

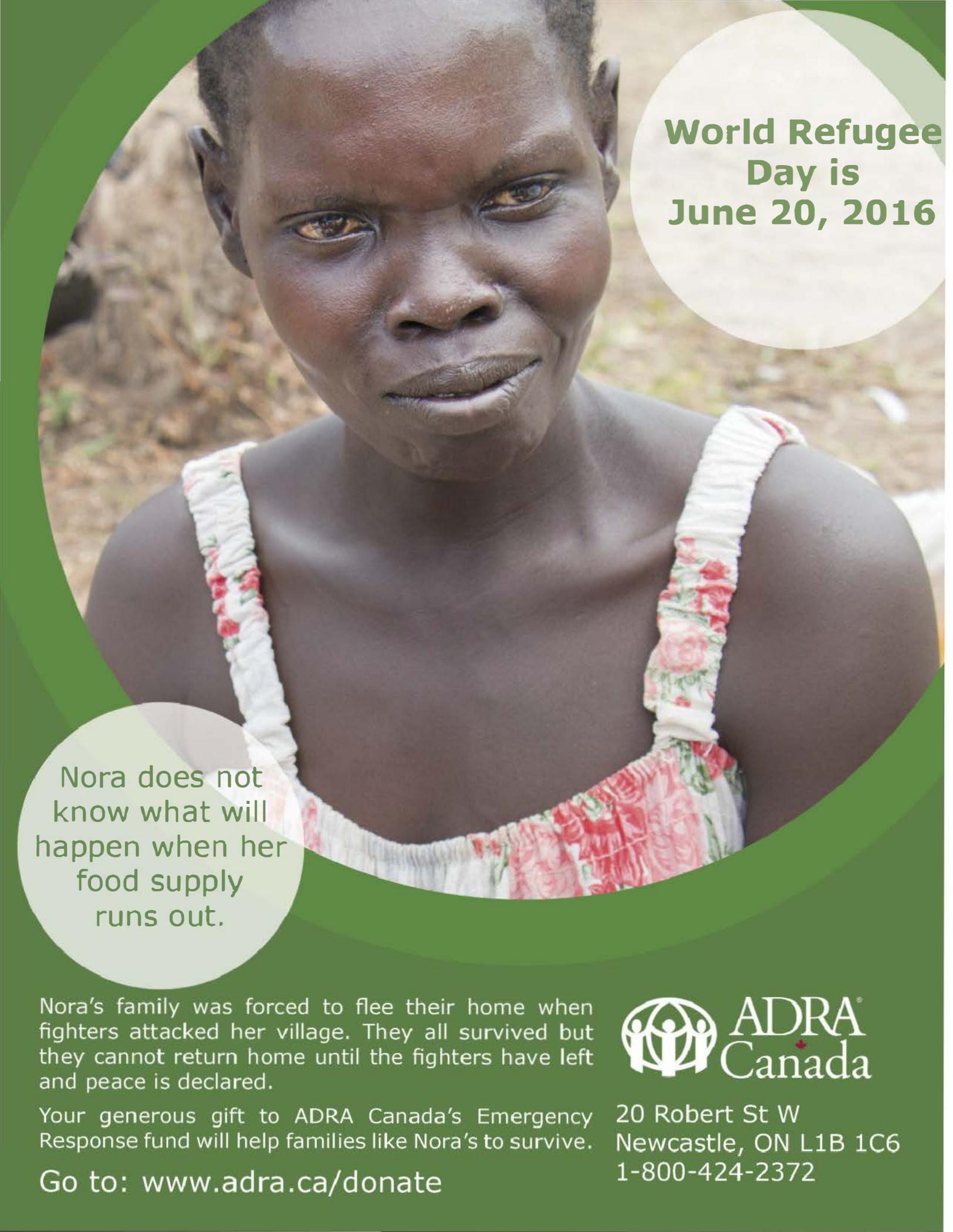


Reaching Calgary

Calgary-area churches partner with *It Is Written Canada* to reach Calgary with Christ.

PLUS The Peanut Farmer (p. 6) The Promise (p. 13)
Four Levels of Faith (p. 17)
Your 2016 Campmeeting Guide (p. 33)





**World Refugee
Day is
June 20, 2016**

Nora does not know what will happen when her food supply runs out.

Nora's family was forced to flee their home when fighters attacked her village. They all survived but they cannot return home until the fighters have left and peace is declared.

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Go to: www.adra.ca/donate



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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 SDACC 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 Guidelines

August issue **June 2**
September issue **June 30**
October issue **August 11**

View this issue online at www.adventist.ca/messenger

Postmaster: Please return undelivered
copies of issues to *Messenger* at **1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8**

Canada Post agreement number 40069687.



“Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

—1 Timothy 4:7, 8, ESV

Training

A friend of mine in school was a distance runner. I was impressed by his commitment. Rain or shine, warm or cold, on Sunday cross-country running was his event. Of course, to do well on the weekend, he had to run before or after school throughout the week.

Now, right up front, let me be clear that I'm *not* a runner. Bicycling, yes. Walking briskly, yes. Running, no. Anyone who's seen me lately can tell, at a glance, that I don't have a runner's physique and, further, that I haven't been too faithful in my preferred exercises either.

In several places, Paul, a man of faith and a late blooming follower of Jesus, uses the paradigm of exercise to stimulate our thinking about how one lives as a Christian. Our text today is about training. And here he means training that burns makes one physically fitter.

Writing to Timothy, Paul says, "Train yourself for godliness." This godliness training is important because it incorporates regular spiritual development into our daily routine. Two habits are core to personal spiritual training. The first is our time in Scripture. Both what to believe and how to live are a part of the purpose of the Bible. If you want to be spiritually strong, find a reliable Bible translation that you can understand and get to it early, every day. What a difference you will notice.

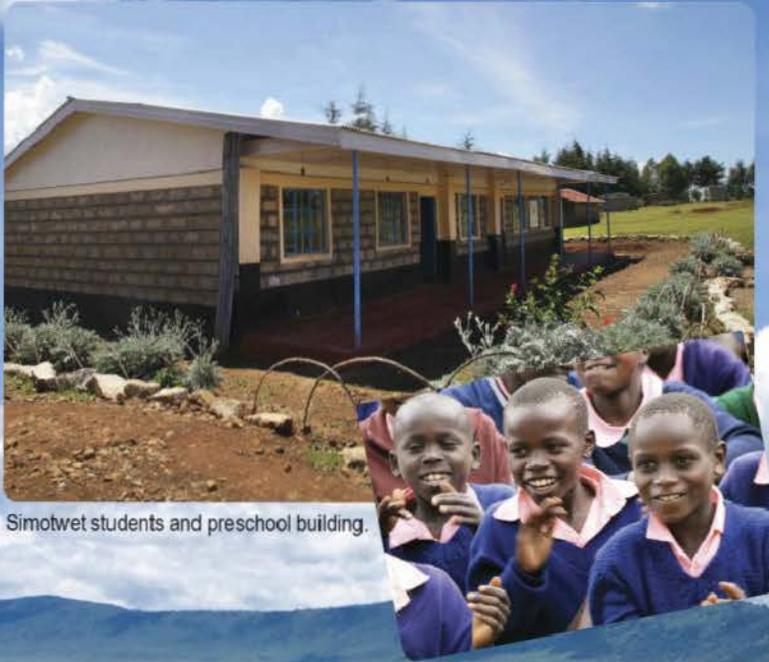
The second important habit is sharing faith. We are most effective in witness when we model what we say. Both explaining personal faith and living it are important. They go hand in hand. Faith shared will change us. Our attitude will shift. Purposes will be changed. Lives will be changed for now and for eternity.

Why not design a faith training strategy for your summer? ■

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



Upcoming Trips 2016



Simotwet students and preschool building.

Kenya Trip October 2 - October 16

- ✓ Fully escorted tour of Kenya and A Better World project sites.
- ✓ Help out at schools, orphanages and clinics.
- ✓ Explore the local culture and connect with communities.
- ✓ See the wildlife in the Masai Mara and enjoy the famous game park.

A Better World (ABW) was founded in 1990 by the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Burman University in Lacombe. A Better World involves community and church members and implements projects in direct partnership with local communities abroad. Over 2800 volunteers have travelled with A Better World!

For more information contact: Julie Stegmaier
jstegmaier@abwcanada.ca or visit www.abwcanada.ca
to submit your application.

Medical Trip

November 12 - November 27

Location to be determined (either Kenya or Tanzania.)

Needed: All health care professionals (Nurses, Doctors, Physios, Pharmacists and Dentists etc.)
Non Health Care Professionals are welcome as Support Persons on this trip.

To:

- Provide training for local health care workers
- Assist in the clinics built by A Better World
- Serve in rural medical camps

Team Leaders:

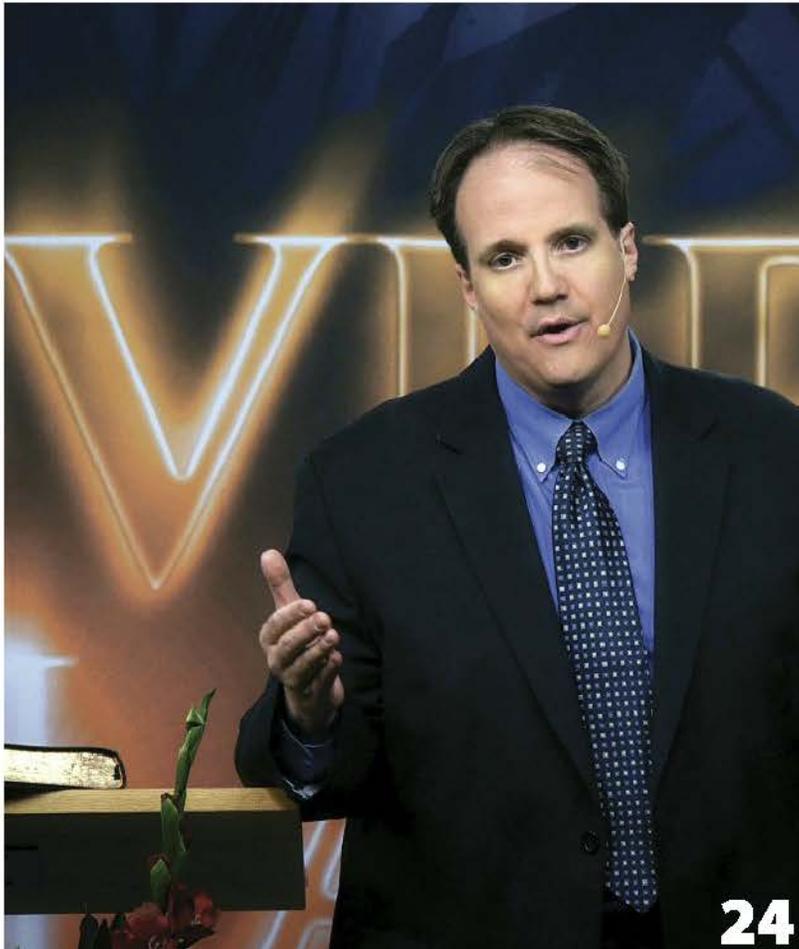
Dr. Ray Comeau & Deryl Comeau RN, BScN, MN
Directors of ABW Canada's Medical Health Projects
Together they have led medical teams for the past thirteen years. Early in their careers, they worked for two years at a remote island hospital in Vanuatu, South Pacific.

For more information contact: The Comeau's
rdcomeau@abwcanada.ca or visit www.abwcanada.ca
to submit your application.



A medical volunteer, and Kenyan clinical officer Juma Sampuerrap, observe as Dr. Ray Comeau examines a patient during one of many medical clinics.

Sustainable
change to improve
lives.



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The Peanut Farmer

IT WAS 7 P.M., AND SAN WIN WAS HOME. It was dark, and the sound of rain on his tin roof was becoming deafening. He had experienced heavy monsoon rains countless times before, and these rains seemed no different. Three hours later he was startled awake by his neighbours yelling and pounding on his door. Flood waters had risen rapidly and were approaching his front door. The roads out of the village were already inundated, and San Win was left with only one choice. He and his family climbed onto the roof of his house and waited for the water to subside.

San Win was a farmer, and he relied on the income from his rice, tomatoes, and sunflowers to support his family. He had recently planted rice and was looking forward to a profitable year.

As the water began to recede from his village and the surrounding countryside, a new problem emerged. The flood waters had carried sediment from the nearby mountains into the village. This sediment had completely buried all of the roads, houses, and other buildings in the village. Almost two metres of sediment also covered San Win's rice paddies. His entire crop was destroyed.

With the loss of his source of income as well as all of his family's food, San Win questioned how he and his family were going to survive. The normally profitable growing season was now a total loss, and there was no hope of replanting.

San Win heard that ADRA was running a Cash for Work program for people affected by the floods. He signed up. Through this program the villagers were able to clean the sand out of the local school, people's homes, and began to clear the streets, making transportation easier.

The Cash for Work program gave San Win an income that allowed him to buy the necessities his family needed.

During his time cleaning the village, San Win learned about a crop that was able to grow in sandy soil. With some of the cash that he saved, he was able to purchase 40 baskets of peanuts. He planted these peanuts in the now sandy soil. San Win now proudly shows off the prize peanut plants that he was able to grow thanks to ADRA's Cash for Work program. They are growing so well that he expects to harvest over 700 baskets of peanuts that he will then sell in the nearby markets.

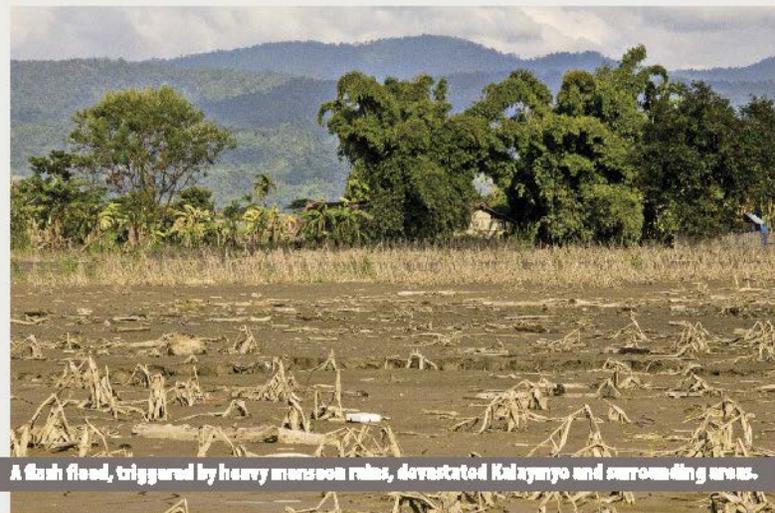
San Win proudly smiles and says, "ADRA helped me turn 40 into 700!"

If you would like to help people like San Win recover after disaster, please visit www.adra.ca. ■



Michael Kirkby is Connections Coordinator for ADRA Canada

ADRA
Canada



A flash flood, triggered by heavy monsoon rains, devastated Kalaynyio and surrounding areas.

The Graciousness of God

Our God is so gracious! Yet in order to restore our relationship with Him, He will use whatever means necessary—but never more severe than is essential.

Most of us have, at some point, been recipients of public humiliation or, even worse, may have inflicted it on others, even children, to control their behaviour. Reactions to being humiliated vary but usually result in broken relationships. Healing requires special treatment, but Jesus seemed to know how to do that. Perhaps we should study His method and heed His counsel.

Consider Simeon. He invites Jesus and His disciples to a thank-you banquet. As they dine, Mary Magdalene tiptoes into the room, slips over to where Jesus is reclining, opens a perfume flask, and pours the fragrant oil on Jesus' head (see Matt. 26:7). Suddenly, as Mary is overcome with emotion, her tears fall on Jesus' feet and she dries them with her hair.

As the fragrance wafts through the room, eyes follow noses. Judas mumbles, "What a waste! The money could have been used better!" Simeon, smart enough to keep his thoughts to himself, is disappointed that Jesus, a supposed prophet, doesn't know this woman is a prostitute. After all, he (Simeon) is acquainted with her reputation first-hand.¹

Jesus, reading Simeon's thoughts, takes control of the conversation. He tells a story. "Two debtors owed the same creditor: one, 50 pence; the other, 500. Both debtors were unable to pay, and the creditor forgave both." Turning to Simeon, Jesus asks, "Who do you think loved the creditor the most?" Hesitatingly, Simeon replies, "I suppose, the one who has been forgiven most." Good answer! Though no one else does, Simeon catches on. He, the very one who had led this woman into sin, is the greater debtor.

Here is the point. "Simon was touched by the kindness of Jesus in not openly rebuking him before his guests.... He saw that Jesus did not wish to expose his guilt to others, but sought by a true statement of the case to convince his mind, and by pitying kindness to subdue his heart."² Jesus' way paid off: Simeon became a self-sacrificing disciple.

What a gracious Saviour! Jesus does not revel in publicly exposing our errors! Neither should we revel in exposing the errors of others!

I'm indebted to a young elder in one of my districts who privately shared with me my neglect to communicate well with local leadership. If this didn't improve, my future ministry could be jeopardized. To my knowledge, he never shared our conversation with anyone else.

Thank God when He sends someone who sensitively and privately points out our deficiencies. Furthermore, when necessary, can we confront others the same way?

In my files is an article on Matthew 18. Here are the nuggets.

- In a serious disagreement, we are obligated to try to restore that relationship. Rationalizing the hurt, pretending it doesn't exist, or minimizing the offensiveness does not restore it.
- Go to the offender—alone.
- Beforehand, examine to see if you have failed in a similar area. Maybe something you did caused him or her to react. That needs to be resolved too. Many times the things we dislike in others are unconscious weaknesses in us.
- The purpose for confrontation is always restoration—not retribution.
- Only after the one-on-one approach has failed should you involve a second person. Again, *only* for restoration.
- When all else fails, then take it to the bigger body, but only to develop a program of restoration.

The key to restoring relationship is to treat others in the same gracious manner God treats us. He deals only as severely as necessary to get our attention. As we act on His behalf, let's do the same. ■

Ken Wiebe is president of the Alberta Conference.



¹see Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 566.

²*ibid.*, 567.

teen talk

Q: I don't think anyone would actually notice if I were gone...

A: That's quite a sombre statement. The perception of being invisible to others is very hard. I'm sorry you're feeling this way. Once you come to that conclusion, it can be challenging to see things differently.

I once watched a movie where the main character took a blind man for a stroll and described to him the beauty of their surroundings. It was spring, so there were many flowers, birds, and children playing. By the end of the scene, the blind man was remarkably happy. Well, my friend, that's what you need. Reach out to someone you trust and share your feelings. Let them help you see how loved and appreciated you are and how this world is a better place because of you.

Giving our best to Jesus,

Josué Sánchez ■



Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.

Blue Jay

"And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."—John 8:11

A 10-year mystery has been solved in Minden, Ontario, where rural address signs have been vandalized. The signs help emergency workers find the country homes of people who call for help. Why would anyone want to peel address numbers off the signs? But that's what was happening. And replacing the signs has been expensive. The County of Haliburton has replaced around 1,000 damaged signs at a cost of about \$23,000. The hooligans had to be stopped. But who were they? Finally, someone spotted a blue jay pecking a sign and called the authorities. A camera was set up, and sure enough, a band of badly behaving blue jays was caught in the act!

Think about it.

Like the blue jays, the woman who was thrown down at Jesus' feet was guilty. There was no point in making excuses, trying to pretend she was innocent, or blaming someone else. She was guilty and would have to take the consequences.

Have you ever been caught red-handed? The best thing to do is to accept that you were wrong, repent, and make it right if you can. No excuses. When you're feeling humiliated, just remember how Jesus treated the woman, and go and sin no more. Jesus loves you still and will restore you.

Do it!

On a piece of paper write about a time when you were caught red-handed. Crumple the paper into a ball and bury your paper "stone" in a hole in the ground, where it will disintegrate and melt away into the dirt. Remember your dissolving underground "stone" whenever you feel too guilty for Jesus to love you or when you feel like accusing or "casting stones" at others.



New Vice-President for Academic Administration



Noble Donkor

TO BE KEPT INFORMED about current events at Burman University, visit www.burmanu.ca and sign up for our newsletter. You can also follow the President's Page blog on Facebook—search "President's Page for Burman University."

BURMAN UNIVERSITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the appointment of Noble Donkor as the new Vice-President for Academic Administration. The appointment is effective June 1, 2016.

Noble Donkor has most recently been serving as the chair of the biology department, a position he has held since 2010. Donkor has taught biology courses at Burman University since 2004. He completed his undergraduate training, with honours, at the University of Science and Technology in Ghana, his master's degree at the University of Guelph, and his doctorate at the University of Alberta in Wildlife Ecology and Management.

Donkor was also awarded the 2015/2016 Burman University Excellence in Teaching Award. The recipient of this award is nominated and has to show excellence in seven areas: philosophy on instruction, quality of course design, effectiveness of delivery, a teaching evaluation, a reflection on their teaching, demonstration of professional development, and engagement and production of scholarly research. Dr. Donkor is known as a warm, caring, and approachable professor who sets high expectations for each student. A student writing on behalf of Donkor's nomination had this to say about him, "Prof. Donkor's unparalleled devotion to his students, work, family, and his God have been demonstrated repeatedly and have influenced students in incredible ways. His sense of humour and enthusiasm for education have made my four years here at Burman incredibly enjoyable."

As vice-president for academic administration, Donkor is looking forward to Burman University becoming known as the university of choice serving learners and communities through leadership, excellence, and innovation. Speaking to his appointment, Donkor said, "I hope to accomplish the following for Burman university: to assist the president's cabinet in our efforts to think globally; to re-energize faculty in our quest for excellence in teaching, research, and service; to motivate support staff in their work and to help them to feel valued and respected for their contributions to our programs; to help students see Burman University as a safe place where they can be educated to think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment, and to act with confidence, compassion, and competence." ■

JR Ferrer is the director of communication for Burman University.

➔ For our Burman University campmeeting schedule please visit www.burmanu.ca/campmeeting.

Let health not divide us...



HEALTH PROMOTION has always had an important place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's emphasis on abundant living in Christ. In many cases the health ministry is the only way "to open doors through which the body may find entrance."¹ The church's general health guidelines have remained consistent with those of the medical and scientific community and are based on sound biblical foundations. This is not something to cause us to develop a superiority complex; neither should it be divisive in its application.

Unfortunately, however, it is not uncommon to hear of conflicts in churches related to health programs. Sometimes these happen when church members who hold to opposite and often extreme positions on any number of issues are not willing to consider other perspectives. Most conflicts revolve around dietary preferences, Ellen White's statements (sometimes taken out of context), and questionable "conclusions" on clinical matters. It is easy to engage in verbal warfare over food combinations, the benefits of alkaline water, or the dangers of whole wheat. When we are drawn into these debates, the enemy succeeds in distracting us from the business of ministry. This is unfortunate indeed.

Health ministry should exist in an environment of grace. Stewardship of the body temple must be taken seriously, but this should be balanced with an understanding that

healthy living is not a formula for salvation or the basis for God's acceptance of and love for us. Following a healthy lifestyle is a fruit of our Christian stewardship of life. In spite of our best efforts, we understand that we are saved solely by grace made available by a loving, merciful Father who accepts us through Christ. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8, NIV). Christian faith is demonstrating complete confidence in a sovereign God who loves us with an everlasting love (see Jer. 31:3) and who saves us through Christ (see Rom. 5).²

No area of health should be so intensely embraced that it becomes a barrier to cohesiveness in church communities. Instead of being side-tracked with internal friction, Adventists should concentrate on sharing the valuable message of hope and wholeness with those who, in the current climate of health consciousness, are eager to receive it.

There are several ways we can work together to avoid conflicts associated with the unwillingness to accommodate differing views. For starters, leaders in health ministry must present information and conduct programs to encourage and motivate and not to burden members. Leaders and members alike are also cautioned to read health information with a critical eye and present it in the spirit of Christ. There are many self-proclaimed experts who plaster the media with inaccurate or biased information. Using accurate and reliable information in health ministry is imperative.

If some boast absolute victory in this or that area of health, then they should not use their attainment as a standard of perfection for others. Everybody's journey is different. Achieving optimum health is not a 100-metre sprint but rather a marathon with various start times. We may not know the challenges others are experiencing during this race, but even if we do, this does not place us in a position to judge their level of motivation. All of us must be patient with others as we journey together on the path to wholesome living. Being possessed of a caring, loving, gracious attitude is essential on this path. None of us can say that we have achieved perfect health or have resolutely adhered to a perfect formula. Let us resist the urge to adopt a dogmatic attitude to the "health message." Let us focus on being supportive instead of being right in an argument. May Christ's attitude be our attitude in the ministry of health and healing. ■

Maria McClean is director of health and children's ministries for the Ontario Conference and health coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹Ellen G. White, *Medical Missionary*, p. 238.

²Maria McClean, "The Development, Implementation, and Assessment of a Nutrition Curriculum Unit for Grades 9-12 in Seventh-day Adventist Schools in Ontario, Canada" (master's thesis, Toronto, 2013).

Where Are They Now



Orville and Jean Parchment

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

Orville Parchment: I was born in Jamaica but moved to Canada as a teenager when my father was called to be the pastor of the Westmount church in Montreal in 1966. My wife, Jean, was also born in Jamaica and came to Canada in 1966 and resided in Ontario.

M: *Where did you receive your education?*

O: I received my high school education from Kingsway College but returned to Jamaica for my undergraduate education at West Indies College, now North Caribbean University.

M: *In what positions, where and when, did you serve the church?*

O: Jean and I spent 29 wonderful years in ministry in Canada and 14 years in the United States. First I served as associate pastor in the Hamilton/Stoney Creek/Six Nations district before I was given my own churches in the North Bay/South River, Scarborough, and Perth area churches. After pastoring for 10 years, I was called to serve as secretary and then president of the Ontario Conference before being called to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC)

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

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

as secretary and then as president. In 2002 I was called to serve as president of the Arizona Conference until 2003, when I was invited to serve as administrative assistant to Elder Jan Paulsen, who was president of the General Conference. When he retired, I continued in this position for Elder Ted Wilson until my retirement in 2015. While in Canada, Jean served as a teacher and as department director in the Ontario Conference and also in women's ministries for the SDACC.

M: *As you review the privilege of serving the church for so many years and in a variety of positions, what is one of the things that brought you the greatest joy, satisfaction, or fulfillment?*

O: I experienced great joy and delight in working with the members and various administrators across Canada in addressing the mission of the church and implementing the various strategic plans. Campmeetings were always exciting, and the high spiritual experiences were tremendously inspiring. Another high point was to have served as chair of the Canadian University College Board (Burman University) and witness the development of that outstanding institution. It was a blessed experience to see young people from across Canada attend our university to receive the Christian education that we intended to provide. God has certainly blessed the Church in Canada. We have always considered serving

in Canada as an honour and privilege. We have never taken it for granted.

M: *What is one of your favorite Bible verses, and why?*

O: I have always quoted the verses in Proverbs 3:5, 6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (NKJV). I kept these verses in my mind, and they guided me through my ministry.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

O: Jean and I have two sons: Norville, who lives in Portland, Ore., and works as a media specialist; and Dion, who lives in Ontario and works as a respiratory therapist. Dion has a five-year-old son, and Norville is expecting the birth of his first child, a son, in April.

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

O: Jean and I are now retired and living in Florida. We find ourselves so busy that we wonder how we found time to do all that we did when we were employed full-time. Canada is still very close to our hearts. However, the warmth of Florida has attracted us at the moment. We do not know where we will be in the future. We will continue to pray for the work in Canada. ■

The Promise



Barbara and Leon Trupp have loved ADRA's work for over 62 years. This is their story as Barbara remembers it.

Back in the 70s, during the Idi Amin years in Uganda, terrible things were happening. The Canadian government called for churches to help with settling the thousands of Ugandan refugee families. At the time Barbara and Leon Trupp were members of the Belleville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Belleville, Ont. The Trupps became involved with 15 displaced families, helping them to settle in their new Canadian homes and providing clothing and household items. Through the relationships that developed, Barbara and Leon learned about the culture of Uganda and the struggles of its people.

John Howard, the pastor at the Belleville church at the time, could see that the Trupps had compassionate hearts and helping hands, and he urged the Trupps to work for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Barbara and Leon took heed: After Leon retired from teaching, off they went to Uganda, the country for which they had developed a soft spot after helping refugee families years earlier. It was supposed to just be for one year.

"We didn't know they would ask us to stay," Barbara muses. "Leon became the ADRA Uganda Country Director, and we ended up staying four and a half years."

Idi Amin's abuse of power had destroyed much of the country. The needs in Uganda at that time were great, and ADRA Uganda worked hard to meet them. They rebuilt schools and clinics and distributed containers of clothing, household items, and medical and educational supplies to those in need. The children were happiest with the soccer balls sent by one of the Scandinavian ADRA offices. ADRA Uganda "hired" young people to help rebuild a road, paying them with shoes. Barbara remembers that they gave the leftover shoes to the Pygmies—the chief was given first choice, and he chose a pair of platform shoes. "He was proud as punch!" Barbara laughs. "We got a kick out of that the rest of our lives," she says, smiling.

Although Idi Amin was out of power when the Trupps were in Uganda, the country was not yet stable. "Guards were ordered to protect the area where we lived. These guards had machine guns," Barbara recalls. "Sometimes we would hear gun shots. Sometimes they would even ping off our roof. We often dove under a table for a little extra protection, because the roofs were just thin aluminum. But the Lord looked after us," she says.

These years of service left an indelible mark on the hearts of Barbara and Leon. They made a promise to each other to bequeath gifts to their favourite ministries after they passed away. When they drafted their wills, ADRA Canada was included.

Around 1995, Leon was diagnosed with Parkinson's, and in September 2012 he moved into a nursing home. Near the end he asked Barbara, "Do you remember our promise?" Leon passed away in February 2014.

One morning after Leon died, Barbara became impressed with the thought that Jesus is coming soon, probably sooner than any of us expect. She thought, *I might live to see Him coming. And then what good will my money do?* She felt impressed to give now rather than later—because now is when their gift could still do some good.

"It's just a simple life that I want to live with Lord and to do what I've always wanted to do—so I just upped and did it! I want to get the money to everyone on the list because that's what I promised Leon. And this way I can do it myself rather than having someone else do it after I'm gone. This way I can know the work is getting done."

Barbara is secure in the knowledge that she and Leon have worked for the Lord and that their gifts will continue to bless others even after they both are resting. ■

Written by the ADRA Canada Team

Service club finds trusting partner for overseas work



Laurel Sabur from the Rotary Club of Edmonton Urban Spirits chapter, and Rick Wiebe, one of ABW trip leaders exploring the Loigero Girls Dormitory during the construction stages.

Trust plays a key part in why a service club invests in a project internationally. In the case of the Rotary Club of Edmonton, its Urban Spirits chapter found a trust-worthy partner in A Better World Canada (ABW). Since 2013, the club of young professionals has developed a strong partnership with the international development organization, and in doing so, two critical community projects have gone ahead in rural Kenya.

The Urban Spirits Rotary Club first learned about A Better World through a presentation on its school projects in Afghanistan. Club members later met co-founder Eric Rajah, recipient of the prestigious Alberta Order of Excellence in 2011. They came to understand how A Better World works closely with sponsors throughout project completion.

Laurel Sabur, international service director for the club, said it's not always easy supporting international projects, because one can't always know if the funding is being used wisely. "We can't always be physically there to look at projects," said Sabur. "So one huge advantage of working with A Better World is building that trust with the administrators."

A Better World involves volunteer project managers in Canada who typically have vast business experience to handle the various complexities that come with projects thousands of

kilometres away. Sabur recommends that other service clubs also partner with A Better World for several other reasons: ABW has a genuine interest in helping others, is efficient, and all donations go directly to a project.

A Better World also encourages donors to visit the projects, Sabur added. "It's a value-added bonus for service clubs because not only are they giving money, they can also receive their own personal growth by playing a role in the development of the projects," she said.

The Edmonton club, with a membership of 28 and an average age of 36, has a goal to help children at risk in other parts of the world.

For \$28,000, it sponsored a girls' dormitory at Loigero Primary School serving the Maasai people. Urban Spirits also financed a \$10,000 water canal project in the small community of Jerusalem in North Central Kenya. The club used dollars from casino volunteering as well as a provincial grant. As of March 2016, both projects were nearly finished.

In July 2015, Sabur travelled to Kenya, where she met girls who may end up using the 48-bed dormitory. Girls in the Maasai culture tend to get married early, as young as nine years old, and they have more household duties as they grow older, said Sabur. "It will encourage girls to go to school," she said. "When I spoke to some of the girls, they were very much looking forward to having a dormitory." The water canal will collect rainwater so that it can be used to irrigate crop fields. At that time, when she was visiting, the project was "just a thought."

Sabur saw how consistently dry weather was hurting people's crops. "The kids were suffering from malnutrition because of a lack of food and nutrients," she added.

After seeing both communities, Sabur knew the club was making a good investment to help Kenyans long-term. "It was a very good feeling," she said.

The Rotary Club plans to continue its partnership with A Better World, including the potential to offer business opportunities for Kenyan young people. ■

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

"This is not a church for you to park your membership."

The Benefits of a Membership Class



Some people are surprised to learn that we require a three-hour membership class at my church. The only way you can join the church, whether through transfer of membership, profession of faith, or baptism, is to first attend the class. What does the class entail?

We offer our Entrance to Membership class every few months, or as the need arises. We promote the class through announcements, letters, and personal invitations. In addition, we make the class convenient and remove potential obstacles by providing childcare and lunch. Having taught the class for over 10 years, I have found four benefits of providing a membership class.

Everyone gets on the same page.

While we may share the same Adventist doctrines, we often practise our faith in a variety of ways. For example, a faithful member may find it imperative to participate in church the way they grew up in a different country and culture. By attending the class, the prospective member is given a clear, articulate presentation that will help explain the culture and practices followed in this particular congregation. The class also allows us to emphasize our core values and mission strategy. For example, if your church places a high priority on children or outreach this is good avenue to explain why the value is so important and how it is practised in your context.

We place a strong emphasis on service at my church.

If you are going to be a member, then we expect you to begin serving in a ministry immediately. *This is not a church for you to park your membership.* While membership has numerous benefits, it also comes with

responsibilities. The leader of our ministry placement committee (think of a year-round nominating committee) is invited to give a short presentation to share the value of volunteerism in the church. During the class we provide a list of potential ministry opportunities that have current openings.

Opportunity to follow Jesus.

I'll never forget a time when I almost missed an opportunity. I had met Kenny earlier in the morning prior to the worship service. It was his first time in church, and he seemed rather shy. That is why I was surprised to see him at the membership class later that afternoon. During the class we went around the circle to introduce ourselves. Kenny's introduction was short and simple. "I'm here because I want to learn more." A few hours later as we were about to conclude the class, I asked if anyone had questions. Kenny sheepishly raised his hand. "Does this mean I'm now a Christian?" I raised my eyebrow. He had sat through this three-hour class thinking this was his way to enter the kingdom of God.

"Kenny, do you want to follow Jesus?" I asked softly, realizing how I almost missed such a huge opportunity.

"Yes," he said emphatically. I led Kenny to a prayer of confession, and later that year he was baptized. Since that day, I have given people the same opportunity to follow Jesus. There have been at least a dozen people who came to that decision during the membership class. ■

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.



David Ripley

Jeff Potts

Sergie Ferrer

Richard Williams

Sandra Koch

Shad Lehmann

Brian Bell

Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Quadrennial Leadership Decisions

On April 10, 2016, constituents of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan (Man-Sask) Conference elected a new president and re-elected all other current administrative and departmental officers. One hundred and ninety-four delegates from across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Nunavut territory convened in Regina, Sask., for the 34th Constituency Session. The session meets every four years to elect leadership, receive ministry reports, and vote on other conference business decisions. Ron Nelson had led the conference as president since 2011 and chose to resign in advance of the session for health reasons. David Ripley was elected as his replacement.

David Ripley has held various positions, including executive secretary, ministerial director, and senior pastor across 34 years of service in the Texas, Minnesota, and British Columbia conferences. Most recently he served as ministerial director in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. His wife, Lynn, a commissioned minister, served alongside him as associate ministerial director. By implementing insights he gained from his doctor-of-ministry emphasis on church growth, as well as by God's grace,

together David and Lynn have led two of their previous congregations to double in attendance from 150 to 300 or more.

"My ministry will be to assist the conference to discover and implement what God desires this conference and all its components to become," says Ripley. "This includes everyone in the office, as well as the pastors, ministry, and institutional leaders, educators, and the churches with their members. As great as things have been to get us to where we are now, God has an even bigger future for our fruitfulness in witness for His kingdom!"

Jeff Potts was re-elected as executive secretary. He has served in the Man-Sask Conference since 1999, first as a pastor and later as ministerial director. Like Ripley, he received his doctor of ministry from Andrews University with a focus in the area of church growth.

Sergie Ferrer joined the conference staff in 2015 and was re-elected to his post as treasurer. He has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 38 years across the globe. Most recently, he was treasurer for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

Richard Williams will continue to serve as youth director, a post he has held for the

last five years. In addition to overseeing youth programming and the conference summer camp at Camp Whitesand, he has served on numerous youth, Pathfinder, and camp committees across Canada and the North American Division.

Sandra Koch was re-elected as associate youth director. She joined the staff in June 2015 after serving for two years as school chaplain and youth worker in Regina. She's also given 11 summers of her life in various leadership positions at Camp Whitesand.

Shad Lehmann will continue to serve as education director, a post he started in 2012 after 10 years of teaching in British Columbia and Alberta. He is currently finishing his doctorate in educational administration and leadership by distance learning through Andrews University.

Brian Bell was re-elected to the post of communications director, a post he started in October 2015. Since 2000, he has served in a variety of multimedia and communications roles in North America and Southeast Asia. ■

Brian Bell is communication director at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

Four Levels of Faith

"If we are not careful, we can give the impression that God is simply our servant responding to our demands."

Our approach to prayer ministries often seems to be about finding ways to get God to answer our prayers: making sure we spend that necessary time with God before anything else, making sure we have no sin in our lives, having a prayer list, getting others to pray with us for a particular concern, finding a passage of Scripture we can claim, etc. It seems, if we can get just the right formula, God will be able—or even obliged—to answer our prayers.

There is a story in John 4 of a man who comes to Jesus because his son is sick and about to die. He begs Jesus to come and heal his son. Talk about a pressing need. There is probably no more pressing need than that of a child about to die. No parent should have to face a pain so terrible. Yet Jesus seems to ignore his tragic situation and responds with a question. "Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?" (verse 48, NLT). Jesus seems to be addressing the pattern He was beginning to see that concerned Him. Earlier, when still in Jerusalem, many had begun to trust in Him because of the miraculous signs He had done. (see John 2:23). Now this man comes seeking Him for His power to heal. Jesus is dismayed that they were simply coming to Him because they trusted in His power; that's first-level faith.

Jesus tells the man, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And the man believes what Jesus said and starts to head home (John 4:50, NLT). He now has a dilemma. He must move to second-level faith and trust more than just His power but trust His word also. He had asked Jesus to come, and Jesus said, "Go."

As we reflect on these first two levels, we can easily see that they can both still be about us and getting our needs met. If we are not careful, we can give the impression that God is simply our servant responding to our demands. We are in charge and are doing what we can to get our needs met. But what if prayer is to be all about Him and communicating with Him?

Upon getting home, the man discovers his son got better at the very time Jesus had said He would the day before. John records that "he and his entire household believed in Jesus." They had seen with their own eyes what Jesus could do. He could heal without even being there. Now they move to third-level faith. Rather than just believe in His power or His word, they believed in Him because of the evidence before them.

This also reminds of Thomas, who would not believe unless he could actually touch the wounds in Jesus' side. When Thomas finally did, he declared, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus, thinking about us, says, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing me" (John 20:29, NLT). The faith Jesus speaks of here is fourth-level faith: believing in Him even when we don't see. We all come to Him for secondary reasons, but those who stay and actually follow Him do so because they have fallen deeply in love with Him and will follow Him even when our requests are not granted.

The practices promoted by prayer ministries described at the beginning are not wrong—but we should not get stuck there. We need to be willing to invest in the relationship with Jesus, falling in love with Him for *who He is* and not just for what He can *do for us*. That is the purpose of prayer. ■

Warren Kay is a pastor and life coach in Alberta.



barry's blog

"The individual and collective aspects of freedom of religion are indissolubly intertwined."

The Religious Freedom of Hospitals

If, as individuals, we can believe, then why is it so difficult to think that institutions cannot have the same beliefs as its creators? For instance, if a group believes that animals are entitled to basic health care, would we be surprised that they would found a hospital based on those beliefs? If that same animal rights group is of the view that it would be morally wrong to end the life of an animal that is depressed, would we be surprised that a policy against euthanasia would be written in the corporate objects or the bylaws of their animal hospital? Of course not.

The recent parliamentary committee's report on physician-assisted death made recommendations that

went way beyond the 2015 Supreme Court of Canada ruling. The court held that the right to a physician-assisted death was limited to adults who are terminally ill. The parliamentary committee recommended that the new legislation be broadened to include those who were not terminally ill and, after a three-year period, allow "mature minors" to consent.

That was too much for a number of religiously based hospitals, as the recommendations violated their conscientious beliefs. However, the report called on government to "ensure that all publicly funded health care institutions provide medical assistance in dying."

It is not surprising that there now appears to be a

coming clash of wills between government and religiously based hospitals. One of the outspoken hospitals is Bruyère Continuing Care, Ottawa's biggest palliative-care hospital. It is one of Ontario's 21 publicly funded Catholic health organizations run by the Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario.

These Catholic hospitals are being accused of not respecting Canadians' charter right to assisted death. The argument is that publicly funded institutions must accept public norms. According to this logic, these institutions lose all their rights to have religious beliefs when they are at least partially funded by taxpayers. It is further claimed that these organizations have no charter rights in and of themselves.

However, such views are contrary to the opinion expressed by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Justice Michael J. Moldaver (both speaking for the minority opinion in the *Loyola High School* case in 2015), who accepted the charter's protection of the "communal character of religion": "The individual and collective aspects of freedom of religion are indissolubly intertwined. The freedom of religion of individuals cannot flourish without freedom of religion for the organizations through which those individuals express their religious practices and through which they transmit their faith."

Just because government gives money to a religious hospital does not mean that government gets to force what services that hospital will provide. The hospital, which is in the business of providing health care, says to government, "This is what we do—do you want to fund it?" Any government funding stems from the government acting in the public interest. If government wishes to require further "services" that violate the conscience of the religious hospital, then it must go elsewhere. To say otherwise would be to turn freedom on its head. No person, and certainly no hospital, ought to be forced to take the life of another human being, no matter how moral or right the government may think it is.

Our country has long held the view that those who refuse to take the life of another human being on moral

grounds should be respected. Conscripted conscientious objectors, those who refused to bear arms, were granted exemptions in the two world wars. That is a noble historical fact that is worth remembering in times like these.

The issue here is not whether a patient who is facing unbearable pain and suffering may consent to end her life. That is not the issue I am addressing, as heart wrenching as it is. I am focusing solely on the moral turpitude of a liberal democracy's claim that it has the right to force, in the name of freedom, a religious hospital, let alone a religious physician, to do that which is morally repugnant to the conscience of the institution and its constituents—that is to say, the religious community around which it was founded.

Every charitable institution has a conscience because it is made up of conscientious individuals. I would go so far as to suggest that the same can be said of any human enterprise—even a nation state may have a conscience.

The issue at hand is that these hospitals have staked out a moral position with which many disagree. However, because we disagree over the very contentious issue of physician-assisted dying, it would be best if we respected and encouraged these religious institutions to be true to their convictions.

It is in our collective interest to maintain the right of religious communities to flourish in their institutions, as these commitments propel them to compassionately serve the needs of their patients. The last thing we, the taxpayers, need in this country is to cover the cost of replacing the religious institutions, should they be forced to close, because their moral beliefs were not respected. ■

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.lawandreligion.org.

*This article was first published in the National Post on March 8, 2016 (updated March 9), at <http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/barry-w-bussey-on-assisted-dying-government-should-respect-the-beliefs-of-religious-hospitals>. Reprinted with permission.



Almost vegan

Last month we started talking about tofu and how versatile it is. Tofu comes in several different varieties, such as extra-firm, firm, medium-firm, and soft, and there is also silken tofu. The firmer varieties of tofu are good for recipes that require the tofu to be sliced or cubed and retain their shape during the cooking process, while the softer tofu is better for recipes that need a smoother texture. For example, we use the medium-firm tofu to create a vegan cottage cheese substitute (more on that next time).

We use silken tofu in our smoothies as a yogurt replacement because it provides the same creamy consistency that a smoothie needs. When making smoothies we use whatever frozen fruit we have on hand (this time around it was mango and strawberry). Sometimes we even add a handful of fresh spinach or kale with the frozen fruit to enhance the nutritional value. ■

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

Fruit Smoothie

INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ cups (375 ml) apple juice
- 1 cup (250 ml) silken tofu
- 1-2 bananas
- ¼ teaspoon (1.25 ml) vanilla extract
- 1½-2 cups (375-500 ml) frozen fruit

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Add all ingredients to blender in order shown, then process until smooth.
- Adjust apple juice to desired consistency.
- If using fresh fruit, add 6 ice cubes.



3 Simple Songs

The book of Luke tells us that if God needed the rocks to cry out His Name and message, He would use them. What a tremendous blessing it was to hear from a Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) listener who, while facing a personal battle, found a message of peace through her car radio, and three simple songs ...

"I enjoy listening to VOAR especially while I'm driving. I enjoy it most when the music is current contemporary Christian music by musicians like Casting Crowns, Matthew West, Third Day, Mercy Me. My favourite show is Focus on the Family. I understand you have a wide listening audience and it's hard to keep everyone happy. I do appreciate the many styles of music that you do play.

"That being said, I had a really awful morning at work today. I listened to the radio in the car on the way home during my lunch break. It was tuned to your station, as always. I usually hear about three songs during the commute, and today those three songs were exactly what I needed to hear. They were so calming and encouraging, as if they were chosen just for me today. (I can't remember what they were, but I know the last one was Janet Paschal's "Thank God for My Christian Home.") Thanks so much for your sensitivity to God's leading as you plan the program. You were a tremendous blessing to me today, and I'm sure to many others as well. Thanks so much, and God bless you!" —Angela ■

Sherry Griffin is manager of VOAR.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE SHERWOOD PARK ADVENTIST CHURCH IN ALBERTA.

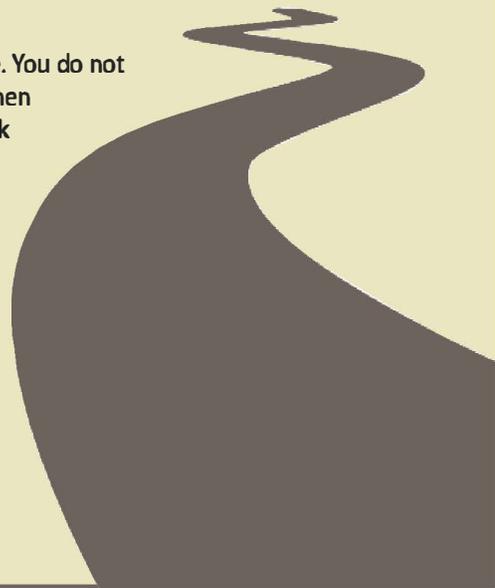
You are in a hotel on Sabbath. Is it OK to have housekeeping clean your room? Why or why not?

Jackie Unrau: Yes, I feel it is OK. The housekeeper is not working for you but rather someone else. You do not directly pay the maid/housekeeper, nor did you hire them to work on Sabbath. When staying in a hotel on the Sabbath and need to go for food (i.e., restaurant) we think nothing of someone serving us our dinner. I feel it is the same.

Melanie Kibbee: When I stay in a hotel and it is Sabbath, I leave a note for housekeeping letting them know that this is my day of rest and I would like them to have a rest as well. I leave them some tracts and invite them to spend a few minutes reading them rather than cleaning the room. Just yesterday I was reflecting on a time when I had done this and thought that I need to continue to pray for those tracts. Only in heaven will I know the results!

Terry Greenlaw: No, I think that we don't need to put people to work on the Sabbath. If it was up to me, I would put a note on the door to tell them not to clean this room.

Steven Unrau: Since knowledge creates accountability, my future answer is no.





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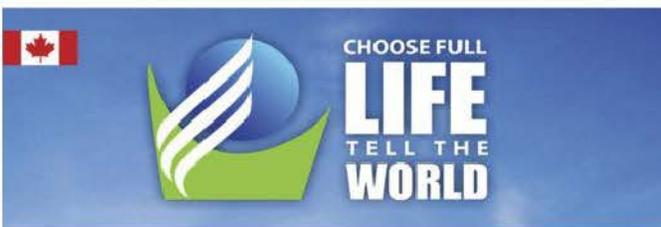


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Like a Pearl in the Deepest Sea

“Stop crying. You had it coming!

You should have danced to the music by giving answers the way your teacher wanted you to without giving up whatever you Adventists believe. In that way, you could have done well in your class while remaining an Adventist at heart!”

Thus did my grandpa gently admonish me when he found me crying after school that day. Earlier, my science teacher had marked my answers wrong because I could not support evolutionary theory for the origin of humankind.

My sobbing was interrupted when my playmates called my name, “Mai-mai, come down here and let’s gather those pearly shells we saw yesterday. Hurry!” Wiping my tears, I grabbed my collection can and ran down to where my friends waited. Our house stood on an elevated plane overlooking the sandy shores where, on lazy afternoons, my siblings and I watched small ships pass by. To me, our house was like a precious pearl that I would not exchange for anything.

Later that evening I told my parents of my embarrassment at school and how grandpa had advised me to just play the part. “It’s not right, my dear, to compromise your faith. Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego could just have pretended to tie the strings of their sandals to make it look as if they were bowing to the image and saved themselves from the fiery furnace, but they didn’t. Would you like to transfer to another school where you won’t be embarrassed again?” Dad asked.

“Is there such a school, Papa?” My eyes brightened in excitement.

“It is our church school in the mission,” Dad said. “But it is almost a hundred miles away. We’d have to sell our house to buy a lot near the mission and build a new house there.” I hesitated because I loved our house and my friends.

Sensing my hesitation, Mom reminded me of the heavenly mansions and of Jesus, the Pearl of great price. “Getting an Adventist education,” she explained, “will not only bring you closer to Jesus but will also introduce you to new friends and teachers who share the same faith as you have. It is like finding lots of pearly shells on the beach.”

Mom was determined to send her children to the Adventist school the following month. Dad didn’t think we could sell our house in so short a time. But my mother would not be dissuaded. “Let us bring the matter before the Lord, for with God, nothing is impossible.” That night we prayed earnestly for a miracle.

Hours passed into days, and days passed into weeks, and no miracle happened. The only visitors we had were my grandpa, who advised Dad against our plan; and my grandmother, a retired public school teacher, who discouraged me from enrolling in any school where two different grades were handled by only one teacher in the same room.

More days passed before the miracle happened. A foreign national showed up and asked if we were selling our house. The amount he paid was just the amount needed to purchase a lot near the mission church school, buy materials for a house, and pay the tuition fees for two months.

The mission school in our island in the Philippines was my “other home” for the next four years. There my four siblings and I learned not only arts and science subjects, but also to study and trust in the Bible as God’s Word. We distributed religious pamphlets, participated in church programs, attended evangelistic meetings, and witnessed many baptisms in the nearby rivers. I realize now that our church school was preparing me to work for God here on earth.

Now our family has moved again, this time to a foreign land thousands of miles away from the mission school. My dad was at first reluctant to bring his family to Canada as immigrants ... until he was informed that there was a church school in Regina. We were all enrolled at Curtis-Horne Christian School. There we experienced quality education and modern educational facilities under competent teachers.

As I look back now at the decisions we made to get an Adventist education, I ask myself whether we have made the right choices. Was it right to sell our house by the sea to move to a swampy area beside a church school? While we were studying in that school, we received the sad news that our beach house had burned to the ground. And what about coming to Canada? We later found out that at the end of the school year, the Philippine Mission decided to transfer the school to another site, far away from our home. Coming to Canada allowed us to continue our studies in an Adventist school. Indeed, as the Bible says, “All things work together for good to them that love God” (Rom. 8:28). An Adventist education has been to me a pearl more precious than the pearly shells I used to collect on our island in the Pacific. ■

Editor’s Note: Jemimah was a Grade 7 student at Curtis-Horne Christian School in Regina when she wrote this story. Today she prays that her family’s experience will inspire other Adventist families to value Adventist education.





Calgary-area churches partner with *It Is Written Canada* to reach Calgary with Christ

It all started with a meeting over lunch at Foothills Camp during camp meeting of 2014. Pastors Don Corkum and Reynold Ferary met with Debbie and me to discuss evangelism in Calgary. They shared their vision, and we shared the principles we follow in evangelism. At the end of the

meeting we all agreed to pray for God's guidance for reaching Calgary.

The next step in the planning process was to hold a meeting with all of the Calgary-area pastors. It was a warm fall October day, and for some reason our flight to Calgary had been delayed. The schedule leading up to the meeting being

tight, I knew I was going to be late. I was so disappointed and discouraged; I thought surely these pastors would be very unimpressed by my late arrival and, as a result, wouldn't be interested in working with *It Is Written Canada* to reach Calgary with Christ and His gospel message.



LGARY

by Chris Holland

I finally arrived at the designated restaurant for the meeting and was greeted by a group of understanding pastors. They asked me to share our vision for evangelism and the principles we follow. As a result of that meeting and much prayer, it was confirmed that we would launch REACH Calgary.

The key for success in reaching the city of Calgary, or any city for that matter, was a comprehensive approach that followed a biblical model. The great commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:18–20 says, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make *disciples* of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” However, often in our current practice, we seem to understand the text to say, “Go therefore and make *members* of all the nations...” So we decided that we would not set a goal for baptisms but would instead set a goal for how many people we would train and equip (which is part of what being a disciple is) to take the gospel to all of Calgary.

We launched REACH Calgary with a citywide rally in April 2015. The church members came out, and it became evident that God was moving to revive His people with a passion for lost souls. Over the course of the next year, we provided training

opportunities in various areas of outreach: depression recovery, personal Bible study, utilizing *Thunder in the Holy Land* in small-group study, diabetes recovery, cooking classes, nutrition classes, vegetarian supper clubs, and other areas that would allow us to truly minister as Jesus did.

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.' There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit!



Lloyd Haywood at his baptism on the closing night of the Discoveries in Revelation seminar.

Because of the revival of God's people in Calgary, many came to be trained. Overall, 400 members were trained in various lines of outreach. We were excited to see what God was doing in the lives of our church members.

As the churches developed a comprehensive plan of outreach and began executing that plan, the churches and the pastors sensed their great need for God's help and thus felt compelled to unite in prayer. As the hearts of the members of the churches in Calgary were revived by the Holy Spirit, they had an ever-growing desire to connect with people, minister to their needs, and bring some of the joy of heaven into their lives. Because of the comprehensive nature of the training and outreach, anyone who wanted to get involved could find something to be plugged into. However, just as in gardening or farming, once you prepare the soil, plant the seed, cultivate the growth—there comes a time of harvest. April 8, 2016, had been set as the "harvest" date to launch the Discoveries in Revelation series.

The day came, and my nerves were high. Debbie and the rest of our team, along with the local pastors and laity, were working diligently behind the

scenes to prepare for our night. By faith we knew that God would answer our prayers for reaching lost souls in Calgary. In addition to the comprehensive outreach into the community, we advertised on television, social media, buses, and billboards. Hundreds were pre-registering. And on that opening night in the Red and White Club banquet hall, located above the north-end zone of the McMahon Stadium, over 1,100 people came through the doors to attend the Discoveries in Revelation seminar.

We were so blessed by how God worked during these meetings as we saw our attendance actually increase over the course of the meetings, with our final Sabbath being the highest attended. Hundreds made decisions to follow Jesus Christ. Forty-five of these were baptized during the series, and more are continuing to study and will be baptized at a later time. However, it is not those statistics that were the most important but, rather, the stories that were unfolding right before our eyes. Here are just a few:

Ricky Hayes

He is a unique man. The first time I met him, he said, "I'm a hugger," and he

reached out and hugged me. His name is Ricky Hayes. He had been attending the Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church for quite some time. He had not made a commitment for baptism. Ricky came from a very challenging background. The twists and turns of life had led to various addictions that chained Ricky. But Ricky came to the Discoveries in Revelation series night after night. He shared with me that he was sensing God calling him. His heart was being warmed. The night when I would appeal for baptism came, and Ricky made a decision to follow Jesus no matter the cost. The Lord gave Ricky victory and freedom through the grace of Jesus Christ. He gave his life to Christ, desired to become a part of God's last-day remnant church and was plunged into the waters of baptism and came up a new creature in Christ.

Lloyd and Jodi Haywood

They sat in the front row every night. You couldn't miss Lloyd. He had a long, white beard and walked with a cane. His wife, Jodi, sat next to him every night, right in the front row. They had a Christian background, but they had become disenfranchised by what

they had seen in the church. They had wandered away from their church when they heard about Discoveries in Revelation. It was amazing to watch each night as their heads nodded in agreement with various points of the presentations. Both of them enrolled in the Bible school that we offered, and they completed all 30 lessons. Each of them stood for Jesus and were baptized on our closing night.

Adrien Dick

When they walked, you couldn't have missed them. They were a distinguished-looking family. The father stood tall, head and shoulders above people, with long hair. The family is of Cree Nation origin. They came night after night. Before I had the opportunity to meet them, I tracked their attendance. They had attended almost every single meeting, and I finally met the family and talked with the daughter, Adrien. Adrien spoke with me about the great challenges she was facing. She was distraught and wondered why God was punishing her. She had been dealing with a serious medical condition, her brother had just died, and she was suffering from being mocked for various reasons.

Through her tears, she asked why she should trust a God who did these things to her. As we talked and examined the true character of God, she saw who really was her accuser and the originator of her challenges. By faith she began to trust in God and embraced Him as the God of the Bible. Building upon her Cree heritage, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour and was baptized in our God's last-day remnant people.

Maureen and Dan

It was our 12th meeting. Maureen was weeping through the whole presentation—not just dabbing her eyes because of a few tears, but continuously weeping. Maureen and Dan had been coming to our meetings every night and sat on the front row. They had been enjoying the meetings very much, and the Holy Spirit had been impressing them that what they were hearing was precious truth.

However, that night I was teaching what the Bible says about death. I know that this subject can be particularly

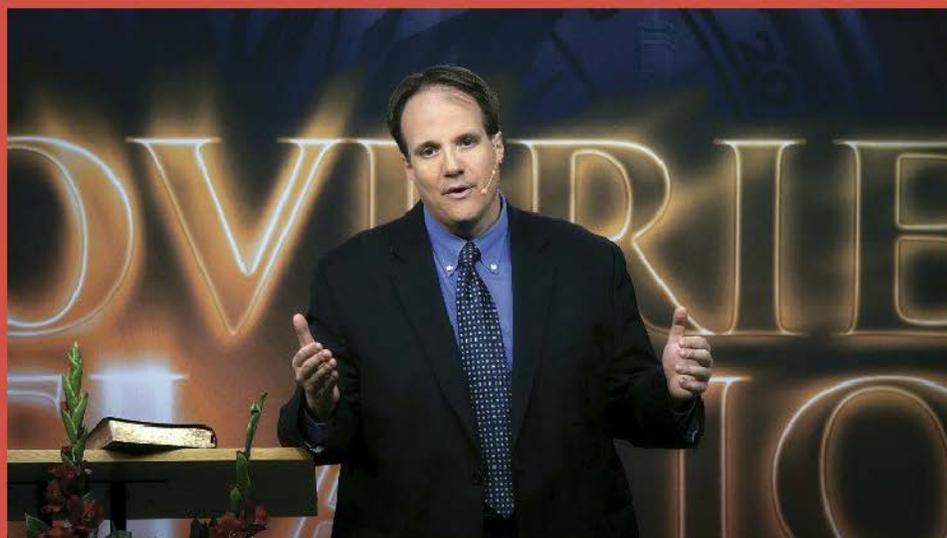
challenging for people, as it was for me when I first heard it. The whole time I was preaching I was praying for Maureen. I didn't know what was happening with her. They left that night without saying anything. I was so troubled in my heart and just continued to pray.

To my surprise, that night I received an email from Maureen. She shared with me that her tears had been tears of joy. She struggled for so long about what happens to people after they die, because she had lost her parents and a close friend in the recent past. Maureen and Dan continued to attend, and while they did not make a decision for baptism during the meetings, Maureen responded to my closing appeal. Listen to Maureen's own words as she describes her experience: "Discoveries in Revelation was like a personal revival for me—and perhaps even a revival for Calgary. It taught me many great prophecies that showed complete truth of the Bible. Moving forward, I have to read my Bible more, pray more earnestly, and continue to be a good disciple. I so want to become a commandment-living person." I know the story of Dan and Maureen is not over yet!

Some have told me that public evangelism no longer works. What happened in Calgary demonstrates that God is still working on winning people's hearts through a comprehensive model of evangelism that includes public proclamation. Jesus said in John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." The word "saved" in this passage certainly means salvation but is also translated in other places as "to be made well." It is our privilege as pastors, church members, and church administrators to demonstrate the gospel of Jesus in helping people to be whole: physically, mentally, and spiritually.

It is my prayer that all of us would see the opportunities in our homes, communities, cities, provinces, and nations to share in word and deed the love of Jesus. My prayer is that each member in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada would become Jesus' disciple by learning from Him in His Word, spending time with Him in prayer, and joining Him in His mission to seek and save the lost. ■

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



"My prayer is that each member in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada would become Jesus' disciple by learning from Him in His Word, spending time with Him in prayer, and joining Him in His mission to seek and save the lost."



Sweeter Than a Piña Colada

How an errand for coconut milk turned into an errand for the kingdom.

Frozen pineapple, creamy coconut milk, a little water, and a high-speed blender. This was my go-to recipe for piña colada happiness. Then one day, after rummaging around in my cupboards, I discovered that I was out of coconut milk. Just like that, my hopes for an ice-cold pineapple treat came to a temporary standstill.

I went to a nearby Walmart to stock up on the coconut milk I liked best, but when I reached the familiar shelf, it was bare. *No worries*, I thought, *I'll try another Walmart*. I did, but the shelves at that store were bare too. And so it went. It seemed like a number of Walmarts in my area were suddenly and inexplicably out of the very thing I needed to fuel my piña colada craving. Not wanting to waste any more time on fruitless excursions, I went online to find out which stores had it in stock. All the stores in the area were out—except one. So one afternoon I got in my car and drove to that glorious one.

I pulled into a parking space and noticed a dark pickup truck parked to my left, with a man sitting in the front seat. Something told me I should give him the GLOW tract titled “The Right Book at the Right Time.” That tract shared the testimony about how the book *The Great Controversy* changed ARISE ministry founder David Asscherick’s life. So I grabbed the tract, approached the man, and said, “Hello, sir, here’s something for you.” With that, I handed him the tract and headed to the store.

My coconut milk search was a success, and lugging a bag filled with cans, I began to walk toward my car. I noticed the truck was still parked next to it, and bracing myself for a possible encounter, I approached my car. Before I had quite reached it, the man opened his own door and, leaning out, said, “Excuse me, where can I get that book that was mentioned in the paper you gave me?”

At those incredible words, my insides began to do a raucous and joyful dance. Trying to hide the party that was going on inside me, I smiled and told the man that I’d be happy to get him a copy. He was on his way to work, so he gave me his home address and we agreed that I would drop the book off on his front porch. With that, we said goodbye, and I rushed straight to our local Adventist Book Centre, praising God all the way. There I bought the best-looking version of *The Great Controversy* I could find.

As I drove to the man’s house on my new, happy errand, I kept thinking what a joy it is to work for God. In just moments, He had turned an errand for coconut milk into an errand for the kingdom, filling me with a happiness that was sweeter than the sweetest piña colada on earth. This is what He wants to do for every one every day, if only we will let Him. ■

Aña Donkor is a writer and GLOW Outreach Volunteer for Lifestyle Canada, a ministry that combines literature evangelism with a personal touch. To find out how you can get involved or to sponsor a program, visit lifestylecanada.org.



Derek Morris Named President of Hope Channel, Inc.

"... Hope Channel has opportunities every moment of every day to reach searching hearts with the message of God's redeeming love."

Derek Morris has been named President of Hope Channel Inc., the global Christian television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Morris, who currently serves as editor of *Ministry* magazine, will now oversee the operations of the Hope Channel network of 43 affiliate channels.

"The process of nomination and appointment of Hope Channel's new president was done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with seasons of prayer," said Billy Biaggi, Chairperson of the Hope Channel Board of Directors.

Also appointed by the board were Gideon Musero as Vice President for Finance; Gabriel Begle as Vice President for Programming, Production, and Broadcast; and Kandus Thorp as Director for International Development. The position of Director of Marketing and Fundraising will be filled at a later time.

Morris succeeds Brad Thorp, who served Hope Channel as president since its inception in 2003. Referring to Brad and Kandus Thorp's contribution to Hope Channel, Biaggi said, "We thank the Thorps for their dedication, commitment, and faithful ministry. We pray that the Lord continues to bless Brad in his new function as field secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, focusing on urban centers in cities around the world and bringing hope to millions."

Morris steps into his new role with an already established relationship with Hope Channel. For over six years he has

been the host of Hope Channel's most watched program, Hope Sabbath School—a weekly, interactive Bible study program. "I believe God has a great work to be done through television," said Morris. "We need to tap into all media platforms to reach everyone we can for God's Kingdom. And Hope Channel has opportunities every moment of every day to reach searching hearts with the message of God's redeeming love."

Morris holds a DMin in Preaching from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina and another DMin in Practical Theology from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. As president, Morris will work with the Hope Channel Board of Directors to create and implement a strategy that effectively shares with the world God's good news for a better life today and for eternity.

"Pastor Morris has a very biblically-focused approach to his work and to lifting up Christ, His righteousness, and His soon coming," said Ted Wilson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church. "God has blessed Hope Channel enormously over the last number of years, and it is now poised to expand its programming and donor participation. What an opportunity to reach the world with the three angels' messages!"

Morris's experience as host of Hope Sabbath School, pastor, and author will be an asset to the future and growth of Hope Channel. "We pray for the Holy

Spirit to continue guiding his new ministry as leader of Hope Channel," said Biaggi. "We are sure that our Lord will guide this important ministry for our Church, to reach new goals and especially to bring hope to billions of people in our world!"

Encouraging the staff at Hope Channel, Biaggi drew attention to these words of Ellen G. White: "When God opens the way for the accomplishment of a certain work and gives assurance of success, the chosen instrumentality must do all in his power to bring about the promised result. In proportion to the enthusiasm and perseverance with which the work is carried forward will be the success given. God can work miracles for His people only as they act their part with untiring energy. He calls for men of devotion to His work, men of moral courage, with ardent love for souls, and with a zeal that never flags. Such workers will find no task too arduous, no prospect too hopeless; they will labor on, undaunted, until apparent defeat is turned into glorious victory."

Wishing Morris and the Hope Channel team God's blessings, Wilson said, "I pray that they find ways through the Holy Spirit's guidance to reach millions of new homes with the hope of Christ's soon return." ■

Fylvia Fowler Kline is the director of marketing for Hope Channel, Inc.



Umbrella of Protection

Rolly and Emma Abarilla shared their views and opinions of their child attending a Seventh-day Adventist high school. Their son, Romir Abarilla, is currently in Grade 11 at Kingsway College (KC).

Emma shares about her experience early on: "My husband lost his job at the start, our son did not show any interest then, driving from Toronto to Kingsway was a hassle with our old car, and we had to rent a car at times. But the most memorable [experience], of course, was when we were approved to have our son study and stay at Kingsway College, despite these obstacles.

We had heard about Kingsway College through our church, Filipino-Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Toronto about five years ago when we joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Some of our young people at our church also attend or have attended Kingsway College. Early last year Edgar Pilapil, also a member at Fil-Can SDA church and a teacher at Kingsway College, invited us to attend a KC Open House in April. That day came, and our whole family went to spend the

weekend at KC. During that weekend we were impressed by the program (spiritual, academics, and social) that KC offers to our young people. We were also impressed by the Holy Spirit; we made a firm decision that our son, Romir, would be attending KC."

Unfortunately, many obstacles came their way.

"After we made that decision, we had to do a lot of convincing for our son to attend KC, which was not easy. Our son didn't want to go to KC, but after much talking and much prayer we were able to convince him to try KC for even just a semester. Then came another challenge. While everything was set and ready, my husband lost his job, but because of our strong desire for our son to experience Adventist Christian education, that challenge did not stop us from sending him to KC. We had to find a way to financially support him through his education, so we thought of calling the bank to see if they could reduce our monthly mortgage payment. I called the bank to ask them to reduce our monthly payment, and amazingly enough, the bank agent with whom I spoke, granted our request without hesitation."

Shortly thereafter brochures were handed out. They began to see their son attending Kingsway as a possibility. This is when they learned about the financial ways that make Kingsway College more affordable: ways like the Worthy Student Fund, three-way matching program, and working at the furniture factory (woodwork) on the campus.

"[Now] we have bought a new second-hand car, my husband has a new job, and our son has been staying and studying there for six months with no complaints so far. He is all set to complete his high school there.

"God is so amazing. We can see His hand in all the decisions thus far. We are happy to see our son playing the bass drum in the KC Band, and enjoying his stay at Kingsway College."

This was their response when asked about their favourite part about Kingsway:

"To have an atmosphere based on Adventist beliefs is the best gift that we can give to our children. The chances, opportunities and events to hear about God, the Bible, and Jesus are equally as important as their academic learning. We believe KC is blessed to help children in giving academic credentials within the umbrella of God's protection." ■

Jessika Lopez is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.

A Better World and Teens Wade in to Stop Hunger Among Students

On April 9, Central Albertan music lovers gathered at the First Church of the Nazarene in Red Deer for a night of classical music and sign language performance—all in support of the Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) breakfast and lunch program.

"I thought it would be a good idea to help young people in our [Central Alberta] community," said Naomi Delafield, director of Rosedale Valley Strings. In previous years, two groups of young musicians—the Red Deer Youth Orchestra and Lacombe's Rosedale Valley String Orchestra—would join forces to perform in A Better World's annual "Music with a Mission" concert in support of children's programs in Africa and Asia. This year their efforts helped fill a need closer to home.

"When you go to Africa," said A Better World co-founder Eric Rajah, "the needs are obvious. In North America, that's not the case. We seldom see them—they tend to be hidden, but they're there." And so the organizers of Music with a Mission made history: Nutrition for Learning at MANS became their first ever North American beneficiary.

"The teachers were seeing these students coming to school without adequate food," observed Louise Stuppard, director of the Red Deer Youth Orchestra. "This program is huge for these students for their growth, health, concentration, and general happiness."

Providing free nutritious breakfasts and lunches is a vital part of the MANS mission. Forty percent of aboriginal children live in poverty, and more than a third of the students at MANS participate in the Nutrition for Learning program at MANS, so raising the \$30,000 annual cost to continue offering supplemental food is essential. The concert, which raised nearly \$8,000, was held in a new venue and community, reaching a new audience that Rajah hopes to expand even more next year.

In addition to orchestral performances of classical selections, MANS's own Total Praise signing choir performed. Led by director Cheni Notice, Total Praise used American Sign Language and interpretive movements to convey the meaning behind contemporary devotional songs. Before Total Praise finished their first song, the packed house was on its feet—a standing ovation.

For Jersey, a Grade 7 student and Total Praise performer, it was a special and emotional moment. "When they did the standing ovation, I was really happy, because I didn't know I was that good."

"It was really exciting!" said fellow performer Lashay (Grade 7). "We did pretty good. When we went on stage I felt really happy. That was the biggest group I have ever performed for. I was so happy I couldn't stop smiling and I couldn't wait to tell my Kokum (grandmother). She was so proud of me."

Shannavon, a Grade 6 student, shared Lashay's enthusiasm for performance. "I really liked it when we got a standing ovation. I'm glad I got to participate in the program in Red Deer. It's great that they are helping kids get more lunches so their parents don't have to worry. I have a school breakfast and lunch every day."

Delafield also noticed that rallying behind a local cause led to a big increase in parent volunteers for the event.

For more information on Mamawi Atosketan Native School, its choir, nutrition program, and ongoing campaign to build a new high school starting this spring, please visit www.mans1.ca. ■



A Grade 2 student awaits the special hot lunch prepared for her and her classmates with wide-eyed anticipation.

"It's great that they are helping kids get more lunches so their parents don't have to worry."—Lashay, Grade 6 at MANS, Performing member of Total Praise

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

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"... PAA was the obvious choice ..."

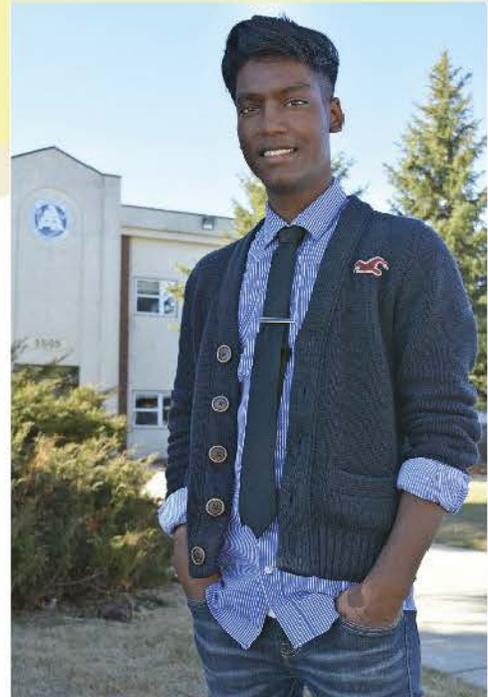
Callen arrived at Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) via Sydney, Vancouver Island, B.C., where his dad, Mike Stevenson, served as pastor before relocating to the United States in 2016. "I wanted to finish off my education in Canada when my parents moved to the States," Callen says, "and PAA was the obvious choice because it was the best Adventist option."

In his one year as a PAA student, Callen has single-handedly befriended every teacher, student, and staff on the campus because he sees the value of building this community. "I like PAA, and the best thing about this school is the people. You have actual friends here whom you get to know on a personal level as opposed to just knowing who they are."

Callen came to PAA after years of encountering students of the school through campmeeting and Adventist athletic events. After arriving at school, he threw himself into the social environment, becoming a dependable source of laughter and energy at any campus event. He shares, "I used to be a shy person, but I can see that God is working in my life as I transition from place to place, changing me into someone who is more social and enjoys helping people."

The day-to-day schedule of PAA classes, cafeteria meals, chapels, chores, and more means that many students are busy, but Callen is one who makes sure to always take time for friends. "I'm the friendly greeter of the school," he says, and it is a role he takes seriously as a captain of Maple Hall's intramural volleyball team and someone who often rallies players for impromptu soccer on the field. "I enjoy being here and hanging in the dorm. I like to help people study, and I help the new students settle in. Basically, my friends here outnumber the people I don't know!"

Living in the dorm has given Callen many opportunities to develop what he calls "practical living skills." According to Callen, he has grown in his interpersonal relationships by practising problem solving and communication as he lives with a roommate. "I've also learned to be on time without anyone bugging me. Really, just taking care of oneself, choosing your food, when you're going to sleep, and budgeting the costs of being a student all help you be more responsible for your life in general."



Callen Stevenson

While Callen admits that "the social aspects of school are really important," he is also blessed by the academic support of PAA's teaching staff. "In physics and math, the teachers really help me to do better in class. The dorm hires tutors to help, or you can go directly to the teachers. I think graduating from PAA will help me be more ready for classes in college."

Callen plans to study aero-engineering and has a desire to follow God's plan for his life. "I've seen God working in my life here at PAA through my friends and how they care for each other and for me, but also through the teachers and their kindness toward everyone. It's nice to see everyone growing," and growth really is the goal of PAA's academic ministry.

Being at PAA confirms to Callen that the important intersection of his social, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being provides "a better chance to have a better life." This is right in line with PAA's mission, which is to encourage students to achieve academic excellence; to accept personal responsibility for their mind, body, and spirit; and to experience spiritual growth as they learn to serve their community. With this framework for life built on his PAA enrolment, Callen is off to an inspiring start not only as a model student but also as an engaged citizen with Christlike influence in the world beyond the books. ■

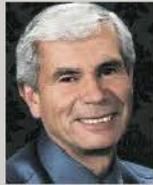
Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.

Coming to Jesus is a Safe Harbour Newfoundland Campmeeting

July 22-30, 2016 at Woody Acres Camp,
Southwest Pond, Newfoundland



Ken Corkum
President, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in
Newfoundland and Labrador



Ed Dunn
Native Ministries
Coordinator, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in Canada



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director,
It Is Written Canada



Mark Johnson
President, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in
Canada



Geoff Patterson
Senior Pastor, Forest Lake
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Florida



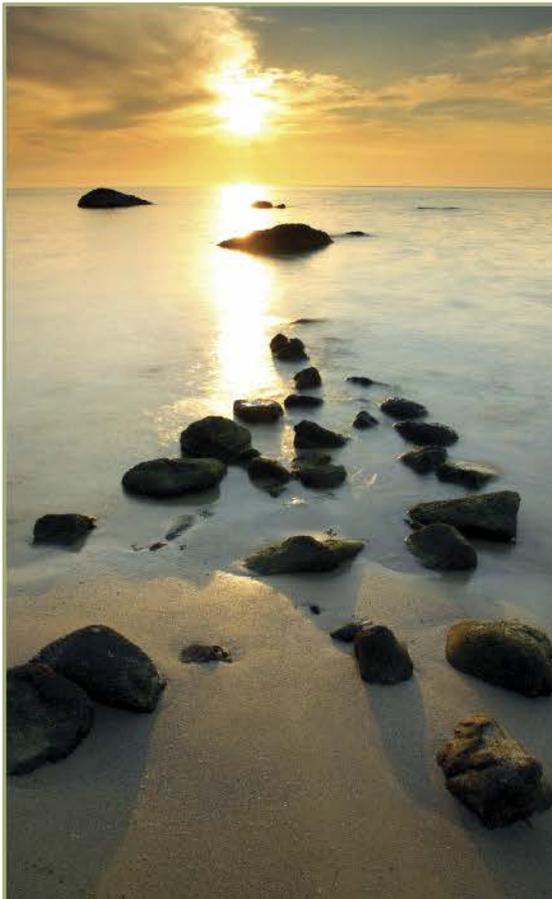
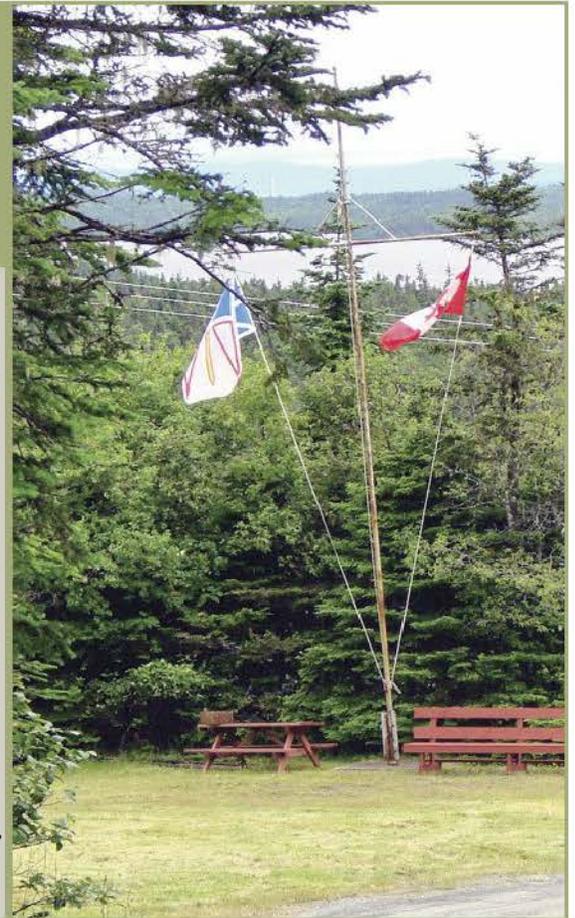
Victor Reyes Prieto
Pastor, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in
Newfoundland and Labrador



Ken Scribner
Manager, Creation Health
Ministries, Florida Hospital



Daniel Stojanovic
Vice President, Administration,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada



Rekindling the Fire Maritime Campmeeting

July 22-30, 2016 at Camp Pugwash, Pugwash, N.S.



David & Marlene Colburn
Colburn Ministry,
Ministry through
music—piano and violin



Pamela & Claudio Consuegra
Directors, Family Life
Ministries, North American
Division of SDA



Patrick Dupuis
Pastor, Quebec
Conference of SDA



Robert & Andi Hunsaker
Practicing physicians,
Sudbury, Mass.



Mark Johnson
President, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in
Canada



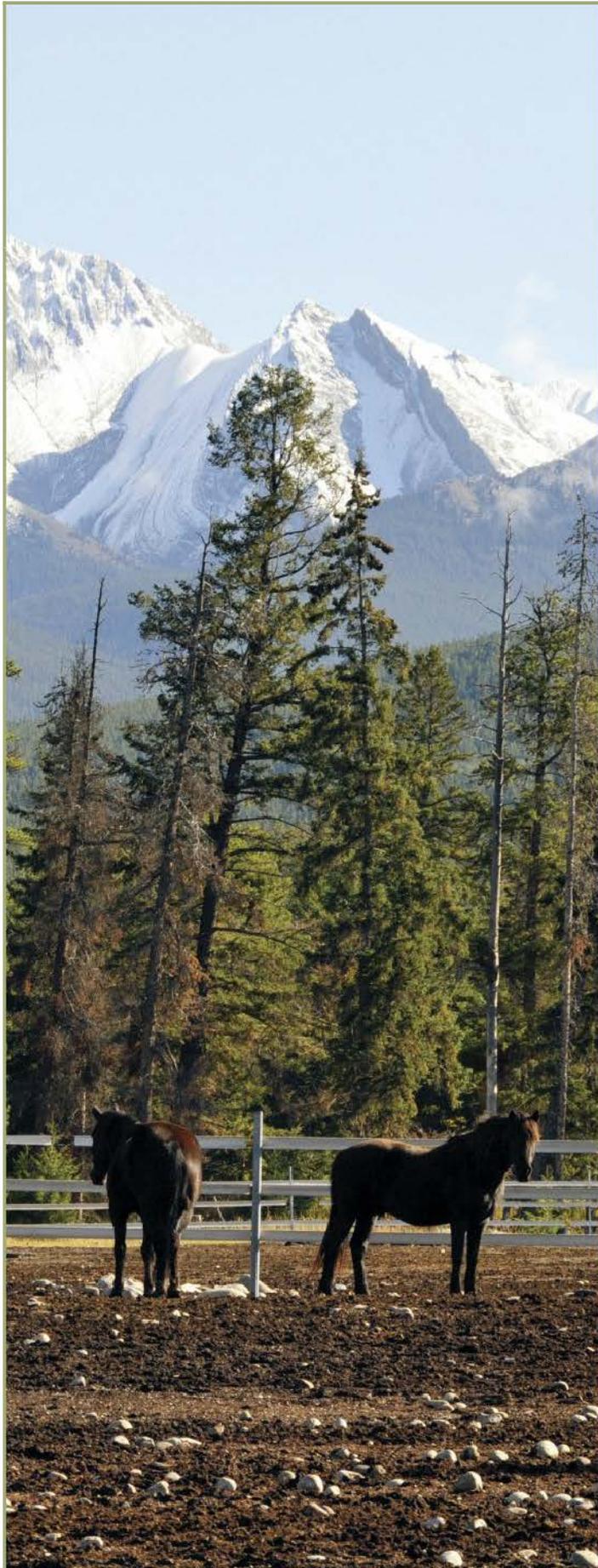
Sung Kwon
Director, Community
Services, North American
Division of SDA



Subodh Pandit
Medical doctor, Director,
Come Search With Me
Ministries



Brian & Lyndi Schwartz
Practicing physicians,
Springboro, Ohio



Servant of Grace Alberta Campmeeting

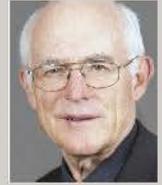
July 15-23, 2016 at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alberta



Ishmael Ali
Pastor, Alberta Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists



Trudy Breyak
Author, Speaker,
FaithWords



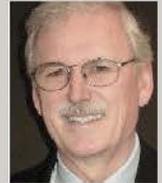
John Blaise
Volunteer Coordinator, Deaf
Ministries, Alberta Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists



Alexander Bryant
Secretary, North
American Division



May-Ellen Colon
Director, Adventist Community
Services International,
General Conference



Don Corium
Church Planting Coordinator,
Alberta Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Winston Hurlock
Pastor, Ontario
Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists



Don King
President, Atlantic
Union Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Nwamiko Madden
Sabbath School Director/
Assistant Communications,
Alberta Conference of SDA



Lynn McDowell
Planned Giving & Trust Services/
Philanthropy/Fundraising Director,
Alberta Conference of SDA



Troy McQueen
Communications/IT Director,
Alberta Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists



Katia Reinert
Associate Director, Health
Ministries, General Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists



Jonathan Runnels
Chaplain, United States
Air Force, Texas



Elizabeth Talbot
Speaker/Director,
Jesus 101 Biblical
Institute

REACH Across British Columbia Campmeeting

July 22-30, 2016 at Camp Hope, Hope, British Columbia



David Asscherick
Pastor, Kingscliff Adventist Church, Clinderah, New South Wales, Australia



Em Brake
Vice-President for Administration, Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia



Kumar Obait
Director, Ministerial/Youth Adult, Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia



Charissa Fong
Regional Coordinator, Discover Centre, Hope Channel, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia



Ty Gibson
Co-Director, Light Bearers Ministry



Chris Holland
Speaker/Director, It Is Written Canada



Chad & Fadla Krewzar
Documentary Film Producers, Anchor Point Films



Cedle Moody
Assistant Chaplain, Burman University; Assistant Pastor, College Heights SDA Church



James Rafferty
Vice-President, Light Bearers Ministry



Elizabeth Talbot
Speaker/Director, Jesus 101 Biblical Institute



Wesley Torres
President, Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia



Brian Wahl
Youth Director, Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia

Seminar Speakers

Don & Janella Abby, Asia Projects Field Directors, Adventist Frontier Missions

Charles Edil Aguilar, Director, Communications, SDA Church in British Columbia

Darlene Blaney, Total Health School of Nutrition

Bruce Boyd, Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Burman University

Esther Koppers, Administrative Secretary, SDA Church in British Columbia

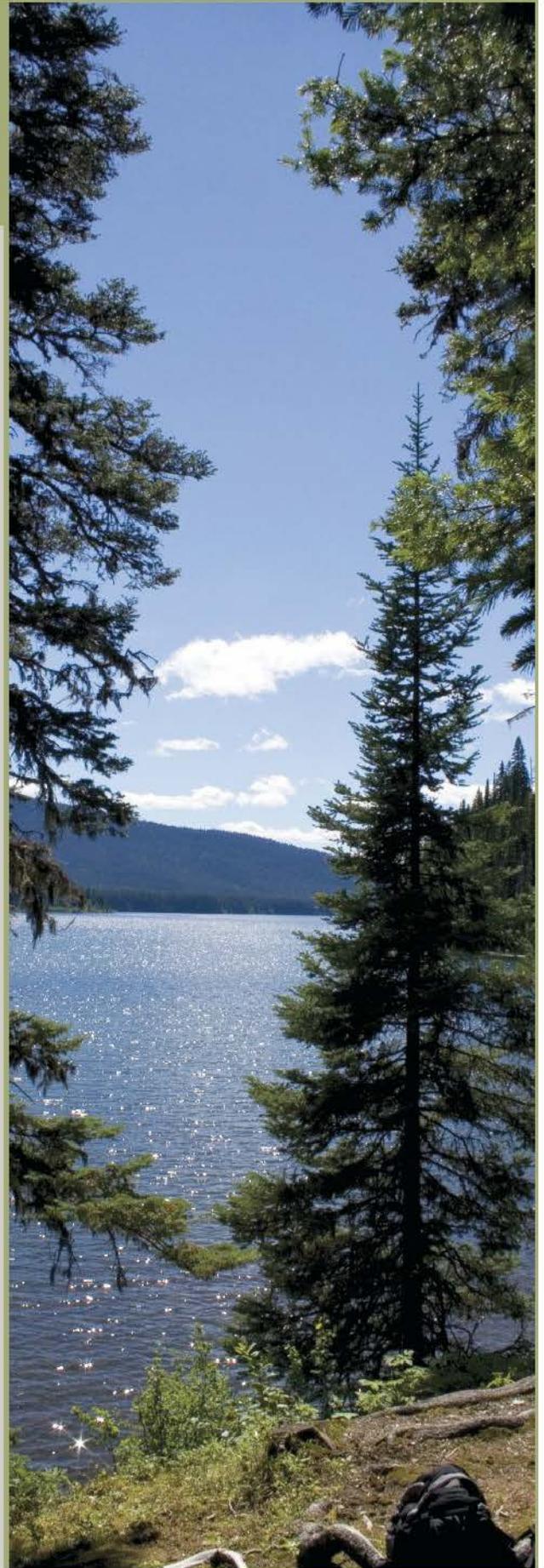
Grace Maddintosh, Director, Public Affairs/Religious Liberty, SDA Church in Canada

Ron du Preez, Adjunct Professor, Southern Adventist University

Tim Riesenberg, Physician/Speaker Health, Preventative Medicine

Sven Tomlow, Associate Treasurer, Director, Planned Giving, SDA Church in British Columbia

Sherri Uhrig, Director, Children's Ministries, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



Available Ontario Campmeeting

June 25, 2016 at International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga, Ontario



James Black
Youth/Young Adults Director, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



Jose Cortes, Jr.
Ministerial Associate Director for Evangelism, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



Mansfield Edwards
President, Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Armando Miranda, Jr.
Associate Youth Director, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



Ivan Williams
Ministerial Director, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



Health Matters Southern Ontario Campmeeting

June 3-4, 2016 at Norfolk County Fairgrounds, Simcoe, Ontario



Yidd Griffin
Health Director, Michigan Conference; Director, Lifestyle Matters



Paul Smith
Youth and Young Adult Pastor, Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Living Word Manitoba-Saskatchewan Campmeeting

July 8-16, 2016 at Camp Whitesand, Theodore, Saskatchewan



Brenda Billings
Associate Ministerial Director, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



Paul Dybdahl
Professor, Mission and New Testament, Walla Walla University



Mark Johnson
President, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada



Edwin Noyes
Retired Physician/Lay Health Evangelist, Forest Grove SDA Church, Oregon Conference



Steve Reesor
Associate Professor, New Testament, Burman University



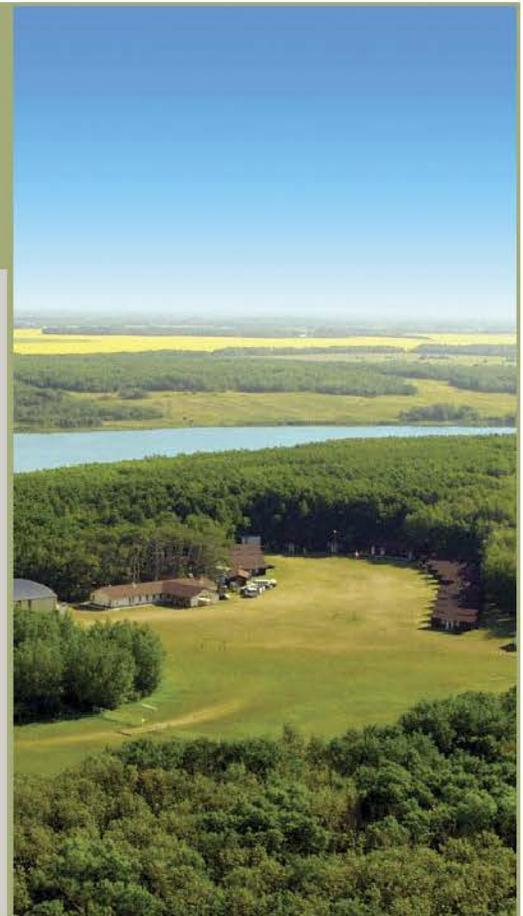
Tim Roosenberg
Evangelist, Islam/Christianity Prophecy Seminars, Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Kevin Willey
Director, Prayer Ministry, Church Growth/Health Ministry, Washington Conference of SDA



Brian Teager
President, Barefoot Media Ministries based in Southern Idaho



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Maritime

Look What God Has Done!



The members of the Pugwash Seventh-day Adventist Church praise God for what He has done—and is doing! Fundraising for our new church building project began about five years ago. By the summer of 2014 we had enough funds to begin constructing the new church (Phase 1). Six months later the new 3,400-square-foot church building was winterized, and construction on the inside continued throughout 2015 as funds became available.

In December 2015 we held our first Sabbath service in the new church. Sandy Lake Academy provided a beautiful Christmas concert with more than 100 people in attendance, including about 30 people from the local community! This was the largest number of visitors the Pugwash church has ever had on a Sabbath, because the old church had less seating capacity.

This winter church members have been actively involved in renovating the old church (Phase 2). Even children helped

demolish interior walls, remove old carpet, and scrape floors. We hope to have the much-needed children's Sabbath school classrooms finished by the end of spring. The kitchen and fellowship hall will be completed this summer as well, we hope, to help enable our church members to share their gift of hospitality. The final step will be to purchase new pews to accommodate the increased seating capacity of the new church sanctuary.

We look forward to being able to provide various types of outreach programs for the community. It is our vision that with Christ's blessing, the Pugwash SDA Church will become a prominent centre of spiritual influence and evangelism in the Maritime Conference. We solicit your prayers that men and women, boys and girls, will find the Lord here, in this place. ■

—David Hamilton, Pastor, Pugwash Seventh-day Adventist Church

British Columbia

ADRA Give+Love Concert

Christmas was just a few months away, yet the news were filled with reports of war, destruction, and death. We watched refugees attempt to flee the carnage by crossing borders, deserts, and oceans. Their attempts at escape flooded our living rooms and collective consciousness, leaving us to question, *What can I do to help? What can we do to assist?*

Charles Ed Aguilar, Communications Director for the British Columbia Conference, decided he needed to jump into action, hoping to raise awareness and funds for the refugee crisis in Kurdistan, Lebanon, and many other places. With the help of his friends, together they decided to organize a Christmas concert on Nov. 28, 2015. It was a team effort that involved a great deal of communication, support, and collaboration.

In this endeavour, Charles needed some partners. He reached out to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada (ADRA Canada) and Burman University, and they both agreed to lend their support, while Church in the Valley (Aldergrove, B.C.) agreed to host the concert. With ADRA Canada on board, the Canadian government agreed to match donations dollar for dollar, meaning that all funds raised would be doubled. The goal was to have all proceeds and donations from the concert go toward ADRA Canada's Syrian Refugee Crisis Projects.

The participants of the program ranged in talent. Participants included the Deer Lake School Junior Choir from Burnaby, the Fraser Valley Adventist Academy Choir and the Fraser Valley Strummers from Aldergrove, the Oakridge Adventist Church worship team from Vancouver, the Life+App band from Fort Langley, and the Church in the Valley praise team. With an already talented list of participants, Bill Gerber, Camp Hope Director, contacted local Christian recording artists Ryan McCallister and The Pilkey Sisters, hoping to fill the last few open spots. After checking their



Christian recording artists, Ryan McCallister and The Pilkey Sisters (above) agreed to participate in the fund-raising concert.

schedules, both artists agreed to participate in the concert. The program promised a night of inspiring and phenomenal music for both young and old.

In preparation for the event, information about the concert was shared in church bulletins, social media, local papers, and Christian radio through posters and handbills. The promotion of the event yielded a large crowd of 600 people hoping to lend their support to a worthy cause. Wesley Torres, now president of the BC Conference, was in attendance, taking on the responsibility of extending welcome and opening prayer.

Also in attendance was James Astleford, Executive Director of ADRA Canada. He shared how ADRA is helping in numerous refugee camps and working with refugees in different countries. He encouraged everyone to be a part of the solution and help financially to meet great needs. There were three ways to give that night: the offering plate, in the mail, or online. The funds raised in the offering plate were in excess of \$3,300. With the Canadian Government's promise to match, we were able to raise a total of \$6,600. This was without counting the donations sent in the mail or online.

From the organizers to the participants to the audience, everyone wanted to support the cause, hoping to help meet the needs of the refugees across the world.

"Our focus for this fundraising is to help people who are living in Syria and Kurdistan by raising funds and raising awareness," says Aguilar. "Since March 2015, ADRA has kept nearly 100,000 refugees and Internally Displaced People warm in the Middle East."

Gerber echoed his co-organizer's sentiments: "I think we were able to provide a different exposure to the refugee crisis, creating more awareness of these camps."

Everyone in attendance that evening came with a willing heart and a giving spirit. From the participants to the audience, each individual left knowing a little more about the cause than when they first walked in through the doors. There are many people in the world who are in need of our support and love. Let us maintain a willing heart and a giving spirit, reaching out to our neighbours who are near or far. ■

— Bill Gerber, Camp Director, Co-organizer

Alberta

Mission to India



Left to right, front row: Rayon Odlyar, Michelle Odlyar, Karen Hawes, Brian Hawes, Almana Augustin, Suryam Kaligithi, Jane Holmes, Erika Loughton, David Loughton.

In late January 2016, a group of Canadians took a flight from Calgary to London Heathrow Airport, and on to Hyderabad, India, and a lengthy van ride to the area of Rajamundry in the province of Andhra Pradesh, where they were greeted by their Indian hosts.

This was nothing new for one traveller, Suryam Kaligithi, who was born in the village of Mattaparu, India, herself. She has made many visits home to her people and organized a number of groups who have gone with her to support the ongoing work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in India. The focus of this particular trip was on training the pastors, evangelists, and Bible workers in the fundamentals of the faith so they are better equipped to teach and preach as they travel and minister in villages throughout the country. Many are unable to receive necessary training for their tasks, and consequently, the work suffers. This would be an opportunity to provide materials and much-needed focus on education.

Because of a change in national government leadership, the country has become less open to public evangelism, and incentives are even being given to Christians who have converted from Hinduism, to reject their faith and return to the faith of the majority.

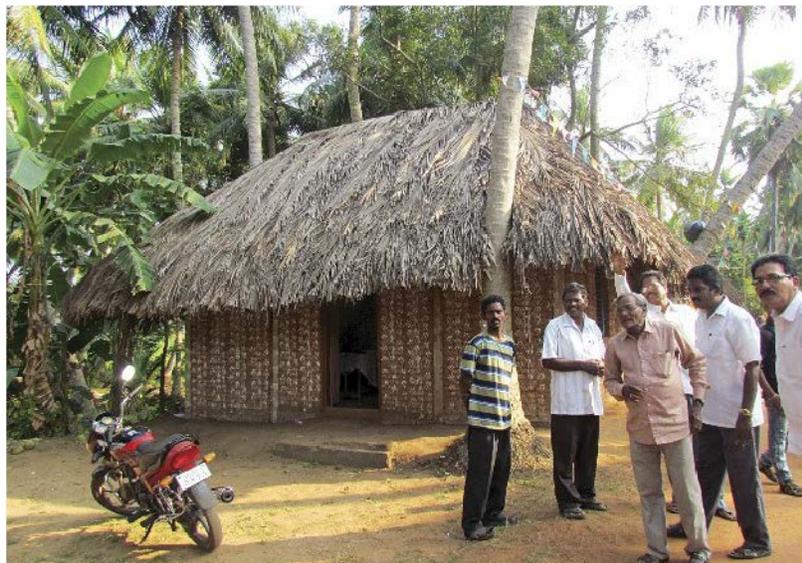
The team raised funds to provide food for the week for all attendees. It became obvious very quickly that the needs are great in India. The pastors receive a minimal salary, and the work is demanding and costly. They need our prayers and our encouragement to be faithful and to see the kingdom of God grow in the presence of poverty, opposition, and persecution.

One of the projects being supported is the enlarging of a tiny church recently built in a neighbouring village near Mattaparu. The congregation is growing, and the walls of the little church

need to be extended, literally. Other needs include upgrading facilities at the Seventh-day Adventist school in the area. The most pressing need is a kitchen shelter where food can be stored and prepared in a safe, clean environment. Additionally, there is always the ongoing need to support orphaned children so they can attend the boarding school, and to assist families who have insufficient means to cover costs for their children's education.

Pray for the pastors in India. Pray for more labourers in His vineyard. Pray for the soon return of our Lord Jesus. ■

— Jane Holmes, Red Deer
Seventh-day Adventist Church



Village church near Mattaparu needing expansion to accommodate the growing numbers of villagers attending.

Ontario

Fundraising Concert for Syrian Refugees



Some of the performers: top, l-r, Duyster men's chorus, Variations Wind Ensemble; bottom, l-r, Girls of Jesus, Kids4Glory.

The Syrian civil war has been considered the greatest humanitarian crisis after the Second World War.¹ It is estimated that more than 300,000 people have been killed and over 11 million have been displaced from their homes. In support of the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees the College Park Seventh-day Adventist church in Oshawa partnered with ADRA Canada on February 20th, 2016 to host a fundraising concert.

This concert was held in time to avail the federal government's incentive to match all donations raised before the end Feb. 2016. Several local choirs, musicians, and vocalist of all ages participated in this worthy event and generously gave of their talents to help raise funds. In addition to the musical presentations, a video highlighting ADRA's work on establishing a school for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon was shown². Thanks to the generosity of those who attended \$5000 was raised, which included the federal government's matching funds. ■

—Helen Northcott,
College Park church

¹ Nick Thompson, "Syria's War: Everything You Need to Know About How We Got Here," CNN, Feb. 25, 2016. www.cnn.com/2015/10/08/middleeast/syria-war-how-we-got-here

² "A Lost Generation," ADRA Canada, Aug. 20, 2015, www.adra.ca/a-lost-generation

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SDA Church in Canada

Adventist Church Responds to Fort McMurray

At press time for this issue, the story in Fort McMurray, Alta., is still unfolding. The bad news is that buildings, belongings, and some animals may have been lost. The good news is that there was no human loss of life, and the outpouring of relief and hope from across Canada has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada has been closely monitoring the situation since the start. On May 14, 2016, the SDACC president, Mark Johnson, and SDACC communication director, Stan Jensen, had the opportunity to worship with evacuees in Alberta. The United Church in Edmonton graciously offered the use of their sanctuary on Sabbaths to the members of the Fort McMurray church.

Adventist organizations and members have been on the front lines of this disaster since Day 1. From ADRA to ACS, churches and members have been giving generously of their time, energy, goods, and services. Keep your eyes peeled for these stories to appear in the August issue



View of wildfire near Highway 63 in south Fort McMurray.

of your Canadian Adventist Messenger.

In the meantime, visit adra.ca/YMM Fire to donate.

If you or your church contributed to the relief efforts, please contact us so that we can hear your story. Out of the ashes,

hope will rise. We will not let their pain go to waste. ■

— Stan Jensen,
Communication Director,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Canada

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Alain Lévesque

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>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Apr. 30, 2016, there were 430 depositors with a total deposit of \$29,434,884. There were 90 loans with a value of \$25,578,106. For more information or to make a deposit, contact Girty Qulambao—qulambao.girty@adventist.ca; 905/433-0011.



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- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
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■ **Announcements**

The Sherwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sherwood Park, Alta., is celebrating its 40th anniversary on June 17 and 18, 2016. All former pastors, charter members, Members or attendees are cordially invited to spend a weekend of celebration with us. Please RSVP to 780/467-2355 or to sgroso@shwp.ca.

■ **Legal Notice**

The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church 51st Session, Oct. 2, 2016

Legal Notice of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is hereby given that the 51st Session of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lacombe, Alta., on Oct. 2, 2016. The regular business meeting will be called at 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016. The Organizing Committee Meeting was held in advance, as per bylaws, on May 15, 2016.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider reports and financial statements, elect officers and members

of the Executive Committee of the Conference for the ensuing term, to consider any proposed changes in the bylaws, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session.

The bylaws provide for representatives from each duly organized church in the Alberta Conference as follows: one delegate per church without regard of membership, and one additional delegate for every fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

*Ken Wiebe, President
Larry Hall, Secretary
Vice-President for Administration*

Quadrennial Session of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Quebec Conference

Notice is hereby given that the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Quebec Conference, will hold its ninth quadrennial session at the LaSalle New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (7780 Boulevard Champlain, LaSalle), Sept. 17 and 18, 2016.

The regular business meeting of the session will be called at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 17, 2016. All matters pertaining to the general session—elections, reports, bylaws, etc.—will be on the agenda.

The Organizing Committee Meeting will take place on July 10, 2016, at 10 a.m. at the LaSalle New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (7780 Boulevard Champlain, LaSalle).

The bylaws provide for representatives from each church in the Quebec Conference to attend. The session is open to everyone, but only the delegates will have the right to voice and vote.

*Emile Mass, President
Lucian Sefranec, Executive Secretary*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada 18th Quinquennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the 18th Regular Meeting of the Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada will be held in Lacombe, Alta., at Hurman 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, 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 member-

ship 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**

MARITIME

Somedette Belliveau was accepted on profession of faith in Moncton, N.B., on Nov. 7, 2015. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

Victor Donald "Bud" Boyd was baptized in Yarmouth, N.S., on Jan. 30, 2016, by Ted Atwood. He is now a member of the Yarmouth company/ Maritime Conference church.

Zoe Cho was baptized in Saint John, N.B., on Feb. 13, 2016, by Ricky Schwarz. She is now a member of the Saint John church.

Girah Dorval and his sister **Hedassa Dorval** were baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Nov. 7, 2015, by Ménéard Salomon. They are now members of the Moncton church.

Lawrence Dukeshire was accepted on profession of faith in Yarmouth, N.S., on Dec. 5, 2015. He is now a member of the Yarmouth company.

Wendy Flint, Darlene Flint, and **Claudia McLaughlin** were accepted on profession of faith on Dec. 5, 2015. They are now members of the Halifax church.

Doug Perrott was accepted on profession of faith in Halifax, N.S., on Jan. 2, 2016. He is now a member of the Halifax church.

Rosa Sabann was baptized in New Minas, N.S., on Dec. 5, 2015, by Pedro Graça. She is now a member of the New Minas church.

Rosa-Hélène Trenholm and son **Mathieu Trenholm** were baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Jan. 16, 2016, by Ménéard Salomon. They are now members of the Moncton church.

■ **Births**

Merit Remington Bannister was born Dec. 17, 2015, to Naomi (Striemer) and Jordan Bannister of Thompsons Station, Tenn. He was dedicated on Feb. 13, 2016.

Twin boys, **Wallace Eli** and **Barnard Levi Cavalcante**, were born June 20, 2015, to Jennifer

(Morris) and Alessandro Cavalcante in Miramichi, N.B. They were dedicated on Oct. 17, 2015, by their grandfather Pastor Jacques Morris.

Dewey Rogers was born Feb. 1, 2016, to Frank and Jennifer Rogers, of Mayfair, Sask. Proud grandparents are Alfred and Vickie Tataryn and David and Greta Rogers.

Ciana Gabriella Scott was born Dec. 24, 2015, to Colin and Chloe (née Kitchin) Scott, of Halifax, N.S.

Chleb Shearer was born July 24, 2015, to Sarah-Jane (Harebottle) and William Shearer of Miramichi, N.B. He was dedicated on Nov. 21, 2015.

■ **Anniversaries**

Paulene and Ken (Thoyvali) Kennedy of Toronto, Ont., celebrated their 50th wedding



anniversary on June 5, 2016, by going on a vacation cruise. The Kennedys have three children, Wayne Kennedy, Dawn Meleggon, and Ricardo Solis; and seven grandchildren.

Betty and Earle Shoofs of Stony Creek, Ont., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Feb. 20,



2016, with many family and friends at Heritage Green church in Stony Creek.

■ **Obituaries**

Bertrise "Bea" (née Galyan) Bohlnke was born on July 12, 1944, in Greenwich, N.B., and died on

March 29, 2016, in Salmon Arm, B.C. She is predeceased by her parents, Ernest and Alberta Belyea. Surviving: husband, Robert Bohinke; son, Wayne Bohinke of Leduc, Alta.; daughters, Pam (Scott) Parr of Sicamous, B.C., Janet (Tony) Verboom of Edmonton, Alta.; stepdaughters, Toni (Tony) Brown of Edmonton; brothers, Ron (Helen) Belyea of Havelock, Ont., Carl (Myrna) Belyea of Calgary, Alta., Raymond Belyea of Oshawa, Ont., Alvin Belyea of St. John, N.B., Victor (Randy) Belyea of Ahmic Harbour, Ont.; sisters, Marge (Frank) Velazquez of Loveland, Colo., Sylvia (Lou) Bevilacqua of Kelowna, B.C.; nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

James Arley Brooks was born on May 1, 1923, in Hubbard, Arkansas, and died on Feb. 20, 2016, in Oshawa, Ont. He was known for doing a lot of cement work at Kingsway College and College Park Church in Oshawa, and liked to keep busy with dishes and kitchen cleanup. He also found time to witness and give books away. James is predeceased by his parents, James and Altha Brooks; first wife, Vera (née Dalgleish) Brooks; son, Kenneth Brooks. Surviving: wife, Leona (née Alderson) Brooks; daughter, Karca (Bruce) Orr; brother, Leroy Brooks; sister, Irene (Chester) Day; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

E. Margaret (née Baldwin) Graham was born on Mar. 26, 1923, in Salmon Arm, B.C., and died on Jan. 27, 2016, in Abbotsford, B.C. She and her husband, Walter, were active church leaders who opened their hearts and home to many people throughout the years. They were instrumental in the formation of the Richmond Seventh-day Adventist Church. Margaret is predeceased by her husband, Walter Graham; daughter, Beverly Stickle; parents, Alfred and Elsie Baldwin; brothers, Stanley Baldwin, Ronald Baldwin; sisters, Eva Flock, Beanie Welch. Surviving: son, Darrell (Maureen) Graham of Baja, Mexico; daughter, Cheryl (Arthur) Klym of Kennewick, Wash.; sister, Grace Longworth; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Daniel Kenny was born on Nov. 7, 1957, in Sydney, N.S., and died on Feb. 28, 2016, in Calgary, Alta. He is predeceased by his father, Donald Kenny. Surviving: wife, Bonnie (née Anderson) Kenny; son, Michael Kenny of Calgary; mother, Mona MacDonald; brother, John (Jimmy) Kenny of Calgary; sister, Gwendolyn (Bryan) Sweeney of Howie Centre, N.S.

Miroslav Kis was born on Nov. 20, 1942, in Mikusevci, Yugoslavia, and died on Feb. 23, 2016, in Berrien

Spring, Mich. He pastored the Longueuil church and served as youth director for the Quebec Conference, taught in the Religious Studies department at Canadian Union College (now Burman University), and completed a PhD in Ethics at McGill University in Montreal. From there he was called to teach in the Theological Seminary at Andrews University, where he served for 32 years. Miroslav is predeceased by his parents, Andrija and Natalija Kis; brothers, Mihajlo Kis, Daniel Kis, Daniel Kis, Andrija Kis, Janko Kis, Petar Kis; sisters, Marta Hromic, Marija Hromic. Surviving: wife, Ronnda Bond Kis; sons, R. Andrej (Daisy) Kis of Berrien Springs, Adam (Kristin) Kis of Lacombe, Alta.; brother, John (Mary) Kis of Sacramento, Calif.; sister, Nada (Josip) Petrucic of Nova Gradiska, Croatia.

Beverly (née Graham) Stickle was born on Mar. 28, 1944, in Prince George, B.C., and died on Sept. 12, 2014, in Apache Junction, Ariz. She was an author, humorist, and motivational speaker, and was active in the creation of women's retreats in the Pacific Northwest. Beverly is predeceased by her husband, Donovan Stickle; and father, Walter Graham. Surviving: son, Ryan Stickle of Florence, Ariz.; mother, E. Margaret Graham; brother, Darrell (Maureen) Graham of Baja, Mexico; sister, Cheryl (Arthur) Klym of Kennewick, Wash.; and two grandchildren.

Henry Welch was born on June 28, 1934, in Duchess, Alta., and died on May 21, 2015, in Eckville, Alta. He was a teacher, preacher, and leader in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and New Hampshire. He shared his love for God through evangelism by continually finding opportunities to talk to people and hand out tracts, pamphlets, and books. Henry is predeceased by his parents, Richard and Janet (née Brown) Welch; brothers, Robert Welch, Martin Welch, George Welch. Surviving: wife, May (née Janzen) Welch; sons, Derrick (Rosemarie) Welch of Lacombe, Alta., Nathan (Shaannon) Welch of Eckville; daughters, Dawn (Ted) Barnes of Kelowna, B.C., Wanda (Roland) Pelletier of Eckville, Wendy (Edson) Donato of Grants Pass, Ore.; sisters, Deborah (Don) Rose of Calgary, Alta., Margaret Peterson of Calgary; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Tributes

Henry Welch passed away on May 21, 2015. He graduated from CUC, 1964, BBA; Union College, 1970, B.Sc.; and La Sierra University, 1997,

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Adventist World Radio seeks Maintenance Director for Gunn station. Key roles include upkeep of buildings, vehicles, and grounds. HVAC certification preferred. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send resumé to Kent Sharpe, sharpek@gc.adventist.org.

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MA, Curriculum and Instruction. Henry shared his love of learning with students across Canada and in Cooway, New Hampshire. In 1956 he married the one God chose for him, May Janzen, and they were blessed with five children. It brought him great joy knowing his children accepted the Lord as their Saviour, and had faith that on that long-awake day he will be united with his Saviour, his wife, and his children. Henry shared his love for God through preaching—whenever asked; through music; conducting song service; putting his poetry to music; and writing, in his retirement years, a daily devotionals on Song of Solomon. He requests and encourages family, friends, and former students to meet him at the tree of life on the second Sabbath.

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Adventist World Radio seeks donor Relations Director. Key roles include major donor cultivation, donor segmentation, planned giving outreach, and future capital campaign management. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send resumé to AWR president, Duwelle Chow, chowd@gc.adventist.org. (6/16)

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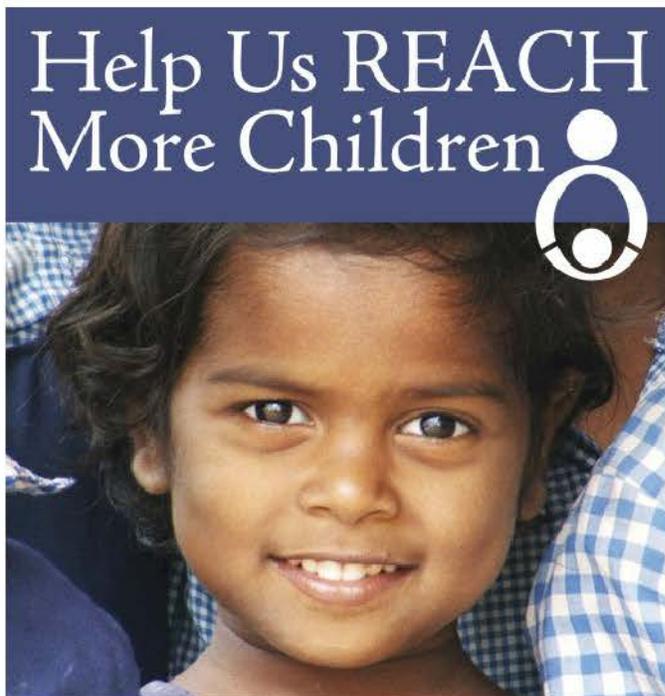
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from the editor

bringing out the best

MAY 5, 2016. I am sitting at my computer, attempting to draft this editorial while following the live reporting on Twitter about the Fort McMurray crisis. Progress is slow, however, because as I write this, I am watching the feed and my heart is breaking. Fort McMurray is burning, and no one is playing the fiddle. The good news is so many have been diligent in doing what they can, and authorities successfully evacuated the entire city without a single known fatality.

This is the worst of times for Alberta, and yet it is bringing out the best in so many people. While social media patrons are sending their warm thoughts, prayers, and well wishes, I am even more appreciative of Pastor John Murley, the board, and members of the Edmonton South Adventist Church, for their quick and decisive action to make their facility available. So many of the members also opened their hearts and homes for fire refugees, and put out pleas for others to do the same. Other area churches, both Adventist and non-Adventist, have also stood tall and helped bring needed resources to the Edmonton South church.

The Alberta Conference quickly got involved and, at the time of press, are working with the Red Cross and the Alberta Government on a strategy to deal with the upcoming post-tragedy trauma. The support of ADRA Canada was also immediate. They set up a donation link, adra.ca/YMMFire, for those around the country to help. I, like so many other Canadians, donate monthly through an automated gift via adra.ca/donate. I can say that it is money well spent.

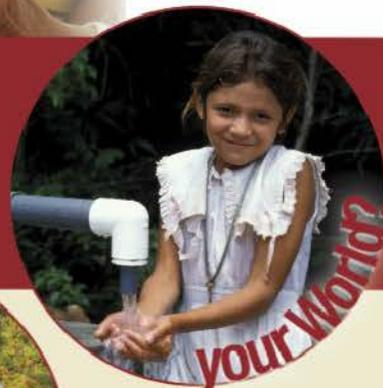
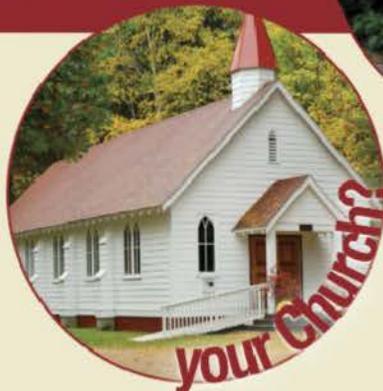
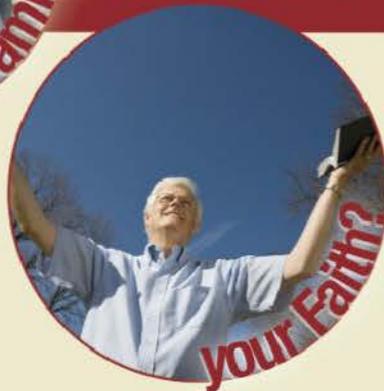
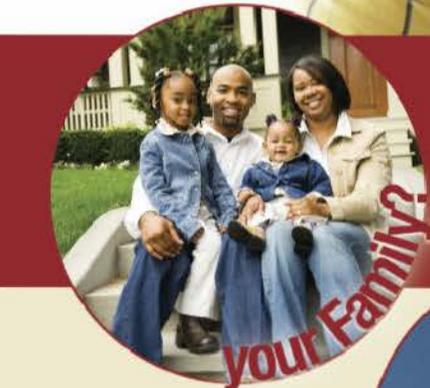
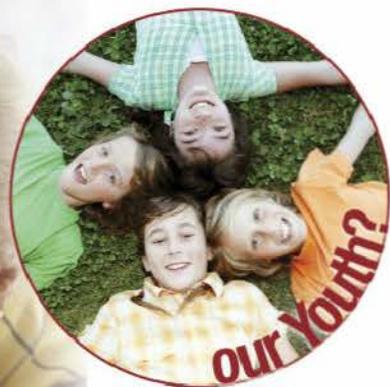
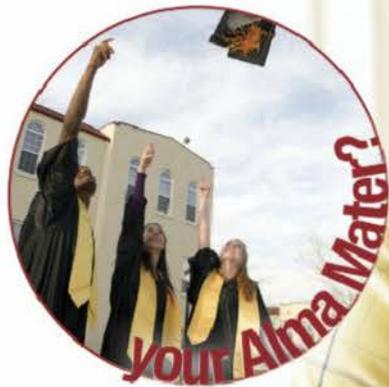
Many have left so much behind, as they had mere minutes to evacuate with only the clothes on their backs. Some were not able to return home to pick up their pets and will grieve for their lost family members. When residents are able to return, they will likely only find the ashes of their former lives.

Most of us who are looking forward to the rescue of our planet may reflect on the time we will have to escape, as well, but not for fire. Others I recently spoke with, mostly Mennonites, have already experienced the difficulties of having to leave their farms, family, and friends in other countries in order to stay true to their faith.

So many Canadians are so willing to help out. It really is true: sometimes the worst of times brings out the best in people. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger



What Matters Most to You?

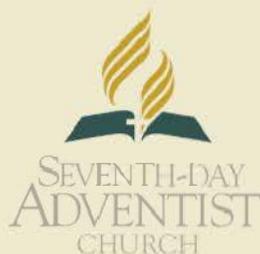
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When Henry Feyerabend began the television ministry on Canadian soil, he quickly realized the need for committed donors who provided funds throughout the year. Through conversations with Frank McMiller, an idea was born. Now, nearly 40 years after the 'ARTS corps' was started, we continue the tradition of asking you for ongoing monthly support for God's television and evangelism ministry to reach Canada.

The It Is Written Canada team is planning the next season of spirit-filled weekends all around the country and we would love to see you at one of them. Last year we met partners and made new friends in places such as Toronto, ON, Red Deer, AB, Camp Hope BC, Winnipeg, Kelowna, and the Maritimes. Here's what they had to say.

"The music was my favourite, so spiritual and uplifting."

"I appreciated the messages and the [breakout] sessions in the afternoon, very informative and empowering to learn about the resources available so I could go spread the news in my sphere of influence at home."

"The food was very delicious!"

Winnipeg, MB May 28
Toronto, ON September 9-11
Camp Hope, BC September 23-25
Maritimes October 2
Red Deer, AB October 7-9

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