

canadian adventist

# Messenger

january 2017

## Reviving His Work

It Is Written Canada in Newfoundland

*Plus*

I'm an Albino with  
a New Name (p. 16)

Hacksaw Ridge ...  
Just One More (p. 18)

Attempted Murder-Suicide (p. 28)



PM40069337

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

Isaiah 32:8 Living Word Translation



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# Messenger

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heart to heart

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” —Acts 4:13, *ESV*

“And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”

—Mark 16:20, *ESV*

## Witness

I love reading about the early church. don't you? Sometimes I try to imagine what it might have been like to be there. The words *courage*, *energy*, *simplicity*, and *witness* come to mind. Make no mistake about it: The early Christians weren't focused on maintaining the status quo. They were unashamedly committed to sharing their faith.

I strongly believe that today our focus must return to sharing our faith. This is about Jesus, not me or you. But in another sense, it is about us as well. You see, if each one of us was to decidedly use the year 2017 to lead one person to Jesus and invite that person to worship with us in the Adventist congregation that we attend, what would the church be like? It would be transformed.

As I read the two texts of Scripture, I see an emphasis on our witness. We have a story to tell. It must be a story of our own transformation. A story of new habits, a pleasant persona, a life of faith between the weekends.

Never before has the church been as richly blessed with witness tools as it is today. Bibles are plentiful. Websites suggest approaches. There is online training and training in local churches. All of these are incredible resources that ought to be put to use. And what we discover we need to put into practice.

And then I think of the wonderful resource we have in *It Is Written Canada*. This excellent tool goes behind locked doors. It bridges the gap between various technologies. It is a rich resource. I'm blessed as I listen to the presentations of speaker Chris Holland.

Will you join me in leading someone to Jesus in 2017? And point them toward *It Is Written*. It will encourage and instruct as people follow Christ. ■

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



# What's it Mean to You?

*"I know what happens when we choose children, sacrifice for, and educate them."*

Larry Wilkins, Honorary Chair of the Bridge Campaign

Owner & CEO External  
Affairs Medical Spas  
St. Albert & Edmonton



It seems as though my involvement with Mamawi Atosketan was simply inevitable. When I was one-year old and my brother a little older, the court awarded us in a custody battle to my paternal grandmother. Nan was Mohawk, born on the Tyendinaga Reserve, living in Toronto and married to my Poppa, an Ojibway Indian. She sacrificed a full pension to stay home and mother us. Together, they taught me about love, family and sacrifice, but mostly about love. She chose us.

I spent my teenage years going to school and flying back and forth to the Arctic to work in construction. My father saw that I was lost and told me he would send me to any university in the world if I would go. Beach Boys were cool back then so I chose California, and he chose Pacific Union College, an Adventist university.

The Canadian dollar was at an all-time low. My dad had to move into a tiny little rental to keep up with tuition. Knowing his sacrifice so that I could be the first in my clan to attend a school of higher learning, I worked hard and graduated near the top of my class. I was so impressed with the Adventist School System that when my son was of age, I sent him to a Canadian Adventist university. He is at the moment flying across Canada, interviewing for a residency in emergency medicine.

My life has taught me a few rules that I have written in stone:

- Love the children—all children—even when doing so requires sacrifice.
- We give everything we can to our kids, but sometimes it's not all good; sometimes they need additional help. For me and my son, the Adventist School system was that help.
- From those to whom much is given, much is expected.

I have extremely high expectations for the children of MANS. I believe in them. I know them. I know what happens when we choose children, sacrifice for, and educate them. I know who they will become. They will lead the next generation and teach them their own life lessons. Gratitude will guide their lives.

Watch for Larry's inspiring story of faith and God's faithfulness in the February issue of the *Messenger*.



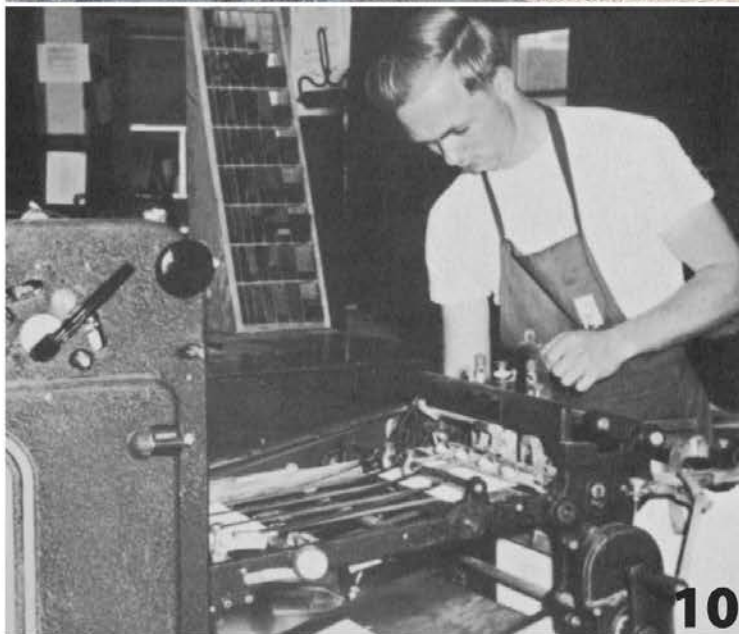
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Lauren and Rick Wiegel

## Adventure With a Purpose

**RICK LOOKED AT LAUREN.** They were enjoying their spontaneous conversation in the church parking lot, discovering similar interests and experiences. Rick knew he didn't want the conversation to end.

"Do you want to ride together sometime?" he asked, inviting her on a cycling adventure.

Lauren cocked her head, regarding him. "Where would we go?" she asked.

More than 10 years later, her question has been answered with one cycling adventure after another. Rick and Lauren Wiegel, together, have taken on cycling routes all over the world. In the autumn of 2016, they took on a different kind of route altogether.

"I first heard about 25,000 Spins in an email from ADRA International," explained Rick. The fundraising event invited participants to tackle Big Sur, a stretch of desert mountains on the rocky Pacific coast in California. While tackling the terrain, the cyclists would also tackle the issue of child poverty by raising money for their ride.

Rick and Lauren were immediately intrigued. They learned from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International that the money raised would go towards a school in Lebanon for Syrian refugee children.

"We resonated with the project because we've worked with refugees getting established in Canada," said Rick. "I liked the idea of helping refugees in Lebanon, especially the kids."

Rick and Lauren signed on for the adventure.

"Every summer we love to do something epic," said Lauren. "This ride seemed to be more meaningful. It brought a purpose to our ride."

"We're great ADRA fans. You know the quote, 'Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.' Helping others is a part of our faith. We're to be the hands and feet of Jesus," shared Rick. "This ride down Big Sur was a combination of our love for ADRA and cycling."

The ride itself was nothing short of epic. A grueling 240 kilometres in length, it hugged the mountainous coastline, casting the cyclists up one hill then down, then up again. On the second day alone, they rode over 100 kilometres, climbing more than 2,134 kilometres (7,000 feet) in elevation.

"It was 100° Fahrenheit [38°C], with not a breath of wind," Lauren said, shaking her head.

"But everyone was in good spirits," countered Rick. "We really had a great time. The scenery was breathtaking. In spite of the heat, it was beautiful."

The group that Rick and Lauren rode with reached their fundraising goal. This amount was enough to enable the school in Lebanon to continue to meet the needs of the children.

"It makes us feel awesome to be a part of it," Rick said. For Rick and Lauren, it is clear that it isn't just about reaching a monetary goal. It's about lives being changed for the better.

"I received a story of one of the children who was helped by our project. He had been out of school for two years, working in a pet shop. He had scars on his arms and face from handling the different pets. ADRA's school gave him a chance to return to school," Rick smiled.

After reflecting that perhaps their contribution was but a drop in the proverbial bucket, Lauren said with a smile, "I love the starfish story."

In this story, a man is walking down a beach after a storm. The beach is littered with stranded starfish. He's overwhelmed by the number of creatures in distress. Then he sees another man picking up one starfish at a time and tossing it back into the ocean. Though he couldn't save all the starfish, he did what he could do, one at a time.

"It's a small project, but I'm happy and grateful we could do it," said Lauren. "We're picking up a starfish and throwing it back." ■

*Heather Grbic is the church relations coordinator for ADRA Canada.*

# Lord, Revive Your Work

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase"

The last few months of 2016 saw the passing of both my and my wife, Debbie's grandmothers. Death is never easy to deal with. For each one of us, these losses represent the departure of a dear loved one who has been in our lives since our birth. While this experience is painful, the Bible promises something more. Jesus is coming soon, and He will call forth those who sleep in the grave to a new life that will never be corrupted by death: "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed . . . . So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory," O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (1 Cor. 15:51-54).<sup>1</sup>

While news headlines everyday feature death and destruction everywhere, I suppose it is when death and destruction hit close to home that we become more introspective of the realities of life.

One significant reality is that there are millions upon millions of people who live without the hope of the resurrection. The solution to this present reality is found in the prayer of Habakkuk in Habakkuk 3:2: "O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years." This prayer is not a call for us to revive the work, nor a call for the revival of our work, but an appeal for God to revive His work. It is only God who can do it. He is the only One who can truly bring about the reviving of His work. The Bible is clear through the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."

And in these last days it is God who pours out the latter rain to finish ripening the harvest, "For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you . . . . And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days" (Joel 2:23, 28, 29).

The key in all of this is the active agent—that is, God. As we look to see people won to Christ and living in the blessed hope, it will not be by any of our means or methods, but by the mighty hand of God reviving His work.

I long for Jesus' return. I yearn for the end of sorrow and sin. I'd ask, would you join me in the prayer that God would revive His work of evangelism in Canada?

The signs of the times are happening all around us, yet God doesn't need another earthquake; He doesn't need another pestilence; He doesn't need another terrorist attack. He needs only one thing. That one thing is a willing heart. Will you join me in the prayer of God reviving His work in Canada? Will you join me in opening your heart to God and asking that as He revives His work, that He would work through you in taking the gospel to all of Canada and around the world? ■

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



# teen talk

**Q:** Can I date at 14?\*

**A:** Are you able to have strong romantic feelings for someone else? Yup. Is it possible that someone else has the same feelings towards you? Yup. Can you feel ready to date even at 14? Yup. Do some parents allow their children to date at 14? Yup (gulp).

Now the challenging questions. Are you ready for the drama? Are you OK with having your heart broken? Is peer pressure something you really want to deal with? Do you want to put yourself in a situation that you may regret for years to come?

You see, dating looks very glamorous on Snapchat's featured stories, where everybody is doing it. But the reality is very different and highly disappointing. Girls at this age dream of falling for a Prince Charming while listening to Justin Bieber. Guys have more of a Selena Gomez sensual approach to it...

My friend, this is the time to enjoy innocent friendships that will last forever with no regrets.

Last, but not least, sit down with your mom and dad and ask them what they learned from their youth years. I'm sure they'll have interesting stories to share with you that will make things more clear. ■

(\* Question sent by a young lady.



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



# Creation Corner for Kids

*"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." —2 Corinthians 4:6, NKJV*

## The Morning Star

Aside from the sun and moon, the planet Venus is the brightest object in the night sky. To the naked eye, Venus shines with bright white light that makes it hard to miss. When it's at its brightest, it can even cast shadows, just like the sun and moon. And, like the moon, Venus goes through phases as it moves along its orbit. But you'll need a telescope to see Venus's full-, quarter-, thin-crescent, and new phases.

Venus is sometimes called the Morning Star because through part of the year, it can be seen in the East just before the sun rises. But it's also known as the Evening Star because for the rest of the year, it can be seen in the West just after sunset.

### Think about it.

Just as Venus brightens the sky before sunrise, John Wycliffe brightened the dark world just before the dawning of the Reformation 500 years ago. The Bible was almost unknown in Wycliffe's time, and the people were hungry for God's Word. Wycliffe translated the Bible into English so people could read it for themselves, and trained preachers to preach from the Bible. Because of Wycliffe's work, bright beams of truth swept over a world lost in the darkness of error. That's why John Wycliffe is called the Morning Star of the Reformation.

### Do it!

Next time you see the sun rise, think of Wycliffe and how eager the people were to hear God's Word. Are you in the habit of reading your Bible each morning and evening? If not, start now.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at [tammie.burak@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.burak@gmail.com) or follow her blog at [www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca](http://www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca).



January 2017

"I am eager to give students an opportunity to learn a trade ... so that they can be aggressive leaders in the business world of tomorrow."

—H. T. Johnson, President, 1951–1965

# Celebrating Our History Hilltop Industries



Verne Gustavsen, seen operating the new Davidson press in 1956, was involved in the printing industry for almost 40 years.



The College Press—Home of Better Printing, 1937. Standing: Eli Boida, Philip Patterson, Alex Choban, Audrey Anderson (McCarty), Pearl Lang (Wetstein), Isaac Baerg, Anna Swachuk, Lillian Ritoley (Reiswig), Nick Ilchuk, Audley Rogers, Ben Glanzer. Front: Harry Baerg, Clarence Pinder.

A QUICK LOOK INTO THE HISTORY of many Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions, and you will see a long tradition of industries. Look back into Burman University's past and you will find a history of hard work. This year the Alumni Council is celebrating the Hilltop Industries and those students and staff who were a part of those programs. While many of our institutions have moved on from industry work, the legacy of those who participated in those programs runs deep.

The 1950s have been categorized as the industrial years on campus. During this time the institution introduced new industrial programs providing students with much-needed opportunity to work. In this decade the farm, press, and laundry prospered, and new ventures in bookbinding and a furniture factory were introduced.

The college bookbinding originated when student John Bidulock created a job for himself. He had taken a bookbinding class, and, noticing the worn volumes on the library shelves, he said to President Johnson, "Why not let me rebind the books instead of discarding them or sending them away to be rebound?"

Johnson agreed. Bidulock borrowed a few tools from the industrial arts department and bought other equipment with his own money, including drills to make the holes for stitching. Unfortunately, the drills broke repeatedly, so Bidulock cut the heads off ordinary nails and used them instead. Slowly a new campus industry developed.<sup>1</sup>

During the first year most of the binding was done manually. In fact, Bidulock once stayed up all night, gluing 200 books by hand. When he needed to trim paper, he was allowed to use the trimmer at the press—provided that he used it during off hours. The bindery slowly acquired machines, including two that were donated by the Kingsway Publishing Association in Oshawa. As people became acquainted with the quality of workmanship, the bindery gained many customers. Bidulock used his 1957 Chrysler and his airplane to pick up and deliver books. One evening he flew into Lacombe after dark but was not able to land on the unlit runway. As Bidulock circled, an observant person recognized his dilemma and shone his car headlights to illuminate the runway.<sup>1</sup>

By 1955 the bindery was serving six large school divisions, three libraries, and many smaller customers. During 1962 it bound about 28,000 books. In 1963 the bindery was recorded as the largest in Western Canada—and the only one that did gold gilding and leatherwork. With continuing success, the bindery moved four times to larger quarters. Bookbinding—learned in a class—germinated a seed in the mind of one student and grew into a commercial industry.<sup>1</sup>

Stories like John Bidulock's are only one of many that have been a part of the various industries on the hilltop. A special invitation is extended to all former employees and student workers of the hilltop industries to join us at our Homecoming June 2–4, 2017. We want to hear your stories. This group will receive special recognition at the Sabbath school program during the weekend.

For more information about Alumni Homecoming 2017, contact us at [alumni@burmanu.ca](mailto:alumni@burmanu.ca) or call 800/661-8129 ext. 8 or 403/782-3381 ext. 4161. ■

*Jr Ferrer is vice-president for marketing and enrolment at Burman University.*

<sup>1</sup> Denise Dick Herr and Edith Fitch, *Changing Lives: The Hilltop Story (Lacombe, AB: Canadian University College, 2007)*.

# When Twyla Grew Up

The speaker's tales of missionary work in Africa captivated the imaginations of the children.

"Who wants to be a missionary when they grow up?" he asked eagerly.

Little Twyla's hand shot into the air.

"Who would go to Africa?"

Twyla's hand remained in the air. "You never really expect that you will grow up to actually do that," Twyla chuckles now. But whether or not she expected it, her willing heart responded many times to God's calls.

Twyla grew up in Kelowna, B.C. Her desire to be a nurse led her to study and work in Ontario at Branson Hospital for several years. She then accepted a call to be an interdivision missionary in Lesotho, Africa, where she served as a nursing teacher for eight years. After finishing her master's in public health at Loma Linda University, Twyla travelled to Zambia to teach nursing for six more years.

"I was not only in charge of the nursing school; I was often the only teacher," says Twyla.

When possible, she recruited help from a chaplain or a midwife. Otherwise, she was all at once the school administrator, teacher, and mentor. But she had the deep satisfaction of doing exactly what she had always wanted and been

called to do.

"I loved my overseas work," Twyla says warmly. "It was challenging but it was rewarding."

Twyla returned to Canada in 1989, but her time overseas was not yet done. In 2005, the Ministry of Public Health in Kabul, Afghanistan, requested Loma Linda's assistance. Twyla's work overseas was known by some of the faculty, making her a natural choice to serve on the team of medical mentors sent to help upgrade the systems and care at a hospital in Kabul.

Twyla accepted the call. She had anticipated this stint abroad to last one year. But, Twyla recalls, "At the end of the year, we were finally seeing progress, and I thought, *Well, this isn't the time to be leaving!*" Twyla served an additional two and a half years at the hospital in Kabul. By the end of her time in Afghanistan, she was 68 years old. She decided to retire to Canada in 2009.

"Having lived overseas, seeing the conditions there, I am convinced of the work ADRA does," says Twyla.

While she was in Kabul, ADRA was teaching women there to make quilts for sale to provide income for their families. Twyla observed this project firsthand. The women were paid for the quilts, which were given to Afghan refugees

returning from Pakistan. These refugees came home virtually empty-handed. Twyla was moved to see that ADRA's quilting project not only helped families provide better for themselves but also ensured warmth for those who had lost everything.

Prior to her time in Kabul, Twyla had supported ADRA, giving in response to special appeals. Afterwards, she felt she could do more. ADRA had become personal to her. She became a monthly donor. "It seemed the responsible thing to do," she explains. "It's continuous and it helps."

Twyla still gives in times of disaster and special needs. She explains, "I do it because things you're not expecting do happen, and extra help is needed."

Twyla never expected to grow up to be exactly what she had wanted to as a child, but it happened. She first answered God's call when she was a child, and when she grew up, she answered many more as they unfolded before her. Twyla's story teaches us that sometimes the things we do not expect to happen or things we do not expect to do end up being the most rewarding of all. ■

*Heather Grbic is the church relations coordinator for ADRA Canada.*



Twyla Gimbel with two patients at the hospital in Kabul.



ADRA teaches Afghan women to make and sell quilts to provide income for their families.

where are they now

# Where Are They Now



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

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



Ken and Colleen Crawford

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

**Ken Crawford:** I am a fourth-generation Maritimer from Grand Lake, N.B. My great-grandfather found coal there, and my family was in the coal business until it was nationalized by the New Brunswick government. My grandfather, who became an Adventist at a young age, and my father built a little church in Minto. We grew up under the gentle care and encouragement of a small church family. I was the middle child of five. [I had] an older sister and brother and a younger sister and brother.

**M:** *Where did you attend school, and what degrees did you earn?*

**K:** I attended a small elementary public school in the little village where we lived, and then to Minto High School, where I graduated in 1966. I attended a variety of colleges including CUC, Kingsway, and Union College before finally receiving a Bachelor of Theology from CUC in 1974. I had opportunities to enter the ministry, but my first love at the time was the challenge of business so I put the Lord's call on hold for several years.

While at CUC I started a couple of businesses, including a heavy equipment business in Central Alberta.

I eventually sold it and started farming on 600 acres on the banks of the Columbia River just north of Pasco, Wash. I grew peas for Campbell's Soup and specialty alfalfa that was shipped to Japan in cubes. At the same time I completed a master's degree in family counselling at Walla Walla University.

While at CUC I fell deeply in love with Colleen Bell from Sylvan Lake, Alta. After five long years, I finally convinced her to marry me. We were married in Alberta on July 3, 1977. Colleen was finishing her B.Sc. in nursing at the Portland campus of Walla Walla University, so we lived apart quite a bit during our first year of marriage.

**M:** *Describe your call to the gospel ministry and your service to the church.*

**K:** The Lord had to deal with both of us in an unorthodox way. I had just started with the Pasco Lutheran Family Counselling Clinic, and Colleen was starting her career in nursing in Pasco, Wash. Our farm was doing well, and our lovely home on the banks of the Columbia River was our little heaven on earth. We decided to take a short honeymoon to the Virgin Islands, and there, on a secluded beach in the Caribbean, we re-dedicated our lives to the Lord. That moment was pivotal to our future.

When we arrived home to the farm, everything had frozen, including all our water pipes. We crawled into a very cold bed, and the next morning we were awakened by a phone call. The voice on the other end was Bill Woodruff, president of the Alaska Mission. "Remember, we met last year?" he began. After small talk for a few moments, he said, "We are looking for a couple willing to be volunteer missionaries to the Eskimos on a remote island in the arctic 35 miles off the coast of Siberia. Your food comes once a year by ship in July and must be canned or dried. Your abode will be a one-room 16-by-16-foot cabin. Your stipend for both of you is \$83 a month." He continued, "By the way, there is one spigot for water in the village, so you will have to carry your water, when it's available. There is also no toilet," he added quietly, "only a honey bucket." We stared at the phone, then at each other, knowing this was from the Lord. The next week we accepted and began to pack.

We arrived in Savoonga in January, when there was about 90 minutes of daylight. It's strange—those years in the arctic were the roughest and yet the most rewarding of our lives. The Inuit are an intelligent, kind, gentle, soft-spoken culture who are deeply spiritual and open to the gospel. They won our hearts.

**M:** *Where did you serve the church and in what capacity?*

**K:** We served our first six years of ministry in Alaska as missionaries, then as a pastoral couple on an island called Kodiak. Our next assignment was to pastor my home district of three churches in Fredericton, N.B. (Ever tried to pastor your own mom and dad?) In 1988 we

were invited to the Alberta Conference as a director of about six departments including Prayer, Children's, and Personal Ministries, Community Services, and, to my delight, Native Ministries. In 1995 we accepted a call to pastor the Meadow Glade Church in Battleground, Wash. In 2004 we moved back to Alaska as president until retirement this year.

**M:** *I know you are a pilot. How did you use this avenue in your ministry?*

**K:** I took flight training at CUC in 1971 and used it throughout my career. It was especially helpful as an administrator in Alaska. Eighty percent of the towns and villages in "the Last Frontier" are only accessible by air or by boat seasonally, so a plane was a blessing. I learned a great deal about flying into remote strips, beaches, and gravel bars.

We were able to renew our love for, and ministry to, the people in the Arctic, but drugs and alcohol had dramatically changed the Inuit culture, and they had few societal tools to cope with the devastation. We threw ourselves into bringing the message of hope to these hurting villages.

The Alaska Conference is very small with very limited resources, so we had to devise creative ways to fund the work of our missionaries there. We developed a series of 16 videos called *My Alaska*, highlighting the work around the conference with the hope of raising awareness and funds to support the growing work. There are 230 villages in Alaska, and we are active in about 12 of them. It is a great privilege to take our unique message to such remote areas.

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

**K:** While serving in the Arctic, we had two children. Our son, David, teaches at Walla Walla University. David and his wife, Melita, have three children. Our daughter, Heather, and husband Dallas Frantz, along with their three children, reside in Lacombe, Alta. He [Dallas] is a dentist in Sylvan Lake, Alta.

**M:** *Where are you now, and what are your plans for retirement?*

**K:** We have retired in Sylvan Lake after 37 years in ministry. Colleen continues to work part-time with the Native health system, so we frequently travel back to Alaska. I continue to assist in "Arctic Mission Adventure," our work with the native cultures. Our hope is to continue to travel and present the needs of the unique challenges in the work among the Aboriginal cultures. As we reflect how the Lord has led and enriched our lives by studying with fascinating people, seen God's hand in marvellous ways, opportunities for personal and spiritual growth, we would not change a month of ministry for a lifetime of self-fulfillment. ■

# Thai project gives hope to former Prostitutes



Playwright Andrew Kooman talks with Thai actor Tanawich Wongsuwan appearing in the newly released film called *She Has a Name*.

**T**housands of girls are known with no name in Thailand. They're simply identified with a number on wristbands or shirts as men from around the world seek their sexual services in bars, massage parlours, and on city streets. Thailand has an estimated 250,000 prostitutes, according to black market information provider Havoscope, making it one of the world's leaders in sex trade.

A Better World Canada is helping give girls and young women a new identity and hope for the future. It is sponsoring projects at Home of New Beginnings, which opened in 2006 in Bangkok where several large red-light districts are. Former prostitutes now receive an education in a sanctuary run by American couple Roy and Bonita Thompson and Thai native Ann Thongves.

In 2014, A Better World partnered with this home that has helped girls as young as 11. *She Has a Name* project, named after a stage play and newly released film produced by Canada's Unveil Studios, gave \$5,000 towards a washing machine, computer equipment, and other essentials.

As well, it hopes to raise \$15,000 to provide a year's supply of food so staff can focus on long-term needs.

It also plans to support a second residential and vocational site in the resort city of Pattaya. Home of New Beginnings

bought a building there, with the intent to work in both prevention and rescue. Once it opens sometime in 2017, the Pattaya site will include a restaurant where residents will earn an income.

These sustainable impacts fall in line with A Better World's mission, said Shanelle Adams, Thailand project manager and member of College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alta.

Home of New Beginnings is witnessing success, including eight young ladies who have graduated from university and nine from high school. As of late September, it has 12 residents aged 15 to 24.

The youngest girl was trafficked for labour and then sold to a bar where she was found. She had never been to school before. The now 15-year-old Grade 10 student hopes to become an engineer.

"We are proud of all our young women," founder Bonita Thompson tells A Better World.

Adams invites Canadians to give, pray, learn, organize an event, and share what A Better World is doing. The key is to help stop and prevent sexual exploitation, locally and abroad.

"As Christians, it's what we're called to do," said Adams. "We're supposed to be looking out for our neighbours."

Andrew Kooman, who wrote the critically acclaimed stage play slated for Off-Broadway in January, has visited the Bangkok home twice.

"We met some of the young women in the home who have willingly left the sex trade and are now really thriving through education and what they're really meant to do in life," said Kooman, a Red Deer native now living in London, Ont. "It's really amazing to see the transformation and the hope that is in that home."

People may ask, "Why help when sex trafficking is so huge around the world?"

For Kooman, personalizing the issue is important. That's why he wrote a play centred on a Cambodian girl forced into the sex trade.

"We're so proud to partner with A Better World," said Kooman, who's a part of Unveil Studios. "The real life change they have brought is significant."

The new film called *She Has a Name* had its global release in December, showing in select theatres around the world and is available for purchase online at [www.shehasanamefilm.com](http://www.shehasanamefilm.com)

It has also headlined 2017 Mission Film Fest in Vancouver in January. ■

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

# 2017 TO DO LIST

## New Year's Rethinking Resolutions

by Kumar Dixit

**THERE HAS BEEN A DISPUTE IN THE DIXIT HOME LATELY.** I am a task-driven person who makes long lists, and I have many goals I want to achieve. Sometimes these goals can come first—before the needs of my family. I recently decided to work on a second master's degree. This is in part because the institution I work for offers its employees a free class each semester. My wife has not approved of this new venture.

"You already have a master's degree *and* a doctorate. Why don't you spend your time doing something else?" she asked with a tone of annoyance in her voice.

My response was quick. "Because I am a lifelong student. I love learning."

The other week my wife sent me a text message with this Bible verse: "But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy. There's no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you're no good for anything else. The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what he tells you" (Eccl. 12:12, 13, *The Message*).

At first, I was slightly upset because she used a Bible proof-text to advance her argument. However, I started to dwell on this passage. *Why am I really pursuing more education? Is this the right season for me to continue my studies, or should I be spending this extra time being a father or husband?*

As I ponder my New Year's resolution, I have been considering how I can widen my goals to include my family rather than my own personal desires exclusively. Rather than losing weight, can I refocus the goal to making healthy lunch choices for the children and plan one physical activity with the family each week? Instead of increasing my personal Bible reading, perhaps we should revisit our weekly family devotion time.

King Solomon reminded us that it is easy to follow your personal desires, but what really matters is living out God's desires and purpose. "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21, NIV).

As you begin to make your New Year's resolution, consider widening your goals so they benefit your family and not just yourself. ■

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*Kumar Dixit is the former ministerial director of the British Columbia Conference. He currently serves as the chaplain of WGTS 91.9 radio in Takoma Park, Maryland. He is the author of Branded Faith, available on Amazon.com.*



Sonia Kennedy-Brown

I'm an  
**Albino**  
 With a  
**New**  
**Name**

**IT WAS A CHILLING REALITY.** I thought I would never overcome the hurt and pain inflicted on me by society's insults, name-calling, and scorn. I was condemned to suffer and die like so many before me. Society assigned new names for me with such regularity that some people accepted these names as normal.

According to society, being born an albino (a person with albinism), made me the "black sheep" of my community. My all-wise mother named me Sonia Rose. Society renamed me D Dundus, Freak, Squaw, Raw, Yellow, Fire, and other terms.

Social ostracism, including these name changes, nearly destroyed me. I was often frightened to leave home. My abusers were everywhere—school, shop piazzas, the highways and hedges, just everywhere. I started to build up resentment towards many people, as my identity was being trampled on by words of hate and ridicule.

My wonderful, loving family encouraged me to be strong and to place my total trust in God. But how could I trust God to relieve my pain when, in the depth of my despair, I blamed Him for making me different? It was a real emotional and spiritual struggle. From the depth of my soul, I cried out to Him, and He answered me. Sonia, He says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think towards you ... thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." He has plans for me.

I have discovered, moreover, that names are important to God. Many Bible characters had name changes to signify their spiritual growth and new roles God assigned to them.

God assigned me a new name also. In Isaiah 43:1, He said to me, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you [Sonia]; I have called you by your name; you are mine." What I received from Him was not just a new name, but also a new character to build me for eternity.

On pages 228 and 229 of my recently released autobiography, *Silent Tears: Growing Up Albino*, I share what God revealed to me. I looked again at the life of Naomi in the Bible. Her name meant "my pleasantness" or "my joy." But when she lost her husband and children in a foreign land, she called herself "Mara," which means "bitter." My given names, Sonia Rose, mean "wise" and "beautiful" respectively, but like Naomi, I became sad, hopeless, and bitter.

I had lost sight of God's blessings for me as I focused on my pain. But again God said to me in Isaiah 62:2-4: "Thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name ... Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land anymore be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah and thy land Beulah."

In the devotional reading for Nov. 2, 2012, "Day by Day with God," Elaine Pountney states, "'Hephzibah' replaces the name 'Deserted' or 'Rejected,' and 'Beulah' means 'married or set aside.'" My Maker is my husband. No more rejection!

What is the meaning of your name? What name are you calling yourself because of your bitter experiences in life? Are you focused on the lost job, your family problems, your broken marriage, your health challenges, or the bully at school, or work? Have you lost sight of God's blessings for you? Survival may appear impossible, but with God it is possible.

People still often stare at me. I still hear questions about my origin, accent, spots, and wrinkles. The name-calling probably will never stop, but my strength is in God. I am healed of my burden, praise God!

You, too, can find your strength in Him. You are called by His name. You belong to Him. You are special too. ■

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*Sonia Kennedy-Brown, a former registered nurse with a master's degree in educational psychology, is the author of Silent Tears: Growing Up Albino.*



# Three Key Pillars of Prayer Ministries

*"...how do we know what is best to ask for ourselves or others?"*

When disciples heard Jesus praying, one of them asked, "Teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1, NIV). As were His sermons so were His prayers: full of the power of the Holy Spirit and loving compassion for others. He came to seek and save the lost. We need that "same mind ... that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5, NRSV).

In Matthew 6:5-15 we find what some call the "fuller Lord's Prayer" formula, recognizing that the Lord's Prayer is placed within the context of conditions and principles. These principles apply to both private and group prayers. There are some differences between private prayer and intercessory ministry group prayer. But both find their models in the prayer Jesus offered.

Presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity. Jude 1:20 encourages, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit" (NKJV). Romans 8:26 points out that we need the Holy Spirit's ministry in us to make prayer experience heartfelt, focused, and effective. Besides, how do we know what is best to ask for ourselves or others?

First, our hearts must be in tune with Jesus and His compassionate, caring heart; be at peace with others; and be tuned up with Christ's mission for the world. Let's pick out three key pillars of a prayer ministry team:

## **1. Praise and thanksgiving for God's active love, grace, and mercy, for His petitions already granted.**

Thank Him ahead for acting on every new request, for He will honour it according to His will (see Phil. 4:6; 1 John 5:14, 15). This passage in John 1 is in context of praying for others. With our hearts cleansed from every known sin, in tune with Him and others, we may ask and claim His promises with humble confidence. We can claim the promised baptism of His Spirit each day and we "shall receive." Then our prayers will be inspired by His Spirit and our daily lives be led by Him (see Rom. 8:14). God will put into our minds who and what to pray for and what to share with others.

## **2. Praying for those outside of our small circle (church, family)**

The text in 1 Timothy 2:1-6, says "First of all, then, I exhort that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority ... For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth ... there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." "First of all," we need a broader global view of God's work that expands our typically narrow prayer focus. It will go beyond our turf. God sees a big picture, and the Holy Spirit will expand our little view and little faith.

## **3. Finally, praying for needs within our own church body (prayers for healing, help for personal challenges and problems)**

In most prayer groups (as important as these requests are), they tend to be predominant, sometimes taking 90 percent of prayer time. This prayer ministry narrow focus needs realigning.

Further, group prayers need to be brief. Good prayer ministries are those where each person in the group prays and thanks for one specific individual need at a time. An excellent principle is that each participant give a short one-sentence prayer. It gives each person an opportunity to express what the Holy Spirit is putting on their heart. Each member can take home three to five key names for whom they will pray between group meetings. Upon praying, they can "watch unto prayer" to see how God answers the requests and then, with thanksgiving, share their findings at the next prayer session. ■

*Karel Samek is prayer ministries coordinator at the BC Conference.*


religious liberty feature

# Hacksaw Ridge

and the Religious Nut  
Who Wanted to Save  
**Just One More**



Private First Class Desmond Doss was a company aid man while serving with the Medical Detachment, 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in action at Urasoe Mura, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands.



by Barry W. Bussey

**THE STORY BEHIND THE MOVIE** *Hacksaw Ridge* involves a young U.S. Army medic during World War II, Desmond T. Doss, whose religious conscience recoiled at the idea of killing another human being.

The story is counterintuitive. It is a war movie directed by Mel Gibson, whose movie projects are not shy about accentuating the violent exploits of war; but it is more than that. It is a story of deep religious conviction of a hero who risked his life to save life. It is a Don Quixote-like tale with a twist—it is real, gut-wrenching, transparent, sincere, and effective. In an age that maligns religion as the source of war, this is a story of religion that abhors war but doesn't ignore or shun those who participate in it. Rather it seeks to redeem what is redeemable, despite the blood, the gore, and the apparent futility of trying. It is a story that is new to this generation but one that illustrates old values of faith, endurance, and duty to God and to humanity. It is a story that raises, yet again, the non-combatancy of those few religious souls among us who are willing to give up public approbation as patriotic warriors and instead submit to the public shame or ridicule that often comes with refusing to bear arms in what the politicians and many churchgoers often say is a "just war."

Desmond was the unlikeliest hero: a loner who grew up in a home with an alcoholic father and whose

mother took him to church every Saturday morning. She was an ardent Seventh-day Adventist Christian who ensured that her children were faithful in keeping the Ten Commandments. It was seeing the illustrated Ten Commandments on the wall of his family home that led to Desmond's refusal to bear arms when he was called up to serve during World War II. He remembered the drawing, next to the sixth commandment, that illustrated Cain killing his brother, Abel. *How could a brother do such a thing?* Desmond thought—and he committed himself never to kill another human being.

By all accounts Desmond was a loner. He was introspective. Life was serious, and so was he. Everything about him was nonconforming. His faith community was relatively unknown. He worshipped on a different day than most Christians. He did not drink alcohol or smoke or become involved in the extracurricular activities that many of his classmates were accustomed to. Such awkwardness was not unusual for Desmond. He saw it as part of who he was—not that he was better than anyone, but his motivation was from a deep religious commitment to do the right thing, no matter the consequence. Such a commitment would serve him well on the front lines in Okinawa.

When Desmond was drafted, he refused the rifle. The military was of the view that he should go to a

—continued on p. 34



Photo: Keith Chant

# Almost vegan

One of the hardest things about becoming vegan is giving up some of the old family recipes that we have enjoyed since childhood. As we transitioned to a vegan diet, we were determined to convert our favourite family recipes in such a way that they maintained their original appeal even without animal products. When I was young, my father taught me how to make corn chowder, and it was one of the recipes that we had to convert. After some trial and error, we were able to create a new recipe that captured the flavours of the old but suited our new lifestyle.

This is a simple and delicious recipe that we enjoy making during the cold winter months. It warms you up as you enjoy the rich, creamy flavours. It is good fresh out of the pot, or eaten as leftovers the next day. ■

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

## Corn Chowder

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) coconut oil
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 jalapeño, seeds removed
- 4 or 5 medium potatoes
- hot water
- 2 cans creamed corn
- 1 can coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) chicken-style seasoning
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) curry powder
- ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml) dried chives
- black pepper, to taste
- salt, to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Chop onion, dice garlic and jalapeño, cut potatoes into 1 cm cubes.
- In large soup pot sauté onion in oil until it is translucent.
- Add garlic and jalapeño and sauté until jalapeño is tender.
- Add potatoes and enough water to cover everything. Increase heat and bring to a boil.
- Reduce heat to a simmer, add spices and salt, cook until potatoes are tender.
- Add creamed corn and coconut milk, bring to a slow boil, and simmer 5 more minutes.
- Let rest 10 minutes and serve.

# Be Careful, Little Ears, What You Hear

In November 2016 we celebrated Voice of Adventist Radio's (VOAR) Sharathon! It was a wonderful opportunity to make contact with our listeners and to find out how VOAR is touching lives.

I had the privilege of talking with Sandra ("Nannie"), a loyal listener who always has her car radio tuned to VOAR. It's a natural part of her day, just like picking up her granddaughter from preschool.

One day "Poppy" picked up their granddaughter with his car and strapped her into her car seat. After they had been driving for a little while, the little girl asked, "Poppy, can we listen to Nannie's station?" At less than three years of age, this little one could distinguish between VOAR and other radio stations—and preferred VOAR!

The next time Nannie picked her up, the little girl said, "I asked Poppy to turn on your station, Nannie, but I don't think he did."

When Sandra asked her husband about it, he admitted that he had put in a Christian CD instead. This little girl could tell the difference. Sandra told us that her granddaughter often goes around the house talking about how Jesus loves us! What a testimony to the power of Christian radio. We may think that we are just catching up on the latest news or checking the weather, but our children in the back seat are listening to everything that plays over the radio—whether it's a secular station or "Nannie's Station." We'd love to hear how we are impacting your life and your community! Please contact us at [www.voar.org](http://www.voar.org) ■



*Christine Bergen is the secretary/treasurer for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.*



Rebecque Johnson

## ON THE ROAD WITH

# Becky

AT THE YORKTON, ST. WALBURG, PINEHOUSE DRIVE, AND NIPAWIN CHURCHES IN SASKATCHEWAN

*There are two churches. "Church A" has the truth but is very cold. "Church B" doesn't know the truth but is very friendly. Whom does God love the most and why?*

**Vanessa Tilihoi:** God loves both churches the same because He has made each person in a special, unique way!

**Kaysha Richardson:** Church B because they are displaying more Christlike behavior despite not knowing the truth. However, God loves everyone equally no matter what; He will just be sad with Church A's choices when they know the truth.

**Trish Kowtek:** God loves both churches. He loves all of His children unconditionally. Praying that all of God's children will draw very close to Him, so we can all be a beacon of love for Him.

**Kate Nachilobe:** Church B. People will be judged according to the level of knowledge they have. In the last days there will be people who will be accepted by God based on how they have lived their lives and the level of truth they have been exposed to.

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

*This month we are focusing on the ministry of It Is Written Canada (IIW), the primary media ministry sponsored by the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. What and who makes the Bible school component of this ministry work? I would like to introduce to you the people who run the correspondence school. Leena and Nina are, in my opinion, unsung heroes who work tirelessly as volunteers, sharing the message of hope and wholeness with those who are searching and seeking.*



Nina Chernipeski and Leena Maattanen

**EDITOR:** *Tell me about yourselves.*

**LEENA MAATTANEN:** I grew up in a happy Christian home. My parents were very much involved in the Salvation Army church. My childhood dream was to become a Salvation Army officer, and in 1966 I graduated from the Officers Training College in Finland. In the mid-1970s, I was asked to work in Canada. One day visiting a friend, I found a book *The Great Controversy* when getting a tablecloth from her closet. I became interested about it, and she reluctantly gave it to me. From there began a sequence of events in my life that led to my baptism in 1978 at the dedication of the new Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist church in Toronto. There was no question that God was leading my life. I dedicated my life to being a mother for my four children and helping my husband.

**NINA CHERNIPESKI:** Growing up with Christian parents, being able to attend Adventist education, and working as a nurse have all had a positive influence on my relationship with God, as well as the choice to live a healthy lifestyle. This has been enhanced by my dedicated and supportive husband and son with whom I delight to encounter God's nature through hiking and kayaking, etc.

**EDITOR:** *How did you become involved with the IIW Bible School?*

**LEENA:** In 1996 while walking past College Park church in Oshawa, I noticed the door was open. Out of curiosity I went in. I found a group of people in a meeting wondering where they could find someone to take care of the Discover Bible School, which was part of

the preparation for a Ner series. I was given the binder and a key for the Bible School mailbox without any questions.

I prayed that if God wanted me to do this, that I would find a Discover Bible School request card in the mailbox the next day. There was a card, which was from an It Is Written contact who had studied with my husband 10 years earlier. He was now ready to complete the Bible studies. He decided to be baptized and became an active member in the church.

Pastor Henry Feyrabend visited my home one day. I showed him how many of the Bible students I was studying with were IIW contacts. He said that IIW needed a Bible school and asked if I would do it.

**NINA:** About six years ago I began to help by correcting Bible study lessons and taking care of the Bible school while my mother was away. I have continued to work together with her and enjoy seeing how God's Word is making a difference in students' lives.

**EDITOR:** *How many Bible studies would you say you have given out over the years?*

**LEENA/NINA:** It has been 20 years, and it's hard to tell, but there are approximately 300 each year, and most finish the studies.

**EDITOR:** *What is involved in giving online Bible Studies?*

**LEENA/NINA:** We work together with Voice of Prophecy (VOP). All the online requests go to the VOP, and Canadian students are directed to IIW Bible School. All the Canadian requests for correspondence Bible studies are sent to IIW Canada.

**EDITOR:** *What is your favourite aspect of the Bible School?*

**LEENA/NINA:** The Holy Spirit speaks through the Scriptures to each student as he or she studies the lessons at home or in prison. The students begin to understand about the Sabbath, the state of the dead, the character of God, and renew their relationship with Jesus. Many students accept Jesus as their personal Saviour possibly for the first time in their lives. That is why it is vital that we pray for students while studying with them. For example, one student said, after sending an answer sheet back, "I never knew that the sanctuary in the Old Testament illustrated the plan of salvation. That's good news to me."

**EDITOR:** *Do you have one memory that stands out in your years of service?*

**LEENA/NINA:** There are many stories, because students share about themselves while doing the lessons.

One lady whose husband was a truck driver, read the lessons to him while they drove.

Another person found lesson 1 in a post office trash can, read it, and sent it in to begin receiving lessons.

Another gentleman received a reminder letter that had been sent for a student who formerly lived in the same apartment where he was now living. He crossed off her name and requested the Bible studies for himself.

A student who was a taxi driver had trouble understanding the Sabbath. Once he was given more information, he realized its significance in history, was amazed, and decided to observe it.

I have been able to witness a few baptisms and have received invitations to attend students' baptisms from all over Canada.

**EDITOR:** *How can Messenger readers and churches get involved in promoting the Bible school?*

**LEENA/NINA:** Pray that God will lead you to use your time and means in spreading His Word, because God has given all of us these talents. Tell others about the Bible school lessons, such as *Discover*, *Focus on Prophecy*, *Native New Day*, *KidZone* (for children), and *Start Into Life* (for youth). *Discover* lessons are available in English, Portuguese, Finnish, and French (French students are directed to the Il Est Écrit Bible School). Online Bible study has a great variety of languages. All this information is available on the IIW website. IIW *GLOW* tracts are a great witnessing tool.

Be a friend to newcomers in your church. Many students who have completed the studies are seeking a friendly place to worship.

**EDITOR:** *What is your favourite Bible verse and why?*

**LEENA:** Isaiah 55:10, 11. The following three reprints explain why. Hebrews 4:12, James 1:21-25, and John 17:17, where Jesus says, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth."

**NINA:** Isaiah 41:10, Trust in God's leading, and He will show the way. Your performance is not a priority, because God can do it. The greatest joy in the whole world is to see how God works in people's lives. ■

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

**G**od is reviving His work in Newfoundland. For seven weeks during the months of October and November, *It Is Written* Canada had the privilege of sharing the Discoveries in Revelation prophecy series in Newfoundland. In an effort to reach the highest concentration of population, we shared three evangelistic series simultaneously in St. John's, Conception Bay South, and Bay Roberts.

Newfoundland and Labrador are an important area for the evangelistic outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. According to Ken Corkum, president of the Newfoundland and Labrador mission, the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador has a long history.

"It all began in 1893 with four lay missionaries from Battle Creek, Mich.: E. A. Parker, L. T. Ayres, and their wives," says Corkum. "On board the ship that brought them to Newfoundland, Mrs. Ayres became acquainted with Mrs. Anna Pippy, the wife of a St. John's businessman who became the first Seventh-day Adventist convert in Newfoundland. Her sister, Elizabeth Milley, became the first Adventist teacher in St. John's when she, too, joined the Adventist Church and lost her teaching position at the Church of England school. Anna Pippy started a school for the children of Adventist members in her own home with her sister as the teacher."

From these small beginnings, the work expanded. According to Corkum, "The St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Newfoundland Mission were officially founded in 1895, with the arrival of the first pastor, S. J. Hersum. The St. John's church had 18 charter members. Its first building was on Cookstown Road. Many older members still alive today remember attending the Cookstown Road church."

There was a great desire to expand the work in Newfoundland. A dream was born, says Corkum. "Then, in the 1920s, Harold Williams was fascinated with the evangelical possibilities offered by the new technology of radio. He started a radio station called 8BSL in 1929. Over the years this grew into VOAR (the Voice of Adventist Radio), one of only two church-owned stations in Newfoundland. Today VOAR broadcasts across the island of Newfoundland and is heard in many locations on the Canadian mainland as well."

While the work in Newfoundland has expanded over the years, the progress slowed because the Adventist

schools in Newfoundland closed. Today, according to the current church statistics, says Corkum, "550 members of NL ... in seven churches and three companies [are] under the pastoral care of six pastors. We operate the largest Christian radio in Canada called VOAR with some 13 broadcast sites across NL and an additional 30-plus sites across Canada with most being in B.C. We have a beautiful campsite called Woody Acres on Southwest Pond about one hour's drive outside St. John's where we conduct seminars, church rallies, youth camps, campmeeting, and community outreach events."

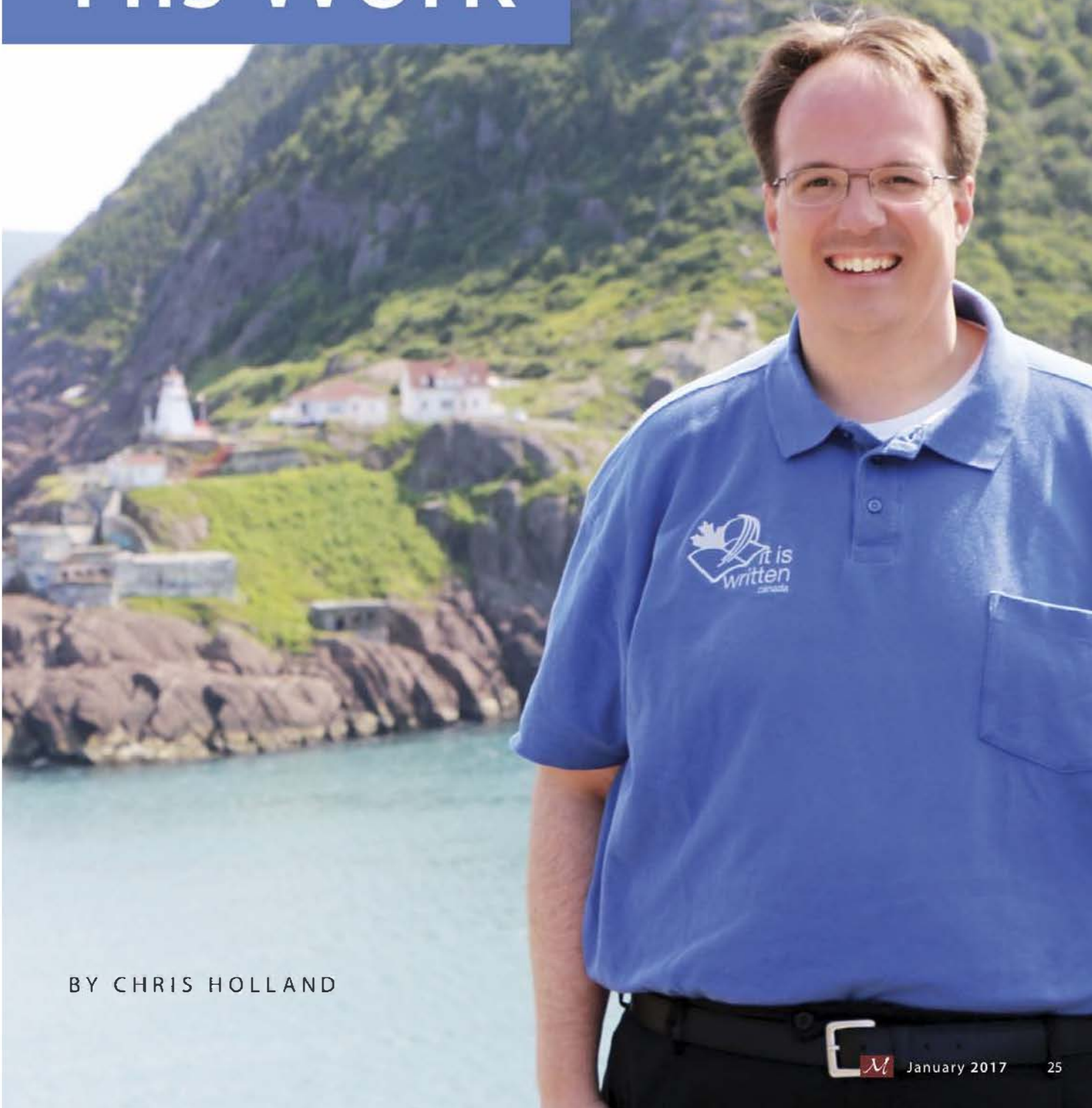
During campmeeting of 2014 at Camp Woody Acres, we began a conversation with Ken Corkum, Eric Ollila (pastor of the Bay Roberts and Conception Bay South churches), and Jason Williams (pastor of the St. John's church) on a process to reach the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland. In 2014 we launched a two-year process of reaching the people of St. John's, Bay Roberts, and Conception Bay South. Ollila commented, "We have been working with Chris and Debbie for two years leading up to these meetings, and I believe that it has helped provide a very solid foundation for the series. The interest we gained from the attendees was solid."

Over the course of two years we provided training for members in a variety of outreach opportunities, small group Bible study, personal Bible study, reaching former members, and a variety of health-related outreach opportunities. Corkum shared, "Chris and Debbie have been coming to present seminars and revival meetings several times over this time. The planning and implementation of the ideas have absorbed the thinking of many. Entry events like the Nedley Depression Recovery Seminar and Creation Health have helped us make friends in our communities and opened hearts more receptive to our holistic view of life."

Williams emphasized the importance of that preparation, saying, "We have greatly appreciated the emphasis that the *It Is Written* team has had on the importance of



# Reviving His Work



BY CHRIS HOLLAND



January 2017

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Shearlyn Pearkey congratulates Bible School graduate Clemece Maluma, St. John's, NL.



Calvin and Edna Blundon, Conception Bay South, NL attended every meeting and graduated from the Bible School.

proper evangelistic preparation, as well as the support they provided our congregations in laying out a plan, many months in advance of the public meetings, as to how we could be best prepared as churches to minister to out communities. Our membership has become excited about the work of ministry, the cycle of evangelism, and the beautiful work of preaching Christ to our community.”

“These programs were excellent, a ten out of ten.”

“Discoveries in Revelation” is the title we have chosen to characterize our evangelistic series. Our emphasis was on discovering a relationship with the One revealed in the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ. Celest’s first love in ministry is working with children, and in this series of Discoveries in Revelation she is working with the children’s program. “I enjoy supporting where I can, which starts with being present at the meetings,” she says. “We love the Lord, and our greatest joy is seeing His work go forward and being part of that growth. Williams noted, “The Discoveries in Revelation seminar presentations were Christ-centred and biblically and historically engaging.” And Ollila adds, “His presentations have a nice flow to them that awaken and keep spiritual interest.”

One of the great keys to success in an evangelistic outreach is predicated on the involvement of the local

membership. In Newfoundland, Corkum and his wife, Celest, exemplified that involvement by being in attendance and active at all the locations, virtually every night. When we asked him about why they were so involved, he shared, “Celest and I have been brought up in families where the church and its programs are the central focus of our lives. We embrace that philosophy and find our greatest joy is in being involved in the programs of the church. We love supporting where we can, and the easiest way is to be present. Being present encourages those who are presenting and those working hard to provide a first-class program. It also helps ... visitors to see that we as Adventists support what we present. Being present and involved helps lift the burdens being carried when a seminar such as Discoveries in Revelation is being offered to the community. Even though the general topics might have been heard before, there is always some insight gained on biblical understandings, and hearing these brings much joy. Where else could one find such enjoyment than attending the meetings?”

For these three churches, which have a collective attending membership of 170, during the series of meetings over 175 guests attended at least one session. Fifty individuals enrolled in the Bible school offered, and 20 graduated the Bible school by completing all 30 lessons. Over 25 individuals have made decisions for baptism with many more in the valley of decision.

Ollila shares, “I particularly appreciate the pastoral-evangelistic approach Chris takes throughout the meetings in the presentation of the materials.... We have been working with Chris and Debbie for two years



Phillip Milmine volunteers at the registration table, St. John's, NL.



To make sure he would not miss a meeting, Adam Byrne (pictured in Conception Bay South, NL), attended a few meetings at the other locations as well. He will be baptized soon.

leading up to these meetings, and I believe that it has helped provide a very solid foundation for the series. The interest we gained from the attendees was solid .... Many are interested in attending future meetings we have planned. A good number have already started attending church and have marked down [decisions] for baptism as a result of these meetings. We will definitely be reaping the benefits of this meeting over the next few months leading up to a year, and perhaps beyond that."

What did those in attendance think? One attendee, Celine, stated, "The more I hear, the more I feel hungry and thirsty for the next presentation .... Pastor Chris Holland has seamlessly taught us in such a comprehensive way. The words he shares are not just information; they have first become a living force in his life through his relationship with God, [and] that resonates with experience as he delivers the living truth."

Another attendee, Tolson, commented, "These programs were excellent, a ten out of ten."

A church member shared, "I have been revived. My walk with Jesus has been renewed." And yet another member noted, "This is the best series that I've ever been to. The clarity of the presentations was second to none."

For *It Is Written Canada*, the emphasis of evangelism as a process and a life cycle is paramount to the success of evangelism. Ken Corkum shares some final thoughts on that impact in Newfoundland: "The preparation work, participation in, and follow up to the Discoveries in Revelation has and will continue to enrich those involved while challenging those comfortable in the pew to become involved. Being in the presence of the Holy Spirit working, spills over to all involved, and the membership in the

Avalon region will come away enriched; several have already shared the same with me. The churches in Avalon intend to create a cycle of evangelism with seed sowing, watering events, and reaping meetings. Discoveries in Revelation completes the first cycle and is the beginning of many more cycles to come. I can praise God for the work of *It Is Written* and appreciate not only the weekly television program but also the Discoveries in Revelation outreach series. *It Is Written Canada* is worthy of our support and our prayers, along with regular financial encouragement as Chris and Debbie Holland along with their team continue to be one of our church's leading-edge ministries."

*"I have been revived.  
My walk with Jesus  
has been renewed."*

We believe that God is reviving the hearts of the people in Newfoundland and Labrador, and were pleased to be part of what God is doing there.

We also see God reviving His work throughout Canada. Your continued, faithful support of *It Is Written Canada* will continue to help spread the good news of Jesus's return to all of Canada and around the world.

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



# Attempted Murder- Suicide

*“The nightmare she had been through, only a couple of months earlier, left me speechless.”*

**I**t was the first street of the day, and at one of the homes I knocked on, a woman answered.

“Hello, my name is Jermain, and I am a student with Canada Youth Challenge,” I said. I then began my presentation, but soon, I stopped myself. “I’m sorry ma’am,” I said, “I didn’t ask you how you’re doing or how your day is going.”

“You know what,” she responded, “it’s not going too well.” She began to cry and, going back inside, shut the door.

I stood there for a few moments, wondering what to do. Finally, I left the GLOW tract “Hope After Death” on her front door and decided to move on. But as I continued on to other houses, I heard the Lord saying, *Go back to that house.*

I didn’t want to go back. The woman had already shut the door on me, and I felt it would be awkward to return. But I decided to listen. So, turning around, I went back to the house and knocked. When the woman answered, I said, “Ma’am, do you want someone to talk to? Just for a few minutes? I’m right here.” At these words she started crying again. Then, opening the door wider, she invited me in. When we were both seared, the woman began her story.

“My husband committed suicide in May,” she said, “and he tried to take me with him.” Pointing to the huge scar on her head, she broke down and began to sob and sob and sob.

I sat there, staring at her, broken. The nightmare she had been through, only a couple of months earlier, left me speechless. The only sound for some time was the sound of the woman’s sobs. Then, as I sat there, I remembered a story I had read in the book *Peace Above the Storm*. I felt impressed to share the story with her, so I asked if she would like for me to read it.

“Yes,” she said, so I opened the book and read. As I did, she cried even harder.

I told the woman I had no idea what it meant to lose someone you have grown to love—and in such an unthinkable way—but I knew Someone who did. That Someone had given His life for people who didn’t value the gift He was giving, and He was teaching me to love others as deeply as He loved me.

Then I asked her if I could pray for her. She said yes. So, kneeling beside her, I prayed that God would give her comfort, peace, and healing, and that His presence would never leave her.

I left the woman the book *Peace Above the Storm*, and in the cover I wrote, “God has already begun to heal, and He will finish the healing process.”

We cannot imagine the pain that is hidden behind the doors and inside the hearts of the people around us—but God sees it all. He longs to heal the hurts of the world, but He chooses to do it through us. We are His hands, to touch the world around us and bring hope to a world suffering inexpressible pain. If we are willing, He will open our eyes to the desperate need and send us to comfort the broken. ■

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*Jermain Andrews served as a literature evangelist with Lifestyle Canada, a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada. To read more stories like this one, please visit [LifestyleCanada.org/stories](http://LifestyleCanada.org/stories), or contact us at [mail@lifestylecanada.org](mailto:mail@lifestylecanada.org).*

# Choosing a Classroom for Eternity



Josh, Sheila, David, and Julia Beaudoin

When our first child was born 17 years ago, we determined that he would receive the best education available. We also believed that as parents, we are our children's first teachers and nothing can replace the primary education that comes from the home school.

The time finally came when we felt that what we could offer at home was not in the best interest of our two kids, and so we made the prayerful decision to move to a new pastoral district and enroll our children in the Seventh-day Adventist school system. Ten years later they have had the distinct privilege of attending Woodlands Adventist School and Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA). It was the best decision we have ever made!

Here are some reasons why we send our kids to Adventist schools. First off, the Bible is taught there. Deuteronomy 6:6, 7, says, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to

your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

God instructs us to saturate our children's minds with His Word. As parents, we have put much effort into teaching our children the Bible since they were born. We want to know that the time they spend at school (25–35 hours per week) is time where God's inspired Word forms the foundation of all their academic subjects, and where it is taught with consistency and conviction.

Our goal as Christian parents is to give our kids a complete and thorough education. And we believe that anything outside of an Adventist education is an incomplete education.

The second reason we send our children to Adventist schools is that the teachers and administrators share our values. I can't imagine putting my kids into an environment where God is hated, ignored, or

both. Even the best public schools are prohibited by law from reinforcing the values we teach at home.

Seventh-day Adventist schools care about not only the mental development of our children but also the spiritual. Teachers who love and fear the Lord are the heart and soul of our schools, and they are the second most influential role models in our children's lives, besides us.

The final reason we send our kids to Adventist schools is academic achievement. The Cognitive Genesis study, a four-year study from 2006 to 2009 of more than 50,000 children in Adventist schools across North America found that students who go through the Adventist school system consistently score higher academically in all subject areas than the national average. In addition, the same study indicated that the longer students attended an Adventist school, the higher they achieved academically. Some 85 percent of Adventist school graduates attend college, in comparison to 66 percent of public school students. And 80 percent of Adventist-trained college students will complete their education and receive a degree. Only 14 percent of those from public schools who attend post-secondary training will complete their degrees.

Another thing of particular interest for us was that children who attended smaller schools with reduced budgets and the inability to provide all the resources of publicly funded schools still scored higher than average students in other schools.

Academic achievement is not the most important thing, however; the best education for our children is one in which God is central from morning to bedtime. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). We want to raise our children to know and love the Lord from an early age and to live for Him through all eternity.

Adventist schools like Woodlands and PAA help us achieve that goal. ■

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*David and Sheila Beaudoin work for the Alberta Conference and enjoy spending their family time outdoors. Their son, Josh, is in Grade 11 at PAA, and their daughter, Julia, is in Grade 10.*



The Kingsway Symphonic Choir performs for guests attending the annual fund dinner. All proceeds go to the Worthy Student Fund.

the old gym in order to accommodate more people and to allow the Aerials, band, choir, and drama groups to perform. The goal was to connect the donors with the students and to highlight the incredible talents our young people possess. In essence, we wanted to show our donors that their gifts were making a difference in the lives of young people who have so much to offer, not just to Kingsway but also to their home churches and local communities.

As the years have passed, since the beginning of this banquet, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for our students. On Nov. 20, 2016, the Annual Fun(d) Dinner was held again in the Old KC Gym with a theme of "Gallery of the Arts." Many of our current students created art work on canvas for the silent auction, while Aerials,

Band, Choir, and Drama groups performed for over 270 attendees. The food, prepared by Chef Will, was amazing. Allan Hodgins did an incredible job as emcee. There were 19 companies and individuals who sponsored a table of eight for \$600 each, and over \$2,500 dollars of auction items were donated by local businesses. Comments on the venue were extremely positive; many people commented that this one event was best suited for the old gym because of the sound, comfort, and history of Kingsway College.

Again, God blessed this event. Over \$43,000 was raised for our Worthy Student Fund, making this night the single biggest fundraising event for our students.

In 1903 a dream began to teach young people about the love of Jesus through academic classes, work, and social events at Lornedale Academy. Today the tradition continues under the name of Kingsway College, and God continues to bless the donations and gifts as He did the fishes and loaves. If you are supporting your local Adventist school, I thank you and I encourage you to continue. If you are not, I encourage you to make a difference in the life of a young person by contributing today. To the 270-plus individuals who visited us in the old gym at Kingsway College on Nov. 20, 2016—thank you! ■

*Greg Bussey is the director of enrolment services, development, and alumni relations at Kingsway College.*

**I**N 1903 THE FOUNDERS OF KINGSWAY COLLEGE had a specific mission in mind for the young people of Eastern Canada: "to reflect Jesus Christ and prepare students for His service." With less than \$8,000, Lornedale Academy (now Kingsway College) opened its doors to eight students, and the mission began in earnest. Today \$8,000 is certainly not worth what it was in 1903, and yet God continues to bless the finances of Kingsway College as He did with the fishes and loaves in Matthew 14:13–21.

Each year Kingsway College is blessed to receive tens of thousands of dollars in donation toward helping our students afford the cost to attend Adventist education at Kingsway College. The challenge of affording Adventist education is not a new concern for our parents and students; however, when the families, local churches/conferences, and Kingsway work together, the goals are met *every time!*

Over 30 years ago, Ralph Janes (President, Kingsway College) and Carolyn Osmond (VP of Finance) created a banquet to help fund worthy students, assisting them financially to attend Kingsway. The dinner, held at the Kingsway cafeteria, happened every November on a Sunday evening with great food and student entertainment, with all proceeds going to the Worthy Student Fund. In the early years, the dollars raised were modest yet blessed and helped many students.

In 2003 the Worthy Student Banquet was moved to

If you are interested in an Adventist Christian education at Kingsway College, contact the enrolment office at [admissions@kingswaycollege.on.ca](mailto:admissions@kingswaycollege.on.ca).

# MANS Principal Receives Top SDACC Award

*Principal Gail Wilton has been named "2016 Top School Administrator" by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. It's an Excellence in Education Award that Gail considers a recognition of the extraordinary team at Mamawi Atosketan (MANS).*

The Mamawi Atoskeran Native School (MANS) family can't imagine the school without their dedicated principal, Gail Wilton, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada's (SDACC) top school administrator can't imagine not being there. She has been with Mamawi Atosketan from the beginning, having joined as a teacher in 2004. Now serving as principal, Gail has a top priority of making comprehensive K-12 Adventist education possible for students of the Maskwacis Reserve in Alberta.

Gail's hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Awarded an Excellence in Education Award by the SDACC Office of Education, Gail was named as Top School Administrator in Canada. The award, which is part of the church's annual recognition of demonstrated excellence in teaching ministry to Canada's best teachers, was presented by SDACC president Mark Johnson and Alberta Conference education superintendent Janet Griffith at Alberta Campmeeting in July.

To what does she attribute her success as top administrator in Canada? Gail's answer focuses immediately on the strengths of her school: "To have a cohesive staff and be able to lead with that kind of staff."

Indeed, what staff and students achieve together at Mamawi Atoskeran on a daily basis is extraordinary, particularly given the violence present in many students' personal lives. It is the challenges that her students face on a daily basis that motivate Gail to devote herself to the school. "You can give one-on-one care that you can't give in [other settings]."

Her dedication to Adventist schools reflects her strong belief in the transformative ministry of education. A graduate of Canadian University College (now Burman University), Gail has taught for 12 years in the Adventist system at both College Heights Christian School and MANS.

MANS remains close to Gail's heart. The school is blooming with the addition of Grades 10 through 12 and increasing number of high school graduates. With an enrolment of 200 students, MANS is the largest school in the Alberta Conference and is in the top five largest K-12 SDA schools in Canada. But Gail knows that the impact of the school goes far beyond academics or successful enrolment.



Alberta Conference education superintendent Janet Griffith congratulating Principal Gail Wilton on her SDACC Top School Administrator award.

"You have to be safe to learn," says Gail, speaking from experience. To be able to be here and in MANS's safe environment is, for many students, more important than the education they receive.

MANS's supportive environment is changing the direction and confidence of youth in Maskwacis. It is the dedication and commitment of top teachers such as Gail Wilton who are spearheading the "the MANS difference" that is creating such waves and tangibly changing lives. ■

*Alison Bottomley is the communications assistant for The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School.*



Read more about Mamawi Atosketan Native School and meet our students at [MANS1.ca](http://MANS1.ca). Details on how The Bridge Campaign is taking First Nations youth to high education can also be found online.

# Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

*"Getting involved in the things I love has really helped me become who God wants me to be."*

Growing up in Saskatoon with her mom and two brothers, Michelle Lwin did not consider coming to Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) until her church family stepped in.

"Friends who had graduated from PAA talked with my mom and convinced her that this was a much better place for me to be," she says. Still, she had some concerns.

PAA was far away from home, full of unfamiliar people, and very expensive. "When I came to PAA Days, all my fears went away and I really liked it," Michelle shares. "so I prayed, 'God, if I get money, I'll come.' And then my name was drawn for a scholarship! If I wasn't at PAA, I wouldn't be who I am now. If I had gone to public school, I would for sure have ended up somewhere I don't want to be."

Though Michelle has loved her time on campus, her years each hold different experiences for her. "My first year was probably my worst because of some of the friends I made," she admits, "but then in Grade 11 I started trying out for some of the things that I actually wanted to do, like Campus Ministries, getting a job, and going to Bible studies. I'm really going to miss PAA when I graduate because this campus has become my home. The people here are more than just my friends. We protect each other and share our spiritual growth together."

Michelle's relationships led to her decision to be baptized in May 2016. She had spoken for PAA's student-led Week of Prayer and received a lot of encouragement for her message. "I really didn't think I could do it," she says. "But people were so happy that I shared a real thing—being honest about the challenges of the past, looking ahead, and not being afraid to move on."

These same people stood by her as she struggled with the decision to publicly commit herself to God at the Canada-wide Youth Summit.

Michelle recalls, "One friend was beside me as we were watching the other people get baptized, and I just started crying. She turned to me and said, 'This is what you want, isn't it? This is it, then. Don't walk away and regret it later!' I had been going to Bible studies all year, and all of a sudden I just knew I needed to get baptized, so I went to the speaker and begged, 'Please let



me go, even in my clothes!" It was so nice to have all of PAA there to support me. When I think about it now, it still makes me happy."

The whole school celebrated when Michelle and several other students chose baptism that weekend, and it engendered an ongoing focus on prayer and preparation for PAA. This year Michelle has become more active, letting her light shine through sports, campus ministries, and mentoring friendships with other first-year students who are finding their way as she once did.

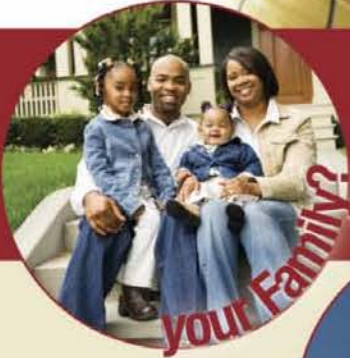
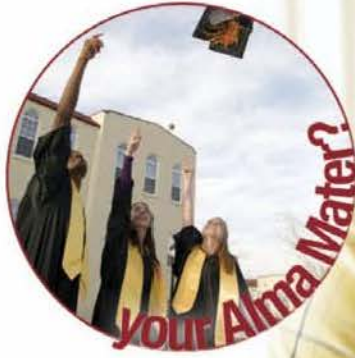
"Getting involved in the things I love has really helped me become who God wants me to be," says Michelle. "I want other students to experience that too. PAA challenges you to live on your own, but surrounded by support. My teachers and deans have been like parents, and I have learned so much from them because they're real, too, talking about their own journeys with faith and God."

Her favourite verse is from 1 Peter 4:8, which instructs people to love one another deeply above all, and this is the connection Michelle has found at PAA: a place where young people can grow in love. ■

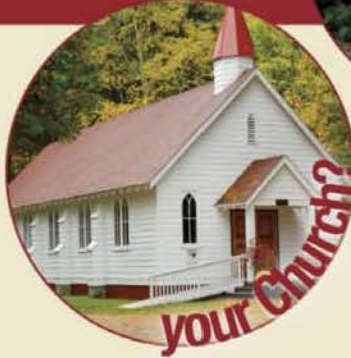
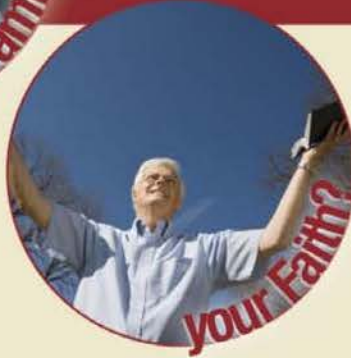
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*Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.*





# What Matters Most to You?



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*Charles Spurgeon*

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President Harry S. Truman warmly shook the hand of Corporal Desmond Thomas Doss, and then held it the entire time his citation was read aloud to those gathered outside the White House on October 12, 1945. "I'm proud of you," Truman said. "You really deserve this. I consider this a greater honor than being president."

work camp for conscientious objectors, but he refused. "I tried to explain that I was a conscientious cooperator" was how he put it. He sought a place in the medical corps. He wanted to be placed where he could save life, not take life. Eventually the Army did find him a spot with the Medical Detachment, 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

During the many months of training,

Doss was looked upon as strange. Ralph Baker, a litter bearer, noted that Doss "didn't have friends, because he was too much out of the mainstream." In fact, John Centola, the company scout, noted that "a lot of people thought he was putting on an act. What kind of religion tells you that you can't do this, you can't do that?" The ribbing Doss received from his fellow soldiers while in the United States was soon to change when in battle. Many would come to owe their lives to this brave religious nut.<sup>1</sup>

It was Doss's bravery in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers near Urasoe Mura, Okinawa, Japan, from April 29 to May 21, 1945, that became legendary. It is now the subject of the major motion picture *Hacksaw Ridge*, directed by Mel Gibson. For Gibson, Doss's exploits were nothing short of "inspirational." Gibson continued, "To walk into the worst place on earth ... without ... a weapon and ... do his job ... as a corps medic and save so many lives is remarkable."<sup>1</sup>

Reading the Army's citation of those events, you would think, if you did not know better, that you were reading fiction. When his battalion "assaulted a jagged escarpment 400 feet high," a heavy concentration of artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire crashed into them, inflicting approximately 75 casualties and driving the others back.<sup>2</sup> Doss remained on top of the escarpment amid enemy fire and carried all 75 casualties "one by one to the edge of the escarpment and there lowered them on a rope-supported litter" to safety. One can only imagine what was going through Doss's mind during this heroic act. In Terry Benedict's documentary *The Conscientious Objector*, Doss said that as he delivered

each wounded man he prayed, "Lord, please help me get one more;" and off he trudged through the hail of bullets for the one more—75 in total.


A few days later, on May 2, "he exposed himself to heavy rifle and mortar fire in rescuing a wounded man 200 yards forward of the lines on the same escarpment"—but that was not all. Two days later "he treated four men who had been cut down while assaulting a strongly defended cave." To do so he had to go through "a shower of grenades to within eight yards of enemy forces." There "he dressed his comrades' wounds before making four separate trips under fire to evacuate them to safety." This heroic behaviour continued almost daily.

Commander Jack Glover, who had told Doss in training, "You're not going to be by my damn side if you don't carry a gun," was now faced with a medic on the frontline in "combat after combat, action after action" who "just absolutely refused to allow wounded soldiers to not be treated, refusing to withdraw under any circumstances." He marvelled that Doss "was absolutely fearless as to what was going to happen to him." Glover was among those whose life was spared because of Doss's action during the Okinawa campaign. Despite the small arms fire, the artillery and mortar shells falling, Doss reached Glover, attended to his wounds, and then carried him to safety.

Unfortunately, it was on the night of May 21 that Doss's heroics would come to an end. He again "fearlessly" risked his life when a grenade was thrown into the pit where he was tending to a wounded soldier. He purposely put his foot on the grenade to shield the soldier. The explosion ripped through Doss's legs. He "waited five hours before litter bearers reached him and started carrying him to cover." However, as he was being carried off the field, he noticed a more critically wounded man and told the bearers to take that man. While he waited for the litter bearers' return, he was struck by a sniper bullet and "with magnificent fortitude he bound a rifle stock to his shattered arm as a splint and then crawled 300 yards over rough terrain to the aid station."<sup>2</sup>

Doss's unflinching courage gained the admiration of all his comrades. When he was lowering the 75 wounded that day in Okinawa, the men below were wanting to know who was behind all of these men getting down to safety. "Some nut up there is getting his butt shot off" was the reply. "What a beautiful nut, huh?" said Glover.

<sup>1</sup> Photos courtesy of the Desmond Doss Council.



When Desmond was about to be put on an evacuation ship, he realized that his pocket Bible was missing. The word soon got out that Doss's Bible was still on the battlefield. A number of volunteers risked their own lives in the line of fire to find his Bible—it took some searching, but the Bible was found and returned.

While the Doss story took some time to receive worldwide exposure, its underlying themes are as old as Christianity itself. What should be the Christian response to war? Ancient Christian writers such as Tertullian said that when Christ disarmed Peter, He "unbelted every soldier."<sup>3</sup> However, many scholars today note that the conversion of Constantine to Christianity led to a shift in the Christian thinking on war. Theologians Ambrose and Augustine developed what has become known as the "just war doctrine."<sup>4</sup> The idea was that war became "just" when two overarching criteria were met: *jus ad bellum*, the parties had a justifiable right to go to war; and there was a *jus in bello*, that is to say, the carrying out of the war would be "just," not overly brutal.

The brutality of war has become an issue of some debate. Many writers suggest that "wars were not always as deadly and bloody as they tend to be today."<sup>5</sup> Augustine pointed out that "the real evils in war are love of violence, revengeful cruelty, fierce and implacable enmity, wild resistance, and the lust of power."<sup>6</sup> In Augustine's day war was sometimes more akin to a pushing match, not always a wholesale slaughter. The goal of battles was to make the opposing army slaves. However, scholars have noted that from about AD 1500 to 1800 there was a military revolution in Western Europe during which war became brutal—killing the opponent became the primary focus rather than catching the enemy for slavery.<sup>7</sup>

By the time the 20<sup>th</sup> century wars were unleashed upon the earth, the slaughter of both the innocent and the combatants was unprecedented. While today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century some nations try to use superior technology to target only combatants, war remains brutal. A prime example is the human suffering in the Middle East. We are also living in a culture that glorifies violence and demands revenge. The current "war on terror" presents one example after another in which

vengeance is sought. ISIS kills a Jordanian pilot, and Jordan bombs ISIS targets and hangs a female terrorist in retaliation.<sup>8</sup> A Russian plane is shot down in Syria, and Russia hits back all the harder. Tit for tat remains the *modus operandi* in carrying out war.

Desmond Doss stands out as one who saw no Christian justification for war. War was, in his mind, evil by definition. No one has a right to kill another, any more than Cain had the right to kill Abel. For Doss his conscience was supreme. No state power could compel him otherwise. Jack Glover noted that if Doss "had been without the belief and without the religious commitment, I think he would have been much less of a person doing his duty." In Benedict's documentary Doss said, "I was fighting for freedom by trying to save life instead of taking life, because I couldn't picture Christ out there with a gun killing people. I like to think of Him out there with an aid kit like me."

If there were a draft today, and if Desmond Doss were alive and young again, I can envision him on the fields of Syria, among the ravages of Iraq, or on the hills of Afghanistan, tending to the wounded. He left the politics of war to the politicians, the ethics and morality to the theologians and philosophers. His job was to save life. "You can't always win," said Doss, "but when your buddies come to you and say they owe their life to me, what better reward can you get than that?" ■

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Barry Bussey is a lawyer and religious liberty advocate of long standing. He writes from Oshawa, Ont. This article is reprinted courtesy of Liberty Magazine.

- 1 [www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3296257/Mel-Gibson-pictured-directing-set-new-World-War-II-drama-Hacksaw-Ridge-expansive-set-located-Sydney-complete-fire-dxplosions-dug-pit.html#v-8178326174553128589](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3296257/Mel-Gibson-pictured-directing-set-new-World-War-II-drama-Hacksaw-Ridge-expansive-set-located-Sydney-complete-fire-dxplosions-dug-pit.html#v-8178326174553128589).
- 2 <http://army.togetherweserved.com/army/serve/tw.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=18825>
- 3 Daniel M. Bell, Jr., *Just Wars Christian Discipleship: Recentring the Tradition in the Church Rather Than the State* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2009), p. 24.
- 4 *Ibid.*, pp. 27-32.
- 5 *Ibid.*, p. 31.
- 6 As quoted by Bell at p. 32.
- 7 Geoffrey Parker, *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West, 1500-1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- 8 [www.thestar.com/news/world/2015/02/03/islamic-state-group-says-It-burned-alive-jordanian-pilot.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2015/02/03/islamic-state-group-says-It-burned-alive-jordanian-pilot.html)

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## British Columbia

### BC Men of Hope Weekend



On Oct. 14–16 the “Men of Hope” annual men’s gathering took place at Camp Hope, this time featuring speakers Paul Dybdal from Walla Walla University and Bryan Gallant from the Iowa/Missouri Conference. The theme was “Peace with God.”

Camp Hope director, Bill Gerber, displayed a collection of 65 different kinds of axes, hatchets, etc.; these served as a great conversation starter for men.

On Friday night Dybdal opened up the weekend by sharing thoughts on a man’s “calling.” He showed that those who follow the calling of service and sacrifice are the happiest and most satisfied.

On Sabbath morning Gallant shared his story of the tragic car accident that

took his two children, as well as the journey of healing. Gallant’s love for God and ability to laugh in the full assurance of God’s plan was encouraging.

For church worship service, Paul Dybdal gave the men a biblical lesson, “Fighting,” using the example of Shammah, one of King David’s mighty men who stood with conviction for what was important.

On Sabbath afternoon Bryan Gallant illustrated our position in Christ and the need to believe and accept our royal standing as “Sons of God” and not allow the devil to make us think as slaves or failures.

On Saturday night, Jim Smith gave his testimony of how God has delivered him from shame and alcohol abuse. Camp

director, Bill Gerber, led us in a series of fun giveaways—to men who had travelled the farthest, men who married their wives the most recently, etc. Dybdal presented a great message entitled “Worry” and gave reasons to trust God.

On Sunday morning Dybdal gave the closing message, which was about what we should do when we fall: We need to reread MAPS—Re-Mind yourself who you are; Re-Access, look at what happened; Re-Play what God says; and Re-Submit to Christ.

The weekend was a turning point for many men, and a great inspiration. ■

—Greg Wellman, Men’s Ministry Coordinator

## WELCOME to Our Club!

Taking a group of twenty 10- to 18-year-olds and building a family is not for the faint of heart. Ten-year-olds have significantly different needs than do 18-year-olds, and they are interested in different things. But the Oakridge Mountain Lion Pathfinder Club has always been unique. And recently, we spent two weeks together building something tangible: smokeless stoves with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Peru, which took two days in transit without sleep, each way, for the affordable tickets! If you think joining such a group might actually be fun, **WELCOME** to our club.

**WORSHIP**, together, is the first secret to a successful club. And with us, it is always mixed with **EATING**, and **LAUGHTER**. At home in Vancouver, you will find the club every Friday night bonding over supper and worship at their leaders' house, Rex and Angela Sheehy, with co-leader Debbie Silva helping out. Some kids will jump on the trampoline, some will play with the dog, some will have singing contests and post them online, and others will just sit and visit. And many of their parents come along too! Soon it is time to sit down together and have worship, looking up Bible texts, chatting about relevant issues they face every day, or listening to a guest speaker.

**COMMUNITY** is the inevitable result of a few months of this. Throw in a campout every few months, balance it with some Sabbath afternoon hikes, a few birthday parties, Pathfinder marching practices and camporees, and the small group soon begins to function like a family, with everyone having a role and responsibility. While the relationships are not always perfect, just as with brothers and sisters, patience, forgiveness, and love conquer in the end.

**OPPORTUNITY** presents itself as the club, like any happy family, wants to spend time together. Our club began teaching out to our community with small adventures like yearly can collecting around the church for the food bank, rain or shine. We grew into making and passing out sandwiches downtown, then preparing dinner for 200 of the Lower Mainland's Seventh-day Adventist Church community outreach group "Let's Move Vancouver," going to Chicago and the Pathfinder convention of 40,000 in Oshkosh 2014, and finally graduating to a full two-week outreach trip to Peru! Along the way, we learned to fundraise and work together as a team. We presented our plans to our church, wrote sponsorship letters, sold poinsettias, went on an 80-kilometre bike-a-thon, helped with gardening and painting, and sold Krispy Kremes outside the local Canadian Tire!

And the **MASTER** is there to meet us every step of the way. Working as His representatives, Jesus works on our hearts as we learn to serve others. One day it might be helping a shivering younger Pathfinder through a rainstorm back to the tents from a hike, the next it might be playing Frisbee with a smiling child too poor for a school uniform in a little village on the other side of the world. Our club finds adventure wherever we go. And we always find that God has something new to teach us.

**EXCELLENCE** is what you'll find when children, teens, and adults work and grow together, serving God as a team. We have discovered that in our club, the more we "WELCOME," the happier we are, and the more joy we can bring to others. ■

—Loretta Knopp, Oakridge Adventist Church



Loretta Knopp working on an ADRA Canada project in Peru.



Oakridge Mountain Lion Pathfinder Club members help build smokeless stoves in Peru.



The Oakridge Mountain Lion Pathfinder Club take in the sights at Machu Picchu.

## BC Conference Elects New Ministerial Director



Tom Glatts

On Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016 the BC Conference Board of Directors (BOD) unanimously elected Tom Glatts to serve as the Ministerial Director for the Conference, on a half-time basis, starting on December 1. Glatts will continue to serve as the senior pastor of the Abbotsford church (half-time), concurrently with his new role. According to Wesley Torres, BC Conference President, the BOD identified some important qualifications in Tom Glatts as it extended him the invitation to serve in the ministerial position: "Tom is passionate about soul winning, enjoys equipping church members for service, has mentored many young pastors during his pastoral ministry, and has shown clear evidence of his commitment to the gospel commission for over 30 years of service to God's cause." Please keep Pastor Glatts in your prayers as he assumes his new responsibilities. ■

## Ontario

### Bluewater District Churches Churches Filled Their Summer Calendar with Three Incredible Events!

Working together as a team, the Harriston, Owen Sound, and Hanover churches embraced a very busy but rewarding summer schedule. After many long hours of planning, promoting, and coordinating, our annual Bluewater District Campmeeting took place in Elmwood on Aug. 27. Invitations were given to surrounding communities, families, and church members to attend a wonderful and inspiring day of worship, music, study, and fellowship together.

Following soon after on a balmy September weekend was our church campout. Families arrived Friday evening to spend the weekend together at Cyprus Lake Provincial Park and Bruce Peninsula National Park. The lovely sounds of instruments and voices filled the air as we worshipped together around the campfire. Paddles dipped into the calm, morning waters, and hiking boots and shoes were tied and untied many times



Church members manning the healthy living booth at the International Plowing Match.

throughout the weekend as we toured the amazing sights of rocky beaches and shorelines. A few brave souls refreshed themselves in the cool Georgian Bay waters. There is something simple yet amazing about gathering together around picnic tables, in the forests, and under brilliantly lit night skies to worship and draw closer to God.

This peaceful getaway was a great energizer for the really big event to come. The International Plowing Match took place near Harriston during the week of

Sept. 20. The opportunity to be a part of a community event where 90,000 visitors browsed through a tent city was too good to pass up. Our booth was focused on health and with the help of members in all three churches, and Maria McLean, Director of Health and Children's Ministries, we were able to meet and assist over 700 visitors!

The Health Age Check survey was completed by 530 participants with several hundred more browsing through the booth. It was

a great deal of work, but the Bluewater District Churches have definite plans to participate again at the IPM in 2017. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet people from all over Ontario, listen to their stories, and share our health message. This has been an incredibly uplifting and inspiring summer and we are truly grateful for the opportunities to work together to share the love of Jesus. ■

—Kimberly Hammermueller, Harriston Adventist Church

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Oct. 31, 2016, there were 429 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,552,873. There were 87 loans with a value of \$26,578,593.

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

## Maritimes

### No More Buckets!

It's been raining at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA)—raining in the hallway, raining in the Grade 9/10 classroom. Whenever it would rain outside, it would rain inside too, and buckets were strategically placed to catch the drops. But no more! Before the students headed back to class, the roof was given top priority, and now our school is dry and ready for the new school year!

It is no secret that the 5,600-plus square-foot roof at SLA has posed a number of challenges over the years. It has been a significant goal for SLA to find resources and funds in order to see the roof properly done for the 2016/2017 school year. Many prayers were answered in late August in the form of generously donated funds and a team of hardworking volunteers.

The project was planned for August 28 and 29 and was headed up by Pastor Kevin Scott, who was a roofing supervisor and contractor before being called to the ministry. Very early on the morning of Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, an enthusiastic group of workers gathered at SLA to get the job done. Unfortunately, some of the supplies had failed to be delivered on time from Toronto, and so they could only get a start on things by shoveling off the old gravel from the rooftop, which was a big, heavy, dirty job, but the volunteers put their backs to it and it was soon done. Afterwards, a number of them stayed on for a portion of the day, doing many other smaller work projects around the school, such as reroofing the shed. A delicious potluck dinner was provided at noon by another wonderful group of volunteers.

The project was postponed until the following weekend, so Sunday, Sept. 4 saw the group on the roof again, beginning at 6:30 a.m., and the tear-off of the old roof began. When the roof was opened up, they found the layers underneath to be soaked with water. No wonder it was always raining inside the school! The old layers were all scraped off, and the job of



Volunteers installing the new EPDM rubber roof at Sandy Lake Academy.



Kevin Scott (3rd from right) heads up the team of volunteers that replaced the roof at Sandy Lake Academy.

laying the new EPDM rubber roof began. The crew worked until it was too dark to see and then were back again on Monday, Sept. 5, to finish the job.

A huge thank-you goes out to the amazing group of volunteers! Between 35 and 40 people were on the roof at different times, representing all four of the area churches: Halifax, Dartmouth, Tantallon, and Fox Point. They were there from before dawn until after dusk. The comment was made that "they worked together like a well-oiled machine," with determination and skill, and you could hear laughter and some teasing going on as well! Because of the willingness of all the volunteers, SLA was able to save over

\$60,000 in labour costs. (However, due to some unforeseen cost overruns, we are still looking for some monetary donations to the project.)

Another much-appreciated group of helpers provided great meals and snacks every day, keeping the roof crew fuelled for the hard work they did. Thanks and praise to God, as He blessed us with perfect weather, no injuries, and by the time the sun was setting on Monday evening, the job was basically complete.

Sandy Lake Academy's teachers, staff, and students are very thankful to everyone who helped make our school a safer, better, and drier place to be! ■

## Alberta

### Red Deer Church Celebrates “Kids First”



One of the many high points in Red Deer’s year-long emphasis on children has been the presentations of master teacher and Creation expert, Ben Roy. Visiting from Chattanooga, Tenn., this Southern scientist-performer shared messages of God’s love and ingenious Creation to over 87 children and their families. The Red Deer church hosted his presentations as part of a children’s evangelism initiative from October 21 to 29, 2016. The engaging evenings were filled with live science experiments and great information about our physical universe and caring

Creator. The meetings concluded with a celebration of baptism on the final Sabbath where many young people expressed their desire to choose Jesus. In putting Him first in their lives, the young participants reminded the Red Deer church family that putting kids first matters! To enjoy Ben Roy’s presentations, go to [www.gosciencelle.org](http://www.gosciencelle.org) and continue to pray for children’s evangelism in Alberta. ■

— Katelyn Ruiz, Red Deer church

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**The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Excellence in Education Awards**

**The Process for Nominators:**

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

**Nominee:**

- Must have a valid Standard, Professional, or Administrator denominational teaching certificate.
- Recipient of teacher award must have a minimum of one full year teaching experience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Recipient of the administrator award must have a minimum of two years of administrator experience at the current school to be eligible for the administrator award.
- Must be a teacher or administrator who is employed at least half time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must not have received an Excellence Award within the last five years.  
(A list of teachers who have received awards are posted on CAT~net – <http://catnet.adventist.ca>.)

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

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

**Deadline April 15**

■ **Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger), click "Writers' Guidelines" then click "announcements."

■ **New Members**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Dorothy Anderson** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Oct. 29, 2016, by Cam Koronko. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Stefania Ivascu** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Oct. 29, 2016, by Rob Folkenberg III. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Anthony Lacroix** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Oct. 29, 2016, by Cam Koronko. He is now a member of the Rutland church.

**Jie Li** was baptized in Kelowna, B.C., on Oct. 29, 2016, by Cam Koronko. She is now a member of the Rutland church.

**MARITIMES**

**Naomi Harun** was baptized in Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 22, 2016, by Gary Belhomme. She is now a very active member of the Halifax church.

**Oratile Mogae** was baptized in Halifax, N.S., on Oct. 22, 2016, by Gary Belhomme. She is now a very active member of the Halifax church.

■ **Births**

**Blaze Nixon Dubyna Kettner** was born on June 15, 2016, to Brad and Amanda (née Dubyna) Kettner of Red Deer, Alta.

**Benjamin Paul Joseph Willock** was born on Oct. 19, 2016, to Joe and Mary Willock of Halifax, N.S. A brother to sister, Mallory.

■ **Anniversaries**

**Dave and Leora Lawson** of Whitby, Ont., celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Dec. 16, 2016.



The couple met and were engaged on the campus of Oshawa Missionary College (Kingsway College). The Lawsons have resided in Ontario, Florida, California, and Idaho. An Open House was held in their honour at their son's home in Oshawa, Ont. The Lawsons have five children: Don (Marg) Lawson, Joan (Tara) Tanasychuk, James (Mary Jane) Lawson, Kevan Lawson (predeceased), and Lori (Cory) Lawson; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

■ **Obituaries**

**Urban Burns Embleton** was born on Jan. 18, 1919, in Harvey Station, N.B., and died on Sept. 22, 2016, in Kelowna, B.C. He is predeceased by his parents, Robert and Georgina Embleton; first wife, Gladys Embleton; second wife, Elizabeth (née Wolfe) Embleton; daughters, Pauline Bell and June Charlesworth; stepdaughter, Martha Wolfe; stepson, Ron Wolfe; sons-in-law, Victor Frank and Miles Bell; and grandson, Michael Embleton. Surviving: son, Curt (Janet) Embleton of Fort St. John, B.C.; daughters, Sandy (Dave) Kuzak of Kelowna; Dorothy Frank of Cranbrook, B.C.; stepdaughters, Violet Wolfe, Dieder Wolfe, Betty Wolfe; 15 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

**Carole (née Butler) Hubley** was born on March 24, 1943, in Halifax, N.S., and died on April 26, 2016, in St. John, N.B. She worked at Branson Hospital in Ontario as a switchboard supervisor and at the information desk for over 26 years. She loved music, especially playing piano and singing with her sisters. Carole is predeceased by husband, Stanley Hubley, and her parents, Charles and Marjorie Butler. Surviving: sisters, Beverley (Fred) Birch of Ethelbert, Man., Marjorie (William) Akerley of Belleisle Creek, N.B., and Jeanie (Russell) Hubley of Bedford, N.S.

**Alvin Francis Krivoshein** was born on May 5, 1935, near Struan, Sask., and died on Aug. 29, 2016, in Abbotsford, B.C. Surviving: wife, Linda Krivoshein; sons, Todd Krivoshein of Woodinville, Wash., and Mark Krivoshein of Tucson, Ariz.; brother, Larry Krivoshein of Walla Walla, Wash.; sisters, Lottie Tair of Saskatoon, Sask., and Sharron Berg of Saskatoon; and five grandchildren.

**Ruth (née Benson) Mohns** was born on Sept. 2, 1915, in Bromhead, Sask., and died on June 9, 2016, in Courville, Ont. She served in numerous positions in church, and was loved and respected by all who knew her. Ruth is predeceased by her husband, Lester Martin Mohns; daughter, Gail Mohns; parents; and siblings. Surviving: sons, Wayne (Sandra) Mohns, Douglas Mohns; daughter, Wendy Mohns-Komar; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

**Marvin Suiter** was born on May 26, 1922, in Cawston, B.C., and died on July 20, 2016, in Vernon, B.C. He served in the British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Man-Sask conferences in treasury, as well as pastoring the Salmon Arm and Silver Creek churches in B.C. after retirement. Marvin is predeceased by his wife, Lois (née Maxwell) Suiter; parents, Terry and Jeanette Suiter; half-brother, Francis Suiter; and sister, Lila Smith. Surviving: daughters, Maxine Woods of Miller's Creek, N.C.; Glenna Kingsfield of Armstrong, B.C.; sister, Norma Waters; and three grandchildren.

■ **Advertisements**

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**Union College seeks full-time professor of Communications and English** with strong skills in magazine journalism, editing, and writing instruction for position beginning July 2017. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at [marobiso@ucollege.edu](mailto:marobiso@ucollege.edu). (2/17)

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## from the editor

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### new year

**TO SOME PEOPLE, JANUARY MEANS** parties; to others, football games. To me, New Year's is for second chances, introspection, and self-evaluation. Each year I consider new ways to improve—and I'm sure I'm not the only one. It is refreshing. I am also intrigued to study New Year celebration customs around the world, as each of them holds a special lesson for us.

The Jewish New Year, or Rosh Ha-shanah, is introduced in Leviticus 23:24, 25. This celebration is often observed over two days and begins with sounding a shofar (ram's horn trumpet), eating apples dipped in honey to symbolize a sweet new year, and a ceremonial "casting off" of our sins into a river.

Chinese New Year, or "Spring Festival," is probably the most important traditional festival in China. The public holiday lasts one week. The highest travel volumes occur at this time as families gather together to celebrate. This year the first day of Spring Festival falls on the Sabbath of January 28.

In Thailand, the Thai New Year's festival, or Songkran, is celebrated on April 13–15 and is full of symbolic traditions, including water pouring, which represent washing away sins; releasing birds, fish, and other animals as an act of kindness; and tying strings around the wrists of friends while reciting prayers of blessing for the recipient.

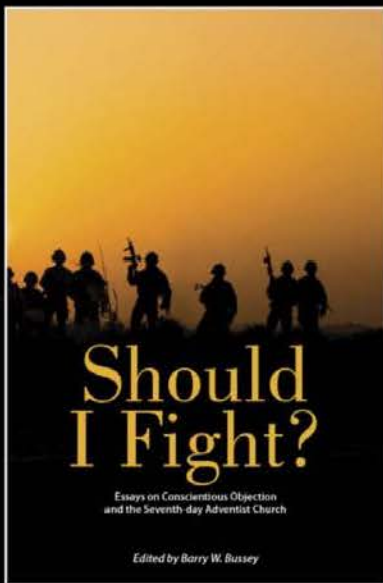
Even here in Canada many people with Ukrainian roots, for example, celebrate Orthodox New Year on January 14 in much the same way we celebrate January 1.

So what does all of this mean for us? People are particularly receptive to fellowship around the holidays and more likely to appreciate gestures of kindness. So, no matter when or how you celebrate New Year's, take the opportunity to connect with others and make friends, especially those who may find themselves alone and far from home on their special days. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Stan Jensen, editor  
*Canadian Adventist Messenger*

P.S.: I would love to hear stories of your New Year's celebrations from cultures around the world, and of reaching out to celebrate with those around you.



Despite the historic stance on the refusal to bear arms, today more Seventh-day Adventist young people have voluntarily joined the military than in any previous generation. *Should I Fight?* is a compilation of essays by Barry Bussey, that were presented at a symposium called to discuss the Adventist Church's position on conscientious objection.

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