

canadian adventist

# Messenger

may 2016

# Canada's North

*Who will  
follow up  
the work?*



**PLUS** A Place of Inclusion (p. 10) Powerless (p. 13)  
Easter Sunrise with a Prostitute (p. 15)  
Courage on the Frontline (p. 46)

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The *Canadian Adventist Messenger*—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDAOC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$20. Printed by Marade Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



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### Submission Deadlines

July issue May 3  
August issue June 2  
September issue June 10

>> View this issue online at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger)

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable  
Canadian addresses to *Messenger* at [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca),  
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Canada Post agreement number 4006987.



“But the fruit of the Spirit is ... peace.”  
*Gal. 5:22, ESV*”

## The Spirit of Peace

To anyone reading through Galatians 5, the contrast between the two lists it contains couldn't be more stark. The first one enumerates the characteristics of the flesh. In plain language, this is about those things that come to us naturally, without effort, as a result of our having been born into a damaged world. Frankly, it puzzles me why one would choose any of these for a lifestyle but from time to time I meet those who seem to have made that choice.

The second list sparkles in comparison! These are the qualities that become ours as we live the life of faith in Christ. Not all who consider themselves Christian demonstrate these qualities. Perhaps for some of us, wired as we are, certain of these qualities are located further along a path of discipleship. Still, it seems to me that we ought to pursue a life that brings the satisfaction of living the harmonious life that Paul affirms here.

Here's a question that helps us focus on the reality of our journey of faith: "Do my life and actions look anything like Jesus?" This is huge when we think about own spirituality and our impact on others.

I met Grandma Hubley in Manila many years ago. She was old, probably 60 years older than me. I was young, in my early 20s. Her sense of peace was contagious. Nothing seemed to disturb the calm that surrounded her. I discovered that she wasn't much involved in any controversies, but she loved the Bible and found ways to be helpful to others. What an inspiration her life was to me as a young Christian! Many years later, I remain thankful for that precious witness at an important point in my life.

Reading again through Galatians, I get the sense that maybe we need more time in chapter 5—to absorb what Paul is talking about, to understand the process of growth in faith. What a difference a life of faith really makes. ■

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



# What's it Mean to You?

*"This school is God's project."*

Judy Gimbel, Gimbel Eye Centre  
Calgary, Alberta



Judy and Howard Gimbel have been partners for a long time—with each other, and with God. The Gimbels know that God has to be part of the equation for good things to happen: Howard combines the most promising techniques with his faith, offering to pray with the patient before surgery. Judy and Howard know they are ordinary people with unusual opportunity to serve.

Howard and Judy love young people in a very special way. When they saw Total Praise, the sign language group from Mamawi Atosketan Native School, perform at Alberta Camp Meeting, Judy knew that God was definitely part of the equation at Canada's only mission school.

"The Holy Spirit was in that room," Judy says with conviction. "This school is God's project. It's God's gift to Alberta."

Later, when Judy talked with her grandson about his work as a bush pilot, that conviction came into sharp focus. The hardest thing he does, the young man told his grandmother, is to fly teenage suicide victims out of the aboriginal communities. When they envision their future, it's too dark to endure. "They have no hope," he said.

Judy knew then that she and Howard would support Mamawi Atosketan's Bridge Campaign to build a high school—a beacon of hope and safety at a time when many youth of Maskwacis begin to spiral down. The difference is dramatic: On what's reputed to be the toughest reserve in Canada where suicide is rife, not one attending student at MANS has taken their own life.

The Gimbels want more Maskwacis youth to see themselves and their life through Heaven's eyes. They are fanning the flame of hope.

"Giving a child a chance to be a servant of God and bless others is fantastic," says Judy. A little light, they know, can make all the difference.



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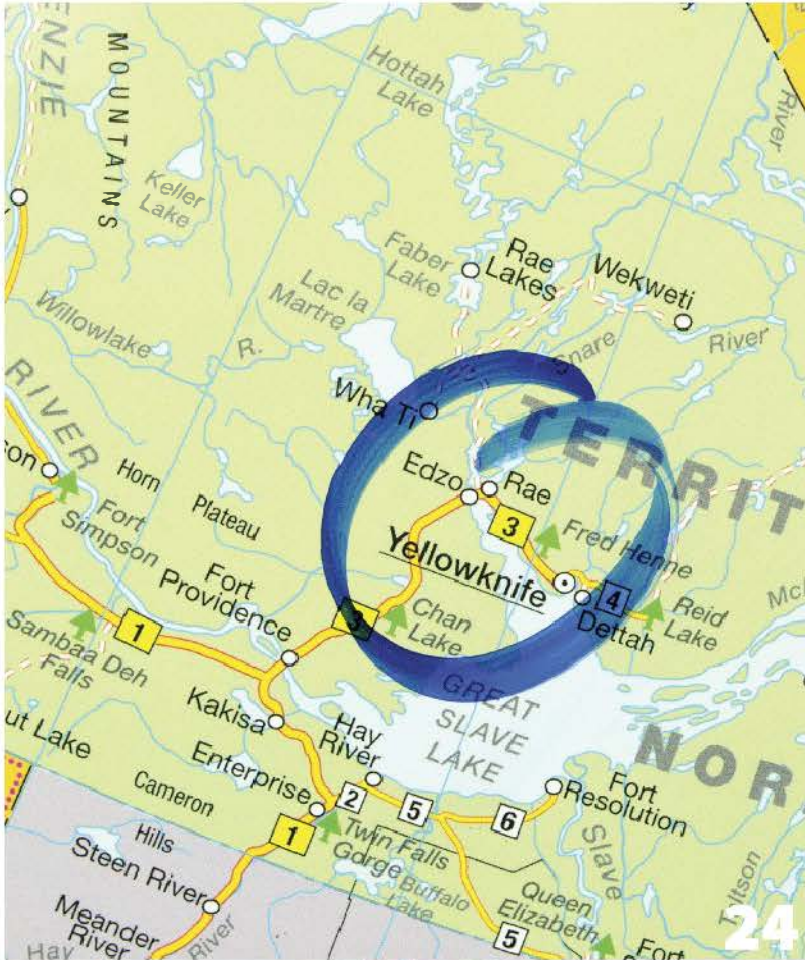
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# WHAT'S INSIDE

May 2016



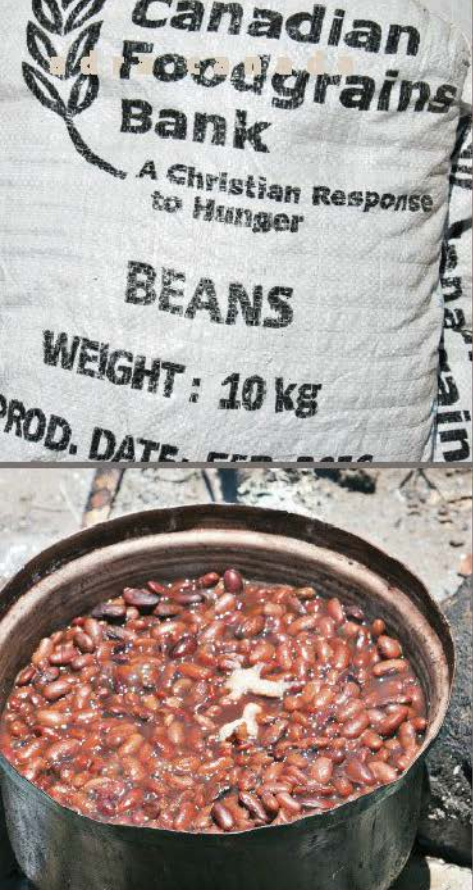
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## Saved in South Sudan

**AGNES LIVED A GOOD LIFE IN A VILLAGE IN WONDURUBA, SOUTH SUDAN.** She and her husband have been married for 20 years and have five beautiful children between the ages of four and 15.

Agnes and her family were farmers. They had approximately three acres of land and grew maize, sesame, ground nuts, cassava, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, and cowpeas. Their harvests were dependent on sufficient rainfall and sunlight. Proper care was also essential, as the harvests kept the family fed.

South Sudan, although having gained independence as a country only recently, in 2011, has been embroiled in conflict for much longer. The partition of the country of Sudan had been marked by hopes of peace—hopes that have been repeatedly dashed.

The current conflict, presently referred to as the South Sudanese Civil War, began on Dec. 15, 2013, with a political crisis. Since then hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced.

For Agnes's family, Sept. 10, 2015, is a day they will not soon forget. The day started normally, but then they heard the sounds of gunshot. When they realized that the fighting was not coming to an end, the family fled into the bush with nothing but the clothes on their backs. For two days they hid from the soldiers.

They had no food in the bush, and nearby streams were their only source of water. Added to their fear of the soldiers was the danger of poisonous snakes that lived in the forest.

They decided to walk 46 kilometres to Ganji village, where

Agnes's aunt lived. They travelled on a hot and dusty dirt road for two days. They were lucky. When they arrived, Agnes's aunt was able to give them a mud-and-thatch hut to live in and provide them with one meal a day of cassava and cassava leaves.

However, the one daily meal was not enough. They were always very hungry and sometimes were so cold that they shivered. Her children were all treated at the village health centre for malnutrition.

In partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) was able to provide Agnes's family with 100 kilograms of sorghum and 10 kilograms of beans, along with salt and oil. The rations were meant to provide Agnes's family with three meals a day for two months. However, Agnes's family chose to eat only two meals a day in order to make the food last longer.

They have not been able to grow crops in Ganji, because they have no seeds or tools. Once ADRA's emergency assistance runs out, they do not know how they will continue to survive.

The Disaster and Famine Relief Offering, which will be collected in Seventh-day Adventist churches across Canada on May 14, 2016, is one of the ways that ADRA is able to minister to families like Agnes's. Funds from this offering will assist those who have been affected by conflict, natural disasters, and famine. ■

*Sharmilla Reid is director of donor relations at ADRA Canada.*





# Can we really Count the Cost

"Change will come when the pain of losing our children and our church members is greater than the desire to do business as usual."

Recently, I listened to an eloquent speech made by a businessman who is also a committed Christian. His argument was over the fact that as a church, the amount of money we spend on evangelism to baptize just a few souls is not worth it.

I followed him closely as he persuasively made his point. Then, like King Agrippa in Acts 26:28, "I was almost persuaded" to throw in the towel and say, *He is right. Let's stop wasting our financial resources to get minimal returns.* Suddenly, this question hit me like a ton of bricks: *Can we really count the cost?*

I believe that his business approach to spending for the purpose of winning souls versus the number of people baptized may need to be reconsidered, especially in light of the way the first-century Christians did evangelism. Nevertheless, each church member must ask himself or herself: *Can we really count the cost?* To answer this question, one must first look at two dominant issues: First, why does the church exist? Second, where should the church spend its human and financial resources?

As I reflected on the businessman's point of view, I was led to meditate on Luke 15. In this chapter Jesus told three compelling parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (also known as the prodigal son). In the first parable, a great deal of risk was taken to save the lost sheep—to the point of putting the safety of the 99 others in jeopardy (Luke 15:1-7). In the case of the lost coin, a lot of human

and financial resources were deployed to find it (Luke 15:8-10). As for the prodigal son, consider the father's willingness to invest so much in celebrating the son's return, even after the son had squandered his inheritance, and the possible mistake of reinstating this wayward son into the estate knowing that the same thing could happen again (Luke 15:11-32).

As I read each of these parables, it seems to me that the high value placed on the lost exceeded its worth by far. The extent to which the main character is willing to chance it all to save the lost is amazing.

In our churches we have seen people come and go, and the reasons of their leaving vary just as the questions they may have about us. What can we do to bring them back? Regardless of how much it may cost to address their concerns, we should never count the cost or place a price tag on them, because they are precious in God's sight.

We may need to change our attitude toward the lost and even the way we try to reach them, but one thing is sure: "Change will come when the pain of losing our children and our church members is greater than the desire to do business as usual." May we go out of our way to advance God's kingdom before the close of probation. ■

*Emile Maxi is president of the Quebec Conference.*





# teen talk

**Q:** I'm in love with somebody, and I don't know what to do, because they don't love me back. Any advice?

**A:** Don't you sometimes wish that the fairytales about love potions were true? In the real world, however, love is not something that can be forced upon anybody. There isn't a magic formula or a step program that you can use to influence someone to love you back. And praying about it will not necessarily help either. Well, praying will help you deal with the emotional pain, but God is not going to twist your loved one's arm to reciprocate your affections.

If your friend is aware of your feelings and has made it clear that he or she doesn't see you in the same way, don't push it, but neither should you do something drastic like cut off the friendship. All-or-nothing attitudes are quite immature and burn bridges.

Being rejected in matters of the heart is difficult to swallow. But life goes on, and setbacks, emotional or not, add depth and wisdom to your maturity process. Pray that God helps you come out of this better, not bitter. ■



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



## Barnacle Geese

Barnacle geese are handsome black-and-white geese that live in northern Europe. Some barnacle geese nest in large colonies on rocky islands around Greenland. With nests close together and lots of noise and movement, goslings sometimes end up with a different family than the one they started out with. But this isn't a problem, because even though parent geese know which goslings are theirs and which aren't, they seem happy to adopt other birds' babies and care for them as if they were their own.

While some barnacle geese live in large colonies, others nest on high cliffs overlooking the ocean. Way up on a ledge, the little goslings are safe from predators. But they can't stay on the cliff for long. The parents must get them down to the sea to eat. With absolute faith in their parents, the goslings leap from their cliffside nest and follow their parents down to the water.

### Think about it.

Jesus has adopted us into His family, and His deepest love is for those who will trust Him completely and follow Him wherever He leads.

### Do it!

Following Jesus is not always easy. Some of the things He wants us to do can feel scary or just too hard. But Jesus promises to be there with you. Look up these promises: Deuteronomy 31:6, John 6:37, Isaiah 41:10, and Romans 8:38, 39. Pick your favourite one and write it on a bookmark or poster. Learn it and make it your own!





# A place of inclusion



Gina Guiboche

"I AM A FIRST NATIONS WOMAN—wife, mother, and *kokom* ("grandmother" in Cree). My ancestry is Swampy Cree from Manitoba and Vuntut Gwich'in from Old Crow, Yukon. I claim my matriarchal clan system from my mother's side, and we are of the Wolf Clan." These sentences above, full of history and life, were announcement to the campus that an oft-neglected culture was about to become part of the education of all those who step foot on the hilltop. These were the words out of Burman's newest department, its first-ever First Nations, Inuit, and Metis (FNIM) office.

A unique collaboration between the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Burman University has brought the FNIM office to the students, faculty, and staff of Burman University. The Native Advisory Council of Canada, a committee that advises the SDACC in matters related to the Seventh-day Adventist work among the Aboriginal population of Canada, approached Burman University and the Alberta Conference seeking a partnership that would attend to the unique needs of the FNIM students at Burman University. The partnership saw the creation of a FNIM Program Director, hired by the Alberta Conference but housed at Burman University, Canada's Seventh-day Adventist university.

In fall 2015, Gina Guiboche became the first FNIM program director at Burman University. A Cree and Gwich'in First Nations woman, Gina began her new job as FNIM Program Director in September and has made an immediate impact on campus. Gina graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts double major in psychology and Indian studies. She has also completed her Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from Loma Linda University.

The scope of the FNIM Program Director is wide and influences all areas of campus. The FNIM office is responsible for recruiting FNIM students, assisting with their retention, academic success, and providing orientation and "community" for them while at Burman University. The importance of the FNIM office is clear. "The Alberta Conference and Burman University recognized the importance of establishing an office that is dedicated to FNIM students. An office of this nature with a director that is FNIM creates an atmosphere and place of safety and understanding. FNIM students find comfort knowing that there is an advocate in place that understands their struggles and transition issues and that they have a place to call their own while on campus. Additionally, Burman follows the path of major universities and colleges across Canada that have well established Indigenous student centres geared to meet student needs through the provision of resources, elders, tutoring, programs, and the like," says Gina.

FNIM education also extends to the current students, faculty, and staff of Burman University. This office will provide services aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the distinctive needs of FNIM peoples and students whom Burman University serves.

Gina is excited about the possibilities that can come from the FNIM office. "It is my hope that this office will bring a greater understanding to students, staff, and faculty at Burman about FNIM people in Canada. I want to see all our students leave with a greater comprehension of FNIM peoples in Canada and hopefully reach out to work amongst our people. I hope people recognize that, in a sense, there is a large mission field right here in Canada and that this is a great opportunity for our peoples to finally, truly get to know our Jesus the way He should have been presented from the beginning of European contact." ■

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



# The Most Difficult People Group to Reach!



*Perhaps the most difficult people group to reach with the gospel is the Deaf community. Why? Within every hard-to-reach group are Deaf people who, because of differently-abled communication, are largely short-changed by society and even by churches.*

**Doreen Roboche (far left) singing with the Alberta Camp Meeting Deaf Ministry class who just began learning to sign songs, etc.**

LAST FALL A SPECIAL ASSISTANT to our General Conference president was appointed to bring emphasis to all the differently-abled groups in the church. Dr. Larry Evans has been appointed as coordinator for Adventist Deaf Ministries International. This new department will be making connections with not only the Deaf community but also the Blind community and other differently-abled peoples.

The Canadian Association of the Deaf states, *“With strong disclaimers as to the dependability and accuracy of any data... there are approximately 357,000 profoundly deaf and deafened Canadians and possibly 3.21 million hard-of-hearing Canadians.”*<sup>1</sup> Most of these Deaf do not attend any church. Most denominations have little work for Deaf persons. It is estimated that there are about 350 Deaf Seventh-day Adventists in North America and perhaps 3,000 in the world field.

In the Adventist community of Canada we have made many attempts to reach the Deaf community. We have had a special series of evangelistic meetings in Toronto and in Vancouver conducted by a Deaf pastor, as well as an interpreted series in Calgary. Another was held in Edmonton in 2015 with John Bradshaw.

We mailed a package of sample materials for reaching the Deaf to all the Adventist pastors in Canada. We have had introductory courses in sign language and Deaf ministry at both the British Columbia and Alberta camp meetings. The *It is Written* television program is captioned every week for the Deaf. Additionally, there is now a General Conference website for the Deaf: [www.adventistdeaf.org](http://www.adventistdeaf.org). The Hope Channel satellite network expects to have a special online 24/7 “Choose what you want to see now” channel for the Deaf with captioned and/or signed programs. Most of Three Angles Broadcasting Network’s (3ABN) programs here are now captioned.

As Canadians we have also been involved overseas helping build and provide teachers for a Seventh-day Adventist Deaf School in Kenya and another in Mindanao, Philippines. Over \$35,000 has been raised in Canada to help build the Philippine school, through A Better World, based out of Lacombe, Alta. An Albertan Seventh-day Adventist pastor, John Blake, is the Deaf Ministry director for Gospel Outreach, a ministry that has 47 lay Bible workers for the Deaf in 10 countries.

The Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department has produced a new sign language DVD set containing seven hours of running time about the life story of Jesus. It is illustrated with over 500 paintings. The geographic section visits the 29 basic Holy Land areas where Jesus ministered.

We urge you to make yourself aware of what resources we already have for Deaf persons and to watch out for Deaf persons you may meet and tell them what is available in sign language for them. Some of you may want to take sign language night classes and become interpreters for church.

Ellen G. White has said, “I saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the deaf, ... have been placed in close Christian relationship to His church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence. This is God’s test of our character.”<sup>2</sup> ■

*John Blake is a pastor and director of deaf ministries for Gospel Outreach. For further information, contact him at [johnblake1941@gmail.com](mailto:johnblake1941@gmail.com) or 403/784-3798.*

<sup>1</sup> Emphasis in the original. “Statistics on Deaf Canadians,” Canadian Association of the Deaf, <http://cad.ca/issues-positions/statistics-on-deaf-canadians/>, July 3, 2015. Please note that the Canadian Association of the Deaf has outlined numerous reasons why the Canada Census, Participation and Activities Limitations Survey (PALS), and Statistics Canada are undeniably flawed when it comes to gathering data about Canadians who are deaf or hard of hearing. The association states that many of the questions used to deduce data are not designed with deaf persons in mind. Therefore, the association “continue[s] to follow the standard comparison model between Canada and the United States, which assumes that statistics for Canada will be one-tenth of statistics for the U.S. (based on the fact that Canada has one-tenth the population of the U.S.)”

<sup>2</sup> *Christian Service*, p. 191.



# Where Are They Now



Merlo and Lowell Bock

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

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

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

**Lowell Bock:** I was born on June 1, 1923, in Puyallup, Wash. There were nine children in our family, six boys and three girls. One brother died at a young age. My family was not Adventist but faithful members in another denomination. A young Adventist pastor in the area was active in studying the Bible with families and came to our home. My mother was cold toward him, so he went out where my dad was working. Dad invited him to stay for dinner. Mother needed to go to the garden for vegetables, and the minister offered to help, but Mother said she could do it herself. He went anyway. As a result of Bible studies, my parents joined the Adventist Church. Since I had not been born yet, I was baptized with my mother at her baptism.

**M:** *Where did you take your schooling?*

**L:** My first eight years were in public school, since there was no church school in our area. I then went to Yakima Valley Junior Academy in Granger, Wash. I sang in the school quartet and was head monitor in the dorm my senior year. The dean of boys was a spiritual mentor, and I fell in love with the Lord. My college studies were taken at Walla Walla College, now Walla Walla University.

**M:** *Tell me about your call to the ministry.*

**L:** I struggled in academy trying to decide on my life work. Medicine was one of my interests, but when I decided on the ministry, my mother told me the same pastor who had baptized us had also dedicated me as a child, and my mother had me dedicated to the ministry on that occasion. When I asked Mother why she had never told me, she said, "Oh, that was the Lord's part."

I married Merlo Cummins in 1945 and graduated in 1946.

**M:** *When did you come to Canada?*

**L:** I crossed the Alberta border on June 27, 1946, to pastor in the Calgary Central and Bridgeland German churches as well as Beiseker. In 1950 Hugh Campbell went to CUC as dean of men. I assumed his position as Sabbath school and home missionary director for the Alberta Conference until 1952. I served in the same position in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference from 1952 to 1956 and the Ontario-Quebec Conference 1956 to 1960. I responded to a call to the Maritime Conference as president and served for three years, followed by three years as the president of the Ontario-Quebec Conference. After exactly 20 years of ministry in Canada, I returned to the United States on June 27, 1966.

**M:** *Where and in what areas did you minister in the US?*

**L:** I was called to be president of the Southern New England Conference 1966–1970; secretary of the General Conference 1970–1975; president of the Lake Union Conference 1975–1980; vice-president of the General Conference 1980–1985; field secretary for the General Conference 1985–1988. My final area of service was half-time working in Religious Liberty for the Pacific Union.

**M:** *What is one of your fond memories of your service in Canada?*

**L:** Union president J. W. Bothe and I combined our efforts in 1965 to separate the Ontario-Quebec Conference. We believed that in order for the work to grow and prosper, Quebec needed to have its own conference apart from Ontario. In 1974 Phil Lemon joined as president of Quebec, and Phillip Moores remained president in Ontario.

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

**L:** Merlo and I have three children: Allan (Cheryl), Janel (Dale) Isaëff, and Colleen (Eric) Laudenslager. We have three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**M:** *Where are you now?*

**L:** We live in Loma Linda, Calif. ■





# Powerless

**Esther was 75 when we first met.** She was a kind and soft-spoken lady who graciously invited me and my family to dinner when we moved into her neighbourhood. Although we didn't attend the same Seventh-day Adventist church, our paths crossed many times. The last time we spoke, she said she was thinking of selling her home, as it was too large for her to take care of on her own. Shortly thereafter I learned she had moved to Florida to be closer to her two adult sons.

Years later I received a call from the Planned Giving department at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada headquarters about an inquiry from an elderly Canadian woman living in Florida who wanted to purchase a Charitable Gift Annuity, naming *It Is Written* as the charity. They contacted me because they knew I had experience helping church members structure their affairs to leave legacy gifts to Adventist organizations.

I called the Canadian woman and discovered she was my old friend, Esther. She sounded distressed. "Please don't contact the boys," she said. "I don't know what I've done and I don't understand what's happening with my money. Can you help?" I told her I would look into it and let her know my findings. Throughout our conversation, Esther was able to answer all of my questions, so I was not at all concerned about her mental capacity.

Upon review, I learned she had been declared mentally incompetent and had given "Committeeship" to her two sons. A Committee is different from a Power of Attorney in that it is a Supreme Court order giving up an individual's right to make his or her own medical or financial decisions, with few exceptions.<sup>1</sup> Esther provided me with two doctor's reports assessing her

mental capability as normal for her age, so I was concerned she had signed the order without good cause or understanding. I explained to Esther that although I wanted to help, legally I couldn't continue discussing her finances without including her Committee.

Esther was in a tough spot. She had agreed to the Committee but was now regretful, realizing the consequences of this decision. I was relieved to find all of her money accounted for and invested safely under the Committee guidelines but at a very low interest rate. The principal would have to be encroached upon in order for her to live comfortably and leave a legacy gift. At this point her only recourse was to begin the difficult process of applying to remove the Committee appointment in order for her to be involved once again in decisions regarding her affairs and hopefully have her legacy plan materialize as she intended.

I believe Esther's boys love her and weren't acting maliciously or selfishly; however, all parties involved did not fully understand the consequences of a decision of this magnitude. The lesson in Esther's story is to start legacy planning early and make your intentions well known.

Talk with a Planned Giving professional and be sure you understand all legal differences between terms such as Committee and Power of Attorney within your province.

My prayer for Esther and her boys is that their relationship is not damaged by what has happened, and Esther may live out the rest of her days in comfort and peace. ■

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

<sup>1</sup> *Committee* (pronounced kaw-mi-tay, emphasis at the end) is an order drawn up by the Supreme Court of BC appointing a specified individual to make personal, legal, medical or financial decisions for someone who is mentally incapable of making these decisions for himself/herself. *General Power of Attorney* gives someone else the power to look after the finances and property of an individual only if he/she becomes mentally incapable of looking after his/her own affairs. *Enduring Power of Attorney* is a legal document that lets an individual's appointed attorney continue acting for him/her if he/she becomes mentally incapacitated.



# Alberta school makes lasting impact in Kenya



In 2015, Lacombe Upper Elementary School students Maya Waldner (left) and Chase Stewart presented \$2,000 towards desks to Charles Maragani, a project leader from Kenya. Also on hand were assistant school principal Ian Wilson, A Better World Canada co-founder Eric Rajah, and Jake Schellenberg, executive director of Central Alberta Youth Unlimited, which links between the school and A Better World.

It has taken heart, energy, and a whole lot of schoolchildren. For Lacombe Upper Elementary, its work with A Better World Canada has been worth it. In the last 10 years, the public school has funded A Better World projects in Kenya addressing poverty, education, and water.

Assistant school principal Ian Wilson said he has seen how schoolchildren are willing to help the world's less fortunate. He hopes their story will inspire other schools across Canada to get involved too.

The Grade 4–6 school of 375 students is located in Lacombe, where the international development organization was founded. The school, which conducts an International Service Learning Project each year with its students, got a hold of A Better World based on a recommendation from a teacher who had travelled with the group. Together they spoke about ideas for projects in Kenya.

The process to get involved was easy. A Better World offers a specific project in mind; the school fundraises for it.

Wilson has watched the project grow. "Every year it's so exciting to see kids get involved by helping other students around the world," he said. The highlight for Wilson is to see "such giving hearts" in his school.

Lacombe Upper Elementary has three focuses—poverty, education, water—that are rotated every three years. Lessons are presented on the pertaining topic, such as food in relation to poverty. "In the past, we've had a rice day where we've made rice for 400 people in the school, and we all eat together like what they might do in Africa," said Wilson. It's raised money for everything from textbooks to water-holding tanks. Last year it raised money for 30 desks at \$30 each.

The school has raised about \$15,000 total so far, or an average of \$1,500 annually. The initiative takes three weeks to finish each year and includes initial introduction of the project to fundraising. Money is raised primarily through raffle ticket sales of wicker furniture graciously donated by a local business.

The school helps about 20 other service projects within Lacombe, the province of Alberta, and Canada. It fundraises internationally only for A Better World. Wilson said it's easy for

the children to raise money for A Better World because they understand the need to serve and help others. Plus, they're excited to see the results when co-founder Eric Rajah shows them photos.

"A Better World organizes specific projects to promote learning around the world, and because they have those tangible projects and specific needs in place, then a school can easily latch onto it and be a part of it," said Wilson. Plus, A Better World has a great reputation for improving standards of living, including having people going often to check on projects, he added. "And it's not like you give them funds and you never hear from them again—they are willing to tell your story. That's powerful PR for a school."

Rajah praises Lacombe Upper Elementary for encouraging the "very young to reach beyond their borders" and to engage their students in a tangible way. "We are looking for more schools to encourage this type of involvement locally or globally," he said. "Money alone cannot make this a better world. We are looking for schools to develop global citizens." ■

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



# Easter Sunrise with a Prostitute

## 5:35 a.m.

My alarm started beeping. I quietly got out of bed and showered, trying not to wake up the rest of the family. It was Easter Sunday, and I was about to meet other believers on the Vancouver shores of Kitsilano Beach and watch the sunrise.

## 6:01 a.m.

The rain was coming down hard as I drove into the city. My Internet radio was blasting loudly in my car as I listened to praise and worship music. The songs had a unifying theme: Jesus conquered the gravel. It was a euphoric moment. There was a bit of pride in my heart, knowing that I had woken up so early and that many of the people who had told me the day before that they were going to meet me at the beach were most likely still asleep. *The spirit is willing, but the flesh is ...*

## 6:22 a.m.

As I drove down Kingsway Avenue, I noticed a bright yellow umbrella. I took my eyes off the road and looked over at a young woman standing under an awning of a local business, holding the umbrella as a shield to protect her from the sideways-falling rain. My heart immediately became angry. *I can't believe there are prostitutes so close to my house. Why don't the police do something about this?* All of a sudden the lyrics to the music I was listening enveloped me. *"He is risen for you and me." Yes, yes, He has risen for me ... and her.*

## 6:24 a.m.

All of a sudden, my heart was broken. God had died for that woman. She is just as important to Him as I am. I made a U-turn and drove back to the scene of the crime. She was still standing there.

She bent down a little to see my face through the rainy windshield. *What are you doing? You are crazy! You are going to get arrested!*

## 6:25 a.m.

I got out of the car as she greeted me. "Hey, honey, are you looking for a date?"

She was beautiful. She was young. Maybe 23 years old. She was wearing a very short skirt and long blond wig. She had a pretty smile, and I saw someone's daughter behind those hazel eyes. "I'm not looking for a date," I responded. "How would you like to get off the streets?"

## 6:26 a.m.

She looked at me with suspicion. "You mean for the night?" she questioned. "No, I mean for good." I extended my hand. "I am Pastor Kumar. I pastor a church not too far from here. I want to help you get off the street and start over."

## 6:27 a.m.

"My name is Laela,"<sup>1</sup> she said hesitantly. "That would be great," she said with suspicion in her voice. "I wish I could, but—"

I interrupted her. "Are you using drugs?" She shrugged and looked down to the ground. It seemed she was more embarrassed by her drug addiction than her prostitution. "I'm hooked on heroin."

## 6:28 a.m.

"I'm heading to an Easter sunrise service right now," I continued. "Why don't you come with me? We can talk about getting you help."

## 6:29 a.m.

"Look, man. I left my purse in some guy's car this morning. There was \$240 in there. Now I have to start all over to make

some cash."

I wanted to offer her the cash, just so she would be able to go home. I didn't. I asked her again to come with me to church. I told her that God loves her and wants to see her live a new life.

"Thanks, man. Maybe another time."

## 6:41 a.m.

I was standing on the shores of Kitsilano Beach. About 20 people from our church showed up. We sang songs about the resurrection and the saving grace of Jesus. There was a pit in my stomach. My heart had been broken.

## 6:49 a.m.

The rain was coming down hard. As we stood on the wet sand overlooking the horizon, a young woman walked up to our group and listened to us sing. One of my elders greeted her and asked her about her story. Her name was Macy.<sup>2</sup> After an extended conversation she told us that she had woken up that morning to take a walk. She was in search of God. Stumbling upon this group of people singing on the sand seemed like a sign to her. The elder exchanged phone numbers with Macy and promised to meet her later in the week to talk about her journey. God had reached this young woman.

Perhaps one day Laela would be ready also.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10, NLT). ■

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

<sup>1</sup> Not her real name.

<sup>2</sup> Not her real name.



## Beautifully Broken



Words by God — 1 John 3:18, NIV

Spring has finally arrived and brought with it the singing birds and blooming flowers that hold their heads up high in the sunshine. It reminds me that God makes all things new and restores the life the long winter has taken. Have you ever watched the resilience of plants? They grow and bloom beautifully during the milder seasons, and when the fall breezes in, they soon vanish. Sometimes I wonder if our plants will survive through those months of harsh winters and storms. Will they raise their faces once again to make their heroic journey out of the ground?

We have a thyme plant that has shown its resilience over the years and seems to grow in the toughest conditions. Our first time propagating the plant, I watched my mom cut the stem into fragments and thought, *How will it ever grow?* There were no roots to take hold; it was left vulnerable and broken. We placed the cut-off stems in the dirt, watered it, and let it be. After some time, to my surprise I saw small leaves were beginning to grow from the stem, and soon it became a flourishing plant. New life had come to what I thought was hopeless.

The resilient thyme taught me a lesson: No matter what has happened in our lives or how broken we may feel, God will never give up on us. The brokenness we face on this earth is temporary. All the hurt, pain, and regrets can cut us down and make us feel as if we can't lift our heads. The truth is Jesus came and died for that moment because we can't make it on our own. We need

a Saviour. Jesus didn't just die for us, but He rose again so that we can confidently have hope in Him. He is holding out the gift of life more abundant and vibrant.

God desires to weed and prune away the things of the past that stifled our roots and hold us back from growing into all He has created us to be. Even the worst winter's damage and debris is no match for the ultimate Gardener, our Saviour. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17, ESV). He wants to take our brokenness and create something beautiful again. Jesus is the restorative gardener of our lives and gives a hope that endures not only when mild seasons come but also when you face the stormy seasons of life. He promises to be faithful through the coldest of winters. "You have allowed me to suffer much hardship, but you will restore me to life again and lift me up from the depths of the earth" (Ps. 71:20, NLT).

God doesn't always take away the pain or brokenness, but He uses all the fragmented pieces of our lives. The gentle hands of the One who made the lilies wants to grow beauty and strength inside you and me. As each plant trusts the gardener to care and nurture what's best for them, God is asking us to trust the hands of our Gardener, who makes beautiful things out of the dust. Are you ready to bloom?

Be Blessed. ■

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



refresh with Tia



Watch "Beautiful Things" by Gungor:  
<https://goo.gl/eCxLnt>





# Being a Blessing—in Varied Ways

*"... God can create opportunities for us to share our faith in any circumstance ..."*

**A**t our worship time in the morning my wife and I often ask God to help us be a blessing to others throughout our day. We never know in what situations we may be able to help or witness to people.

This morning I had to go to a medical clinic to have a basal cell cancer removed from my ear. It was not my preferred schedule for the day, because I had wanted to meet with the pastors in Calgary to plan for REACH Calgary 2016. Alas, it was necessary to spend time in surgery at the clinic.

In describing the surgery, they told me it would be the Mohs type of surgery where they examine each specimen taken to see if all the cancer is removed. They would repeat the process until all the cancer is gone. It could take most of the day. It seemed that my day to be a blessing was not likely.

During the procedure the doctor asked me what I was going to do during the Easter season. I told them we were going to a couple of music programs, one of them in a church of our denomination. The next question: "What is your denomination?" I had not anticipated how curious the doctor and nurse would be about my faith.

While my ear was being attended to, questions were coming my way. "What is a Seventh-day Adventist?" the doctor asked. He appeared not to have a Christian background. I told him we were a Christian denomination that believed and taught the good news about Jesus Christ. The name Seventh-day and Adventist highlights two teachings of our church—we worship on the biblical Sabbath and emphasize the soon return of Jesus. Then I had to opportunity to discuss each of these.

When the doctor seemed satisfied, the nurse said, "I have many friends who are Adventists. I have a number of questions that I always wanted to ask them; I now have the opportunity." It turned out that many of these were on lifestyle issues, but I shared why they are taught and practised. She appreciated my sharing with her.

When I started the day having to go through ear surgery, I thought it was going to take me away from an opportunity to be a blessing. However, I came to realize that God can create opportunities for us to share our faith in any circumstance—even during surgery.

In our secularized world it seems difficult at times to initiate faith sharing. However, I see more and more evidence of God opening opportunities for us to be a blessing to others and sharing our faith. God is at work with every person on the planet; He just invites us to join Him in His work. What a joy to be partners with God.

One text that came to my mind today was 1 Peter 3:15: "And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it" (NLT).

Many times, going through adversity gives us opportunity to share our faith. So for two weeks I have to go around with a huge bandage on my ear. I know that the inevitable question will be, "What happened to your ear?" I am thinking of ways of turning this small adversity into an opportunity for uplifting Christ. It has worked once already today, so perhaps ear surgery can become an avenue for witnessing!

Seeking to be a blessing is an exciting way to live—even in difficult times. ■

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



## barry's blog

"In my observation, the less we know of the 'other', the more we fear and the less we trust."

# Religion: *and those who will have none of that!*

**The "nones," adults who say they have no religion,** are on the increase. This changing dynamic is bound to affect the relationship between law and religion, between church and state, and between religion and politics. It is already affecting how book publishers produce books seeking to capitalize on the religiously disaffected and those with no religion.<sup>1</sup>

The rise of the "nones" has been significant over the last couple of decades. In Canada the number has risen from 4 percent of the Canadian population in 1971, 12 percent in 1984, and 24 percent in 2011.<sup>2</sup> That is a 20 percent rise in about 40 years. In the United States, "nones" now constitute 23 percent of the adult population, up from 16 percent in 2007.<sup>3</sup> The percentage of those who say they believe in God declined only marginally, from approximately 92 percent to 89 percent since 2007.

Sociologist Phil Zuckerman, in a 2014 speech,<sup>4</sup> described the trend in Britain. In the 1930s about 75 percent of British children were baptized; however, by 2006 only 14 percent were baptized. In 1900, less than 15 percent of British weddings were secular, whereas

today over two-thirds of weddings are secular. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 60 percent of adults attended church on Sunday, whereas today that figure is less than 10 percent. In 1900, 55 percent of British children attended Sunday school; today only 4 percent attend. In the 1950s only 2 percent said they did not believe in God. By 2008, 37 percent no longer believed in God.

According to Reginald Bibby, professor of sociology at the University of Lethbridge, "The 'No Religion' gain has been almost totally at the expense of white Protestants. The Protestant market share has dropped from some 70 percent in 1950 to just under 50 percent today. In contrast, bolstered by immigration, the shares of Catholicism (close to 25 percent) and Other Faiths (about 7 percent) have changed little."<sup>5</sup> However, it would appear that in Canada the decline between the Protestant and Catholic communities is on par.<sup>6</sup>

Joel Thiessen, a professor of sociology at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alta., makes the following observations about the rise of the nones<sup>7</sup>: First, there is an increased acceptance toward religious nones



(especially in Canada). "One might go as far as to suggest that the greater social stigma in Canada now remains for those who are actively religious." Second, the rise of religious extremism in the world contributes to the avoidance of religion. Religion is seen as synonymous with hatred and harm to others. Third, "nones" have consciously chosen no religion.

Overall, the research suggests that those who are religiously affiliated have become more religiously observant, while the "nones" have become more secular. In other words, the differences are becoming starker. I suggest that from the "nones" point of view, religion is becoming extreme. From the religiously affiliated people's point of view, the "nones" are becoming more extreme in their secularism. Increasingly, the two groups are understanding each other less.

In my observation, the less we know of the "other," the more we fear and the less we trust. This attitude leads to a number of social ills (such as an inability to communicate and respect the experiences of others) that can be very difficult to overcome. This new dynamic will have a profound impact on the political dynamic. The "nones" are more likely to have negative views on religious groups, having politically liberal leanings and greater likelihood to approve abortion and same-sex marriage.<sup>8</sup> The religiously affiliated are more likely to be conservative politically.

Given these developments, we should not be surprised by the growing criticism and concern of religion and its role. The attitude commonly expressed is that religion must be kept under wraps. Otherwise, as the argument goes, the religious will dominate society and take away freedoms by taking over the legal systems. Encouraging the demise of religion is seen more and more as a positive development. It means that we are able to solve the world's problems rationally and scientifically rather than appealing to some fairy tale of a great magician in the sky. While the religiously affiliated see the conversion of church buildings to laundromats, residences, or pubs

as a negative development, the growing number of nones see that development as a positive: the buildings are finally having a "useful" purpose and contributing to the overall tax base rather than being squandered for religious worship services.

Moving forward, we can expect the political power of the nones to rise. Already we are in a culture that favours the secular explanation of the world's problems. However, a growing concern has emerged that the rise of the nones is leading to a rampant individualism that is destructive to communal cohesion. Increasingly we are silos in our own reality. Technology is making it possible for us to no longer need to interact with others for many of our activities. We can be alone on the Internet to do our own banking, purchase clothes, food, watch a movie, and even attend church (if you are religiously affiliated).

For now it seems we are bound to have to relearn the important lessons of the past. Perhaps we are at the low water mark of religiosity. Perhaps we will eventually see that human beings are in fact both individual and communal as Émile Durkheim, considered by many to be the father of sociology, noted when he described us as being *Homo duplex*.<sup>9</sup> While we live most of our lives in the "ordinary world," we achieve our greatest joys when we move into the sacred world as formed by our religious identity. The religious beliefs and practices create a community giving hope for a better future.

"There is now a great deal of evidence," says psychologist Jonathan Haidt, "that religions do in fact help groups to cohere, solve free rider problems, and win the competition for group-level survival."<sup>10</sup> As D. S. Wilson says, "Religions exist primarily for people to achieve together what they cannot achieve on their own."<sup>11</sup> ■

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*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](http://www.cccc.org/barry).*

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8 Bibby, p. 1.

9 Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2012), p. 225.

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11 David Sloan Wilson, *Darwin's Cathedral: Evolution, Religion, and the Nature of Society* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002), p. 159.



# Almost vegan

**T**ofu. That word scares many people. Yet, when properly handled, tofu is one of the most versatile ingredients in the vegan pantry. We refer to it as a flavour sponge, plain—with little flavour of its own—but able to take on almost any flavour, allowing it to be used in many different ways.

In order for a sponge to absorb water, we need to squeeze out any it already has. The same applies to tofu. Tofu is packed in water, and to maximize the flavour absorption, we need to press it to remove as much of that water as possible. This can be done many ways, such as using a tofu press (we found ours online) or by putting it on the counter under a cast-iron pan with paper towels to catch the water.

Next month we will discuss some varieties of tofu we find useful and how to use them. This month we are using extra-firm tofu as well as a little liquid smoke (usually found in the grocery aisle near the Worcestershire sauce). By pressing the tofu and allowing it to marinate as long as possible (overnight is best), the flavour of the marinade is absorbed, and voilà, tofu tastes good. ■

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

## Smoky Tofu

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package extra-firm tofu (350 g)
- coconut oil for frying
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (187.5 ml) vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) apple cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons (10 ml) liquid smoke
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) olive oil
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) maple syrup
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press tofu.
- Mix all ingredients, except tofu and coconut oil, together in a bowl.
- Cut tofu into  $\frac{1}{2}$ -cm thick slices, place into mixture, and let marinate overnight.
- Remove tofu from marinade and fry in coconut oil on medium heat until browned on each side.
- When both sides are browned, pour about half of the remaining marinade over the tofu and cook until liquid is gone. Extra marinade can be saved and used again.



# Technical changes at VOAR

Only days after installing a new Nautel VS300 FM transmitter in Gander, N.L., a new FM antenna in Grand Falls-Windsor, N.L., and connecting both of them to an Internet audio stream, Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) received this letter:

Dear VOAR,

*Thought I might drop you an email to let you know that your new VOAR transmitter (located in Gander) is working top-notch and sounds great! As a loyal listener to your station, I would like you to know your new transmitter certainly enhances the voice of Christian Radio in Central Newfoundland and will certainly attract new listeners.*

*From a tech standpoint, your new transmitter has excellent multiplexing with great audio channel isolation, making for superb listening for FM stereo. It has a very clean and consistent signal as well. I don't know if you now have increased output power (wattage) or you have made changes for a stronger audio feed (or both), but whatever you did ... VOAR is now equal to or better than those other radio channels on the FM dial.*

*In closing, keep up the good work! And kudos to all*

*the techs (also to Sherry and all the broadcast crew) for doing such a wonderful job. Keep it going, and know you are making a difference in spreading God's Word.*

*A great station!*

*God bless,  
Brian Shaw*

The new Nautel VS300 FM transmitters are connected to the Internet for their stereo audio feed and remote control. In Grand Falls-Windsor we have replaced an old troublesome antenna with a new SIRA FMC-01/2 antenna, which has improved our reliability and the area signal coverage.

VOAR is planning to have all of our Newfoundland transmitter sites switched over by the end of June this year, each with remote control access over the Internet. Our engineer, Brian Matthews, will be able to login and check to see how they are working and will receive an email alarm when something goes wrong.

Isn't it amazing what advances in technology can do? ■

*Tina Taylor is the communications  
director for VOAR.*



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE  
ROAD WITH

Becky

TALKING TO PASTORS AT THE CRANBROOK/  
CRESTON, VANCOUVER FILIPINO, TRAIL, AND  
KAMLOOPS CHURCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

*If you were to die tomorrow, would your neighbour know without being told?*

**Josue Molina:** I really hope so ...

**Matthew Reyes:** They might notice that the guy who works on cars in the driveway isn't there anymore. But they probably wouldn't know.

**Leomar Macaraig:** Yes, my neighbour would know. Maybe the best reason for that is I have a good relationship with my neighbour. Sometimes we get together for dinner.

**John Masigan:** Yes, but they wouldn't miss me.



# Coming home



Photo: Keith Chant

Kelly-Ann, Sébastien, Stéphanie, and Isaac Roy-Lavallée in a 2014 photograph.

*"I love the church! I love Jesus! I can never get enough of Him!"*

**S**téphanie Roy-Lavallée was about three and a half years old when she was first introduced to the Adventist faith through her mother. On a Sunday morning in 1982 her mother was browsing through the television channels until something piqued her interest: it was Pastor Georges Hermans on a television program called *Il Est Écrit (It Is Written)*. "Back then my mother was a fervent Catholic," Stéphanie explains. "And she just happened to tune in to *Il Est*

*Écrit* on television." What appealed to her mother's curiosity was the way in which Pastor Hermans was answering questions: his answers were strictly from the Bible. "My mother was a spiritual person," Stéphanie reveals, "and she was finally getting answers from the Bible."

After tuning in to *Il Est Écrit*, God followed up on her mother's coincidental viewing of the television show. While attending an Al-Anon meeting, Stéphanie's



mother crossed paths with a woman of faith. Al-Anon is an association that provides support groups for people like Stéphanie's mother who have a close relationship to an individual with a drinking problem (the association's motto is "strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers"). Even in the most unusual places, God can make His presence known. The woman of faith at the Al-Anon meeting happened to be of the Adventist faith, the same Christian denomination that produces *Il Est Écrit*. She offered to study the Bible with Stéphanie's mother, who eventually decided to be baptized and become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Throughout my childhood and teenage years, I was sort of living my mother's faith," Stéphanie acknowledges. "I had not really encountered Jesus personally. It was more like a routine." Stéphanie attended church with her mother every week. She was involved in church activities and ministry: she was in Pathfinders, attended camp meetings, played piano at church, and attended an Adventist high school. In her senior year of high school, Stéphanie was baptized. "I'm not really sure why I got baptized," she confesses. "I know that my friend was getting baptized, and I thought, well, maybe I should too."

Given her weak and fragile foundation in her faith, Stéphanie graduated from high school and was soon faced with a different side of life. "The word *freedom* came to mind. I was suddenly introduced to all kinds of new opportunities," Stéphanie recalls. "I was now an adult, and I could now do whatever I desired. Nothing could stop me. I was free." Her newfound freedom led her to a new life with new friends and new experiences. "I loved the world: it made me feel good."

As she embraced the freedom of her new life, Stéphanie found herself enjoying the pleasures of the world. "I became too busy, too tired, or simply too hung-over from the night before to attend church or have anything to do with it," she recollects. Stéphanie developed an overwhelming thirst for alcohol, developing a drinking problem over time. "Day after day, I was sinking deeper and deeper into drinking," she describes. "On several Sabbaths, I went to church, but all I remember thinking about was alcohol. I could not wait to get out and drink."

Stéphanie continued to give in to her alcohol addiction, causing her to sink deeper and deeper into her addiction over the years. She allowed her thirst for alcohol to overpower her thirst for Jesus. "Over time I developed a drinking problem: my thirst was never

satisfied," she admits. "I needed and wanted more and more."

A few years after having her second child, the Holy Spirit began to speak to Stéphanie, but she did not want to hear His voice. "Every time I would drink, I would hear the Holy Spirit whispering to me," she remembers. "I would hear, 'What are you doing? Come back to me.'" Stéphanie would attempt to drown out the Holy Spirit's voice by drinking some more. "But interestingly enough, the more I would drink, the more I would hear the Holy Spirit."

One morning in May 2012, Stéphanie and her friend were heavily intoxicated. They had spent hours indulging in drinks and completely letting go. As they wallowed in their drunken stupor, their children grabbed the empty bottles and proceeded to imitate their drunken state. "That's when I heard the Holy Spirit yell, 'Enough! Come back to Me! Look at your children!'" Stéphanie recollects. The image of their children imitating their inappropriate behaviour shocked and disturbed Stéphanie. "At that moment, for the first time, my eyes and my heart opened, and I saw reality for what it was."

At that moment Stéphanie knew that she could no longer continue down the path she had chosen. "Later that evening, I remember crying and confessing all of my sins to God," she discloses. "I cried all evening and all night." She wanted to be better, not just for herself, but for her children. She realized her responsibility as a mother to be an example to her children and seeing her children imitate her drunken behaviour was not the life she wanted for them. "When the morning came, I felt refreshed, I felt clean," she says. "It was a new day. I knew that the road ahead of me would not be easy, but God assured me that He would be there with me every step of the way."

Since that morning Stéphanie has rededicated her life to Christ. "I love the church! I love Jesus! I can never get enough of Him!" she exclaims. "He is the only one who can satisfy my thirst, my thirst for His words, for Him. Sure, I'm far from perfect, but no matter what the issue, I refuse to worry and I refuse to have doubts." Stéphanie has found her way back home, and she strives to always remind herself and her family: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). ■

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*Kryzia Abacan is a recent graduate of the MA in Communication program at Andrews University. You can read her personal blog at [www.kryziaabacan.com](http://www.kryziaabacan.com).*

# Canada's North

*Who will  
follow up  
the work?*



Skyline, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada





Inuit children giving the thumbs up to the photographer.

### “I WANT TO BE BAPTIZED,” RON SAID.

“Great!” I responded. “Where is your home church?”

“I don’t have a home church. There’s not an Adventist church where I live,” he replied.

This got me curious. “Where do you live?” I asked.

“In Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. I’ve been following the Adventist message for a couple of years. There’s a group of other Sabbath-keepers who meet with me every Sabbath, but I’m the only Adventist.”

I tried to hide my surprise ... and the wheels in my head started to turn. Here was a guy who lived where the closest Adventist church was a nine-hour drive away. In my experience of more than five years as a Bible worker and now as a pastor in Edmonton, Alta., I had never met someone with these challenges.

During the next couple of weeks, I wondered how the Adventist Church could share the gospel in a vast expanse such as the Northwest Territories—more than 1 million square kilometres, 33 communities, and 11 different languages offer unique challenges for sharing the three angels’ messages.<sup>1</sup>

Several months later, after my move to Yellowknife, N.W.T., to serve as pastor of the Adventist church there, I started Bible studies with Ron by phone. Recently I sent him a DVD about Bible prophecy. As his family was watching the movie, his mom commented, “This is exactly like my dream.” She related that years ago she had had a dream about last-day events, and now she was seeing those same images replayed in this DVD. She then commented, “This is truth.”

Curiosity asks, *How many more men and women in this expansive wilderness are calling out to God, searching for truth? How many more hearts has God been preparing? How many more people are still waiting for an Adventist missionary to come into their community and share the gospel of hope and wholeness? How many children and young people are looking for purpose and meaning in their isolated communities?*

In his book *Voyage of the Arctic Arrow*, C.S. Cooper related the story of a retired Adventist couple who built a boat and travelled up the Mackenzie River for three months. Cooper described their experiences and challenges as they shared Christ and distributed literature along the Mackenzie River delta. In the last chapter, Cooper posed a challenge—a challenge that up to this point has never been fully answered—“Who will follow up the work?”

In 1962, spiritual seeds were planted in the Northwest Territories, but there has never been “tilling” or “harvesting.” Who indeed will follow up on the work in the North? God has been working. Our job is merely to find out where God is working in 33 communities and then actively follow up what He is already doing.

Matthew 24:14 says, “The gospel will be preached unto all the world and then the end will come.” How about Tuktoyaktuk? Does the gospel have to go to Tuk, as the locals call it, before the end will come? How about Sachs Harbour? Does the gospel commission of “every nation, kindred tongue, and people” include Sachs Harbour? When the apostle Paul saw the gospel going in to all the world, did he include Hay River and Norman Wells?

<sup>1</sup> The three angels’ messages of Revelation 14.





In most rural communities of the Northwest Territories, hunting and fishing are integral parts of their food support.

the ability to contextualize the gospel in a way that people will be able to understand.

The Adventist Church has a God-given role to play in sharing the gospel to the ends of the earth—but people have already come in the name of the Lord with attitudes of colonial superiority. If the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to be helpful in the North, it will have to come to the northern peoples in person, come alongside them as equals, and, through collaboration and camaraderie, create something new.

If the answer is yes, then that means we have work to do. For the work will not be finished unless we enter Paulatuk, Colville Lake, and every one of the 33 communities of the Northwest Territories.

On a practical note, there are many threats to the indigenous communities of the Northwest Territories. Food insecurity, for example, exists because of the high cost of transporting food, and often what food that does reach remote communities is not nutritious enough at an affordable quantity. In most rural communities, hunting and fishing are integral parts of their food support, but presently, many caribou herds are in decline.

Even more significant, “For over 100 years Aboriginal children were taken from their parents and sent to government-supported, church-run, residential schools, where they suffered sexual, mental, and physical abuse, shame, and deprivation. The system was designed to destroy Aboriginal culture. The effects of the residential school systems are intergenerational and profound, affecting the lives many Aboriginal northerners. Although there are many signs of hope and recovery, many current social, health, and education challenges remain.”<sup>2</sup>

While blessed with rich natural settings, many children of small northern communities lack the recreational and after-school learning opportunities that are available to their peers living in larger centres.

There are many foster kids in these rural communities. Many of the problems seen in inner cities, such as greater numbers of young pregnancies, are prevalent also in rural Northwest Territories communities.

The Catholic Church has been working in the North for more than 150 years. Most of the indigenous populations claim to be Catholic, and they have integrated Catholic traditions into their traditional ways. To be indigenous also means that they are spiritual and also that the land is an integral part of their very being. A vital part of missionary work in the North needs to be

Somewhere in the Northwest Territories a divine appointment is underway.

“So why don’t you cut hair on Saturday?” asked one of Lindy’s customers.

“Well, Saturday is the day I go to church,” she responded. “Why on Saturday?” her customer asked.

Lindy went on to explain the importance of the Sabbath from the Bible. Her customer showed spiritual interest as the conversation progressed through what happens when people die and about the judgment.

Lindy’s customer shared that she and a small group of friends are the only Protestants in the small community of Gameti and that they were persecuted because of their belief system. As their conversation continued, Lindy thought, *This lady sounds like a Seventh-day Adventist, and yet she has never met another Adventist.* Since that time, we have started Bible studies with her.

Lindy is a hairdresser in Yellowknife, but this day she was a missionary, sharing the hope and wholeness of the gospel.

Another Yellowknife church member was asked by a co-worker why leaving work early in November and December on Fridays before the sun sets was so important. After a biblical explanation was given, the co-worker asks if it was important to Adventists to refrain from requiring others to work on Sabbath. She went on to explain that in her Mennonite background, members were against going to restaurants after church because others would be forced to do the work of preparing food that they didn’t want to prepare themselves.

Every day, God has divine appointments for each of us. There are many people thinking deeply about spiritual matters. God has called each one to make ourselves available as His missionary.

I wonder, *Are there other Northern communities where God is working?* No matter how important Yellowknife is to the North as a centre of influence, it is only one

<sup>2</sup> See “About Residential Schools,” Legacy of Hope Foundation: Raising Awareness of the Legacy of Residential Schools, 2016, [www.legacyofhope.ca/about-residential-schools](http://www.legacyofhope.ca/about-residential-schools). See also, Northwest Territories Education, Culture, and Employment, “Residential Schools Education: Fact Sheet,” The Government of the Northwest Territories, January 2015, [www.eee.gov.nt.ca/files/pages/770/factsheet-residentialschoolsjan2015nt.pdf](http://www.eee.gov.nt.ca/files/pages/770/factsheet-residentialschoolsjan2015nt.pdf).



part of the Northwest Territories. There are 32 other communities that need our life-giving Christian message.

In another remote community in the Northwest Territories someone asked me, "Do you have holy water?"

"No, I'm sorry I don't," I replied.

"You are the pastor. You have to have holy water."

"I'm sorry; I don't have holy water."

"I love the Lord and Jesus and Mary," my questioner replied as he pulled out his prayer card to his favourite saint. "Please don't put me off."

"Our church doesn't do holy water, but may I pray with you?"

"I need holy water to carry around in my pocket."

I prayed with him, then I gave him a hug. The smell of alcohol emanated from him.

Then he looked into my face and said, "Thank you. That is just what I needed."

Sharing our faith is simply being willing to listen and follow God's spirit as He leads. Colossians 4 reminds us that we need to "pray that God will open up a door." If we are looking, God will open that door. And if we continue to ask for open doors, God will answer that prayer every time.

In Acts 16, Paul is taking care of his business, doing the best he can to serve God in his missionary travels. He believed he was following God. Then he had a dream that reset the course of his adventures. "During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'" (Acts 16:9, NIV). Paul reset his plans and allowed God to lead him in a different direction.

In my mind I see men with sealskin mitts calling out, "Come over to Sachs Harbour." Children wearing moose-hide mukluks are inviting, "Come to Echo Bay." A woman wearing caribou clothing pleads, "Come over to Lutselk'e. Come and share hope and wholeness with us."

Who will answer these calls?

When we read the Old Testament, we realize that Ruth had much on her mind. She was struggling with the loss of her husband, along with trying to comfort her mother-in-law, who was grieving not only the loss of

her own husband but also of her only children, her two sons. Then Ruth had to consider her dilemma: *Am I going to continue to be faithful to my mother-in-law, even though technically my commitments ended at "til death do us part"?* But there was more than an obligation there; there was a relationship. And because of that relationship she chose to step out in faith.

Did Ruth ever suspect that one phrase would have so much power? "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16, NLT).

Did she ever realize that that one choice would affect her mother-in-law's entire nation? That through her lineage would come David, Solomon, and eventually the Messiah Himself? She only knew that she needed to be faithful in the decision before her, and that was to go—"unto the ends of the earth." She took the first step, then the next step appeared, and before long she was on a path she may have never chosen, but it was one that God had ordained.

What step is God calling you to take? Is God calling you to pray for His spirit to continue to be poured out to the North? Has God put a burden on your heart to go as a missionary "unto the ends" of the earth?

To repeat C.S. Cooper's question, "Who will follow up the work?" ■

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*Jonathan Geraci serves as the pastor for the Northwest Territories and is based in Yellowknife, N.W.T. with his wife, Bethany, and their two children, Heidi and Eric.*



A man drives his snowmobile with a sled attached on Yellowknife Bay. Yellowknife Bay is part of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories. Sleds such as this carry spare fuel, camping gear or passengers.



# How iHeal Healed Me

“Lord, You *do* want me to be a coach, but for *You*.”

Correction: The photo published on p. 28 of the April 2016 issue of *Messenger* was incorrectly credited to Afia Donkor. The photographer for that photo was Nadia Sullivan-Ooodle.

For weeks Elisa had been training to become a Certified Life and Business Coach. Her fees had been paid, her courses almost completed, and certification was in sight. But something was bothering her. The program included courses on mind control methods like hypnolinguistics, and this made her uncomfortable. She asked if she could opt out of those courses and still get certified, and the reply was “yes,” but she was still concerned. She worried that if she operated under the banner of the organization, she would be associated with all of its methods. So after a struggle, she decided she would not use their credentials.

Getting on her knees, she prayed, “Lord, what should I do? I spent money to be trained as a coach through this organization, but I don’t believe it is right to work under them. Please send direction. Show me what to do.” Elisa opened her eyes and immediately spotted a *Messenger* magazine sitting on a table. She opened it, and there, right in front of her, was an advertisement for iHeal, Lifestyle Canada’s Healthy Lifestyle Coach Certification Program. She stared at the ad, then said, “Lord, You *do* want me to be a coach, but for *You*.” Soon she signed up for the program and went to Toronto to obtain her training.

The training program proved to be an eye opener. For years Elisa had heard about the health message but never quite like this. When she returned home, she gathered her family together and said, “I have heard some serious truths, and we can’t keep doing what we’ve been doing. We have to change everything.”

Elisa and her family immediately implemented a number of changes. They exercised as a family, drank water instead of sugary juices, went to bed early, cooked healthful plant-based meals, eliminated processed foods, and modified their meal schedule. Elisa also began to encourage her children to get to know God for themselves by spending individual time with Him apart from family worship.

In a very short while, significant changes became evident. Elisa, who is 64 centimetres (5 feet 4 inches) tall, had weighed 103 kilograms (227 pounds) at her heaviest. Now she weighs 69 kilograms (152 pounds). Also, her autistic son experienced such an improvement in his behaviour that school administrators thought the change had occurred because of a new medication. People began to notice that something was dramatically different with Elisa and her family, and they began to ask her about it. Soon she was sharing her knowledge with friends, neighbours, and her church family, and some took the information to heart. One man who had struggled with diabetes and high blood pressure for 25 years decided to put what he had learned into practice. After two weeks, he was able to significantly reduce the amount of one medication he was taking and completely went off another.

Elisa’s witness not only helped her share her new knowledge about health but also opened doors for her to share her faith like never before. Soon she was talking to people about God and His hopes and dreams for each of His children.

Through her own personal experience, Elisa came to better understand what the literature evangelism ministry was all about. It is about introducing people to a God who desires that each of His children prosper and be in good health, and that their souls prosper as well (see 3 John 1:2). It is about sharing the good news through literature and personal contact; bringing healing of body, mind, and soul. ■

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES), a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada. For more information, visit [LifestyleCanada.org](http://LifestyleCanada.org), [iHealProgram.org](http://iHealProgram.org), and [iHealSchool.org](http://iHealSchool.org) or contact us at [mail@lifestylecanada.org](mailto:mail@lifestylecanada.org).



# Single mom parenting

**Y**our dad will pick you up today." The words, spoken by a mother addressing her daughter, floated across Jean's ear, causing her to look up. Jean couldn't help but notice the perfect pair, the branded outfits, mother in tennis apparel, and daughter in matching gymnastic gear. Unconsciously, Jean looked down at her faded summer dress, then across at her daughter, Gem.

Gem was decked in her free T-shirt, issued the day before at the march against drugs. She was licking her dripping ice cream, smudges all over her cheeks. A widowed, single mother for six years, Jean had a monthly budget that restricted them to this single splurge, a visit to Dairy Queen that would not happen again until next payday. She found herself wishing she could afford extra-curricular opportunities for Gem that other girls, such as the girl nearby who was enrolled in gymnastics, were involved in.

Budget restrictions are not uncommon in the world of most single women heading families. Whether they are single mothers by choice, death of spouse, divorce, or adoption, in many cases these moms have limited funds to address family needs. Financially challenged, these ladies often feel guilty for not being able to afford the "finer" things of life, such as music, gymnastics, ballet, or swimming lessons. Like Jean, they often think, *How I wish I had the money for that!*

However, thinking outside the box can result in creative ways that you, as a single mom, could make your desires for your child a reality. Here are some helpful ideas:

1. Observe your child and identify what he or she may be interested in and may have a natural tendency to be good at. Then simply give your child the opportunity and basic tools to practise and excel at what they love.
2. Buy hobby items that may assist in talent development (e.g., paint set, books, etc., from yard sales or online sites—Kijiji/Craigslist) and second-hand stores (e.g., Value Village). Cheer them along; celebrate, display, and enthusiastically nurture their gifts.
3. Look for free classes at your local library, community centres, or clubs, and churches that teach these skills.
4. Seek out skilled unemployed or retired persons who are willing to train or mentor in exchange for service such as medication or grocery pickup.

In the Bible, Jesus tells the parable of the talents and holds us accountable to assist in their development. However, let's not miss the fun opportunities that cost only time. Teach them what you know, colour with them, sing with them, make them popcorn and hot chocolate, and giggle with them as they make funny mistakes. Teach them about Jesus, Christian values, and love principles. Don't miss this, for time is short. Remember there is a lifetime for classes but only a short season with you. ■

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

**References:** Colopy, Elsa K. *The Single Mom's Guide to Finding Joy in the Chaos* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2006). Kent, Carol. *Becoming a Woman of Influence* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1999).

For the August 2016 issue of the Messenger, You've Got Answers wants parents to ask their children, "How do you share God's love?" Send their answer, in 18 words or less, to [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca). Include a photo, and the age, of your child. Last names and locations will not be published.

## You've Got Answers

What is your favourite hymn?

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."



Carmel Williams Toronto, Ont.

"I Know Whom I Have Believed." I know my Saviour is able to keep me until that Day.



Millie Malabriga Toronto, Ont.

I've always loved "Blessed Assurance."



Kimberley Fitch Red Deer, Alta.

"It is well, It is well with my soul." It brings me peace.



Bettyanne Ellis Hamilton, Ont.

"O Perfect Love," because it was sung at my wedding.



Amanda Weber Williams Lake, B.C.

"The Old Rugged Cross" reminds me of Jesus' terrible sacrifice for each one of us.



Clifford Wood Port Hardy, B.C.

"Take my life and let it be ..."



James Lewis Arthur Victoria, B.C.

"Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?"



Debbie McLennan Trenton, Ont.

"It is well with my soul"



Gillian Janne Oshawa, Ont.

## Following God's Leading? Prepare to Be Amazed!



Left to Right: Michael, Jamie, William, and Emma Herlthey.

**I REMEMBER IT AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY.** As we entered the Richmond Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church on that particular Sabbath morning in spring 2011, we were greeted by an entourage of well-dressed and equally well-groomed high school students from Kingsway College. The Kingsway College Aerials were there to conduct the entire church service for the congregation, covering the music, children's story, and even the sermon.

Sabbath Day was about to unfold into something very different from what we were used to. We were not disappointed. Like a well-rehearsed script, our young visitors proceeded to fill our ears with the voice of the Lord through song and scripture. It was beyond impressive! I thought to myself, *Wow, wouldn't it be great if my own kids could be a part of*

*something as wonderful as this!* My wife later shared with me that she was having the very same thoughts.

That evening, my family and I entered into the gymnasium of a local high school. We were there to watch a performance put on by those very same students from Kingsway College who had blessed us earlier in the day at church. We weren't really sure what to expect. After all, how good could a group of high school kids really be at gymnastics? *Wow!* That's the only way I can describe it. We were totally blown away! From the very start of their performance, I could tell we were in for something special. The coaches coordinated the troupe as they performed jumps, flips, throws, catches, and more flips to create a tight and seamless routine. The precision we witnessed was of a calibre usually seen only on a professional level. We

were impressed with the discipline it took for the students to perform on this scale.

We could see that each individual student had a genuine interest and passion for what they were doing. It was obvious to us that the level of commitment from the coaches was equally matched by the students and that their relationship was built on a foundation of mutual trust and respect. It made quite an impression on my son, so much so, that he was already prodding my wife to let him go to Kingsway for his upcoming Grade 9 year.

We have always been firm supporters of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Our children have attended Adventist schools since junior kindergarten. Certainly, we had heard of Kingsway College and its impressive reputation; however, we had never actually considered sending our children to the school. After all, there were tuition and boarding costs to think about, not to mention all of the emotional considerations involved in sending your child away from home to the care of others. It had always seemed out of our reach. In fact, I honestly didn't even think it was possible. We were in no shape financially to make it happen. Could everything actually fall into place to make it a reality for us? We knew we couldn't afford to do it, but we also knew that we couldn't afford not to. Our commitment was there. We would make the sacrifice.

This story has a happy ending. Through God's grace, everything did fall into place for us. After making some hard decisions, my son was enrolled at Kingsway College that September to start his Grade 9 year. It was the best decision we have ever made. My daughter is now in her Grade 9 year at Kingsway College. We are big promoters of Kingsway. We love everything about the school and can't say enough great things about it! Through faith, we believed that our children would be able to attend Kingsway College, and we witnessed the miracles in our own lives that had made this possible. ■

*Michael and Jamie Herlthey are the parents of Emma (Grade 9) and William (Grade 12).*



# Industrial Arts Creates Buzz



Mechanics students at MANS are competing at the bit to learn about motors and get skills that will help them be self-sufficient. The school minutes could become a class project!

The excitement for industrial arts at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) started with the Canadian Welding Association (CWA) welding camp this summer. Five students, their teachers, and the head of the CWA Foundation returned from "Mind Over Metal" camp determined to keep the interest in welding and industrial arts at MANS in high gear.

A new partnership with the CWA Foundation is the cornerstone of a full-fledged industrial arts program being planned at MANS. This spring, as ground is broken for the new, separate high school building and Industrial Arts Centre, the first course was underway in April: Mechanics.

Even without dedicated space and the new high school facilities, there is a collective sense of curiosity, suspense, and excitement about the new mechanics program. This is serious business: students wanted to know in advance what skills they would acquire and what they'll be working on, and both male and female students were anxious to dive into their first high school industrial arts class.

What they are getting is an introduction to the world of engine maintenance, basic functions, tool usage, and vehicle care and maintenance. While shop space is currently lacking, forward-thinking instruction, based on lab work that will be performed on and off campus, engages students and prepares them for work in a real mechanics shop space in the new school.

"Being able to take apart an engine and put it back together is just cool!" responded one Grade 12 student, when asked what he thought of a mechanics course.

Mechanics teacher Mike Willing smiles broadly at student response. "I like that this class allows for some basic understanding of a complicated machine," he says. "Most know their cars by the fact that it gets you from point A to point B. I know my car by how it turns over, the unique noises it makes, and how difficult it is to maintain. Bringing a base understanding of that to my students will be well worth the effort."

The primary goal of the course, says Willing, is to introduce students to the trade, and he harbours every teacher's hope that the experience will sow the seed for long-term interest. Being a mechanic can provide a lifelong career that offers variety and chances for career advancement. "We all drive cars," observes Willing, who has learned many practical skills growing up in a farm family, "but without the steady hands of a mechanic under the hood, life would be a whole lot more troublesome." ■

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*Lynn McDowell is Director of Planned Giving and Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference, and Campaign Manager of the Bridge Campaign for Canada's mission school.*



# Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

*"Being a part of the PAA campus is like finding a summer camp that lasts all year."*

Coming from a family whose entire life is devoted to ministry, Nadine Potts says that Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) was the natural choice for her in completing her education. When her father, Jeff Potts, accepted the position of ministerial secretary for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan conference, Nadine's parents relocated from Winnipeg to Saskatoon, "and my coming to PAA was pretty much the plan from the beginning."

Nadine admits that her family struggled with the decision—as do many who send their children away to boarding school. "I didn't really want to leave home so young," she says. "Grade 10 was too soon, but by the time I came for Grade 11, I was more excited to see and do new things."

Having many friends already enrolled as students here made Nadine's enthusiasm more tangible, but she also celebrated the opportunity to meet new people. She describes herself as a "closet extrovert" and says, "One of the highlights of my year is being around more people. Everyone here seems to make their decisions based on God's influence, and that is a really good thing. There are a lot of people here that I'm similar to, and just didn't know it until I got to campus." According to Nadine, PAA is a great place to develop friendships because "the friends you make here, you keep for a long time."

Nadine has spent much of her youth supporting Adventist summer camp programming and plans to return to Camp Whitesand to work on the high ropes course at the end of her Grade 11 year. "Being a part of the PAA campus is like finding a summer camp that lasts all year," she adds.

In Nadine's eyes, PAA's learning environment is just the right blend of challenge and support with many opportunities to become involved and a great many mentors to lead the way. "At PAA there are so many people willing to talk with you if you have questions about life or the Bible. Not only teachers and staff and the dorm deans, who are just wonderful, but Butman students too," Nadine shares. "I've also enjoyed Bible studies with Pastor Sandra [wife of PAA chaplain, Ted Deer] on Thursdays after school. Living in Lacombe and going to school at PAA shows me that there is a really great community of people who want to help."



Nadine Potts

The experience of connecting with and learning from so many Christian role models has helped Nadine grow as a person. "I have more confidence now and the ability to talk with new people when I don't know what to say. I've also learned how to apply a more professional approach to school, and I'm more comfortable taking initiative." Immersed in PAA's vibrant school culture, Nadine has applied her interests and talents to positively influence those around her, and the campus has greatly benefited from her presence.

Though she doesn't hold office on the Student Association, Nadine is constantly assisting with fundraisers, programs, and Campus Ministry goals. She spearheaded a dorm-student praise band, and has joined Dauntless, PAA's touring student ministry team. Being an active part of the PAA student body has motivated Nadine to hone her skills. She says, "I definitely enjoy the musical part of life here. I've picked up instruments again because I have people to play with now."

Nadine is also looking forward to her upcoming short-term mission service with the PAA students, along with Pastor Ted, who will be joining Maranatha in Panama and Costa Rica. She says, "Here at PAA, I'm in the right position to figure out for myself what God wants for my life. I see God at school through the people and would encourage anyone to come for the community," because the lessons that really matter are those that point people toward Jesus. ■

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



# An Old New Way to Learn

**THIS PAST WINTER, STUDENTS IN THE GRADE 10 SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS** at Cariboo Adventist Academy in Williams Lake, B.C., were excited about the chance to dig into Canadian history in a way they hadn't experienced before. Their teacher, Meryl Carey, asked the students to choose a topic from the early 1900s in Canadian history, delve into it deeply, and then teach their fellow classmates what they had learned through their own investigation. The topics the students chose encompassed many interests, including understanding the rise of labour unions in Canada, following the expansion of rail transportation, and exploring how women had obtained the right to vote in Canada.

Adriane and Alisha, both students in the class, chose to research the history of women's suffrage in Canada. "I was surprised to realize how it really was a fairly short time ago that women were given the ability to vote," Alisha said.

Adriane added, "And I was fascinated to see how the right for women to vote happened because they had been involved in running farms and factories during the First World War." The girls described how they were going to be sharing their knowledge with their classmates through a series of miniplays designed to bring the stories they read about to life.

Meryl Carey, along with her colleagues at Cariboo Adventist Academy, has been eyeing the curricular changes coming in British Columbia. Before it became mandated, Meryl had wanted to try this way of teaching on for size. She told the students that this topic was going to be an experiment and that she, along with her students, would be learning the process together. The students themselves worked with Ms. Carey to develop the criteria for grading their final projects and presentations.

When I asked Adriane and Alisha and other students from the class about this way of learning, they were very excited, even though they and their teacher still have questions and issues to work out. Although tweaks to the process will continue, students and teacher believed that the process of learning something new together was exciting.

First-year English teacher Cody Mills is also experimenting. He taught his students to code their own learning as to whether it is for memory, understanding, application of a principle, or if the learning enters the realm of analyzing, evaluating, or creating. Mills regularly asks his students to reflect on these questions: "Can I determine what is significant to me? Can I achieve a way of learning that significance?"

Curricular change may seem new, but in reality, it is not. Many years ago a wise and godly woman with a gift penned these words. "It is the work of true education to ... train the youth to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men's thought." As Robert Parker, principal at Cariboo Adventist Academy echoes, "Our hope is that our students will grow academically through a love of thinking surrounded with a deep love for God." ■

*H. Lisa Stevens is a special education coordinator and teacher mentor at the British Columbia Conference.*



**Alisha and Adriane bring history alive with a series of mini-plays on women's suffrage in Canada.**

# Ontario Conference Develops

## WHERE THERE'S DISASTER, THERE'S HOPE.

The biblical mandate to feed the hungry and thirsty, clothe the naked, and tend to the sick is the foundation of the Adventist Community Services Disaster Recovery (ACS DR) ministry. ACS DR provides disaster response services to assist individuals, families, and communities affected by natural and human-made disasters and unforeseen tragedies.

Under the leadership of Pastor Theodore Sargeant, the ACS DR ministry of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has developed an expertise in donations management through multiagency warehouses, collection, and distribution centres. The ACS DR ministry comprises volunteers who form local disaster-response teams. These volunteers are trained to assist in disasters and calamities within the province.

"We are out there to serve the whole community. Our services are provided without regard to the clients' creed, colour, ethnic origin, social status, age, or disability," says Alain Normand, a Seventh-day Adventist and manager of the Brampton Emergency Management Office. Normand, a member of Immanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church in North York, was brought on board shortly after Sargeant, in spring 2012, held the first of a number of disaster-response training for volunteers.

Normand trains and equips volunteers to respond to an emergency. He has been involved in several disaster relief operations for the past 20 years, including the 1996 Saguenay floods, 1998 ice storm, blackout of 2003, and other local emergencies. Normand speaks on topics related to emergency management, business continuity, and pandemic planning. He also teaches emergency management at Sheridan College and York University. He sits on many local, provincial, and national committees aimed at enhancing

the profession of emergency managers and the promotion of the field of emergency management.

"We are grateful to have Alain as part of our team," says Sargeant. "His expertise and experience has been crucial to our work. He represents us as co-ordinator of ACS DR to other agencies."

Disasters are usually divided into two types:

1. Natural disasters, which involve the forces of nature, such as floods, windstorms, fires, tornadoes, and earthquakes
2. Events as a result of human activity and technology, such as fires, explosions, release of hazardous materials, and violent actions by individuals or groups against people and/or property

Emergencies, on the other hand, are

classified into five categories:

1. Natural, such as an avalanche or earthquake
2. Technological, such as a blackout or mine accident
3. Social, such as arson, bombing, or labour strife
4. Health, such as a pandemic, epidemic, famine, or infestation
5. International crisis, such as terrorism and war

ACS DR helps manage the in-kind donations when a disaster or an emergency strikes. The ministry helps co-ordinate the receiving of goods and warehousing, including sorting, storage and shipping, and distribution.

"People aren't always ready to receive goods





# Expertise in Disaster Response

during a disaster. If someone has lost their home, they will have nowhere to put donated stuff. We can keep these items in storage until people are ready to regain their homes. We can also arrange shipping to their home," says Normand.

ACS DR will distribute donated goods either through another agency, such as the Salvation Army, or do it themselves when no third party is available. It is usually one of the first agencies on site to help with local and mobile distribution. Often during an emergency, people will gather items in their homes and drop off at makeshift locations where there is no proper co-ordination to sort through the

goods. ACS DR will work with other agencies to ensure only the best donated items are distributed to victims.

"It's a huge task to get all the donated goods sorted. People mean well when there is a natural disaster or emergency, but they often don't think if the stuff they are donating is really needed by the victims. A lot of planning goes into determining where goods are sent and how the whole process will flow, including fleet management," Normand explains.

He adds the Ontario's ACS DR would like to spread the word about what it does and the fact it is always ready to serve. "We want to reach out to the local communities so they know they can call upon us. We have to knock on their doors and let them know we are here to help."

Sargeant says that one of the priorities of the Ontario Conference is for every church to become relevant to its community.

"We believe that the optimum way of becoming relevant is to become involved in

our communities to meet people's needs. ACS DR is one of the most visible ways of doing so."

Church members, including children and youth, are welcome to volunteer with ACS DR. Volunteers in the ministry are not directly involved with the public; therefore, youth are encouraged to participate by sorting food and packing boxes. During a call to service, ACS DR will usually arrange a temporary distribution location at a community centre, warehouse or arena to sort, pack, and sometimes clean donated items. Additional help is always needed in these areas.

"Anyone can help sort items. You don't need any prior experience, and because there is no direct involvement with the public, it's easier for people to get involved," says Normand, adding that he is working to develop a core team that will be readily available to fill key positions when an emergency occurs.

ACS DR works with other agencies, such as the Canadian Red Cross; Christian Reformed World Relief Committee of Canada; Mennonite Disaster Service; St. John Ambulance, and Salvation Army. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North American Division has a mandate to respond to the needs of people in time of disaster through the co-operation of volunteers in individual churches across Canada, organized by Adventist Community Services.

If you would like to get involved in Adventist Community Services Disaster Recovery, please contact your local church community services department; or in Ontario: Alain Normand at [alain.normand@brampton.ca](mailto:alain.normand@brampton.ca) or Theodore Sargeant at [tsargeant@adventistontario.org](mailto:tsargeant@adventistontario.org). ■

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*Sharon Laidlaw is a Brampton-based writer and editor. She is a member of Ruth Seventh-day Adventist Church and is involved in children's ministry and community services departments.*



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.

## British Columbia

### Wayne and Sylvia Culmore Retire from Service



Sylvia and Wayne Culmore

On March 1, 2016, Wayne and Sylvia Culmore retired as president and administrative secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference), respectively. During their eight years of faithful service in the conference, the couple did their humble part in propelling the work of God forward in British Columbia and the Yukon. They have left a lasting impression on the hearts of everyone they have served and worked with.

When asked to describe Wayne, each of his colleagues at the BC Conference illustrated his leadership qualities, expressing appreciation for his leadership style. "As I worked with Wayne, my appreciation for him grew. He has such a likeable personality, and he is a great leader," explains Sven Tomlov, Associate Treasurer and Planned Giving Director. "When you're with him, you know what role you are playing and what he expects of you. On a day-to-day basis, he knows what he wants done and he does his best to help you achieve your goals, too."

Sylvia's colleagues expressed appreciation for her pleasant attitude and her listening ear whenever accomplishing a task. They describe her as the motherly figure of their team. "Sylvia has such a friendly demeanour and a great personality," muses Betty Lang, Office Manager. "She's constantly on the ball and accomplishes her job with a smile on her face."

Prior to their work in the British Columbia Conference, Wayne and Sylvia Culmore served in a number of different positions across North America, as well as Africa. They have ministered wherever God has called them: our institutions, our churches, and our conferences. Their ministry together began at Canadian Union College (now Burman University) and now ends at the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference).

Although the couple now resides in Anacortes, Wash., the people they have encountered during their ministry will always remember them in their own unique way. "[We'll] remember [Wayne] for his care, humility, and his overall enthusiasm," say Shelley Lewis, Youth Ministries Secretary, and Esther Koppers, Administrative Secretary. "He made each and every one of us feel important." Wayne and Sylvia each brought something special in their respective jobs. "Sylvia's friendly smile and gentleness in her speech is what I'll remember about her," remarks Wesley Torres, President. "She's sensitive and respectful when she talks with others, and overall, she's a wonderful listener."

The 11,300 members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia and the Yukon sincerely thank Wayne and Sylvia Culmore for their ministry and their service. Their love for God and love for the church encourages and inspires us to continue forward with our mission as a conference to REACH people with a Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Mar. 31, 2016, there were 427 depositors with a total deposit of \$28,871,714. There were 89 loans with a value of \$25,538,692.

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



## Ontario

### Bronte Seventh-day Adventist Church Kerr Street Ministries

Bronte volunteers felt richly blessed as they served a chili dinner “with all the works” to approximately 75 visitors to Kerr Street Ministries. Volunteers served through giving of their time, donating supplies, contributing money to purchase the groceries, and preparing and serving dinner. In whatever way we serve others, we serve the Lord.

Bronte Church’s Community Services Ministry has partnered with SafetyNet by collecting and donating clothing and other personal items to assist families in the community. Community Services delivers donated items on a quarterly basis; as the seasons change, so do the needs of those we support. Items are provided for babies, children, youth, young adults, as well as for men and women getting back into the workforce. As we remember those in our community who are in need, we remember Jesus’ words when He said “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me” (Matt. 25:35, 36, NIV). We are humbled to serve in His Name. ■

— Shahida Subratee



Volunteers preparing a chili dinner at Kerr Street Ministries.

## Alberta

### Alberta Conference Staff Take Part in ADRA Canada’s Ration Meal Challenge



Kath Bidder ready to partake of his ADRA meal ration.

Have you had three meals today? What about two? Most certainly one. We are so fortunate to live in a part of the world where food is plentiful. As you know, millions of people around the

world today are not so fortunate. For many it is a challenge to find enough food for one meal a day, and at that it’s just small rations.

The World Food Programme website ([www.wfp.org/hunger/stats](http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats)) states, “Some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life.” That’s about one in nine people on earth.

For whatever reason might be causing a food crisis—poverty, conflict, drought, or disaster—people need food to survive. As a way to bring more attention to the food crisis around the world, on Jan. 12, 2016, the Alberta Conference staff took part in ADRA Canada’s Ration Meal Challenge.

Each person was given three compact ration bars, one for each meal of the day. The World Health Organization says a typical ration consists of 450 grams of

cereal, 50 grams of pulses, 50 grams of oil, and 5 grams of iodized salt per person per day.

One individual at the Alberta Conference office described the ration bar like “eating wheat germ,” another like cream of wheat. Some chose to soak the ration bar in water and eat it like porridge. Regardless of how the ration bar was consumed, people felt the Ration Meal Challenge was an eye opener and reminder of the food challenges many are faced with every day.

You can help provide food for individuals who are in need by supporting an ADRA Canada project highlighted in ADRA’s gift catalogue at [www.adra.ca/donate/giftcatalogue](http://www.adra.ca/donate/giftcatalogue). ■

—Troy McQueen,  
Alberta Conference  
Communications Director



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"IF YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN IT SIMPLY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT WELL ENOUGH."  
- ALBERT EINSTEIN

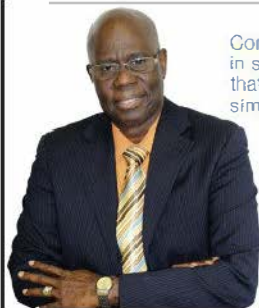
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■ **Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
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your name and contact information to [info@adventistcatharines.org](mailto:info@adventistcatharines.org) and your name will be added to our invitation list. More detailed information will be sent out at a later date. If you know the whereabouts of other former members, we would also appreciate hearing from you.

■ **Legal Notice**

**The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada 18<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Session**

Notice is hereby given that the 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada will be held in Lacombe, Alta., at Burman University, from Friday, Aug. 19, 2016 to Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016. The first meeting will convene at 2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 19, 2016.

The Meeting is called for the purpose of receiving reports for the past five years, the election of officers, directors and associate/assistant directors of departments, the election of the Board of Directors, consideration of proposed changes in the Bylaws that may be recommended, and the transaction of such other business as may come before the Meeting at that time.

Each local conference or mission shall be entitled to two (2) delegates without regard to conference membership and one (1) additional delegate for each five hundred (500) church members or major fraction thereof who shall be chosen by their respective Conference or Mission board.

*Mark Johnson, President*

*Daniel Stojanovic, VP for Administration*

■ **New Members**

**ALBERTA**

**Gealia Kubera** was baptized in Leduc, Alta., on Dec. 19, 2015, by Melbourne Turgott. She is now a member of the Leduc church.

**Hannah Leming** was baptized in Leduc, Alta., on Dec. 19, 2015, by Melbourne Turgott. She is now a member of the Leduc church.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Giovanna Escalera-Espinosa** was baptized in Maple Ridge, B.C., on Jan. 30, 2016, by Jorge Tenorio. Her baptism was made even more special with a violin performance of "I Surrender All" by Tim Nagy and special music by a friend. Giovanna is now a member of the Maple Ridge church.

**MARITIME**

**Doug Perrott** was voted into membership by profession of faith on Jan.

2, 2016, by Kevin Scott. He has served as organist of the Halifax church for many years. He is now a member of the Halifax church.

■ **Births**

**Ezra Kade Desjardins** was born on March 13, 2015, to Danic and Leale Desjardins of Kingman, Alta.

■ **Anniversaries**

**Elsworth and Joy Blakney** of Barnesville, N.B., celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 15,



2015, with family and friends at the home of their daughter in Quispamsis, N.B. The Blakneys have four children, Brenda Morton, Carmel (Pat) Vivier, Noreen (John) Smith, and Dwayne (Lorna) Blakney; nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

■ **Obituaries**

**Gilles Coutru** was born on July 17, 1927, in Montreal, Que., and died on Jan. 9, 2016, in St. Joachim of Shefford, Que. He is predeceased by his son, Mark Coutru. Surviving: wife, Louise Coutru Champagne; sons, Mickel (Lise) Coutru of St-Hubert, Que., Gery Coutru of Kelowna, B.C.; daughters, Christina Coutru of Edmonton, Alta., Danielle Coutru of Kelowna, Angelina (Pete) Coutru of Kelowna; 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

**Elvin Ferster** was born on June 5, 1941, in Melville, Sask., and died on Jan. 10, 2016, in Leduc, Alta. He was a self-taught skilled craftsman, kind, well-mannered, and a true gentleman. In retirement, Elvin settled in Leduc and kept active with business, church, and family. Elvin is predeceased by his parents, Reinhold and Nora Ferster; sisters, Lillian Sorenson, Glenda Ferster. Surviving: wife, Billie Jean (née Fowler) Ferster; sons, Kevin (Mary Lou) Ferster of Abbotsford, B.C., Dean (Michelle) Ferster of Slave Lake, Alta., Jerry (Nadine) Ferster of Grand Prairie, Alta.; daughter, Bonnie (Kim) Wigley of Leduc; brother,

Harold (Cathy) Ferster of Spruce Grove, Alta.; sister, Alma (Al) Lisak of Anacortes, Wash.; 22 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Jacob (Jack) Friesen** was born on Nov. 13, 1942, in Seebach, Man., and died on Dec. 14, 2015, in Hamilton, Ont. He served as a pastor for 30 years and was heard on VOAR in Newfoundland in Sarnia, Ont. He was a humble man who loved his God and his children. Jack is predeceased by his parents, Henry and Jessie Friesen. Surviving: wife, Mary (née White) Friesen; son, David Scott of Courtoice, Ont.; daughters, Julia Tumble of Burlington, Ont., Tammy (Stephen) Friesen of Burlington; brothers, Herman Friesen, Larry Friesen, Tim Friesen; sisters, Martha Fabricis, Elsie Ulyan; and seven grandchildren.

**Myrtle (née Wetter) Knopp** was born on Nov. 11, 1928, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Jan. 27, 2016, in Leduc, Alta. She developed a love and respect for the earth after helping her mother manage cattle on the family farm. Myrtle played the accordion and sang as a child, and also instilled the gift of music in her children. Myrtle is predeceased by her parents, Dan and Alma Wetter. Surviving: husband, Elmer Knopp; sons, Glenn (Ester) Knopp of Leduc, Dan (Colleen) Knopp of Leduc; daughters, Caroline (Garry) Walters of Leduc, Glenda (Mike) Anton of Edmonton; sister, Grace Wetter, of Leduc; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Shirley (née Graham) Lardale** was born on May 23, 1935, in Vernon, B.C., and died on Feb. 7, 2016, in Halifax, N.S. She taught for a number of years in Halifax, Toronto, and Vancouver; held many church offices; and was gifted in music, sewing, art, and gardening. Shirley is predeceased by her parents, William and Winifred Graham; brother, William Graham. Surviving: husband, Wayne Lardale; sons, Ray (Kelly) Lardale of Hubley, N.S., Glenn Lardale of Hubley; sisters, Beretley (Jerry) O'Neill, Judy (Laurie Lyons) Befus of B.C.; and three grandchildren.

**Eva Marie (née Gammon) Scobie** was born on March 19, 1927, in Carnation, Wash., and died on Feb. 4, 2016, in Dawson Creek, B.C. She and her husband were strong supporters of the church in Dawson Creek after their baptism in 1972. Eva is predeceased by her husband, William Scobie; parents, John and Myrtle Gammon; brothers, Darwin Gammon, Marvin Gammon; sister, Marjorie Cook. Surviving: son, Ronald (Cheryl) Scobie of Dawson Creek; daughter, Connie (Ronald) Lemiak of Consort, Alta.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

■ **Announcements**

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

**The St. Catharines Seventh-day Adventist Church** (St. Catharines, Ont.) will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Oct. 14 and 15, 2016. If you are a former member, pastor, school teacher, or a descendant of an early member and would like to attend this memorable occasion, we would like to hear from you. Kindly send

**Werner Seidel** was born on March 4, 1938, in Rimbey, Alta., and died on Aug. 21, 2015, in Strathmore, Alta. He graduated from Canadian Union College with a degree in theology and worked in Newfoundland, Quebec, New Brunswick, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Zaire, ending his career in the Beiseker Levelland area of Alberta. He was known by many as "our beloved pastor." Werner is predeceased by his parents, Richard and Elsie Seidel; brothers, Elias Seidel, Benjamin Seidel. Surviving: wife, Geri Seidel; sons, Brent (Brenda) Seidel, Kevin Seidel; brothers, Carl Seidel, Dick Seidel, Lloyd Seidel.

**Mavis (Jacobsen-Stansal) Stanley** was born on March 25, 1925, in Ottawa, Ont., and died on Feb. 25, 2016, in Victoria, B.C. She served as Sabbath school teacher in Paris, Ont., church treasurer in Comox, B.C., knit gifts for newborns for Comox church, and always made the world a better place. She demonstrated her faith through courage, generosity, and love. Mavis is predeceased by her former husbands, Raymond Stansal and Lindy Jacobson. Surviving: husband, Jim Stanley; sons, Glenn Stansal of Lacombe, Alta., Jon Stansal of Victoria; daughters, Bonnie Wilde of Victoria, Jennie Cathy of Sidney, B.C., Martha West of Victoria, Anne Sutherland of Saanichton, B.C., Mary Stansal of Sidney; 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Milka Uniat** was born on June 27, 1926, in Beauvallon, Alta., and died on Jan. 13, 2016, in Edmonton, Alta. He is predeceased by his parents, two brothers, and four sisters. Surviving: wife, Lillian Uniat; brothers, John (Lesley) Uniat of Calif., Joseph (Dorothy) Uniat of Calif.; sisters,

Mary Marian of Grand Forks, B.C., Alicie (Art) Cooper of Vernon, B.C.

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## ■ Tribute

**Joy Florence Brown** was born in Selkirk, Man., on April 2, 1925. She died peacefully in the morning of Jan. 6, 2016. Her parents were the late Pastor and Mrs. P. G. Bly of Oshawa, Ont. She met her husband of 30 years while attending Oshawa Missionary College (now Kingsway College), then moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., before eventually heading to California to support her husband throughout his medical training at Loma Linda. During that time she worked as a legal secretary. After

returning to Canada, her husband began his medical practice in Toronto, and Joy began raising their family. Joy was a faithful, founding member of the Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church and active with the Loma Linda alumni. She loved life at the cottage on Lake Simcoe, seldom walked away from a Scrabble game that she did not win, and was committed to her children's education. She was the loving mother of Rhonda Taylor and Lara Honsley and was devoted to her grandchildren, Thomas, Lauren, and Brooks. Her spirited personality will be lovingly remembered and missed by many. She is resting now, awaiting the second coming of Christ.

## ■ Advertisements

### Desire more impact from your short-term mission efforts?

Southern Adventist University's Global Community Development Program is hosting a *Transforming & Educating Ambassadors for Mission and Service Forum*, July 14–16, 2016. Congregations across North America will discuss improvements on short-term mission impacts for sustainable difference making. For registration and information, contact: [mged@southern.edu](mailto:mged@southern.edu) or 423/236-2070. (5/16)

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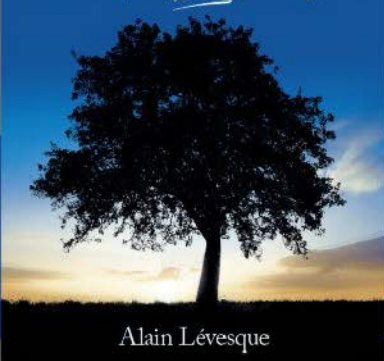
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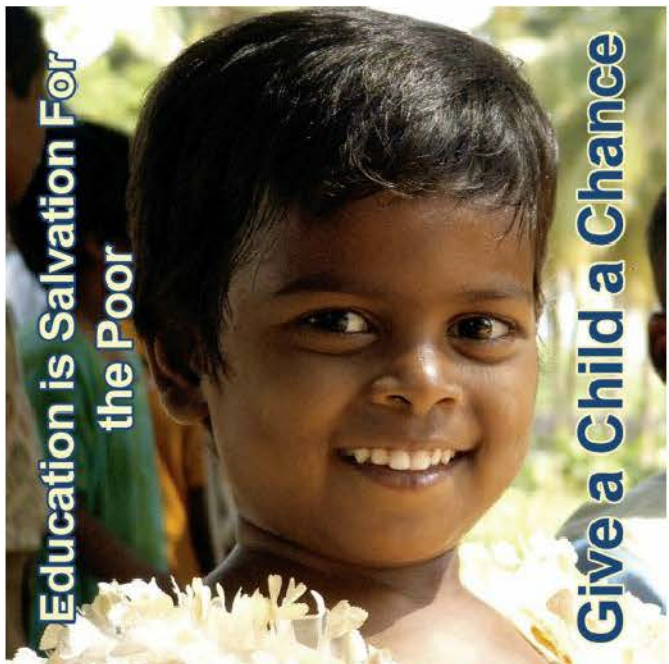
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## from the editor

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# courage on the frontline

**AS I WRITE THIS, I AM IN THE YOUNGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.** In 2011 South Sudan declared its independence from Sudan and was recently granted sovereign status by the United Nations. But even in its young age, South Sudan is troubled by war and violence.

In the capital city of Juba my “luxurious accommodations” were a converted 20-foot shipping container that I soon discovered had been occupied by former Newfoundland Mission president David Crook a day earlier. The project I am visiting is a four-hour drive from Juba on what can only be loosely classified as “roads.” Once we arrived at our accommodations in the field, I soon longed for that shipping container.

The group I visited is responsible for 2,334 families. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada, in conjunction with Canada Foodgrains Bank, provides vital food that helps keep families healthy. African mothers ache for safety and security with their children just as much as Canadian mothers do, and it was painfully difficult to hear children tell us about their ongoing nightmares of soldiers coming to kill them or their parents.

For three days and nights I lived and worked with about a dozen of ADRA South Sudan’s frontline workers—sleeping where they sleep, eating what they eat, travelling where they travel, and worshipping where they worship. They are my heroes. One told me of being stopped at a checkpoint

guarded by a nervous-yet-armed child soldier—these are often young boys who were scooped out of homes and schools and are as young as eight years old.

These ADRA workers have made friends with the host community and the local Episcopal church. ADRA South Sudan’s 514 highly skilled and educated workers come from diverse parts of Africa, and they are all heroes who put their personal safety at risk to help refugees get re-established. When we received reports of soldiers killing refugees at night thinking they were rebels, these dynamic ADRA workers never skipped a beat or missed an hour of service. They are unflinchingly focused on their mission.

This made me wonder. Am I that unflinchingly focused on my appointed mission? I know a preschool-aged girl who sets aside all the money she receives for saving, tithe, spending, and ADRA. Along with a little assistance from her parents, she used her \$11 in savings to purchase something from ADRA’s gift catalogue (available year-round). That is focus and dedication and, in my mind, evidence that this coming generation is the best our church has ever had. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor  
Canadian Adventist Messenger

*PS: I, like so many, Adventists provide a monthly donation to ADRA Canada at [adra.ca/donate](http://adra.ca/donate).*



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