changed.”¹ Charities are allowed to spend up to 10 percent of their “resources” on political activities.

While a charity can be involved in political activities, it cannot take part in partisan activities, which means it cannot directly support or oppose a specific candidate or political party for public office or give money to a candidate or political party.

All of that makes sense. What did not make sense was creating a climate of unnecessary fear in the charitable sector. In Canada, charities seldom desire political involvement. That is the reality. With few exceptions they only want to carry out their charitable purpose. Politics, political activity, and partisanship are not what motivate charities or those who run them. It is all about the mission. Their charitable purpose is what they do and want accomplished; politics are always far removed from the central concept of mission. We need

to encourage charities to speak out and be involved in public policy. It is time politicians recognize the positive contribution charities are making and the expertise they hold to improve public policy.

However, what we have seen in recent years is that partisan politics has politicized the charitable sector. Make no mistake, it was politics that created the political audit program to begin with, and it was politics that caused the current government to remove it. The point is this: Let’s stop making charities the political football.

We need a political culture that respects the work of charities and not be insecure if a charity speaks publicly about a government policy change, or legal development that interferes with the charity and its work. In other words, if government policy steps on a charity’s “toe,” why couldn’t the charity say, “Ouch!”? It would be more advantageous in the long run to allow charities to use their expertise and participate in public dialogue on issues that directly affect them.

That means the political masters are to give charities the benefit of the doubt when they are involved in political activity. In other words, it should be a rebuttable presumption (with the onus on the government to prove otherwise) that the charities are only politically active for the furtherance of their charitable purposes. This would dramatically shift the focus but with long-term benefits that will help the sector to move on from the atmosphere of fear of a CRA political audit.

Charities must be encouraged to participate in public policy. They are the Good Samaritans whose opinions we need. As to the political audit campaign: Good riddance. It is a welcome change. ■

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 Canada Revenue Agency, “Political Activities: Policy Statement CPS-022,” Government of Canada, April 23, 2014, www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/chrts/plcy/cps/cps-022-eng.html.



Almost vegan

When we talk with others about our vegan cooking, one of the most common questions we are asked is “How do you make ... without eggs?” Eggs are used as a binder in recipes from roasts to baked goods. Fortunately, there is always a trick, and there are many alternatives to eggs in your cooking. In the case of baked goods (and pancakes), we have found that the best substitute is the so-called “flax egg.”

A flax egg is simple: 1 tablespoon of finely ground flaxseed, mixed with 3 tablespoons of warm water. You can either mix the ground flax and water in advance and then use the flax mixture in place of an egg as your recipe directs, or just add the flax and water along with the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients, and allow the whole mixture to set (instead of mixing the “egg” separately).

This time of year, with the maple syrup starting to flow, we thought we would give you one of our favourite pancake recipes. We like to eat these with maple syrup, or peanut butter and fruit compote. ■

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

Country-style Pancakes

INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ cups (375 ml) flour
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) sugar
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) baking powder
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) salt
- 1 flax egg (1 tablespoon ground flax + 3 tablespoons warm water)
- 1¼ cups (312 ml) almond milk
- 3 tablespoons (45 ml) oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Mix flour, sugar, salt, and baking powder together.
- Mix flax egg, milk, and oil together.
- Combine and stir both mixtures together, until smooth.
- Fry over medium heat until bubbles form; flip and cook for an additional two to three minutes.

Listening in Labrador

294,330. That's a pretty big number. Imagine 294,330 cookies. Picture 294,330 people. A population that large would make up a city bigger than Burnaby, B.C., or Oakville, Ont. That's a lot of people. What about 294,330 km²? That's a big swath of land! Now close your eyes and picture that "Big Land" with only a handful of small communities scattered across vast untouched forests and separated by pristine, glistening lakes—all veiled under a sky that seems to push away from the horizon and last forever. That's Labrador.

In September 2015 I had the opportunity to go to Labrador and represent the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Newfoundland and Labrador, mingling with some of the people who call Labrador home. Surprisingly, there were a number of people, from very different walks of life, who said they listened to Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) daily. Most importantly, many said it was part of their spiritual growth. It turns out that there are no other Christian Family stations in Labrador, only VOAR.

I was amazed that when I knocked on some people's doors, their demeanour and attitude toward me would change completely when I told them I wanted to talk to them about



VOAR. Seeing people go from skeptical to warm and friendly told me that people really appreciate VOAR. Your continued support of VOAR ensures that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada can have an ongoing presence in the homes of the people spread across the "Big Land"—Labrador. ■

Jon-Ross Ennest is the pastor for Gander and Cape Freels in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

Why do you go to campmeeting?

AT THE MANITOBA-SASKATCHEWAN

CAMPMEETING. *(Members from the Winnipeg Korean, Yorkton, Henderson Highway, and Pinehouse Drive churches.)*

Irene Kang: My husband works for the Man-Sask Conference. We have to come. Our family likes to come to campmeeting because we can be refreshed by the Holy Spirit through sermons and [feel] impressed by spiritual people.

Elsie Shipowick: The music, and I enjoy the speakers. Come to receive extra blessings and meet with friends again.

Evan Kraushar: Great place to feel God's presence.

Heidi Williams: Besides my husband being the camp director, I love coming to campmeeting for spiritual renewal and fellowship with friends.



It's Sabbath morning at your local church, but one person in attendance did not come to worship. The gunman enters your sanctuary and pulls out a weapon.



When Carlos's mother comes to pick him up after Sabbath school, the other children say he left with a woman they had never seen before.



The church electrical system catches fire on Sabbath morning and most members and guests make it out, but Tessa is one of the last to exit because no one stopped to help her with her wheelchair.

Drill or Die

Why Your Church Needs Safety Sabbath 2016

"Every church member and every local church needs to be prepared for any emergency," says Daniel R. Jackson, president of the North American Division.

Do You Know What To Do?

Responding appropriately in emergency situations is vital to minimizing loss. Does your congregation know what to do if an active shooter enters your church? Do your children know what to do if lost or if someone attempts to abduct them? Is your church prepared for an emergency evacuation in the event of a fire?

"Every church member and every local church needs to be prepared for any emergency," says Daniel R. Jackson, president of the North American Division. "Unfortunate situations do happen, but we need to do our best to be prepared for them."

Safety Sabbath is a great way to get prepared for emergencies. Mark your calendar for March 26, 2016. Sponsored by Adventist Risk Management Inc. and the North American Division, Safety Sabbath will feature three drills you can use to prepare your church for emergencies.

- Active Shooter Drill
- Fire Drill
- Missing Child Drill

Choose your drill and start learning more now at SafetySabbath.com.

Safety is a Team Effort

Whether you are a local church leader, church member, or child, everyone should be involved in keeping themselves and one another safe in an emergency.

Local Church Leaders—Be prepared with a church emergency plan and crisis response team. Have a plan in place to help children and those with disabilities evacuate. Evaluate what risks your church may face and practise your emergency response plans with your congregation regularly, so everyone is prepared to respond safely in an emergency.

Church Members—Study the emergency exit plans posted in your church and know two or more ways to exit the building. Know what you will do personally in an emergency, including how you will evacuate and help those around you evacuate. Participate in your church's emergency practice drills and be prepared.

Children—Parents, make sure your children know their full name, the full names of their parents or guardians, and emergency contact phone numbers. Talk with your child about what might happen during a drill and how they should act and respond. Make a plan with your child of what they should do and where they should go in an emergency so they are prepared.

Get Ready with Safety Sabbath 2016

Holding annual practice drills prepares your church family to respond to emergency situations in the safest way possible.

Get everything you need to hold your own emergency drill on Safety Sabbath, March 26, 2016, including emergency drill guides, cool posters, resources for children and more!

Choose your drill and learn more at SafetySabbath.com. ■

Anna Bartlett is a writer and education specialist for Adventist Risk Management, Inc.

The fire alarm sounds.
Do you know where the
nearest exit is located?



It's worship time!
Where is your child?

MISSING CHILD

Gunfire erupts during
Sabbath School.
Do you know what to do?



ACTIVE SHOOTER

SAFETY SABBATH



MARCH 2016

GET READY

Join Adventist churches across North America in conducting a safety drill designed to keep you and your church family safe during an emergency. Learn about your church's safety plans. Volunteer to join the emergency response team. Become a safety officer.

Get ready for Safety Sabbath.

Learn more at www.SafetySabbath.com

Sponsored by: Adventist Risk Management, Inc.
Our ministry is to protect your ministry.



Sowing Seeds

Every
Believer's
Calling



No one in her family approved of what she was about to do. But when, in the 1940s, the message of hope came through the Seventh-day Adventist Church to a young woman living in a small town in Nebraska, that woman, my grandmother, accepted it with all her heart. Soon she was on her bicycle riding hundreds of miles along dusty country roads selling religious books.

MMy grandmother was a student colporteur. As she went from house to house sharing books and praying with people, the message of her newfound hope found a place in many hearts. Though at times she faced angry farm dogs, difficult people, and scorn and taunts from her family, Grandma didn't quit. Even when she had finished school, put her bicycle away, and grown past her youth, she continued to share literature with others. Because she did, her mother, to whom she had been faithfully sending *The Signs of the Times* for years, accepted Jesus and joined the Adventist faith.

My father was also a colporteur. In the 1970s, while studying in France, he often filled his Volkswagen Beetle with books and drove in to Sweden. There he went from house to house speaking the few Swedish words he knew and sharing books that explained God's love and told of His soon return. Because he did, seeds of hope were planted in many Swedish homes. When he left France and became a publishing director and then a pastor, one thing never changed: his car was always stocked with literature, ready to be shared with the hitchhiker we picked up on the way to church or the stranger we met at the park.

These experiences were part of the inspiration that led me to become a colporteur—a ministry I have been actively involved in for the past 20 years. This work has changed my life and the lives of thousands I have met throughout the years. I come from colporteur stock and, like many of you, the colporteur ministry is an important part of the reason why I am in the faith today. Yet many believe that the work of the colporteur is a work of the past. The Spirit of Prophecy, however, paints a very different picture: "Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time."¹

Every believer. That one sentence sums up the reality that when you or I look into the mirror, we are staring into the face of a colporteur. Why? Because a colporteur is nothing more than a person who, filled with the love of Jesus, shares the message of his or her hope through literature, and every believer is called to do just that.

But something has happened to the colporteur spirit

as years have stretched into decades. In the face of modernity, it has been threatened by indifference, fear, and the belief that the simple act of sharing a tract or knocking on a door is unacceptably intrusive, has no relevance, and can have no impact. But in Revelation 18:1, there is a prophecy about an angel who is to appear in the last days with great power. That angel lightens the earth with his glory and sounds a warning cry. How does he do this?

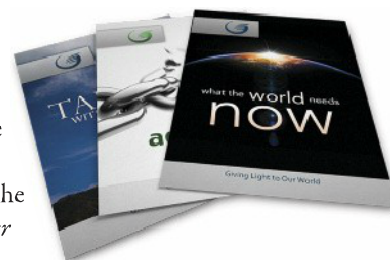
"In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory."² That work will have such tremendous impact that "more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."³

Each one of us is called to be a colporteur. It may be that as we have cherished fear, indifference, and the belief that this work is not for us and can have no impact on the world around us, we have killed our colporteur spirit. But the God who resurrected Lazarus can breathe that spirit back to life. As we let Him, He will inspire us. As we go, many more people who have never before heard of God's love will hear, come, and answer the call. But it begins with us.

We at Lifestyle Canada are committed, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to revive the colporteur spirit in every man, woman, boy, and girl who has answered the call of Jesus. Through the three programs we run—GLOW, CYC, and iHeal—we have seen the power of the literature ministry. The many baptisms, prayers, personal contacts, Bible studies, and lives forever changed have confirmed that this is truly a work for this time.

GLOW

In 2013, Lifestyle Canada launched GLOW ministry. The ministry already having been active in some conferences in the United States, we felt it was time to bring the massive potential this *every-member* ministry holds to Canadian soil.



¹ Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 21.

² Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 139.

³ Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 151.



Jonathan Zita, Executive Director

Ramalho Gayle, Associate Director

Yvonne Novlesky, Admin. Secretary

Dale Baker, iHeal Coordinator

Afia Donkor, GLOW Outreach Volunteer

GLOW stands for Giving Light to our World, and it is designed to help ordinary members, young and old, share the gospel through literature. As we have visited over 50 churches and trained more than 5,000 church members on how to GLOW, many across Canada have been inspired by the simplicity and effectiveness of this outreach initiative and are now making literature distribution a part of their lifestyle. As a result, more than 1 million GLOW tracts have been distributed in the past two years, resulting in many requests for Bible Studies and more literature.

Last year one of those tracts ended up in an Ottawa prison and in the hands of a 19-year-old man serving a life sentence. He asked for Bible studies and has since been faithfully completing the studies and writing to us at the office. In one letter he wrote about a very violent fight that broke out in the prison as he was reading the Bible studies we had sent. He wrote, "That image [of the fight] is going to haunt me for a while ... and the Bible studies you sent me, these are my only escape from this place, and quietly praying in my heart. I thank you for sending me the lessons, they are really helping me to learn a lot about life."

Canada Youth Challenge



This year Canada Youth Challenge (CYC), the youth literature evangelism program familiar to many in Canada, celebrates 18 years of operation. From its humble beginnings in 1998, CYC has grown, and student missionaries are now being sent to every conference across Canada. In the last 18 years CYC has helped hundreds of young people earn over \$5 million collectively. Even better, it has changed the lives of many students, led to many baptisms, and sown countless seeds for eternity through the distribution of over 10 million books, magazines, and tracts.

One such seed was sown in the heart of a man named Armand. One summer a student from CYC gave him the book *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White. Armand was so strongly convicted about the truths he read that he searched for a Seventh-day Adventist church near his house and walked in. That day, the church was holding a special appreciation service for CYC students, and Armand approached them and said, "I am here because of you." He was baptized a few months later and has faithfully attended church ever since.



iHeal

Launched by Lifestyle Canada in 2013, iHeal School provides a professional certification program that trains members on the fundamentals of healthy living and equips them to become effective in reaching their community through a variety of approaches involving literature.

One woman, Elisa, heard about the program and decided to go through the training to become a Certified Healthy Lifestyle Coach. She was so deeply impacted by what she learned that when she returned home, she put her knowledge to practice. Soon, she had lost 50 pounds, her family was healthier, and her autistic child experienced such a dramatic improvement in behaviour at school that his teachers attributed the change to medication. Elisa became such a witness of the power of the health message

that neighbours, friends, and even church members wanted to know what she knew. As she has continued to share, others' lives have been changed, and windows have opened for her to share her faith.

The Silent Messengers—and You

The work we do here at Lifestyle Canada has been life-changing for many across Canada, but that work can only be sustained if you partner with us. Are you an ordinary person, young or old, looking for a way to plant seeds for a future harvest? Contact us about doing a GLOW rally at your church, and take up the challenge to share your faith through GLOW. Are you a student wanting to make a difference in Canada? Consider joining CYC and give a summer of your life to share God's love with others. Do you want to learn about God's vision for our health? Consider being trained as an iHeal coach and help others achieve health of body, mind, and spirit. Finally, has God entrusted you with financial means, however small?

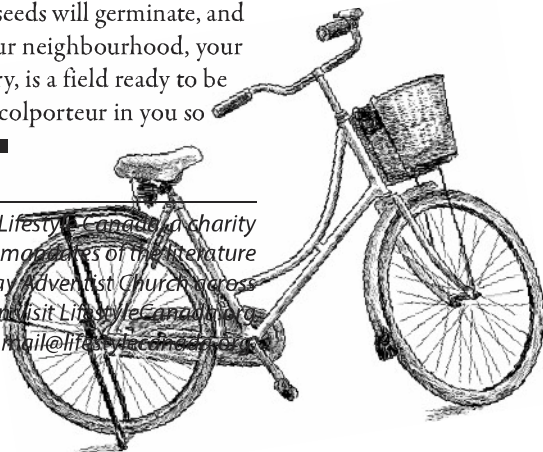


iHeal training class

Then take a look at the insert that has been included in this magazine and learn more about how you, through your gifts, can help us reach souls for the kingdom.

The work of literature is powerful, but it is not always immediately obvious. Called a “silent messenger,” it enters minds, works on hearts, introduces thoughts, and plants seeds. For years those seeds may lie dormant, but a time is coming when those dormant seeds will germinate, and then there will be a harvest. Your neighbourhood, your city, your province, your country, is a field ready to be planted. Let God resurrect the colporteur in you so you can start sowing the seed. ■

Jonathan Zita is the director of Lifestyle Canada, 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.ca or contact us at mail@lifestylecanada.ca



Lifestyle Canada—Making a Difference

Adventist DNA at 300,000 Homes

Scientists can now develop a DNA profile from something you've touched. This means that Adventists are quite literally leaving their mark on thousands of homes all over Canada. Last summer the CYC army of youth, armed with books, DVDs, and tracts, went to over 300,000 doors, leaving behind not only their physical imprint but also smiles, prayers, hugs, and hope.

4 Million Steps for Christ

Last year Lifestyle Canada literature evangelists distributed over 15,000 *Steps to Christ*, taking approximately 4 million steps to do it. Each step taken and each book shared helps bring one more soul one step closer to Christ.

12,000 Prayers for Peace

Last year over 12,000 prayers were offered by student and regular literature evangelists for people in communities across Canada. In a world filled with suffering, sometimes prayer is the only way to connect people with the only true Source of peace.

550,000 Leaves

Last year alone, between Lifestyle Canada literature evangelists and ordinary church members, over half a million books and tracts were shared across Canada. Stacked vertically, that's taller than the CN Tower! We are told to spread gospel literature like the leaves of autumn, and we are making great strides to blanket our country.

A Soul-Winning Partnership

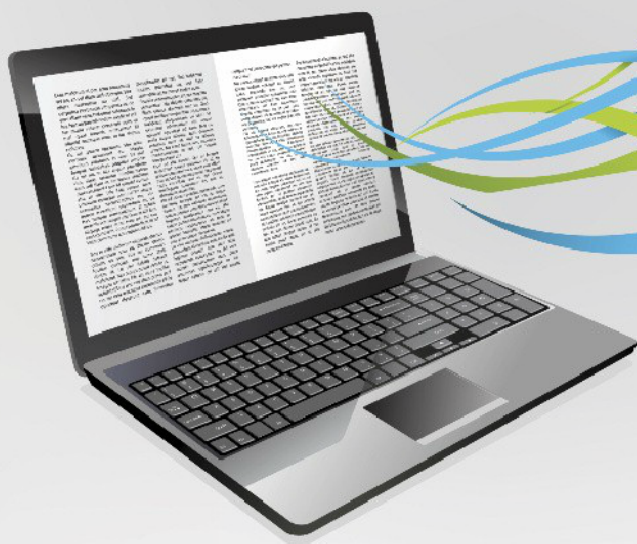
Last year 82 student and regular literature evangelists gathered 2,472 interests for Revelation Seminars, Stop Smoking Clinics, Health Seminars, and Correspondence Bible Study Courses. They worked in partnership with over 60 churches in Canada, covering all major cities across the country. When God's people work together, there is no limit to what can be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Adventist Learning Community

www.adventistlearningcommunity.com

The Adventist Learning community (ALC) is a new web-based initiative of the North American Division (NAD) with the goal of utilizing online distance education technology for all kinds of ministerial and educational training and resourcing.



You've Got Answers

What is the one thing you reflect on with pride when you tell others of the Adventist church?

Because of technology, time and space no longer mean what they used to. The world is smaller; ideas can travel around the world at the push of a button. In a world where most people have access to the Internet, our church is moving toward unleashing the ministerial potential of as many people as possible. With this goal in mind, the ALC aims to provide people the information, training, and resources they need to further their ministry wherever they are.

Our mission is to empower people with the passion and skills necessary to further the kingdom of Christ in the 21st century. Explore our course catalogue and see if there's a faith-based course you'd like to take. There are courses for certification, professional development, and some just for fun. Our ministerial and educational library puts Adventist resources from around the world at your fingertips. Watch a video, read an article, and share what you find with others.

The ALC is a department of the NAD Office of Education and has been a live website since May 2015. Dr. Adam Fenner, Director, oversees operations and works closely with NAD administration organizing the creation of content and resources relevant to the needs of church leadership. Sharon Aka, Associate Director, works with NAD Ministerial, church ministries, and lay leaders, coordinating the construction of continuing education courses for pastors, lay church ministry leaders, and identifying quality resources for members and faith seekers. Dr. Pegi Flynt, Associate Director of Education, works with the NAD Office of Education and Union Education directors developing continuing education courses for Seventh-day Adventist teachers and building innovative curriculum content for teachers to use in the classroom.

In addition to content creation and resource identification, the ALC is also a production company. In his role as media director, James Gigante organizes the capture of events and oversees the production of videos and courses. Steven Huset, Senior Cinematographer/Video Editor,

oversees camera operations on set, and edits videos for courses and documentaries.

Every year the Seventh-day Adventist Church hosts hundreds of conventions and events. The average church member, pastor, or teacher, is able to attend only a fraction of these. The ALC video crew attends many key conventions to video capture seminars and plenary speakers for the purposes of creating courses and resources providing the entire church organization access to relevant Christian information for free on the ALC.

The ALC is working hard to involve the youth of the church. We employ over two dozen Seventh-day Adventist university students at Andrews University and Southern Adventist University. These highly professional students are making a huge impact on their church and building their professional skills while still in school. They run cameras, edit video, write scripts, catalogue and label resources, and lay out courses. They represent a growing number of committed Seventh-day Adventist millennials shaping the organization in new and innovative ways. Their commitment to Christ and spreading His message is truly an example to all who come in contact with them.

The ALC revolutionizes the way our church delivers information and education. No longer are ministry conferences, conference trainings, Andrews University seminars, and continuing education classes only available to those fortunate enough to access them. It is now possible for anyone and everyone to access the best theological training and ideas available. This means our God-given command of developing our talents to serve Him in spreading the Great Commission will be enhanced in ways previously impossible. We now have the platform to develop the skills and talents of anyone with an Internet connection and a desire to learn.

Adam Fenner is director of the Adventist Learning Community and Sharon Aka is associate director.

The fact that we don't believe in a God who would condemn people to an eternal hell, and the gift of Sabbath rest.



Trudy Morgan-Cole St. John's, Nfld.

That we welcome all with open arms and that we patiently accept each unconditionally.



Shawna Fortin Grande Prairie, Alta.

Our education system ... and emphasis on health.



Jeanette Lewis Calgary, Alta.

Laying aside of ourselves to share the Christ who cares in this world of turmoil.



Alice Brown St. John's, Nfld.

Adventists are Christ-centred, humble people who strive to serve others spiritually, physically, and emotionally.



Jenny Purcell St. John's, Nfld.

The work we do to champion religious liberty for all, and our promotion of wholistic health.



Daniel Cho Toronto, Ont.

Being part of a faith that believes and trusts in the Bible and the soon return of Jesus.



Steve Matthews Conception Bay S., Nfld.

The Adventist education system, spanning preschool to tertiary education, with approximately 7,600 institutions worldwide supporting wholistic education.



Reynold Hazelwood Brampton, Ont.

That Jesus is coming again soon!



Stephanie Roy-Lavallée Port Hope, Ont.

You've Got Answers and we want to hear them! For the May 2016 issue of the Messenger, editor Stan Jensen asks, "What is your favourite hymn?" Send your answer, in 18 words or less, to messenger@adventist.ca.



Campbell Page

Becoming Like Him

“... They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiseled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We’re free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him” (2 Cor. 3:16–18, Message)

I love when God’s people live like this and display the beautiful grace of the Lord. There is no greater spiritual experience. When I began as the new chaplain at Kingsway College this year, I was joining a team that truly desires to express this type of living to the students whom God brings to us. Some of those students have already made a choice to follow Christ; many are from

Adventist and other Christian homes. We also have a large international student group who are mostly Buddhist, atheist, or agnostic. But I tell you, when the brightness of God’s grace shines, it doesn’t matter who you are, transformation happens. Already this year, the brightness of Christ is shining in our midst. Our fall week of prayer with Pastor Jeremy Anderson resulted in 26 baptism requests. It also included about 30 recommitments to following Jesus.

Our students are opening their hearts to Jesus, and this has led them to see their very own mission field here at Kingsway College. During early planning sessions, the question on every student leader’s mind was how they could reach out more to the international students. Just prior to my first worship message, the first day of school, one young international student ran up to me excitedly sharing his desire to “worship” and to learn everything there was to know about worship right in that moment. This same student wanted to know where he could worship during the Christmas break, because the school would be closed. And it was only September! Other international students have shared how their first true encounter with religion has been here at Kingsway and they wonder how they had wasted their life before. Atheists are now proclaiming that God is real and that He will help them in all difficulties, so they pray to Him, believing that He will answer. That brightness of Christ is shining, and as one student said to me, “I am so thankful that all the good I have is from God. He has given me a new and interesting life.”

Other international students have shared that as they sit in the College Park Church on Sabbath, they are moved by the passion of the speakers and the friendliness of the members. Some talk of how, as they learn about God at church, they wonder if they will be able to see, hear, and meet God as the speaker can. One student mentioned to me that when he grows up and has kids, he wants them to go to a “Christ school” like their father.

We have a lot yet to do before we hear “well done ...” and I know there is even more of Jesus we can give to our students here at Kingsway College. But I thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. God is alive and well, and shining at Kingsway. Pray for us—students, staff, and teachers alike—that “our lives gradually become brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.” ■

Dr. Campbell Page is the chaplain at Kingsway College.



MANS's Grade 4 class is enthusiastic about helping to build their future school with help from a SUPER MANS seed loan. By working together on a spaghetti lunch fundraiser, they turned \$90 into \$350.

MANS Students Get Active in Fundraising with SUPER MANS

When Pastor Lyle Notice, Assistant Director of the Alberta Conference Youth Department, donned his superhero cloak to launch Small Useful People Expanding Resources for MANS (SUPER MANS) during a Mamawi Atosketan Native School assembly, he invited the entire MANS family to participate in a unique and exciting fundraising initiative to build their new school.

SUPER MANS is both a “superhero” and an entrepreneur-style initiative of the Alberta Conference that encourages children to invest a \$20 “seed grant” to help build MANS’s new high school. The new school will allow First Nations children who attend the over-crowded NAD-accredited school to stay in the unique Adventist environment, and thus increase their chances of completing high school.*

While SUPER MANS’s purpose is serious, SUPER MANS has a playful side. “SUPER MANS helps kids realize they’re not alone and that they can make a difference,” said Notice. “They have the power to do good. If SUPER MANS helps them to realize that, I’ll play SUPER MANS all day long!” he smiled. The launch event was covered by the December 17 issue of *The Lacombe Express* newspaper.

MANS students and their families are already getting involved. The first SUPER MANS fundraiser was held January 27. The Grade 4s served more than 80 members of the MANS family a hot lunch of spaghetti. The eager Grade 4s helped with food preparation, lunch delivery, and clean up.

“The kids really got behind our SUPER MANS fundraiser,” said their teacher, Russ Nielsen. “They were excited to play a part in helping to build the new school. If the new building is started soon, these Grade 4 students could be some of the first students in the new building. We spent about \$90 on supplies, and we turned that into \$350 for the building project!”

The experience translated into more than a cash contribution. Participating in SUPER MANS is giving MANS students—and Adventist kids across Alberta—the opportunity to feel good about doing good.

“It feels good to help,” beamed Ryker (Grade 4).

Classmate Landin echoed that feeling. “I like helping build the new school!” he said.

MANS kids are not only learning about working together to build something important but also visualizing themselves in that high school—an incentive to stay in school and help improve their community. “It’s nice to know we will have a new school,” mused Chavez. “I will be in the new school some day!”

His classmate, Larrisa, was also enthusiastic: “I can’t wait to go into the new school!”

“I am helping to build the new high school for MANS!” said a smiling Rihanna, adding with infectious enthusiasm, “Join our SUPER MANS team and support our school!” ■

MANS and SUPER MANS Online!

See MANS students and SUPER MANS Lyle Notice in action at their school in the video section of www.mans1.ca (“MANS & SUPER MANS”). Under the SUPER MANS tab of the website, see what families and kids like 11-year old Nakita Greaves (“SUPER Nakita Flies Again”) are doing to help First Nations students get a great Adventist education at MANS—the largest Adventist First Nations mission school in North America!



SUPER MANS (Pastor Lyle Notice) appears—sometimes unexpectedly—around Alberta.

*See a *Globe and Mail* article about a recent study linking the 39 percent national graduation rate to the many problems facing reserve residents: Gordon Omand, “Low Graduation Rates at Reserve Schools Put Aboriginals in Jeopardy,” *The Globe and Mail*, Jan. 28, 2016, <http://goo.gl/Nr2CyZ>

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"Everyone's really on fire for God here ..."

Sarita Featherby began to get curious about Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) after Dauntless, the student-led ministry team, visited her Vancouver Island home church in Sydney, B.C. When the group of 10 students first stepped off the ferry, Sarita, along with her siblings and mom, volunteered to welcome and feed the entire crew.

"I knew people from PAA," Sarita says, "but I hadn't really paid that much attention, because I wasn't sure what PAA was. From the weekend youth rally with Dauntless, I came to know more about it, and some of my friends tried to convince me to come, but I never thought it would happen."

Prior to joining the campus family, Sarita had experienced every other possible type of educational environment: "I'd been in a private Adventist school for all of elementary, and then tried homeschooling and public schooling, and now I get to be at a boarding school," she says.

By far, PAA's educational experience has offered Sarita a world full of Christian friends and mentors whom she might never have met otherwise. "I love getting to know everybody. There's a huge variety of people from different places and different backgrounds, and yet everybody shares the same set of beliefs. That's really nice to be around and I like hearing all their stories."

While PAA staff strive to continually improve the school environment for student success, obstacles to learning still exist. According to Sarita, "The classwork is kind of tough, and being away from home has been really hard, but PAA is a lot different from public school. The teachers are so sweet and very good at helping us with the different styles of learning. Everyone's really on fire for God here, and I think all the time we spend worshipping together as a school brings everyone closer together. It really forms bonds between students, teachers, and deans."

For Sarita, finishing her Grade 12 education here is an important milestone for her future goals as well as for her faith. "I think it'll be cool graduating from an Adventist school," she shares. "I know that the people I've met here will stay in my life. Most of the people are going the same direction in getting to know God and staying involved with church."



Sarita Featherby

Sarita's personal encounter with faith started at a very young age when she got baptized at the Pathfinder camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., in 2009. "I grew up a Seventh-day Adventist," she says, "and because of that, I appreciate how the atmosphere at PAA is so great. I definitely think God brought me here to PAA. It's so much fun to go to church together and hear everyone's testimonies."

Being surrounded by young people who are also fighting spiritual battles has encouraged Sarita: "Everybody shares the same beliefs in terms of our spirituality, and there's a lot of support here." For students searching for God's presence, PAA provides countless opportunities to gain an understanding of God's Word, to apply lessons in faith, and practise compassion through spiritual programming and service.

Sarita is looking forward to being part of PAA's March mission trip with Maranatha. She says, "Everywhere you go in the world, the Adventist Church is present, and when we get to visit them, it's like expanding your family internationally."

The process of making lifelong friendships with like-minded people begins locally. This is why PAA has so many connecting points on the calendar, all designed to build that bond between students, teachers, and staff on campus. There are family groups, class sponsors and socials, praise bands, ministry teams, dorm clubs, and so much more. Sarita knows, "I'll keep in touch with the friends I've made here. The friends you make at PAA become your family, and family is for life." ■

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



Viktoria and her Junior Primary and Primary class at Sandy Lake Academy

Jesus Loves Me

I RECENTLY WITNESSED the beautiful and powerful impact of Christian education on the lives of one family.

Four-year-old Aaron, a junior primary student, has a little brother who was very sick. My young students and I prayed earnestly for Andrew's recovery, as did the entire student body and the teachers at Sandy Lake Academy.

I had been teaching my students to sing "Jesus Loves Me" and sent a note home with them asking the parents to please teach the song to their child in their native language.

Shortly after, I received the following email from Aaron and Andrew's mother:

I have to tell you some bad news. Andrew had a second seizure after supper time last Saturday night. He had been vomiting since Thursday but was fine otherwise. When it happened, we all were at home. Everyone screamed in panic. I asked Aaron to sing the song "Jesus Loves Me" at that moment. He sang the song, crying. An ambulance drove us to the hospital. I sang "Jesus Loves Me" in Chinese all the way there. I'm not sure if the nurses in the ambulance understood what I sang. We love you as always!

Two days later I received another email from the mother, updating me on Andrew's condition:

Dear Mrs. Brunets,

We all appreciate your kind care for Andrew.

Andrew had an EEG test and saw the specialist yesterday. She thought Andrew's seizure was because of his sickness. ... She said kids will outgrow seizures after five years of age.

Andrew was not good when I got home today. Then, astonishingly, he smiled with happiness and played a bit with Aaron. I was very surprised at the sudden change in him; then I discovered your email telling us that there were many who were concerned and praying for Andrew at the very moment

Andrew became happy. I really believe his happiness was a result of your prayer.

Dear Mrs. Brunets, my husband and I are not Christian. I have been going to church for years, but I am still not a Christian. Since I have had children, I have been feeling there are lots of things I cannot control and I need help from somewhere to protect my children and my family. Especially when Andrew was having a seizure, I could not do anything except cry. At that moment, I really wanted to believe in God.

Before we knew of your school, I wanted Aaron to leave his daycare, as it was small and didn't offer many activities. We found the nearby Montessori school and registered. But several days before the semester started, the teacher said she could not continue running her school due to family issues. Then Faith's mom suggested we consider Faith's school and recommended carpooling with us. Aaron was accepted at Sandy Lake, and we met you. When I recall how all these things happened, I feel God's love is always with us.

When Andrew did his EEG test, I sang "Jesus Loves Me" in Chinese. He was very good. Thank you for asking Aaron to practise that song, as it allowed me to learn this song too. Now I sing this song every day.

Dear Mrs. Brunets, thank you again for your care for our family. I must say this again; we all love you so much, just like you love us.

What a privilege it is to teach in an Adventist school, where I can freely share my love for Jesus with my students and their families! ■

Viktoria Brunets teaches Junior Primary and Primary at Sandy Lake Academy.



What Matters Most to You?

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

Charles Spurgeon

We can help you.

Go to www.willplan.ca

email legal@adventist.ca or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078





TO CARE AS CHRIST DOES



Park Manor Care

Our Organization

Park Manor Care is an Adventist managed long term care home for 100 residents within the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, and a member of CALTCA - the Canadian Adventist Long Term Care Association of 7 Adventist nursing homes across Canada. Located in Winnipeg, Manitoba and in particular the community of Transcona since 1967, Park Manor has a long history of delivering quality compassionate care - we are all about serving our community as captured in our Mission statement:

"Offering Love, Peace, Compassion, Hope and Empowerment... to Care as Christ does."

Transcona is a great community that is committed to supporting us, and whose citizens contribute many volunteer hours in a variety of roles that enhance our focus on caring. Our Adventist church members serve alongside community churches in providing spiritual care and religious services for residents of all faiths. Park Manor cares in other ways by offering an Adult Day Program, Supports for Seniors, meals for Meals on Wheels, and more. In addition we operate an attached 6-storey residence, East Park Lodge, with 60 suites for independent seniors - many who are actively involved in volunteering.

Although Park Manor has a 49 year history and is well known in the community, we recently decided to update our image - first by changing our name from **Park Manor Personal Care Home** to **Park Manor Care**. While the new name has a number of practical benefits, our goal was to create a stronger focus on what we do at our core - to *Care* for our residents, our staff and our community. Our new name is also embedded in our new logo and new colours, which were designed to capture a sense of the place we hold in Transcona, so that people can easily recognize us at a glance.

The most exciting news is that Park Manor Care is expanding our services for the community. We are currently finalizing plans to build a second personal care home for an additional 120 residents, which is expected to open in 2-3 years. The new building will have larger, private resident suites, with more overall support and amenity space that will allow us to meet the needs of residents now and in the future. Once completed, we will be transformed into an integrated Campus of Care serving 220 long term care residents, our East Park Lodge tenants, and others from the community who access our programs and services. With this expansion we will be seeking committed professionals and support staff in the coming years to help us fulfill our mission of caring as Christ does.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Park Manor Care is now accepting applications for the leadership position of Director of Resident Care. Reporting to the Executive Director, the successful candidate will be responsible for day-to-day management of resident care services by assessing, planning, organizing, developing, directing and evaluating the overall operation of the nursing department in accordance with current applicable federal, provincial and health region standards, guidelines and regulations, to ensure that the highest quality of resident care is maintained at all times. The position will be available to fill beginning July 2016.

Applicants will preferably have a Nursing Degree plus 7 years of work experience in long term care or related healthcare fields. Applicants will demonstrate excellent communication skills and have solid leadership experience including the management of employees. Applicants will be committed to serving in our local community as part of an Adventist Health Care Organization.

To obtain a summary job description for this challenging and rewarding position, please visit our website under "About Us/ Careers" at: www.parkmanor.ca. Please submit your CV/Resume along with a cover letter to Collin Akre, Executive Director, Park Manor Care, 301 Redonda Street, Winnipeg, MB R2C 1L7 or by email to: cakre@parkmanor.ca

www.parkmanor.ca



Please note: Items in the "News" section may originate from various sources. The Canadian Adventist Messenger will give credit, via a byline, to authors of material submitted directly to us for first printing. Stories without a byline may have been written by Messenger staff, reprinted from other publications or supplied to us by a general press release.

Ontario

Windsor Church Installs New Pastor



Joel Nembhard and his wife, Deidre, installing the new pastor, Alex Golovenko who is joined on the platform with his wife, Sandra, and their sons.

On the Sabbath of Jan. 30, 2016, the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church installed Alex Golovenko as the new senior pastor in the mother church. The ministerial secretary for the Ontario Conference, Joel Nembhard, and his wife, Deidre, visited to perform the installation. All three Windsor churches, including the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Spanish Church and the newly planted Living Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church, were in attendance, filling the pews to a maximum; there were not enough seats to witness who the new pastoral family was.

Pastor Golovenko and his family were introduced to the members, including his

wife, Sandra, and their four children, Stepan, Michael, Daniel, and Samuel. Pastor Golovenko is leaving 11 years of pastoral duties in London, Ont., where he was involved in planting two congregations and blessing the lives of many individuals. Although it is tough to say goodbye, as the Windsor church just said goodbye to their previous pastor of eight years, Marian Kossovan, we rest assured that both of our congregations are in God's hands.

After the formalities, Golovenko gave his first official sermon to the congregation, in which he spoke about the purpose and function of a church. The end of the message resounded in

amens after the pastor finished with a key statement: "Let's have church." The church service was followed by a large potluck for all, where members were able to personally meet the Golovenko family and get to know them by fellowshiping, sharing a meal, and socializing with them throughout the Sabbath hours.

The Windsor churches are excited and looking forward to a new year with new leadership, and this service only serves as a reminder that God is always in charge. ■

— Amanda Oliver, Assistant Communication Secretary, Windsor SDA Church

British Columbia

Astronomy Seminar



Seminar presenter Pastor Terry McComb and his wife, Jean

Stars, planets, and galaxies, distances in light years, and speeds that our minds struggle to grasp. A marvellous universe with a story to tell. During the week of December 5–12, the Creston church presented Pastor Terry McComb's fascinating and informative seminar "The Heavens Are Telling." Terry is also an artist and illustrated his messages with black light chalk paintings. His wife, Jean, added musical artistry on the keyboard. More than just a glimpse into the wonders of the universe, Pastor Terry also shows how the science of astronomy supports the Word of God, giving us valuable insights that we can share with others. The program was well attended each evening by members and visitors from the community.

The seminar ended with a special celebration when Ed and Julie Schulze were baptized by Pastor Josue Molina. Ed and Julie moved from Alberta to Creston earlier this year and have already become part of our church family. ■

—Ian and Averil Cotton,
Communication Leaders, Creston Church

British Columbia Conference Elects New President



From left to right: Wesley, Kevin, Kelly, Kenny, and Angela Torres.

On Jan. 24, 2016, the Board of Directors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) unanimously elected Dr. Wesley Torres to be their next conference president. Torres will succeed current president, Wayne Culmore, who will retire on March 1, 2016.

"Because of Wesley's gracious heart and his passion for soul winning, I believe that we will see much growth for God's kingdom in British Columbia and the Yukon," Culmore affirms.

Wesley Torres is currently the vice-president for administration and the executive secretary for the British Columbia Conference. Torres has served in ministry for over 31 years as church pastor, departmental director, and conference administrator. He has shared the love of Jesus and the message of the gospel in four different continents, leading over 600 souls to Christ.

"Wesley Torres is a man who loves Jesus and loves people," says Mark Johnson, the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC). "I am confident that through his leadership, many people will come to appreciate the hope and wholeness that we have in Christ."

His wife, Angela, and their three children, Kelly, Kevin, and Kenny, will join Torres in ministry.

"This call only enhances my commitment and responsibility to be of a greater service to God and His children," Torres states. "I kindly request the prayers of all our church members as we move forward to fulfill His commission together!" ■

SDA Church in Canada

Annie Evelyn Kaytor

Evelyn was born in Regina, Sask., in 1916. Her father, George Chambers, died at the age of 36, leaving her mother with four small children aged two, three, four, and five. At 17 years of age Evelyn was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and for the next two years she attended Canadian Junior College in Lacombe, Alta.

During 1935/1936 she attended Normal School in Regina and received her teachers' certificate. Her first teaching position was at Winnipeg Junior Academy, where she taught for two years, then one year in Regina and three years at College Heights, Alta.

While at College Heights she became engaged to Tony Kaytor, who, at the time, was studying to be a minister. In 1942 they were married in Regina, Sask., and entered the ministry pastoring in Ontario: Windsor, Chatham, and Dresden. Evelyn taught school in Windsor for one year.

During the time her husband, Tony, was a conference worker in Oshawa for the Ontario/Quebec Conference, Evelyn did substitute teaching until their daughter



Evelyn and Tony Kaytor and their daughter, Lyn Kaytor.

Lyn was born. After Lyn was born, Evelyn laid aside her teaching career and became a devoted and loving mother. She remained throughout Lyn's life a faithful mother who was always by her daughter's side, as Lyn went through very difficult and challenging hospital experiences.

As Tony's administrative duties

increased, Evelyn was always there for him to encourage and help in any way she could. Although Lyn was her life-time responsibility, she found time to volunteer her services for every project he undertook across Canada.

In 1970, Evelyn authored the book *Born to Live*, the life story of her daughter Lyn. The book was sold across Canada, the United States, and in several other countries.

Evelyn never really enjoyed being in the forefront but quietly and faithfully worked behind the scenes. She was hospitable and friendly in her own quiet and dignified way. Evelyn fell asleep in Jesus on Jan. 20, 2016, at Bevin Lodge in Abbotsford, B.C. A graveside service for family

and friends will take place on her 100th birthday on March 6, 2016, at 11 a.m. at Hazelwood Cemetery, Abbotsford.

She will be sadly missed by many relatives and hundreds of friends across Canada and the United States. ■

— Wayne Culmore, British Columbia Conference

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Winnipeg Youth Rally

Have you ever felt alone? Really alone? As if no one understood you? It's a horrible feeling. If it lingers, it can turn to despair, depression, and even death. God reminds us that we are never alone; He will never leave nor forsake us. Yet, when you're growing up and still learning about your relationship with God, it can seem as if He's not there. When you keep falling into sin, it can feel hopeless. On the outside it seems as if others are doing well, but you're feeling hopeless and alone inside.

The leaders of Winnipeg Adventist Youth (WAY) wanted to

combat this reality in planning the November 27–28 Youth Rally. Pastor Alex Portillo, WAY board chair, commented, "Our goal was to create a "togetherness" among the youth of our conference. We wanted youth to leave the rally knowing that they were not alone and that they had friends across the conference also striving to live out their faith."

In practice this meant the WAY team intentionally provided socializing time between sermons and events to make it easier for youth to strengthen new and growing friendships.



David Rodriguez delivered three sermons on the theme of Victorious.

Pastor David Rodriguez delivered three sermons on the theme of Victorious. Like any team in you must work together for victory. Pastor Rodriguez based all his sermons on 2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” The response was positive, with the young people often saying, “I could really relate to what he was saying” or “It was easy to see how to apply it to my life.”

The WAY planning team itself was small initially, but Portillo said God provided help when it was needed. “We are truly grateful for the volunteers who stepped up to help,” said Portillo. “Zach Wall did a great job leading song service. Basil Williams (DJ Graviton) did an exceptional job with our sound and visuals. Fiona Coleman stepped it up on Friday night to organize the billets. Marcus Keenan really saved the weekend with his

afternoon activities and leadership as program coordinator. Bryce Krausher led the evening games and did a fantastic job. And most importantly, Cindy Keenan and June Krausher saved the day by organizing all the food among the churches. They contacted all the churches and coordinated them. We are grateful for Henderson providing lunch, Westpark providing dinner, and all the other churches that donated for snacks. Also, a great big shout-out to all the people who opened up their homes.”

God brought the youth out to the rally as well. “We had over 160 in attendance” Pastor Portillo reported. “Our average attendance from 2012–2015 has been 130. So we are excited to announce that this was our highest attendance yet!”

With this record attendance, God had to help provide for them all. “We were anticipating 20 out-of-town people because those are all who signed up for billets,” said Pastor Portillo. “On the last week over 30 names were added. It was past the cutoff date, but 30 people were too many to turn away. We prayed, and the Lord provided just what we needed. Silver Heights church opened its doors and it closed the gap.”

One youth commented, “I love seeing friends that I made years ago that I would not have made otherwise.”

Youth wanting to make friends and draw closer to Jesus will not want to miss the next youth rally. It’s only weeks away, March 18–20 in Regina. The theme of “Be the Sermon” will focus on service, and youth will be doing outreach to support Global Youth Day that weekend. Youth will have opportunities to serve the community, learn more about Jesus, and make new friends, reminding them that if we all pull together, we’re never alone.

— Brian Bell, Communications Director

Walk Through Bethlehem

At Hill Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church, the excitement had been building for weeks. The time had finally arrived: Bethlehem had been recreated with the help of one lift of plywood and many two-by-fours. All 40 costumes had been pressed. The sheep were in the pen and the actors were in place. It was 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 4, 2015, and the doors were opened to allow the community to take a Walk Through Bethlehem. Once inside the town, visitors saw 10 different shops, including a bakery, candle shop, and a fresh market. They were even able to visit a Jewish family in their home.

As the visitors stopped at each place, they were directed to look for a baby in a manger, as that may possibly be the Messiah. At the shepherds’ pen, the shepherds confirmed that indeed the Saviour had been born and told the





visitors that if they followed the star, it would lead them to the manger where the baby lay.

After gazing upon the baby, the visitors were then taken to another room where they heard a brief summary about why Jesus came to this earth and how He died to save us. From there they were taken into a refreshment room where they could

reflect, ask questions, and help themselves to free literature.

In total, 300 visitors attended, and we hope even more will attend when we rebuild our “Little Town of Bethlehem” for the first weekend of December 2016. ■

—Dave Miller, pastor,
Hill Avenue Seventh-day
Adventist Church

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>> **SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of Jan. 31, 2016, there were 426 depositors with a total deposit of \$29,009,634. There were 89 loans with a value of \$25,646,038.

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



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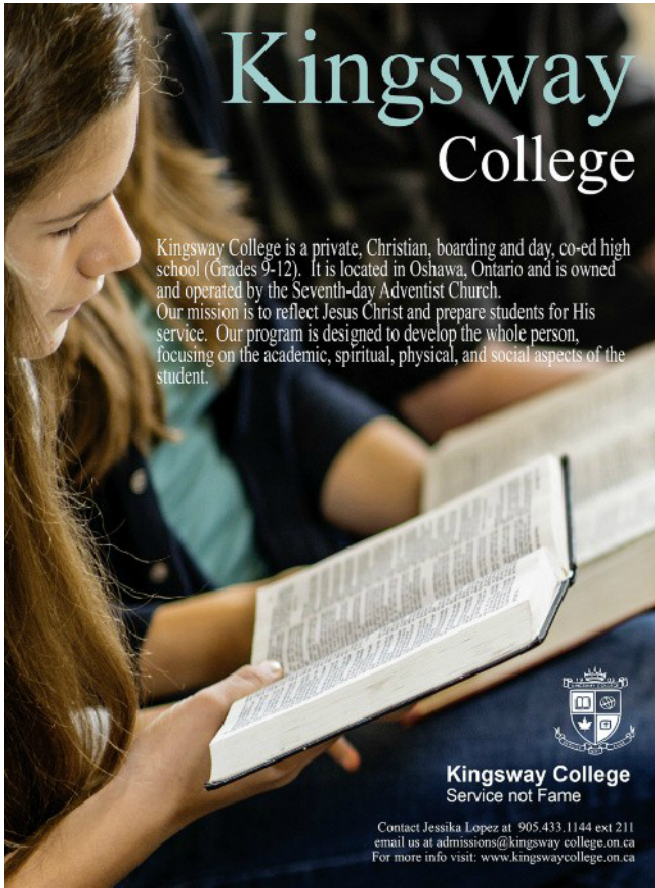
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Contact Jessica Lopez at 905.433.1144 ext 211
email us at admissions@kingswaycollege.on.ca
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The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2016 Excellence in Education Awards

The Process for Nominators:

- Must be a stakeholder (superintendent, principal, school board member, teacher, pastor, school staff member, parent, student, or church member).
- Must not be immediate family members of the nominee.
- If the nominee is a teaching principal, the nominator must select either Teaching or Administrator Award. All letters of recommendation must support the appropriate award they are being nominated for.
- *Important- please check with local conference or boarding academy to see if the teacher and/or administrator that you want to recommend fulfills the requirements for the Nominee noted below.
- Must complete the Nomination Form, Letter of Recommendation Form, and a Letter of Recommendation.
- Must find two other stakeholders (one from each of the two other categories), unrelated to the nominee, to complete the Letter of Recommendation Form and write Letters of Recommendation. For example, if the nominator is someone from the School Leadership category (Superintendent, Principal, or School Board Member), the remaining two letters of recommendation must be from each of the remaining categories, one from Colleagues (Teacher, Pastor, or School Staff Member) and one from School Community (Parent, Student, or Church Member).

Nominee:

- Must have a valid Standard, Professional, or Administrator denominational teaching certificate.
- Recipient of teacher award must have a minimum of one full year teaching experience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Recipient of the administrator award must have a minimum of two years of administrator experience at the current school to be eligible for the administrator award.
- Must be a teacher or administrator who is employed at least half time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must not have received an Excellence Award within the last five years.

(A list of teachers who have received awards are posted on CAT~net – <http://catnet.adventist.ca>.)

It is our hope that the SDACC Excellence in Education Award will inspire our teachers and school administrators to always strive for excellence in teaching and service, and that those who are presented with this prestigious award will truly appreciate it as a token of our thanks for having them as excellent teachers in our school system.

Please take the time to nominate your Adventist School teacher or principal today. Nomination forms can be found on CAT~net, <http://catnet.adventist.ca> under Resources- SDACC- Excellence in Education Award or you may call the SDACC Office of Education at 905.433.0011 x2072.

Deadline April 15