

canadian adventist

Messenger

august 2016

FLEEING FORT MCMURRAY

PLUS Eleven Years, One Prayer (p. 13)
Out of the Ashes and Into the Light (p. 27)
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“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.”

—Matt. 25:31, ESV

Shining Armour

Out of the corner of my eye as I entered the Oakland, Calif., airport, I noticed an African American gentleman, perhaps 10 years younger than me. Somewhere he had found a complete outfit of shiny armour straight out of a Star Wars movie and he was wearing it.

Now, having lived at one time in Oakland, I had learned to not be surprised to see things that might be considered unusual in other locations, but this one perplexed me. I complimented my new acquaintance on his costume and inquired whether this was a regular gig with him at the airport or if it was some sort of special occasion?

He had met a woman on the Internet, he told me. They had been talking back and forth for a while, and today she was flying in to meet him for the first time. He wanted to make it a memorable occasion. The approach he took was to be her “knight in shining armour.”

A whole bunch of us followed him over to the arrival gate because we wanted to see what happened next. Many people were coming through, and I had sort of given up on catching a glimpse of this gentleman’s anticipated encounter with the woman, but then, just as things had thinned out, a woman with a quizzical look on her face suddenly broke into a smile. As they held each other, all of us, including the security people, gave a cheer.

We have got a meeting with Jesus coming up. It tops any Star Wars character you could think of. Jesus is our protector and redeemer. It’s going to be big. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne” (Matt. 25:31, ESV). I think that the angels will be like that crowd in Oakland, but this is a bigger crowd and a bigger deal. I want you and me to be right in the middle of this one.

Years ago the Heralds sang a song that began, “Who are these in shining armour, whence the glory so bright?” What a question and what a day that will be.

Why not follow the link and listen to the song? <http://goo.gl/VXUjAV> ■

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



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Rations in the Bush

AGNES REMEMBERS A BETTER LIFE. She had a home, a school, and her family was together. They were happy.

In a matter of hours, her life changed. Her village in Wonderuba, South Sudan, was attacked. She saw people being killed. Her family fled into the bush along with hundreds of others. They found refuge outside a village called Bereka. Now she is an internally displaced person (IDP).

Agnes is 10 years old.

South Sudan has been in political turmoil since December 2013. A peace deal has been brokered, but stability has yet to return. Driving through the streets of Juba, the capital city, one is struck by the number of UN peacekeepers.

Agnes and her family now live in a small IDP settlement in the bush near the village of Bereka. Members of her former village found one another and were allowed to build the settlement. A small brown pool several minutes away serves as their water source. The adults constantly warn the children to beware of the poisonous snakes that live in the area.

They are farmers, but they cannot grow food for themselves because all of their tools and seeds were left behind. There are rumours that their belongings have been looted. No one dares to return to their village, as civilians have been shot.

Agnes is not happy. She has nightmares that the fighters will come to shoot her. She does not want to return home until it is safe. She misses her friends and her school. Three of Agnes's siblings are attending school in the town of Lainya, but it is too

far for them to walk each day. They stay in the village and return home on the weekends.

ADRA Canada did not have enough funds to assist the IDPs in South Sudan. However, we are a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 church and church-based agencies representing 30 Christian denominations that are working together to end hunger. Two other members, the United Church of Canada and Presbyterian World Service and Development, decided to provide the initial funding. The United Church gave \$200,000, and the Presbyterians provided \$10,000. The Foodgrains Bank then provided \$250,000 and entrusted ADRA to implement the project.

Rations were distributed to Agnes's settlement. Some 50 kilograms of sorghum, 5 kilograms of beans, 3 litres of oil, and 1 kilogram of salt were given to each family. It was meant to provide three meals a day for each person for a month. To stretch the rations, the community has been eating only two meals a day, as they do not know when they will receive more food.

Agnes likes the food that ADRA and the Foodgrains Bank have provided. She helps her mother to prepare and serve the meals. She dreams of owning a restaurant when she is older.

Your generous and continuing support is saving lives and giving children like Agnes hope for the future. ■

Sharmilla Reid is the donor relations director for ADRA Canada.



Time is of the essence

“The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth.”

Every so often a familiar expression comes to mind and I am left wondering where and under what circumstances it came into being. With the advantages that technology provides us, it's only a matter of a few simple clicks in a search engine, and *voilà!* I don't recall why this expression came to my mind, but it did, and according to Wikipedia, “‘Time is of the essence’ is a term in English and United States contract law that indicates that the parties to the agreement must perform by the time to which the parties have agreed if a delay will cause material harm.”

While such agreements are often of necessity and probably appreciated by all under various situations, it could be the cause of undue stress when time is running out and the agreed performance is yet to be in place. In today's complex world, you never know when someone or something will send you a curveball, and all your good intentions find themselves lying in a defeated heap. Promises and assurances are better left with Someone who is in control of all the variables life manages to throw our way.

But that aside, I doubt anyone who will read this article will question the reality of the times in which we are living. Let's face it, with the threat of ISIS in the Middle East, the strange political machinations of the United States, the increase of natural disasters and a number of other things (that I cannot mention, as doing so would not be politically correct), we have to agree, life on planet earth is not what it used to be. As a matter of fact, I would venture to say that *time is of the essence*. If

ever there was a time when believers all over the world should be praying for Jesus to come, it would seem to me to be right about now.

I appreciate the following take on this topic:

The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

... Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.¹

I am especially relieved that the last events will be “rapid ones” and that the work that God is doing “will soon be cut short in righteousness.”² In His mercy and kindness, our Lord has included, if you will, a “time is of the essence” clause that there be no further delay. The four angels of Revelation 7 were instructed, “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” (verse 3). “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).

My dear friends, there is no time to lose. We need a saving relationship with Jesus. Time is of the essence! ■

John Fournier is president of the Maritime Conference.



¹Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, 9:11.

²Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, 50.

teen talk

Q: How do you stay calm when things fall apart?

A: I just have a good memory; that's all.

No, for real I'm serious! I know it sounds very cliché and all, but I remember *every time* God has come to my rescue. He has never failed me—*never*. Why should I worry, then? I just wait. Now, not worrying and instead waiting for his rescue does not mean that I stay with my arms crossed or hide under a blanket. You know that verse that says something like "Don't worry, just wait; I'm the Lord?" Well, that wait is an active wait.

It's like those war movies where the allies come through in the last minute and save the good guys from being annihilated. The good guys know that the allies are about to arrive, but they still have to fight in the meantime! The fight is hard, but they know that it will soon end favourably.

So when trouble comes, I constantly pray, read, seek advice from spiritually mature friends who are wiser than me and I'm on the lookout for signs that may give me an idea of God's plans.

Give it a try! ■



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

Plains Zebra

The Ngorongoro Crater is an ancient volcano in Tanzania. The largest inactive crater in the world, it sprawls like a huge grassy bowl over 260 square kilometres (100 square miles). It's home to around 25,000 large animals, including the plains zebras.

A zebra goes to a large rock in the grassy crater and rubs his neck against it. More zebras line up behind the first and wait their turn at the rock to scratch their itches. Zebras patiently wait in line at the rock because it's the only place to go for relief.

Think about it.

Jesus was the only one who could relieve his daughter's suffering, but Jairus was very impatient. Jesus didn't hurry to Jairus's house. He stopped to help a poor woman on the way. Did Jesus let Jairus's daughter die because He didn't love her and didn't care that she was suffering? Did Jesus want Jairus and his wife to be stressed out? No. Jesus has His own schedule and reasons for answering our prayers when He does. Don't rush Him, and never quit believing He loves you just because He hasn't answered your prayer yet. Keep on asking Him and trust Him to do what you need Him to do for you. He will not disappoint you.

Do it!

Use a ruler and trace its outline on stiff paper to make a wide Z. Cut out the Z shape. Draw black stripes on the Z. Add eyes, a nose, and zebra ears. Copy a Bible verse (Romans 12:12, Psalm 37:7) about patience on the other side and hang your Z from a string to remind you to wait patiently for Jesus.



Intergenerational Approach to Fitness



ALONGSIDE THE FAR WALL in the Burman University Physical Education Centre a line of the most distinguished members of our community stretch themselves on tension harnesses attached to metal bars. Concentrating, they lean forward, resting on tiptoes as university students carefully keep watch over the whole scene.

If you had walked into the Burman University PE Centre just at that moment, you might have mistaken it for a retirement community centre instead of a university facility. What you would have walked into was the "PEAC 295 Topics: Fitness for Life" class, an intergenerational approach to fitness and learning.

The class is the brainchild of Ron Schafer, Associate Professor of Physical Education, and a Burman faculty member since 1980. The class focuses on fitness through helpfulness. It pairs Burman university students with seniors with whom they can work closely to develop physical fitness, skills, and relationships. The original goal was to have a 1-1 ratio of students to seniors, but when the call went out for senior participants, the number tripled.

When the class began, 11 Burman students were paired with 34 seniors! "We worked on a much wider spectrum of fitness than is traditionally done in seniors' fitness classes. We trained for cardiovascular fitness, strength, power, reaction time, balance, agility, flexibility, and coordination. We learned how to juggle, balance on one foot, and played dodgeball and pickleball," says Schafer.

Asia Watson-Bizzell, a first-year behavioural science major, entered the class expecting merely to earn her course credits. As the class continued, however, she discovered that she enjoyed the social interaction with the seniors. "I had many favourite experiences, but my top one would be teaching the seniors how to step (body percussion through intricate footsteps and hand claps). At first, when Mr. Schafer asked me to teach [the senior participants], I laughed because I underestimated them. Once I started teaching them the moves, they got the hang of it, and some of them even corrected me if I messed up," recalls Asia.

For married couple Verne and Becky Gustavson, it was a chance to get out of their senior living facility for one hour, three times a week. Both in their early 80s, they jumped at the chance to try something new. "I wanted to take this class because I'm old, not fit, and I need all the help I can get," laughed Verne. He continues, "The students were inspirational! They were with us, helping us! Nothing but positives from this experience. They were very supportive of our limitations."

The interaction between young and experienced blended well, and Ron plans on offering the class again this coming year. "The plan is to continue this class and expand it to the larger community. Our motto is 'If you are movin', you are improvin,'" says Ron.

For students like Asia the impact was just as great. "I learned that most times the seniors just love having someone to talk to and having a friend. It's always great to try something new, because if you asked me before this class, I wouldn't have considered working with seniors, and now since the class I am considering if my career should involve working with the seniors!"

JR Ferrer is the director of communication for Burman University.

anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can occur within minutes or an hour after exposure to an allergy trigger. It happens when the body's immune system overreacts and produces histamines and other chemicals to protect itself from a perceived threat. This reaction is potentially life-threatening. Allergy triggers include medication, latex, exercise, food items, and insect bites and stings.

Anaphylaxis: *Medical Emergency**

SYMPTOMS OF ANAPHYLAXIS

include itching (generalized or specific to the mouth and throat), swelling of the lips and/or tongue, hoarseness, tightness or closure of the throat, difficulty swallowing, hives, redness and swelling of the skin, shortness of breath, coughing, slurred speech, wheezing, weak pulse, nausea, dizziness, vomiting, diarrhea and cramps. Some of these symptoms occur in mild allergic reactions but may become exaggerated in anaphylaxis and/or with individuals diagnosed with asthma.

Epinephrine is the first-line emergency treatment for anaphylaxis. Antihistamines treat mild allergic reactions but do not treat the life-threatening symptoms of anaphylaxis. Individuals who have had severe reactions should carry an epinephrine auto-injector, or sometimes two or three. Epinephrine auto-injectors contain a single dose of epinephrine that is injected into the outer thigh. This medication is not to be injected into veins, buttocks, fingers, toes, hands, or feet. Epinephrine reverses symptoms of anaphylaxis by increasing the heart rate, opening airways, and improving blood



pressure. It is imperative to seek medical help immediately after using epinephrine, since a second reaction may occur.

In order to reduce your risk of anaphylaxis, it is important to remember the following:

- Know what triggers allergic reactions in your body and read food and product labels to identify allergens in order to avoid them.
- When eating away from home, be sure to inquire about ingredients used in food preparation.
- You can have an anaphylactic reaction if utensils and equipment used for items to which you are allergic are not cleaned before they are used for other preparations you may consume. A small amount of protein is enough to cause an anaphylactic reaction.
- If you have a serious allergy, wear an allergy bracelet, inform others about your allergy, and keep your emergency medication with you at all times.

Anaphylaxis is unpredictable. In anaphylaxis, seconds count! Act fast and call 9-1-1 immediately. ■

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

*First printed in *Ontario Highlights*, Fall 2015.

Sources: www.aboutkidshealth.ca and www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Where Are They Now



Frances and Ken Schander

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

Ken Schander: I was born in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1948 to Harley and Susan Schander. I have an older brother, Quentin (Notcross, Ga.), and two younger sisters, Mary Manchur (Kettering, Ohio) and Alice Merrill (Lodi, Calif.).

Frances Schander: The little farming community of Strathroy in Southwestern Ontario was my home base. I have three siblings: Maynard Lowry (Lockport, N.Y.), Janis Lowry (Apopka, Fla.), and Cecil Lowry (Apopka, Fla.).

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

K: I attended Adventist schools for all of my education except for Grade 1. I graduated from Blue Mountain Academy (Hamburg, Pa.), and I finished a BA in history and economics from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University, Takoma Park, Md.). I also attended Newbold College (England) for one year. I completed an M.Div. and a D.Min. from Andrews University.

F: My elementary education took place at Strathroy Public School. When I started Grade 9, my parents moved to Oshawa, Ont., so that all four of us could attend Kingsway College, their own alma mater.

Messenger catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. In this issue we talk with Ken and Frances Schander.

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

I also attended Newbold College for one year and then finished a BA in English from Andrews University, followed by an MAT in English Education, and a PhD in education (curriculum and instruction).

M: Where did you serve? When and in what capacity?

K: I interned at Pittsburgh Shadyside Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., then stayed in the area as pastor of the Butler/Leechburg/New Brighton district, also in western Pennsylvania. From there we moved to the Saskatoon Central/Beaver Creek churches in Saskatchewan. Next we moved to Halifax, N.S., followed by Niles Westside, Mich., Willowdale, Ont., and Victoria/Duncan, B.C., until my retirement in September 2015.

F: My teaching career began as a middle school English/history/Bible teacher at Greater Pittsburgh Junior Academy in Pennsylvania. My career continued either full-time or part-time and included teaching stints for either public or Adventist schools at Sandy Lake Academy; Lake Michigan College; adult education in Toronto; associate superintendent of education, Ontario Conference; superintendent of education, Ontario Conference; and curriculum coordinator/teacher mentor, British Columbia Conference.

M: As a pastor/educator team, how did you complement each other in your areas of service?

K: We are both passionate about Adventist education. We both appreciated the significant sacrifice our own parents had made so that we could have a quality Adventist education. As a pastor, I think it is important to uplift the role that Adventist education plays in helping children learn about Jesus. As an educator Frances knows that repetition and reinforcement are significant to learning. The more opportunities children have to learn about Jesus, the better. We will never forget important Christian principles that we have learned as children. The goal of every Adventist parent is to make certain that they and their children together have a relationship with Jesus. Adventist education is one more way to help make that a reality.

M: Tell me about your family.

K: We have one daughter, Heather, who lives in Toronto. A school psychologist, she works for the Peel School Board.

M: Where are you now, and what are you doing in retirement?

K: We left beautiful Victoria, B.C., and moved to another lovely place, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. We have joined the Niagara Falls church and trust the Lord can use us there. We hope to make friends in our community where, as far as we know, there are no other Seventh-day Adventists. ■

SOME PEOPLE—sometimes those with the biggest hearts—spend their lives misunderstood by others. Or at least partly misunderstood.

Al Capone was hated for his criminal activity but loved for his charity, such as the soup kitchens he opened in Chicago during the Great Depression and the programs he funded to provide schoolchildren with milk in order to wipe out rickets disease. On a smaller scale, we have Glenn Beck, a right-wing talk show host disliked for his opinions but appreciated by his employees because he matches their charitable donations dollar for dollar. Or recording artist Justin Bieber, both loved and criticized, who has single-handedly granted over 250 wishes for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, all in less than four years. Then there are people like Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg, whose personality many find off-putting but who is generous and kind-hearted to those close to him and has given millions to charitable causes.

Some people who are viewed or regarded less than favourably by others actually hold good causes dear to their hearts and lend a helping hand in ways that matter and should not be overlooked. Peggy Barlow was one of these people—misunderstood but generous and kind, in her own way. She lived a life of service but made few lasting ties with those she encountered along the way. Peggy was a very private person who lived simply and humbly. About a decade before she died, she contacted Alvin Ram, Planned Giving director at the Ontario Conference, to help prepare her will.

Peggy was born in England on June 15, 1920. At age 18 she joined the Women's Royal Naval Service and worked as a writer until 1951. Then she moved on to the New Zealand Air Force, serving as a clerk until 1953. During the next three years she lived in Australia, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), South Africa, and Singapore before moving to Quebec in 1956, where she hoped to find a husband and settle down. Instead of a husband, Peggy found the Lord. In 1958 she was baptized in another Christian church, and in 1965, at 45 years old, she graduated and became a nursing assistant and worked as such until her retirement. Peggy's professional path took her to Toronto, where she began faithfully attending the Willowdale church.

Fast forward to April 2015. Pastor Glenn DeSilva, Director for Camp Frenda, sat in his office poring over the budget, trying to figure out how to pay for desperately needed new beds for Frenda's dorms. After the cost of repairing a roof collapse that year, there was only a few thousand dollars left, but it was going to cost approximately \$70,000 to replace beds for the campers. Praying for a solution was the only thing he could do.

What DeSilva did not know was that Peggy Barlow had answered his prayer—11 years before he prayed it. With no husband or children of her own, Peggy pledged everything that God had blessed her with to the children of Camp Frenda.

Peggy died on Nov. 19, 2012, but it took over two years for Alvin Ram, the executor of her will, to settle her affairs. On a sunny day in April 2015, Alvin Ram cast a shadow in Pastor DeSilva's office doorway. DeSilva looked up in amazement when Ram handed over Peggy's gift of \$65,002.58 to Camp Frenda.

While Peggy was no Capone, Beck, Bieber, or Zuckerberg, her generosity and kindness may have been just as misunderstood and overlooked as theirs. And her gift was as important to the children and youth of Camp Frenda as to all the Chicagoans during the Great Depression, Beck's employees, the children of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the many causes on which Facebook's fortune has been bestowed. Her story reminds us that we should not judge but rather look for the good, perhaps especially when it is not obvious. ■



Peggy Barlow

Eleven Years, One Prayer

*"Before they call, I will answer;
while they are speaking
I will hear." —Isaiah 65:24*



Brand-new beds for Camp Frenda's dormitories thanks to Peggy's generous gift.

Leah Keys writes from Newcastle, Ontario.

Northern Canadian school makes impact 13,000 kilometres away in Kenya



Eritha Lafferty (l. to r.), Mary Cheekata, Jamal Begg, Kennedy Prince, Mia Madanis, Sabrina Dukach, Kirianne Ashley, Colene Hoera, Amber Aljun, Ally MacInnis, Meghan Rowberry, Mikaela Trubel, Cindy Riga, and Connor Reicher visited Kenya in March.

A school in northern Canada is going beyond cutting a cheque for international development.

École Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife, N.W.T., is making a difference in the lives of less fortunate children in rural Western Kenya. It has partnered with A Better World Canada (ABW) to sponsor projects at Simotwet Primary School, a nursery to Grade 8 school overlooking the picturesque Great Rift Valley.

School principal Dean MacInnis has seen students benefit in many ways because they have played a direct hand in fundraising for an important project. Some have even visited Kenya to see completed projects. "The impact will be life-lasting," said MacInnis while encouraging other schools in Canada to get involved.

Mikelle Wile was a high school student there when she volunteered with A Better World in 2010. She thought the entire school could get on board. It began raising money in 2010 to support projects at Simotwet Primary.

The Yellowknife public school has since raised about \$38,500 for three classrooms, a kitchen and food storage facility, school uniforms, as well as school supplies for Simotwet and other places students visited. The classroom project was expanded to six, thanks to a matching donation from Alberta couple Jim and Gloria Stenhouse. It was finished in 2012.

The Bernard Melitz Foundation in Lethbridge, Alta., also contributed to the kitchen/food storage building. MacInnis and his wife, Pam Schlosser, math department head at the school, made presentations in front of the entire school body to increase

student buy-in about potential projects. "We talked about how anybody can write a cheque and that it goes off to build something," said MacInnis. "But if you're part of that process, you feel like you built that building."

Students raised money through car washes, pizza sales, and other efforts designed to give back to the local community of about 20,000 people. Each student was responsible for most of the costs with the school fundraising the remainder.

The Grade 9–12 school held two trips to Kenya. Thirteen students visited the classrooms' opening in 2012, and 14 visited the nearly completed kitchen and food storage

facility in March 2016.

Six of those who went in March were of aboriginal descent, the largest amount represented on an A Better World trip. Among those is Jamal Begg, 15, who said he was impressed with the Maasai people. "You can tell when you go there that family is a very important part of their culture," said Begg.

Ally MacInnis, the eldest daughter of MacInnis, became more appreciative of her own family after visiting orphanages on both school trips to Kenya. "It was pretty amazing to go on the trip and do all the fundraising and see all the impact it created," said Ally, 16. "I really applaud [A Better World] for all it's doing around the world, and I'd like to continue to be in partnership with them."

Grade 12 graduate Kirianne Ashley expressed pride after seeing the fruits of their labour back home. Travelling through the slums of Nairobi also touched her. "I hope that for the rest of my life I'll be involved somehow with any sort of project or bettering the world in any way," said Kirianne, 17.

MacInnis tells the students that they may get involved with the view they'll be helping, but they will end up benefiting themselves in even greater ways. He said students will gain more courage, and they will have a new perspective on humanitarianism.

"You'll have compassion for kids in other parts of the world," said MacInnis. "It's going to impact you for a lifetime." ■

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



It Takes a Village

Recently a three-year-old boy climbed over a three-foot high barrier and plunged 15 feet into the gorilla exhibit at the Cincinnati Zoo. After a 10-minute standoff the zoo personnel decided to shoot and kill the 17-year-old primate named Harambe. The child was saved and returned home after a few cuts and bruises. The killing of the animal has created a colossal controversy. Could the gorilla have been tranquilized instead? Why weren't the parents watching the child? Should the parents face criminal charges and be held liable for the death of the endangered animal?

The outrage has sparked a renewed discussion on whether parents should be held responsible for their apparent lack of parenting. The judgment towards the parents in this case has been swift and harsh. Who is responsible? Can parents really watch their children and prevent bad things from happening?

A number of years ago, I pastored a church where the former pastor's child was sexually molested. This incident happened after church, during a potluck lunch, when the pastor's child was playing around the church unsupervised. The accused was a church volunteer. After the aftermath, people in the congregation took sides. *Why was the child left alone to wander? Why do so many volunteers have keys to the church? Why weren't the parents watching their own kid? What could*

have been done to prevent this horrible situation? Here are a few suggestions that should be considered when protecting children in your congregation:

Assume the church is not a safe place. If the church is indeed a refuge for sinners, then we should be aware of the risks. I often tell parents to act the way they would at the mall. Would you let your kids roam freely in the mall while you shop? We need to stop assuming that the church is a sanitized environment.

Protect kids from being "church orphans." These are the kids who roam around unsupervised while their parents are "volunteering" in a ministry (more than often it is the pastor's kids). Establish a "No kids roam free" policy and communicate to the volunteers that children must remain in the same room with their parents. Provide a tub of games and activities that volunteers can grab and use during their time at the church.

Create a ministry night. This is one night of the week where all of the ministry leaders can work on their projects. For example, you could hold prayer meeting, choir practice, room setup, etc., on the same night. On that ministry

night, a couple of babysitters could watch the volunteer's children while they are involved in the church activity.

Don't be afraid to establish church policies that govern how kids will be protected in the congregation. It's your church, so set the rules and boundaries on how you expect children and parents behave while on the church property. For example, my church has a rule that all kids must sit with their parents or in rows in front of their parents, so they are supervised at all times.

Remember, every culture raises their children differently. Canada is filled with a diverse group of immigrants. Some parenting skills seem to be light towards discipline or setting boundaries. You can still be respectful of culture while maintaining the culture your church leadership has set within your congregation.

The ultimate goal is to keep children safe from themselves and others. We want every family to have a positive experience while at church. A discussion on the church board level will give you permission to have an open and honest dialogue on keeping children safe. ■

Kumar Dixit lives 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



Out of Our Hands



Words by God — 1Pet. 5:7, NLT

Remember when you were a kid and received a balloon at a festival or birthday party and you held on so tight because you were afraid to lose it? As we grow up, nothing much changes. We hold on tight to our desires and the things we value. It's hard to lose control over areas of our life, and we often experience fear when our grip feels like it is slipping. The question is, Do we really have control or are we grasping on to something that is less than what God has for us?

God desires what's best for our lives. He sees the beginning and the end and knows what we need. Psalm 34:10 says, "Those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing" (NLT). Yet we worry and try to take the control from God's hands, subconsciously thinking we might do a better job to calm some of the chaos of our lives. In what areas do you see this happening in your own life? Is it in work and school, finances, relationships, or with your family? The question I ask myself, and I encourage you to ask yourself too, is this: When the urgency to take things into my own hands comes, am I trusting and honouring God's plan, or am I making my own?

Those times when we hold tight to our desires is a moment of decision. Have you ever had your hands full of something valuable and tried to navigate without letting any of the pieces slip through your fingers? Where is God in this picture? I believe He is holding

out His hand to you and me, asking us to let go of all the things we've been carrying around for so long and to exchange our hold for His.

Our heavenly Father desires for us to take hold of His hand and allow Him to guide us through the muddle of life, trusting Him with all that is precious to us. We can trust that His hands are more than secure and able to handle the load. Worth more than any priceless treasure or worry is the One who made us, loves us, and is calling us by name, saying, "You are mine." Accepting His offer means letting go of the control we try to have over various areas of our lives and giving all the treasures and broken pieces to Him. "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (1 Pet. 5:7, NLT).

If we are holding tightly to our plan and our desires, is there room for God to move and work His plan out in us? Unless we let go of what we're holding on to, we can't take hold of something better. God is reaching out His hand and asking us to trust Him in all circumstances and in every season. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5, NIV). What are you holding on to today?

Be Blessed. ■

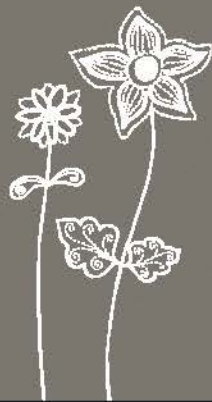
Tia Lawrence is 20 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



refresh with Tia



Watch "Trust in You" by Lauren Daigle:
<https://goo.gl/JOM0vv>



Learning to Pray

*Are we spending an inordinate amount
of our prayer time asking for things?*

I grew up in a Christian home and learned to pray primarily by listening to others pray, mainly my parents at home as well as church members during regular church services. Such services included the Wednesday night prayer meetings. Since they were usually sparsely attended, I often felt timidly duty-bound to pray. How did I formulate my prayers, and where did I get the courage to pray? I would carefully listen to church members pray and then model my prayer after theirs. Needless to say, I was usually the last one to pray during those sessions.

Although I was a child and but a novice in the art of praying, two definitive things could be said about the prayers offered by those in attendance: first, they were heartfelt and represented an honest outpouring of the soul before God; secondly, they were heavily punctuated with "prayer requests." One could not miss the constant chorus of asking God for favours and more favours. There was barely an expression of praise and adoration or thanksgiving to God, hardly an utterance declaring who the Mighty God is. The lack of balance was obvious. Daniel Henderson, in his book *Transforming Prayer*, refers to this model as the "request-based model."¹

My experience in learning to pray may not be unique. In fact, as I interact and worship with Christians in many congregations and listen to their prayers, I am hearing much of the same prayer content that I heard when I was first exposed to praying. They are heavily demanding and request-based, with such expressions as "Lord, bless me," "Lord, give me..." and "God, I am asking you to..." Let's be clear, however. It is not that God does not want us to bring our requests before Him, for He says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6, NKJV).

Ellen White's encouragement is, "Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children."²

Could it be, however, that we are spending an inordinate amount of our prayer time *asking for things* for our personal convenience and comfort when Jesus has already instructed us that our heavenly Father already knows all the things we need and is prepared to provide those things for us? (see Matt. 6:32).

In contrast to request-based praying, Henderson advocates "worship-based" praying. In this approach, Scripture is paramount in directing the way we pray. As the Word is read and the characteristics of God are revealed, the individual develops a sense of who God is and, in prayer, adores Him for being that God.

A worship-based approach, he writes, "fixes our heart first on the majesty of God, the person of Christ, the purity of His Word, and excites within us an appetite for Him."³

Derek Thomas says that "this focus calls for us to think about God and in particular His Name." He continues, "Our prayers are to be suffused with large thoughts about God. We are to take the attributes of God, which are suggested by His various names." He asserts that "if our prayers are not focused on God, we are guilty of idolatry, as we are putting someone or something else in God's place."⁴

I am convinced that worship-based praying can lead us into a fuller and richer experience with God. ■

Eustace Williams is the personal ministries director for the Ontario Conference.

¹ Daniel Henderson, *Transforming Prayer* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House, 2011), p. 26-27

² Ellen White, *Steps to Christ* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association), chapt. 11.

³ Henderson, *Transforming Prayer*, p. 89.

⁴ Derek Thomas, *Praying the Saviour's Way* (Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2002), p. 43.



barry's blog

"Love, not hate, is the motivator of true religious expression."

Orlando, Anti-Gay Bigotry, and Religion

Rather than cast aspersions upon religion, as CBC reporter Neil Macdonald has done, in the wake of the Orlando tragedy,¹ perhaps a more profitable approach would be to consider how we could get along on the same real estate while maintaining our deeply held convictions. Mr. Macdonald questions what responsibility organized religion bears "for the pain and misery and death inflicted on gays for so many centuries in the name of god."

Macdonald suggests that religious groups are involved in "anti-gay activities" by "going to court to ensure their right to discriminate against gays in hospitals and schools and other religiously affiliated institutions." According to Macdonald, this contributes to a culture that makes it possible for the Orlando bloodbath.

However, that suggestion is, in my view, overstating the case. As one scholar noted, "Contemporary mass media often interpret particular events as emblematic of bigger problems."² Macdonald did just that. Scholars will be debating the Orlando massacre for years to come. The incident is not as simple as Macdonald suggests. As time goes on, we will find out more about the complexity of the Orlando killer; recent reports suggest he was a troubled individual, violent to his wife, and had his own sexual identity issues within a complicated matrix of radical religious views.³

Christian institutions are an extension of their religious communities. They carry out their religious beliefs in the practical day-to-day affairs in an attempt to alleviate human suffering. They are motivated by

the Christian principles of serving unconditionally. Are they perfect? No. Can they do better? Of course. But to suggest that these same religious communities that want to maintain their religious views about marriage in accordance with their religious practices are implicated in the Orlando mass shooting is a stretch too far.

Consider for a moment: Just because X does not agree with how Y lives her life does not give X the right to kill Y. In other words, my right to exist and live my life without fear is an inalienable right as a member of humanity. It is not dependent upon my identity nor my religious beliefs. Religion never has a right to justify such killing.

There has been so much killing on this planet over religion that it is mind-boggling and utterly nauseating. Because of the violence experienced in the religious wars and persecutions of Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries, we have developed a form of government that we refer to as “Western representative democracy.” Our Western democracies have been, to date, the most successful forms of government that have allowed the greatest degree of individual freedom while, at the same time, providing for civil peace.

Our society is not perfect. We have a ways to go, but we have been moving forward. One of the chief cornerstones of our method of building community has been the right to believe or not to believe, practise or not to practise, religion.

The very core of who we are ties into what we hold to be true as we struggle to answer the fundamental questions *Who are we? Why are we here? What are our responsibilities and duties? Where are we going?*

Our answers to these fundamental questions may not all agree. We give ample room for disagreement. But even then we have accepted a certain level of dissonance as the price we pay to live peacefully in our free and democratic society where minorities are protected against majorities’ whim.

The heinous crime of Orlando is that: heinous. It goes against all that we have come to appreciate about living in our society. Violence against one group is violence against all. The racially motivated violence committed against the church members gathered for a prayer meeting in Charleston, S. C., is no different than the antigay violence of Orlando, Fla. It is hate. Since the time Europeans burned heretics at the stake, we have, as a free and democratic society, said such violence was evil. And so it is. And so it will remain.

From the moment the Orlando tragedy came to light, religious communities swung into action not only to condemn the carnage but also to assist with the care of the grieving. That is when we see religion at its best—caring for all despite our differences on life. Everyone deserves to be treated as we would want others to treat us. Love, not hate, is the motivator of true religious expression.

Our society has always struggled to find a place for people of very different views on how we ought to live and what it means to be human. It is a struggle worth having. If we are going to be successful in having a multicultural community where everyone is given the same opportunity to live one’s understanding of the deep, conscientiously held convictions, then we will require respect for the humanness of the other.

The Orlando disaster is a time to lend a helping hand to alleviate the pain and suffering of our neighbours. Neighbours who may think differently. Neighbours who may live differently. But neighbours all the same. ■

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

¹ Neil Macdonald, “After Orlando, Time to Recognize That Anti-Gay Bigotry Is Not Religious Freedom,” *CBC News*, June 17, 2016. www.cbc.ca/news/politics/orlando-religion-anti-gay-bigotry-1.3631994.

² Joel Best, review of “The Montreal Massacre: A Story of Membership Categorization Analysis,” by Peter Eglin, Stephen Hester, in *The American Journal of Sociology* 110, no. 2 (September 2004): 520, 521, www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/425399.

³ Chris Perez and Joe Tacopino, “Ex-Wife’s Bombshell Claim: Club Shooter Was Gay,” *New York Post*, June 13, 2016, <http://nypost.com/2016/06/13/shooter-used-to-visit-orlando-gay-club-use-gay-dating-apps/>.



Almost vegan

Sweet, Salty, Sour, Bitter—we all know the basic four flavours, but a fifth flavour is now being recognized: *umami*. Umami is the savoury flavour that helps give meat and cheese its unique taste. When substituting cheese in a recipe to make it vegan, we need to ensure that umami components are added to maintain the overall flavour of the dish. There are many vegan sources for umami. Our favourites include balsamic vinegar, soy sauce, roasted red peppers, and nutritional yeast.

In this recipe we use a medium-firm tofu, with some balsamic vinegar to add the umami, to achieve a close substitute for cottage cheese. We use it for a variety of purposes, one example of which will appear in the next issue. ■

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

Cottage Cheese

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (420g) package of medium firm tofu
- ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) salt
- 1½ teaspoon (7.5 ml) garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) olive oil
- 6 tablespoons (90 ml) Vegenaise (vegan mayonnaise substitute)
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) balsamic vinegar

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Mash tofu until it is all crumbled.
- Add the remaining ingredients and mix well.
- Chill overnight in refrigerator.
- Makes approximately 2 cups.
- For a firmer cottage cheese, use firm instead of medium-firm tofu.

Not too late to choose Jesus

"HOW DOES THAT SONG GO, I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE? Sorry, I'm not yelling. I have neurological problems. I type thwrong buttons when I'm excited."



Ross is a listener who has been through a fair bit in his life. Five years ago he almost died in a car accident.

Today he was reaching out to the VOAR staff to find lyrics to a song that had touched him. He said the song was written from the perspective of Jesus trying to reach us but that we have "traded heaven for a few short years." The idea or vantage point is set in the future looking back to when the son or daughter still had the choice to accept Jesus.

Ross told us this song makes him cry for his loved ones still in bondage and that he would like to play it so his family will hear the message. He said, "I want them to know that it's not too late to choose Jesus."

We could hear the urgency in Ross's request. His desire to see his family united with Christ prompted him to contact us for more information about a song that he hopes will open communication lines with his children. We do not fully know his family dynamic, nor do we know the extent of Ross's ongoing health concerns, but we know that he trusts God, and through prayer he is presenting his children before Christ. He is putting this desire in God's sovereign and loving hands. VOAR is thankful to be here for Ross, and we invite you to pray along with us for his family to come to the saving knowledge of truth. ■

Tina Taylor is the communications director for VOAR.



Rebecca Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

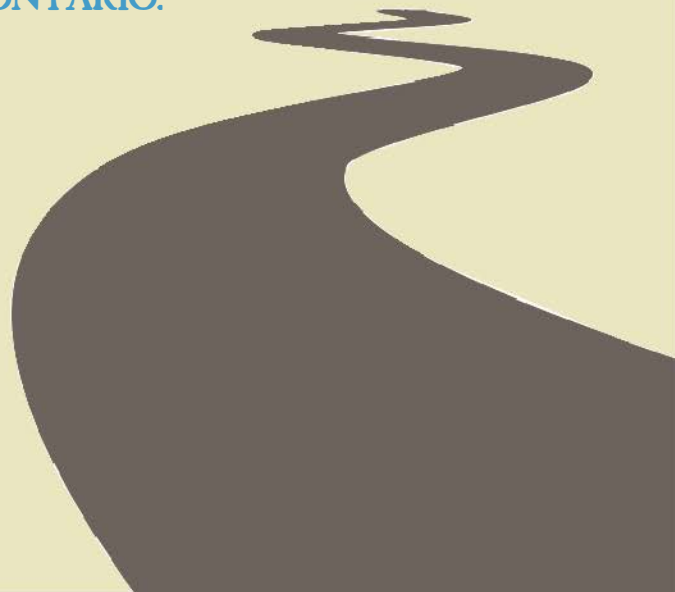
AT THE KENDALWOOD AND WILLOWDALE
CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

You are out hiking on Sabbath. The sweat is dripping. Is it wrong to jump into the lake to cool off? Why or why not?

Oneta George: For me, I would not, because I cannot swim. What if something happens and no one is around to help?

Bernice Stewart: There are a number of things to take into consideration, but perhaps I would not jump too deeply, but stay [closer] to the water's edge.

Lydia Astacio: No, I don't think [it is wrong], if that is something you are prepared to do. You are already out enjoying nature, and as long as you can take the time to also enjoy the beauty of the lake and thank God for creating such beautiful nature, I don't think it is wrong. God wants us to enjoy nature!





Praying for a Man's Husband

*"For I did not come
to judge the world
but to save the world."*

It was summertime in Calgary, and I was working as a student literature evangelist. Approaching a door, I knocked, and when a man answered it, I noticed right away that he had a pleasant face. He seemed happy. Even more, he actually seemed happy to see me.

As part of my presentation, I began to talk with the man about health and the benefits of fruits and vegetables. Halfway through, he interrupted me and said, "Come in, come in! I need you to pray for my husband."

The words came as a shock, but assuming I had heard wrong, I said, "Oh sure, I'd love to pray for your wife."

"No, my husband," the man corrected, seeming not at all disturbed. Without hesitation, I responded, "I'm sorry; I would love to pray for your husband. But I don't remember telling you that I am a Christian. How did you know?"

"Your whole demeanor," the man answered. "You see, I prayed earlier today that the Lord would send a Christian to my door who could educate me on health, because my husband has Type 2 diabetes, and most of the time, I have to stay at home with him. I have been really concerned lately about his medications and his daily meals. Something keeps telling me they are reacting badly together."

"I'm not yet a nurse," I replied. "And I'm not a doctor or a nutritionist. I just know a few things."

Still, the man insisted that I come in and pray. Throughout this exchange, I prayed in my mind as I had never prayed before. What should I do? How should I respond? Could I pray for this man without offending God? Then two verses came to me:

*"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"
(Rom. 5:20).*

"To the weak become I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (1 Cor. 9:22, 23).

I knew what I should do. Going in, I prayed for the man and for his husband, feeling very privileged that God had chosen me to share His love with them. Afterwards, I gave the man a copy of the book *The Great Controversy*. At this, he began to cry. He told me he attended a Full Gospel church on Sundays but hadn't been able to go since his husband had become ill. He then said, "Young lady, you are a blessing to me. I will make sure to read this book!"

In John 12:47, Jesus said, "For I did not come to judge the world but to save the world." I now better understand what Jesus meant. Jesus did not condone the behaviour of the woman caught in adultery. In His parting words to her He said, "Go and sin no more." But He also said, "Neither do I condemn you." He gave her the help and the hope she needed to leave her past behind, and to a world that is lost and hurting, He asks us to do the same. It is not our job to judge or condemn. Instead, we must be moved with the compassion that moved the heart of Jesus, extending His love and His grace to all. ■

Samella Pringle-Robinson served as a CYC student in the summer of 2013 and shared her story with Lifestyle Canada, a ministry that combines literature evangelism with the personal touch. To find out how you can get involved or to sponsor a program, visit lifestylecanada.org

Transformed Into His Image



Group that attended the "Transformed into His Image" women's retreat held at Camp Woody Acres, Nfld.



Presenters Joan Rogers, Amanda Matthews, and Carla Baker, with little Madison.

BEING "TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE" was a wonderfully, powerful, Spirit-filled women's retreat held at Camp Woody Acres, N.L., on May 28 and 29, 2016. Three speakers presented at the retreat: Carla Baker, North American Division (NAD) Women's Ministry director; Joan Rogers, SDACC Women's Ministry director; and Amanda Matthews, women's ministry director in

Newfoundland. Each presented such thought-provoking and hands-on seminars that enlightened those in attendance with a better sense of who they are as women of influence and what they can do in their homes, churches, and communities. We found rest and rejuvenation and are recharged.

The "Determining and Embracing our Spiritual Gifts" seminar assisted us with a unique sense of understanding to work on refining gifts for service to God and in blessing others. The "Restored Hands" featured a spiritual spa where God's transforming power allowed us to see our hands transformed as instruments for His cause.

Visitors such as Zoe, a young woman from the community, keenly felt the comradery and unity that characterized the retreat. She expressed her joy in the feeling of acceptance. She had the opportunity to express her concern for her community friend in an abusive relationship and her determination to get advice, assistance for her, and prayer on her behalf.

Carla Baker, director of NAD, was impressed with young Madison's (right

front in picture) assistance in presentation preparation for the spa and also in the kitchen. An amazingly strong feeling of togetherness was experienced by all.

Seminars on learning how to take care of our bodies physically and spiritually with special attention to healthier meals, natural alternatives, and therapies gave us alternatives to the treatment of common ailments for our families. In addition, learning new ways to engage in ministry activities in the different locale and how to resolve conflicts, equipped us with tools to make us successful and influential women of worth.

Experiencing a transforming power that can only come through the power of the Holy Spirit, we quote Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (NKJV). ■

Joan Rogers and Amanda Matthews are the directors of women's ministries at the Ontario and Newfoundland Conferences, respectively.

FLEEING FORT MCMURRAY

The wildfire spread quickly, growing to 85,000 hectares overnight ...

by Kryzia Abacan



While the smoke continued to thicken, Gugu maintained a calm spirit, thinking clearly through the initial panic.

Gugu Mhlanga with her husband, Brian, and her son, Avery.

In early May 2016 a 10,000-hectare¹ wildfire broke out near Fort McMurray, Alta., threatening the safety of the city's entire population and forcing a mandatory evacuation of approximately 80,000 people. Residents fled from their homes, desperately seeking safety in locations north and south of the city. The wildfire spread quickly, growing to 85,000 hectares overnight and eventually consuming 589,995 hectares of land as of June 10². Evacuees were left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and the few items they snatched in their rush to leave. They were forced to leave behind their homes and the lives they had built, unaware of how drastically their lives would change in a matter of mere hours.

Gugu Mhlanga moved to Fort McMurray in April 2013 from Barrie, Ont. She was working on completing practical nursing at Keyano College. "Fort McMurray was a lovely city," Gugu says. "It was a city with great people who had a good sense of community." Her family enjoyed living in the city, establishing a life for themselves with work, school, and friends. They lived in Abasand, one of the first communities evacuated.

On the day of the evacuation, Gugu was at home with her son having a playdate with a friend and her son. As Gugu and her friend enjoyed each other's company and watched their boys play, the sunlight in the room quickly vanished. "The room got dark so suddenly," she recalls. "It was confusing because it was not evening time yet." The curiosity of both women peaked as they made their way to the closest window to investigate the cause for the darkness. "We took a quick look outside and immediately noticed a thick cloud of smoke," she says. "It covered the entire sky."

As Gugu snapped pictures of the sky for her husband, a call came through on her phone. It was another friend urging her to get her family out of the area and come to her house because of the overwhelming cloud of smoke. Gugu's husband immediately left work to pick them up. "As we waited for my husband, I packed a few pieces of clothing in case we had to stay over at our friend's place for a few days," she reveals. "I also packed important documents, in case the house burned down." The possibility of losing their home was already on Gugu's mind, so she began packing the essentials they needed: clothing to get them by and important documents to keep them moving. While the smoke continued to thicken, Gugu maintained a calm spirit, thinking clearly through the initial panic.

"We were calm about it," Gugu emphasizes, "because we thought it was only smoke and we were going to come back home the following day." When her husband arrived, they received a call from the same friend who had urged them to leave the area. "She told us that our area was now under mandatory evacuation," Gugu says. Taking the little they had packed, they hurried to their car to immediately leave. As they looked around, their neighbours were doing the same: packing up and heading out. Everyone had received word of the mandatory evacuation for the area. "Police were all over," Gugu remembers. "They tried to direct traffic as cars slowly crept out of the area in an effort to follow the mandatory evacuation."

Through it all, Gugu and her husband remained calm, convinced that it would no longer be an issue by the next day. They thought they would be able to return to their home sometime soon, but things did not turn out the way they initially thought. "People speculated

1 Peter Edwards, "Alberta Issues Province-Wide Fire Ban as Crews Battle Flames in Fort McMurray," *Toronto Star*, May 5, 2016. www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/05/05/more-communities-evacuated-as-fort-mcmurray-fire-moves-south.html.

2 Final Update 39: 2016 Wildfires (June 10 at 4:30 p.m.), Alberta Government, June 10, 2016, accessed June 15, 2016, www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=41701E7ECBE35-AD48-5793-1642C499FF0DE4CF.



Above: One of the photos Gugu took of the fire and smoke that blocked out the sun that fateful afternoon.
Below: The aftermath of the Fort McMurray wildfires.

that our area was burnt down minutes after we were evacuated from Abasand,” Gugu comments. “We thought to check our thermostat, which we were able to control on our mobile devices. It had gone offline.” According to reports by the Edmonton Sun, residents living in the Abasand area were given evacuation notices at 2 p.m. By 3:10 p.m., houses in the area began to burn down.

Gugu’s family drove north to an area called Parsons Creek, staying with a friend until the situation had calmed down. Within a couple of hours, they found themselves back on the road: all of Fort McMurray was given a mandatory evacuation order. Gugu and her family drove six hours south to Lacombe to be with family in their time of distress.

“We went through a phase of denial and disbelief,” Gugu confesses. “We pretty much knew we had lost everything and we were going to be in need of a lot of things.” Gugu and her family were not alone in their distress. Other evacuated families found themselves in a similar situation: they were homeless and in need of some of the most basic necessities.

Yet in the midst of a tragedy, there was a glimmer of hope: compassion. Citizens across the province of Alberta and throughout the country of Canada quickly responded. Donations of all kinds were sent to accepting organizations. Organizations were formulating teams to help

with the relief effort. Everyone worked together to ensure that the needs of the evacuees were being met. “People were just willing to help everywhere we went,” Gugu confirms. “Several places gave us free items that met our basic needs, while the government and the Red Cross assisted us financially.”

As of June 1, 2016, residents of Fort McMurray were permitted to return to their homes. Some have decided to move back and begin rebuilding, while others have decided to find a fresh start elsewhere. Gugu and her family decided to delay their return. “We would love to go back after they rebuild our property,” she says. “But for now I would like to just stay somewhere else.” The whole experience is still fresh for Gugu and her family. They have decided to stay in Kelowna, B.C., for now, where her husband’s company allowed them to relocate.

“With time, we accepted what had happened,” Gugu discloses. “We were then ready to move on and see where God was about to take us.”

Although the threat of the wildfire has subsided, the needs of Fort McMurray residents continue to grow as they rebuild their lives and repair their homes. In hopes of meeting each citizen’s basic needs as they rebuild, the Province of Alberta has partnered with the Municipality of Wood Buffalo and ADRA Canada in order to manage the receiving and shipping of donations. Although the storm of the crisis has faded, there is still much work to be done. The residents of Fort McMurray have begun a long process of healing and restoring. Let us continue to find ways to support them in this process, as well as include them in our prayers. ■

Kryzia Abacan is a recent graduate of the MA in Communication program at Andrews University. You can read her personal blog at www.kryziaabacan.com.



Out of the Ashes and Into the Light



The Fort McMurray Adventist Church stands virtually untouched by the wildfires.



Fort McMurray church members on the streets of Edmonton serving and ministering.

From the ashes of the Fort McMurray catastrophe, a beautiful story emerged. One that could only be written by the hand of God. Members of the Fort McMurray Seventh-day Adventist Church were among the thousands that evacuated the city with minutes to spare and only the clothes on their back. Most of them made their way to evacuation centres set up in Edmonton, where the goal became survival and acquisition of basic necessities.

Yet, a mere three weeks after suddenly finding themselves sleeping on cots in a stadium and not yet cleared to return to their homes in Fort McMurray, these same church members were found out on the streets of Edmonton. No, they weren't begging for money or assistance. Instead, they were performing urban ministry with Lyle Notice, Alberta Adventist Community Services (ACS) coordinator.

Thembie Nyathi, youth leader of the Fort McMurray church had been involved in an urban ministry activity with Pastor Lyle just the week before. While under evacuation, church members continued to hold worship services in Edmonton and incorporate their recent urban ministry in Rundle Park. Church members donned their white ACS T-shirts to hand out roses and granola bars, offer prayer and hugs, assist seniors, play with children, and engage in meaningful conversation with perfect strangers. Even while they were displaced, these church members still desired to follow in Christ's footsteps to offer comfort, love, and support to others.

"People don't care how much you know until they know

how much you care," says Fort McMurray pastor, David Guzman. "Although some of us have lost our homes and belongings, and are displaced, we still want to serve the community, minister to people, and touch people's lives, because that's what Christ would do. This earth is not our home!"

In the midst of their own suffering, when the world would expect them to have a hand out asking for help, church members like Thembie and little Tiaunah Knight are instead extending their hands out to bless others. And what a blessing it has been. Their pain was not wasted on self-pity and doubt but rather channelled into an expression of their gratefulness for life, health, and God's love and mercy.

God's faithfulness never falls. Just as He shields and protects His church, so He protected His physical church. In an area where mass devastation occurred, the Fort McMurray church building was found virtually untouched by fire. Just a few feet away across the road, charred grass sits in plain view.¹

The members of Fort McMurray Seventh-day Adventist Church have since been cleared to return home. What they found of their earthly possessions may have been complete loss. But what they gained in support and strength of spirit can never be taken away. That is a gift from God Himself. ■

Aimee Perez is the Canadian Adventist Messenger secretary and a staff writer.

New Enrolment Team



Greg Bussey, Director, Enrollment Services, Development, and Alumni Relations, Ext. 212; Chante Alleyne, Enrollment Advisor and Recruitment, Ext. 210; Jessika Lopez, Communications Assistant, Ext. 211

AS CHANGES ARE A PART OF LIFE EVERYWHERE, Kingsway College has seen a few this past year. Responsibilities and experience are being passed from Remy Guenin and Christina Lister to Greg Bussey, Jessika Lopez, and Chante Alleyne. We want to express our thanks and appreciation for the hard work these individuals have put in and assure them that we will pray for their success in their new positions.

Mr. Guenin and his family will be making their new home at Mt. Pisgah Academy in North Carolina. Christina Lister has already begun her new position at Burman University in Lacombe, Alta.

While both Mr. Guenin and Ms. Lister will be thoroughly missed, their devotion and honest hard work will be remembered. Mr. Guenin, in the six years of working at Kingsway College, made a lasting impression on the hearts and minds of all the staff and faculty, families, and students alike. His continual involvement and enthusiasm for Christian education and commitment to living out a Christ-like character was always evident in his work ethic and engagements.

Christina, though not here as long as Mr. Guenin, also made lasting impressions on our staff and students. From creativity, school spirit, to connections she made with

the students, Ms. Lister always approached the task at hand with enthusiasm and was ready for anything.

We pray for God's continued guidance and blessing on both individuals as they allow God to lead in the new chapter of their lives.

Kingsway College is no strange place to Greg Bussey or Chante Alleyne, as it is their alma mater. Greg Bussey previously worked at Kingsway in the capacity as president. So, welcome back, Mr. Bussey and Ms. Alleyne!

Kingsway College is a wonderful school. Why? At Kingsway it is about "service, not fame" and because friendships are made that will last forever—literally. The school's atmosphere is such that you can find so many Christian attributes not only spoken but also implemented. God works in such mysterious ways. We hope that all young people who experience Kingsway will discover that He has done so many wonderful things in the past, and we believe and pray that God continues to bless our collective future. He knows exactly what needs to happen and when, if we would just patiently rely on Him to do so. So we ask that prayers will be uplifted for Kingsway College.

Along with Greg Bussey and Ms. Alleyne, we would also like to welcome Jessika Lopez. If you ever have the opportunity to stop by the office, you will likely find busy employees answering phone calls, meeting with prospective parents and students, as well as undertaking a number of other tasks. As the enrolment department prepares for the upcoming alumni weekend and summer tours, we pray that God will guide and lead in the tasks at hand so that His work may continue to not only educate but also to win hearts for Christ. As it says in Philippians 4:13, "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (NLT). We know this to be the case in all our endeavours.

To contact the office with respect to any enrolment inquiries, please reach out to us directly at 905/433-1144. ■

Chante Alleyne is development coordinator at Kingsway College.

MANS High School Students Take Leadership in Mission Outreach



This May, the high school students of Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) took mission outreach to a new level. The school actively cultivates an attitude of outreach and “giving back,” starting formally in Grade 2 with kids baking and delivering cookies to neighborhoods in Ponoka and Wetaskiwin. The result: this spring, students not only attended the BC Native Camp Meeting but also led out in worship as a praise team at Port Hardy’s Avalon Adventist Academy, conducted the children’s programs at the camp meeting, and delivered 85 blankets to individuals on the Tsulquate Reserve.

The blanket distribution was the initiative of a Grade 11 student named Hope. This past fall, seeing people around her on the Maskwacis reserves who faced winter without heat in their homes, Hope decided that she wanted to help. She decided that distributing blankets was something she could do. Her friend agreed, and soon the staff and other students devised a plan for a blanket drive to support what became known as “Hope’s Mission.”

The blanket distribution project was intended to last two months, ending in December, but the joy Hope experienced as she witnessed the positive effects of the effort lit a fire in Hope’s heart. She continued to spearhead the blanket project for another four months, culminating in the Tsulquate Reserve distribution. Over the six months that Hope’s Mission collected blankets, more than 200 blankets were distributed and hundreds of people warmed by the spirit and practical outreach of MANS students.

The students’ worlds were expanded by their encounter with another First Nations culture and the kindness of First Nations Adventist James Walkus, who took them out on the ocean in one of the boats from his fishing fleet—the first time any of the MANS students had ever been on a power boat.

“Everyone had to taste the water,” said high school vice-principal Mike Willing, who helped plan and raise funds for the trip. “No one had ever tasted saltwater before. We spent six hours on the beach,” he said, observing that the BC experience was “transformational for these kids.”

The students will always remember their first taste of the ocean, BC Native Campmeeting, and their first view of the Rocky Mountains. But just as important is the confidence and knowledge that Hope’s Mission inspired. Hope and her classmates know they can work together to make a difference, and nothing can take that experience from them. ■

Above: MANS Student Praise Team leads out in worship at Avalon Adventist Academy before diving into leadership in the children’s divisions during BC Native Camp Meeting at Port Hardy, B.C.

Top of the page: On Sabbath afternoon, MANS students experience the joy of distributing the 85 new blankets they amassed through the student-inspired and student-led “Hope’s Mission” project.

The students will always remember their first taste of the ocean, BC Native Camp Meeting, and their first view of the Rocky Mountains. But just as important is the confidence and knowledge that Hope’s Mission inspired.

Lynn McDowell is director of planned giving/philanthropy and manager of The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School to build a high school building.

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"Want a closer relationship with God? Then definitely come to PAA."

Austin Skani first learned about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) at a very overwhelming time in his life. In the summer of 2013 he was placed with his new foster parents, Jim and Janice (Ganson) Clark, just as they were packing to leave for Alberta campmeeting. The three years since have allowed Austin to learn about God's love and acceptance through the example of his home and school families.

The Clarks both graduated from Parkview Adventist Academy, and so far, three of their five biological children have also attended. According to Austin, "They told me it was an option I had, and while they wouldn't force me to come, they said I would really enjoy it." Austin learned more about PAA through the tent display at campmeeting that first summer, and hearing the positive experiences of his new family, he was curious to see it for himself. "I was kind of hesitant," he says, "but thought that if I tried it for a year and liked it, I could come back. I have actually really enjoyed it. Being part of PAA on the university campus, you get opportunities you wouldn't have if you were attending a regular high school."

Austin shares his family's love for an active lifestyle and has gotten involved in PAA athletics. "I heard they had a good sports program, and that really interested me. I've gotten to travel for soccer, volleyball, basketball, and flag football, as well as participate in intramurals for Burman University and PAA." At PAA, Austin continues to grow in his confidence, skills, and relationships.

Sports have provided a natural framework for making friends, and Austin is glad for the connections both in and outside of the classroom: "I've gotten to know a few older students really well. They're good role models: honour roll, kind and respectful, and athletic, too. I am a little like them, I guess."

Austin is one of several First Nations students at PAA and describes his experience, explaining, "PAA is really cool because of the different ethnicities and different cultures here." The Grade 10 student has shared a classroom with young people representing more than eight different countries and cultures,



Austin Skani

as well as multiple provinces. With such a variety of values and backgrounds at PAA, it is amazing to see what can bring the students together on common ground.

"At the start of the year I didn't really realize the importance of the spiritual aspects of school," Austin admits, "but once we got to Week of Prayer, it was really nice. We got to experience almost a youth-retreat style of program here at PAA. Chapels are always a nice time where we can sing, worship, and hear a devotional. I really like that we do that once a week."

The regular spiritual focus along with the highlighted programs throughout the year led to Austin choosing baptism at the Canada-wide Youth Summit held on campus in May. "My baptism was extremely last minute," he says, "but it was something I really wanted to do. I needed Jesus in my life. Now it's so nice to know that here on campus if you ever need spiritual help, we have multiple youth leaders, multiple pastors, and so many people who can support you. There's worship in every class you take! The Holy Spirit touched my heart here, and it was nice to experience that for real."

Austin is looking forward to many things next year but mostly the opportunity to continue growing in his faith. "Want a closer relationship with God?" he asks. "Then definitely come to PAA. We have everything you need to learn and grow. There will always be something good." ■

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

“I would rather ride a bicycle in the winter...”

“How do you value Christian education?”

NOVEMBER 1984. The month that saw the beginning of life in Canada for a family from Korea. Pastor V. Lee and his wife, Pao, along with their three daughters, Jan, Nina, and Pina,* arrived in Toronto to begin a new chapter in their lives. Pastor Lee had been hired by the Ontario Conference as the pastor of one of our congregations.

After settling down in their new home, Pastor Lee and his wife set out to visit the local Seventh-day Adventist school. They were intentional about finding the proper school for their three girls, and they were going to do whatever was needed to give them the best education. After visiting Crawford Adventist Academy, a K-12 school located at 531 Finch Ave. W., they immediately enrolled their girls: Jan in grade 9 and the other two in elementary.

Pastor Lee soon discovered that it was difficult to keep the girls in school; not only was it far to drive to school each morning and get them there on time, but also he was the only one in the family with a steady income. His wife, Pao, a qualified nurse in her country, soon found a kitchen staff job in a nearby hospital, which paid minimum wage. All this did not deter them from keeping their girls in the school. Pastor Lee said one day, “Even if I have to ride a bicycle in the winter and live under a tent, I will not take my children out of the Christian environment of our school.”

Pastor Lee and his wife decided to sell the house they had purchased with the money they had originally brought to Canada and instead move to a low-cost building close to the school. With the proceeds from the sale of their house, he could now pay for his children's education at Crawford. When the first girl, Jan, graduated from Grade 12, she was sent to CUC (now Burman University). The second girl, Nina, did the same. By the time Jan graduated from CUC, she was accepted at the Loma Linda Medical School. Nina, upon her graduation, was accepted in the School of Dentistry at Loma Linda.

Pastor Lee and his wife decided to relocate to California where they could be close to their children and provide support to them.

In 2001, Jan graduated with a medical degree from the Loma Linda School of Medicine. Two years later her sister, Nina, graduated as a dentist from the Loma Linda School of Dentistry. The last girl, Pina, completed an Education degree at LaSierra and is now teaching in Southern California. Jan specializes in internal medicine and is married to an ENT (ear, nose, and throat specialist); they have practices in Washington State. Nina served as a missionary in Thailand for five years and is now practising in Texas, where she met and married an architect. Pina is married to an educator. All three girls, along with their families, are active members in their respective churches. They are all amazed at what their parents did for them. They do not know how they made it happen but are grateful for their Christian education from those early years until they could reach a point in their lives when they understood how to make the right choices.

“True Education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character. The world needs people of noble character, who are controlled by steadfast principle.”—E.G. White, *Education*, p. 225

The sacrifice that Pastor Lee made for his children, and the resolve that he had, paid dividends in the lives of his children. Pastor Lee is now retired, and he and his wife live in the Loma Linda area. The Lees visit their children regularly and are proud to be doing grandparents to five grandchildren who are all attending Seventh-day Adventist schools.

Pastor Lee's story could be yours too. How do you value Adventist Christian education? Pastor Lee recognized it as an investment in his children to prepare them for service for God here on earth and for greater service in eternity. ■

Donald McIntyre is the Superintendent of Schools for the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

*This is a true account, but the names of individuals have been changed.

Developing Online Presence for Churches

A VERY REAL CHALLENGE facing Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools, and organizations today is how to communicate effectively in a digital society. A well-organized online presence doesn't just happen. Churches and schools need to get serious about what they are communicating (whether intentionally or unintentionally) and develop a communication plan that works.¹

As Seventh-day Adventists, we have an important message to communicate to a dying world. A distinctive Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness. It's not only a good idea; it's our responsibility as Christians. The reality is that we oftentimes have a difficult time communicating this message, not because we are not willing but because we don't know or understand how to communicate effectively. Here are some points to consider about developing a purposeful online presence for churches and schools.

Identify Your Purpose for Existence—Your Vision

The first step in any effective communication, whether it be online or not, is to identify the purpose for your existence—your vision. This ultimately means clarifying who you are as a church/school, why you do the things you do, and where you are headed. For example, when I pastored at the Kelowna Adventist Church, we met as a board three or four times over several months to specifically identify a five-year vision for the church and to come up with a statement of purpose that was consistently repeated week after week—in our case,

“Sharing the Christ Who Cares.” What we were saying was that the Kelowna Seventh-day Adventist Church existed for this primary purpose. Everything we did as a church, whether it was cooking schools, CHIP programs, computer classes, preaching, or social events, focused on this purpose for existence.

Develop a Communication Plan

Once you have identified your purpose for existence, the next thing you should do is develop a communication plan that helps determine what, when, and how you will be communicating. While a communication plan involves numerous stages and forms of communication, for the purpose of this article I will be exclusively focusing on aspects that relate to online communication.

As part of a communication plan, identify your “brand” by developing key organizational message points (see below for examples) and a visual identity (through logos, graphics, banners, etc.). Your organization will start to become recognizable to individuals through the brand you consistently put out there. Appoint someone responsible with the role of following through with the communication plan. Other parts of a communication plan should include (1) what needs to be communicated, (2) who the target audience is, (3) how often communication happens, and (4) the communication medium, and (5) ways of measuring results.

Using Social Media

In today's always “connected” culture of social media,

¹ A good resource to help you get started is a periodical called *Curb Appeal*, produced by the North American Division's (NAD) communication department.

a Purposeful Presence and Schools

by Troy McQueen

mobile devices and lightning-fast Internet, more and more people are relying on the always-on, always-connected attribute of the Internet to connect, find, and share. In fact, research is finding that the Internet is more than a technology; it has become an extension of our brains.

This reminds me of a Bible text found in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (NIV).

The Internet has become a place to bond and belong. If that's where today's society is at, if that's where people are going to ask, seek, and knock, then we must find ways to connect and provide the information that will lead them to Jesus.

Learning to use social media to communicate your message well is a must in order to have an effective online presence. Remember, your organization's reputation hinges on the message being communicated online. Things that are said and shared on social media can never be taken back. It's also a good idea to create a social media policy for identifying guidelines that apply to the organization's online communication, such as who is permitted to communicate on behalf of the organization. It's important to have a consistent message across all forms of communication.

Domain Names

Domain names are extremely important to the accessibility of your website and brand of any organization. A good domain name gives your organization credibility. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC)

and NAD have been encouraging conferences to replace "SDA" from domain names with "Adventist" for approximately eight to 10 years now because "SDA" is generally misunderstood by non-Adventists and does not rank well in search engines in connection with Seventh-day Adventist key terms. Several Canadian conferences have purchased "adventist.ca" domain names for each of their churches for consistency, better web presence, and overall representation (e.g., airdrieadventist.ca and gardenroadadventist.ca). And since the .CA domain represents a Canadian entity, a .CA domain name will rank higher in Canadian search results. Purchasing a relevant .CA domain name for your church or school is an important step in developing a purposeful online presence and building a more credible brand online.

Websites and Content

Did you know that in 1995 there were approximately 18,000 websites available online, and today there are over one billion?²

It is true that if your church or school is not on the Internet, to most people you don't exist. This is a fact the Seventh-day Adventist Church communication and media departments have been aware of and addressing for many years already. That is why in 2005, the NAD decided to offer every church and school in the NAD a powerful and easy-to-use, mobile-friendly website management system, free of charge, called Adventist Church and School Connect (ACC). According to the ACC website, the purpose and goal of providing this

² www.internetlivestats.com.



I feel that we as a North American Division are falling short in a few areas relating to our online presence and that we could do more to improve. One of the areas is more consistent Adventist branding across all our institution's websites and social media."

technology back in 2005 was (and still is) to encourage Seventh-day Adventist churches and schools in North America to use the Internet to reach their communities.

The North American Division has contracted AdventSource to provide customer training, support, and marketing for Adventist Church and School Connect for the approximately 3,600 church and school websites.

Many people are intimidated by the word *website* because it has gained a reputation from the past as being a complicated and highly technical procedure. Well, that is not the case anymore. With ACC's content management system, you don't have to know a website programming language like html or php to add content and photos to your website. You can edit pages as you would in a word processor similar to Microsoft Word.

When writing content for your website, proofread the final draft for spelling mistakes (double-check names and places), grammatical errors, and incorrect dates before submitting. Avoid clichés such as "Ten precious souls attended our meeting," "the watery grave of baptism," and Adventist jargon such as "Our worship services are every Sabbath," "three angels' messages," and "Sabbath school." Also, when shortening our denominational name, call us Adventists rather than SDAs. To the public, many of the Adventist terms and abbreviations we use are misunderstood or not

understood at all. Reread and then re-reread everything you write, removing every unnecessary word—less is better. And, out of respect and love for all our members, please be culturally sensitive.

One more thing to keep in mind about websites is that they now need to be mobile friendly in order to be properly loaded and viewed on the growing number of mobile devices. In Canada alone it is estimated that two-thirds of Canadians own a smartphone. That is approximately 20 million people. Mobile is huge.

Final Thoughts

I want to add a few final thoughts about developing a purposeful online presence before I conclude. I feel that we as a North American Division are falling short in a few areas relating to our online presence and that we could do more to improve. One of the areas is more consistent Adventist branding across all our institution's websites and social media. I wish we all had a similar and recognizable format for domain names, logos, websites (not everyone is using Adventist Church and School Connect), social media platforms, and signage, just to mention a few. Maybe an organized effort from the NAD to provide regular content (videos, graphics, message points) and links that can be easily and quickly shared across websites and social media would help.

Conclusion

To conclude, I am reminded of a Bible text in 1 Chronicles 12:32, which says, "from Issachar, men who understood the times and know what Israel should do ..." (NIV). I think this verse is very relevant to us today because the more we can understand about online communication technologies and the digital society we live in, the more effective we can be today and the more prepared we are for the future. Remember, you are not alone when trying to figure all this digital confusion out. If you have questions, please contact me at the Alberta Conference, or you can contact the Adventist Church/School Connect office. Together we can more effectively tell the world about Jesus. ■

Troy McQueen is the communications and IT director for the Alberta Conference.

Resources: *Curb Appeal*, produced by the NAD communication department.

NAD office of Communication four-book series: *Mobile Ministry* by Joel J. Sam and Jason Alexis; *Crisis Boot Camp* by Celeste Ryan Blyden; *Media Outreach* by George Johnson Jr.; *Social Media* by Jason Caston

ACC sign up page: www.adventistschoolconnect.org/artide/11/sign-up

ACC help page: www.help.adventistchurchconnect.com

Example 1: Key organizational message point about the Seventh-day Adventist Church: The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a mainstream, Protestant denomination with nearly 20 million members worldwide. We are Bible-believing Christians who base our faith, hope, and future in Jesus Christ. Our name comes from our belief in worshipping on the biblical seventh day of the week and our belief that Christ will return as promised in His Holy Word.

Example 2: Key organizational message point for the Alberta Conference: The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church coordinates the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories, where every Saturday more than 11,200 members gather for worship in more than 75 congregations. We operate 10 elementary and secondary schools and numerous community-based ministries.

What's a Soul Worth to You?



Surrey Adventist church member, Randy Meredith, and new believer, Pat Powers of Abbotsford, discuss a point of biblical truth important to them both.

CHRISTIANS ON FIRE FOR GOD

will go to great lengths to win a soul to Jesus. That's the experience Jesus covers for a disciple of His—a disciple like Randy Meredith from Surrey. He had fallen away from a spiritual life. Several years ago he was a "down and out" in prison. He found Christ in 2009 when a lay church member, Charles Brousson, reconnected him with Jesus through incessant visits. Charles would not give up on Randy until he turned his life over to the Master unreservedly. When we slip helplessly low in life and discover only Jesus can lift us up and out of our plight, then deep gratitude expresses itself in unmitigated service for others. So it is with Randy.

He had known Pat Powers for at least 20 of the 35 years she lived in Abbotsford, B.C. As close friends, they talked several times a week. He knew her to have spiritual

leanings that were engendered by early childhood church goings, but Pat says, "While I enjoyed those experiences, I quit going after I became 18 and pretty much put religion on the back burner of my life!" Not surprisingly, then, Randy's many invitations to come to church with him fell on deaf ears. Then, out of the blue, she took him up on his request to attend his ordination as a deacon. One time only.

In spite of many subsequent tries, she would not budge until a year later. British Columbia Conference evangelist Justis St. Hilaire was coming to Richmond, 25 minutes west of Randy's Surrey home. *If only I could get Pat to come*, he mused. He recalled it had been only four years prior that he, too, had been baptized at the end of a series by Justis St. Hilaire. Well, she never responded to his many attempts. On the fourth night of the series, he pulled

out all the stops. "Pat, you have to come with me. I'm told it is one of the most important messages we may hear in our lives." That worked. She came.

Enraptured by what she heard, so expertly presented by the evangelist, she accused the enemy of souls, saying, "I am so disgusted at how you have duped me all these years." Conviction welled up in her heart to not miss another meeting. Thanks to Randy, she did not. Pat was a long way from Richmond without a car, and God laid it on Randy's heart to provide "wheels" for her. For the next three weeks he drove from Surrey to Abbotsford to pick her up, then back to Surrey to pick up two more people, then on to the meeting in Richmond. Then there was the reverse trip home every night—a total of at least 300 kilometres each evening.

Such commitment is staggering, but devotion to Christ and His mission does not count cost. It's "no turning back" for Pat either. She is just going over all the points of faith a second time in Bible studies with Tom Glatts, pastor of the Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pat is determined to seal her decision in baptism this spring. For sure I intend to be there.

There is no way Pat would have made these decisions without the personal sacrifices of Randy driving over 6,000 kilometres for the entire series. Though it was totally unexpected by one who did not count the cost to win his friend to Jesus and His truth, the church took an offering to assist Randy with some of the expense. Now Randy is focused on winning his brother, Lee, to the faith. He hopes you will pray for him as he reaches out yet again. The question, *What's a soul worth to you?* awaits your answer and mine. ■

Frank R. McMiller is a retired pastor in the British Columbia Conference.

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

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

It's All About Jesus



Trió, from left to right: Rosann Gayle-Clarke, Del Chaya and Leudilla Dubocac

March 25, 2016, marked the culmination of a great deal of work by a great many people. On that evening the Pinehouse Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church presented a cantata entitled "It's All About Jesus" to a full church. While the timing at Easter was convenient, it is a concert that can be performed at any time of the year. The concert was performed in Saskatoon Friday and Sunday, and in Biggar, Sask., on the Sabbath evening of March 26.

The production crew, led by Marcos de Paula Jr. took the extra time to record all the songs ahead of time, and a CD was made available to all those that attended. This CD will be made available for sale, but more importantly, it will become part

of a package to give to new and prospective members. Many of the songs were originals composed by Ricardo Martins, one of the church's many new members. Several ladies and a few children conducted a model small group on stage. As the "newcomer" to the group asked questions, the other ladies gave brief answers that introduced the various songs performed by individuals, duets, choirs, and the congregation.

At the end Jeff Potts delivered a brief sermonette, which introduced his upcoming series, *The Quest for Answers: The Passion of the Christ*. This series dovetailed nicely with the cantata and is a springboard for the small groups will continue after the series is over once a

week for several weeks in church members' homes. After the series is over, these small groups, made up of church members and their neighbours, will continue meeting once a week.

While the performance was uplifting and successful, one of the most exciting parts was the involvement of the congregation. People with hidden talents are being discovered and are willing to help in so many areas. This cantata was really only a part of a large plan that includes video production in the Holy Land, Jeff Pott's mini evangelistic series—among others—and new and exciting small group materials. Pastor Douglas Pereira has been tireless and inspiring as he comes up with ways to involve everyone in the congregation to win hearts for Christ.

This cantata will be performed as many as 10 times this year all over the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference and has already been presented in Regina. Everyone—from the background people in sound and video, in material preparation, to the people who sing or play instruments and the people who support with prayer and finances—view their contribution as a ministry. Is it any wonder that Pinehouse Drive church is growing quickly and remains such an exciting church to be a part of? ■

—Rodney Eskelson,
Commissioned Media
Ministry Leader, Pinehouse
Drive Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Alberta

Music in the Park

On May 29, 2016, after laying the ground work, a Music in the Park event was held in Sylvan Lake, Alta. Using solar panels for power, our instruments were plugged and ready, and we utilized music to meet people. In particular, a young family indicated they were looking for a church to worship in. Others also expressed appreciation for the music.

On June 19, 2016, we held a second event in Camrose, Alta., close to the Kamifurano Park and Gazebo. Again the Lord blessed, and we met five precious individuals with whom we were able to share *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Hope*, as well as praying with others.

We are so thankful to God for the way everything came together, and to the musicians and vocalists who contributed to making the program a success. Special thanks to a dear church member from Ryley for contributing time and finances, and to another one for donating equipment.

It is our desire to see hurting and searching souls saved for eternity through outreach in Alberta. Thank you for your prayers for our ongoing music endeavours as we go forth to bless others and hasten His return.

For more information on how you can get involved in future events, please contact Paul Dempsey at 403/392-7847 or gripen58@gmail.com. ■

— Paul Dempsey,
Red Deer church



Ben Nelson was one of the featured musicians performing in Camrose.

Big Blessings From Little Children

As Pastor David Guzman and I were driving to the Calgary Bridgeland church to collect donations from Calgary church members for the Fort McMurray wildfire victims, I received a call about another possible pickup of donations, but this time in Chestermere, about 25 minutes east of Calgary.

When we arrived, a young girl was standing on her porch with her grandmother surrounded by a swarm of children's backpacks filled with school supplies. We came to find out that 12-year-old Hailey from Chestermere Middle School had decided that she wanted to do something special for the children in

Fort McMurray who were affected by the wild fire. Hailey thought it would be a great idea because, as she puts it, "Maybe there were some children who didn't have enough to afford school supplies and backpacks." She says, "I wanted to help them in some possible way."

As Pastor Guzman loaded up the



ADRA trailer, we couldn't help but think of how God sometimes uses small people to do big things. With a huge smile on his face, he said, "It's amazing to see the dedication and creativity in youth of today. Praise God!"

Although Alberta suffered a devastating disaster, this time involving fire, it has been amazing to see the human spirit of generosity and benevolence being poured out to help our community in Fort McMurray. ■

—Lyle Notice, Associate Youth Director, ACS and Disaster Response Director, Alberta Conference

Photo left: Halley, from Overstrews Middle School, and David Guzman, pastor of the Fort McMurray church.

Edith Fitch Passes Away



Edith Margaret Fitch

Edith Margaret Fitch was born in Red Deer, Alta., on Oct. 25, 1932, to George and Madge Fitch and passed to her rest early Wednesday morning May 25, 2016, in Lacombe, Alta. She had an older brother, Earl, and a younger brother and sister, Victor and Alice. She was predeceased by her parents and Earl.

At age six she was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss in her left ear and mild to severe loss in her right. Neither resources nor technology were available to correct it, so she went about the business of life. As a child she learned to lip-read to compensate for her hearing loss.

Edith graduated from Canadian Union College High School in 1950 and then took a one-year normal course in Calgary, Alta. She began teaching in a one-room school north of Rocky Mountain House, Alta., at age 18. Her teaching career spanned 41 years; eight in public schools in the Rocky Mountain House School Division and 33 in the Adventist education system at Burlingame, Calif.; Windsor, Ont.; Calgary, Alta.; and the last 28 years at College Heights Christian School in Lacombe, Alta. She took time off from teaching and completed a bachelor's degree at Walla Walla University in 1965. She retired in 1993.

Edith received several honours, including a Zapara Excellence in Teaching

Award, and The Alumnus of the Year and Outstanding Volunteer Award, both from CUC, now Burman University. After retiring, she volunteered over 20,000 hours in the Burman University archives, named in 2015 Edith Fitch Department of Archives, and several thousand hours scanning Alberta Conference documents. Among her many writings are two books on her life dealing with her deafness, as well as numerous articles for the women's devotional books. While teaching Grade 4 at College Heights Christian School, she developed supplementary materials for each of the four cycles of the Grades 1-4 Bible curriculum for her class. The material was later field tested and adopted by the K-12 Board of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada for use in all of the Adventist schools in Canada. The supplementary material totalled almost 800 pages.

The life of Edith Fitch was lived with deep commitment to her Lord and Saviour, conviction of her beliefs, compassion for others, generosity toward many needs, attention to detail, and always a willingness to help. These are but a few of the attributes that marked her full and satisfying life. ■

—Victor Fitch, College Heights church

British Columbia

British Columbia Conference Elects New Vice-President for Finance/Treasurer



Jeff Klam

On June 9, 2016, Jeff Klam accepted the call to serve as the vice-president for finance (treasurer) of the British Columbia Conference. The British Columbia Conference Board of Directors (BOD) voted to extend the invitation on Sunday, June 5. Klam will replace Michael Wixwat, who served the BC Conference for over 10 years before accepting a call to serve as treasurer for the Middle East and North Africa Union, based in Beirut, Lebanon.

"After a careful and prayerful selection process, the BC Conference Search Committee interviewed Jeff Klam

personally and was impressed by his positive and willing spirit of service, as well as his experience of over 10 years in treasury. This resulted in a unanimous recommendation to the BOD to extend an offer. We warmly welcome Jeff as our new treasurer," says Wesley Torres, president of the BC Conference.

Ern Brake, vice-president for administration (executive secretary), adds, "We are looking forward to having Jeff in our team as we together support our churches and schools to fulfill God's commission in our territory." Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), affirms, "I am certain that Jeff will bring his considerable talents and energy to this position and will be an effective treasurer for the British Columbia Conference."

Born in Canada, Jeff moved with his family to the United States when he was in grade school. He carries the "Treasury DNA" in his blood, as his father, Norman Klam, served as treasurer of several conferences and unions within the North American Division, including the SDACC.

Jeff earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in management from Walla Walla College,

now Walla Walla University. He continued his studies at Andrews University and earned a Master of Business Administration degree. Following that, he worked for a short time as a business intern/assistant manager of the Sacramento Adventist Book Centre (Pacific Press Publishing Association) before starting at the Northern California Conference (NCC).

Klam served as the assistant treasurer of the NCC from October 2006 until January 2014, when he was invited to serve as associate treasurer and director of Risk Management, helping schools and churches with loss prevention programs and other safety protocols. He is well versed in technology and has demonstrated practical abilities in dealing with church finances.

Jeff expressed his happiness and desire to be back in Canada and is "excited about the new adventures, challenges, and blessings that are waiting in British Columbia."

Jeff is married to Telma, with whom he has two young children, Joshua and Gianna. In his spare time he enjoys playing guitar and golfing, along with being a big hockey fan. Jeff and his family are expected to arrive in time for campmeeting in July. ■

AFCOE To Go

The small town of Creston, B.C., was recently blessed with a powerful weekend of evangelism training. Amazing Facts Ministries Canada (AFM)¹ sponsored the first AFCOE To Go at a church in Canada! Amazing Facts Centre of Evangelism (AFCOE) is an evangelistic training program based out of Sacramento, Calif. There were 80 participants, about half from the local churches and the rest from different cities across Canada.

This event began with a prayerful group of five people. They are on fire for God and working on planting a church in their community of Invermere, B.C. I was on the hunt for evangelism resources and training on giving Bible studies, when my wife queried, "What about Amazing Facts Ministries and AFCOE?" AFM's headquarters is in Creston, so they are a great resource for our churches. I brought this idea to Pastor Harnisch,

the VP for AFM, and proposed a financial partnership to bring AFCOE To Go to Creston. To my delight, he shared that AFM would be able to fully sponsor this event as long as every church in Canada had the opportunity to attend. I gratefully praised God for Pastor Harnisch and AFM's willingness to support this valuable training.

The training team emphasized that the only method to do evangelism is

¹Not to be confused with Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM).

“Christ’s method.” Every believer is called to be a disciple of Christ; no one is off the hook! We were blessed to have sessions on working with Muslims. It was a privilege to have a testimony from a man who was previously a Muslim but is now part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Willy Lumbanraja, a participant from Toronto, shared, “I previously had very negative views about Muslims, but through trainings like this I now have a positive outlook. The cost of coming to Creston

church that has youth should be diligent to include them in the work of evangelism; they are part of the “royal line” and have a mighty work to do for our King. Kiera Weimer, a Grade 11 student from Armstrong, shared that this training has her “learn more about how to relate to other people, and how to share the gospel with them.” She says, “I don’t want to be a ‘woodpecker’ but a friend.” In result of this training, Kiera has already signed up for a four-month training with AFCOE

accomplish. All He needs is for us to be open and willing.” Vina is excited to start going door to door in her community, something she has never done before.

This training was very informative, inspiring, and uplifting. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to the entire AFM team as well as the AFCOE team and guest presenters. We are eager to see the ripple effect this training will have in our communities. May we all continue to follow Christ’s great commission.



is nothing compared to what I am getting here. I have two Bible studies going on right now, and this material will really help me.” These presentations really opened our eyes to the unique opportunity that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has to reach the Muslim population.

We were really delighted to see several youth attend this training as well. Every

this summer.

So, this started with a small group from Invermere having a need for some evangelism training. Well, they got it! They are energized and excited to continue “evangeliving” in their community. Vina Halford, one of the members from Invermere, shares, “I know nothing is too small for God to care about and

For more information about Amazing Facts Ministries’ training and spreading of the Good News in Canada, or for questions about AFCOE, go to www.amazingfactsministries.com. ■

—*Josue and Tammy Molina, pastoral couple of Cranbrook and Creston churches, and Invermere small group*

Share Your Faith

Share Your Faith was the theme of the East Kootenay Camp meeting, which had a good group from both East and West Kootenays, Idaho, and Montana. The weekend began with a powerful message from Wesley Torres, president of the British Columbia Seventh-day

Adventist Conference. He reminded everyone that “when God calls, He equips, and that the Lord brought us here for a reason—to share our faith.” Torres took us through 2 Kings and the story of Naaman’s servant girl. This young woman had all the reasons in the world to hate Naaman,

but likely thanks to her upbringing, she had a heart of compassion and chose to share her faith. The message had great emphasis on our homes being our first mission field. Foundations are laid in the home that determine the future of each member of that household.

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of June 30, 2016, there were 431 depositors with a total deposit of \$29,738,910. There were 89 loans with a value of \$26,053,930. For more information or to make a deposit, contact [Girly Quiambao—quiambao.girly@adventist.ca](mailto:GirlyQuiambao@adventist.ca); 905/433-0011.



Wesley Torres (seated) enjoys a performance from 4His Glory, musical guests of the weekend long campmeeting.

Sabbath morning Leomar McCraig, pastor, facilitated a lively Sabbath school lesson study, followed by an inspiring mission report from Johann Harnisch about his recent five months in Tanzania. For the past several years we have been incredibly blessed to have a talented orchestra play the music for all the song services, and this year was no different. Torres shared a moving personal testimony for the church service. Again he challenged us with statements that left the brain stirring: “When we get too comfortable, sometimes we can get complacent.” Torres’ afternoon program gave excellent ideas on evangelism, specifically friendship evangelism. It is suggested that a new member needs to have six or more relationships establish in the church in order for them to remain active! When a friend or neighbour is going through a crisis, there are often two aspects: *danger*, which God will take care of, and an *opportunity* for you to share your faith.


The campmeeting committee changed the regular program around and introduced two new components. First, the newly implemented afternoon outreach activity that brought participants to nearby communities put what they had been hearing about to practice. They had the chance to share their faith by going door to door and inviting the nearby neighbours to a musical concert that evening, as well as offer Bible studies. It was awesome to see that half of those who participated in

this activity were youth—so inspiring! A talented group of two sets of siblings from Missouri, 4His Glory, who were the musical guests of the weekend, presented a beautiful concert Sabbath evening. The afternoon outreach activity was impactful, as we had just over 30 visitors (holding no church membership) attend the concert.

Many thanks to all who participated in the program and worked so hard to prepare for this special weekend! We were all richly blessed by the messages, music, outreach, and fellowship. ■


—Josue Molina,
Pastor, Creston and
Cranbrook churches


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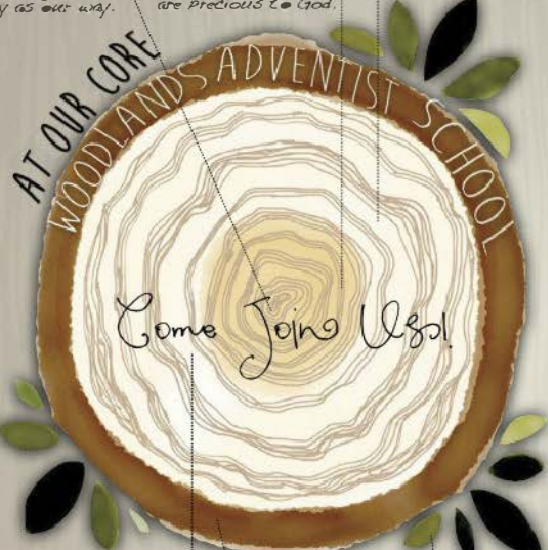
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■ **New Members**

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Brennon Brennan was baptized in Langley, B.C., on April 23, 2016, by Jorge Tenorio. Brennon is a wonderful young gentleman who received Bible studies from Lester Lorenson. He is now a member of the Maple Ridge church.

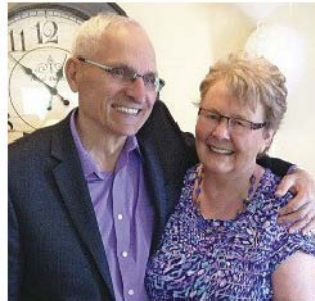
Abdiel Sosa was baptized in Maple Ridge, B.C., on April 30, 2016, by Jorge Tenorio. Abdiel's dad, Jose, and Pastor Tenorio gave him Bible studies. He is a very devoted Christian. He is now a member of the Maple Ridge church.

MARITIME

Harold Mallman was baptized in Halifax, N.S., on May 21, 2016, by Kevin Scott. Harold gave a short testimony just before his baptism about how the Lord had brought him through very difficult times and had physically healed him. He is a chef at a Salvation Army centre and brought many men to the evangelistic series, one of whom was baptized, with others receiving further Bible studies. He is now a member of the Halifax church.

■ **Anniversaries**

Andy and Betty Fritz of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 23, 2016, with



family and friends. The Fritzes have four children, Wunita Roberts, Irwin Fritz, Wendy Fritz, and Gordon Fritz; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

■ **Obituaries**

Napoleon Cabatic was born on Sept. 15, 1940, in Alcalá, Philippines, and died on April 9, 2016, in Kelowna, B.C. He loved to sing and performed for many evangelistic meetings, including *It Is Written* (USA). He was always dedicated to missions and could hardly wait for Jem's return. Napoleon is predeceased by his son, Paul Cabatic. Surviving: wife, Darkoe (née Hartwig) Cabatic; son, Bryan Cabatic of Shoreline, Wash.; stepson, Glen (Martina) Pedersen of Surrey, B.C.; daughter, Chondra (Mario) Chavez of Patterson, Calif.; stepdaughter, Marina (Wally) Ganz of Hope, B.C.; and two grandchildren.

Quentin Avery Covey was born on Jan. 18, 1920, in Harbour, N.S., and died on May 1, 2016, in Williams Lake, B.C. He was a World War II veteran, faithful member of the Dartmouth church, and served in many areas, including as Pathfinder leader and deacon. After retiring, he volunteered in many churches throughout the Maritimes and Newfoundland. Surviving: wife, Marguerite Covey; daughters, Marion (Raymond) Betz of Portland, Ore., and Shirley (Cameron) Johnson of Williams Lake, B.C.; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lilly Ellen (née Dunn) Curtis was born on April 6, 1926, in Kynoch, Ont., and died on Feb. 6, 2016, in Oshawa, Ont. She was a member of College Park church for over 60 years. After raising five children while working as an obstetrics nurse, Ellen volunteered with the church's community services centre. Lilly is predeceased by her husband, Roy Curtis; parents, Robert and Mary Dunn; brothers, Leslie Dunn, Robert

Dunn, and Clifford Dunn; and sister, Gladys Fenson. Surviving: son, Clifford (Flora) Curtis of Oshawa; daughters, Elaine (George) Strelinger of Oshawa; Mary Lou (John) Toop of Oshawa; Sheila (Colin) Hill of Lacombe, Alta., and Sandra (Archie) Palinka of Oshawa; brother, Raymond Dunn of Toronto, Ont.; 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Robinson V. Koilpillai was born on Aug. 30, 1923, in Prakesa Puram, Chennai, India, and died on April 27, 2016, in Halifax, N.S. He served as a high school principal in Adventist schools in India. Robinson is predeceased by his son, Michael Koilpillai; daughter, Susan Koilpillai; parents, V.D. and Rajammal Koilpillai; brother, Joshua Koilpillai; and sister, Ellen Thomas. Surviving: wife, Helen Koilpillai of Halifax; son, Chris (Anuradha) Koilpillai of Halifax; brothers, Sam Koilpillai and Johnson Koilpillai of Hosur, India, Arthur Koilpillai of Brampton, Ont.; sister, Hepzibah Henry of Hosur; and three grandchildren.

Larry Maxwell Lush was born on May 19, 1941, in Middle Brook, Nfld., and died on April 4, 2016, in Corner Brook, Nfld. He worked as a colporteur in his early years, encouraged his family in attending church, and loved the Lord all his life. He is predeceased by his parents, Martin and Tryphie Lush. Surviving: wife, Alice Lush; sons, John (Claudia) Lush of Deer Lake, Nfld.; daughters, Glenda (Chris) Goss of Edmonton, Alta., Leah (Ramsay) Smallwood of Bay Roberts, Nfld., Sonya (Wade) Rubia of St. Jude's, Nfld., Jody (Erme) Pyle of Fort McMurray, Alta.; brother, Martin Lush of Gjovertown, Nfld.; sister, Nita (Freeman) Anstey of Deer Lake; and seven grandchildren.

Arnolf Rattay was born on March 4, 1933, in Zwickau, Germany, and died on April 20, 2016, in Williams Lake, B.C. He was a member of the Williams Lake church and his smile and positive outlook on life are greatly missed. He loved the Lord and reading the Bible with all his heart. Arnolf is predeceased by his daughters, Corrine Rattay and Tammy Rattay; parents, Fritz and Paula Rattay; brother, Gunter Rattay. Surviving: wife, Marilyn Rattay; son, Dean (Heidi) Rattay of Williams Lake; brother, Horst (Helga) Rattay of Nurnberg, Germany; sister, Betty (Siegfried) Dreschel of Nurnberg.

Donna M. (née Franklin) Russell was born on Jan. 1, 1934, in Grove City, Ohio, and died on May 2, 2016, in Oshawa, Ont. She taught at Oshawa Missionary College for one to two years and also worked as a nurse at Beanson Hospital. Donna led out in

children's Sabbath school divisions, as a Pathfinder counselor, and as a registered nurse and teacher at Kettering Medical Centre. She is predeceased by her parents, John Melvin and Nell Franklin; and brother, Bob Franklin. Surviving: husband, Robert Russell; son, Greg Russell; daughter, Stephanie Burscy; and one granddaughter.

Diana (née Raginski) Zachary was born on Oct. 20, 1953, in Shoal Lake, Man., and died on Oct. 15, 2015, in Neepawa, Man. Diane was a true farmer's wife for years, working side by side with her beloved husband, Merrill. She was dedicated, with passion in missionary work through Maranatha projects, leading our with her husband in many countries, sharing the gospel message. Diane is predeceased by her father, Tony Raginski. Surviving: husband, Merrill Zachary; mother, Sophie Raginski of Erickson, Man.; and brother, Delmar Raginski.

■ **Tribute**

Robinson V. Koilpillai, 1923-2016

Robinson Koilpillai was a teacher and principal in Adventist high schools in India. After immigrating to Canada, he was Canadian Human Rights commissioner, chairman of the National Association of Canadians of Origins in India, and chairman of other organizations for which he received the Order of Canada in 1996.

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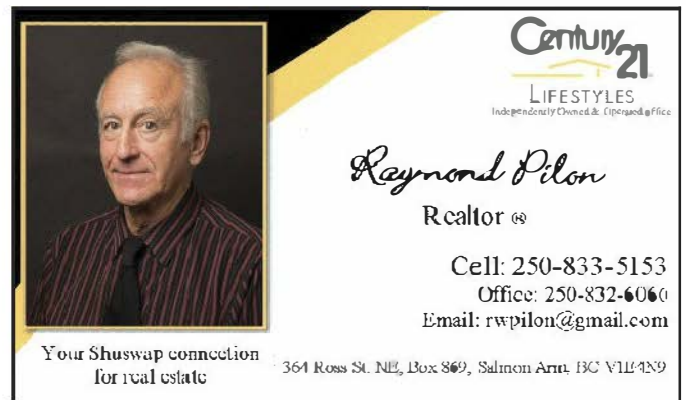
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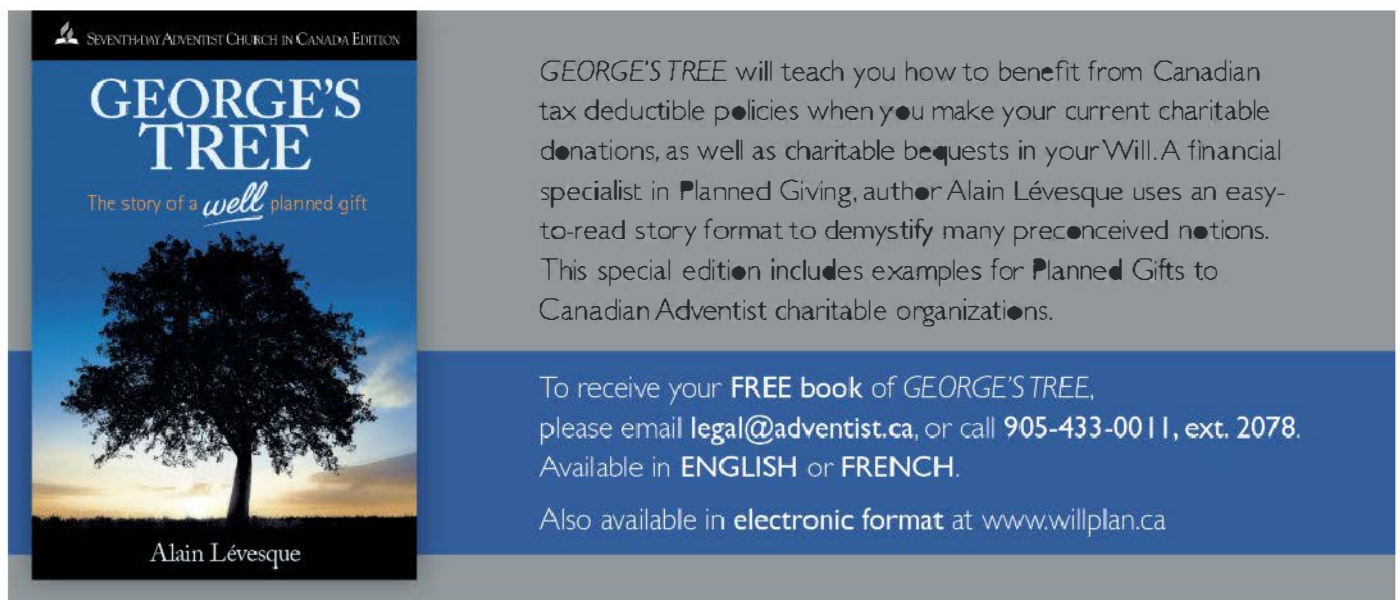


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from the editor

witnessing the right way

ON ONE OF MY FAVOURITE ONLINE FORUMS, an older gentleman spoke about how he had missed an opportunity to be a better witness to an acquaintance. A young man painfully reflected to me on how his parents had instructed him to smile when leaving home to be a better witness to their neighbours. And a stylishly dressed woman once said that when she was around teens, she dressed as if she was in the late 19th century in order to be a better witness. I, and likely many, have heard and perhaps even made similar comments. However, I believe that witnessing is not something we go out of our way to do; it is something we are.

I maintain that if we are pretending to behave in a certain way, we are not witnesses but simply actors. I cannot imagine Christ faking events to witness to people around him. He did what he did because of who He was. So often, attempts to silently witness through behaviour are actually attempts to portray an imaginary higher standard. In my opinion, a much better approach is to show the reality of our Christian experience.

There is only one way known way to get new heart. Psalm 51:10–13 says, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”*

I know people who have given money to a single mom so she could buy her children presents at Christmastime. This silent action had such a tremendous impact on this once-young family. Such acts of generosity are not something you would hear about or read in the pages of the *Messenger*. The true witness is displayed without regard to recognition or compensation, but to help the wounded and weary with no strings attached. Today that whole family is making a significant difference for Christ.

Please join me in starting off each morning with this prayer: “Lord, create in me a clean heart and a right spirit today.” ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

P.S.: If you agree or disagree, please let me know at jensen.stan@adventist.ca.



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