

Shielded From Harm (p. 6); My Mother's Song (p. 7);
In the Big Inning (p. 11); Food Can't Help You (p. 28)

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Communication Director/Editor Stan Jensen
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

Art Director Joan Tanasylchuk
tanasylchuk.joan@adventist.ca

Ad Manager/Circulation Almee Perez
perez.almee@adventist.ca;
messenger@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesnia Mirkovich
messenger@adventist.ca

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Daniel Stojanovic
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

VP Finance Ulysses Guarin
guarin.ulysses@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5,
phone 403/342-5044

British Columbia Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S
4P5, phone 604/853-5451

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1804 Victoria Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

Maritime 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E
1A6, phone 506/857-8722

Newfoundland 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl, NL
A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

Ontario 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H
1H8, phone 905/571-1022

Quebec 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H
3M3, phone 450/651-5222

Burman University 6730 University Drive,
Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

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heart to heart

“My goal while I was with you was to talk about only one thing. And that was Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.”

—1 Corinthians 2:2, NIV

Distracted

Distracted-driving laws are one of the current big things. Turns out that depending on where you happen to be, you could be fined and have your driver's license jeopardized by talking on a handheld mobile phone, eating a sandwich, writing a note on a scrap of paper to remind yourself of something, or shaving if you happen to be running late for work and didn't get it done before. Now, right from the start I need to be clear that I have not been issued any tickets or paid any fines for distracted driving, but I'm friends with people who have.

So why is distracted driving such a big deal? After all, many of us may have likely done one or more of these things. (I once even passed an Adventist preacher who was reading his Sabbath school lesson quarterly while driving to the same meeting I was headed to!) Each of these tasks could be a good idea, done independently. The problem is that they take away our attention from what we need to be doing right now—which, in this case, is driving a car safely down the road.

So what does this have to do with the church or with me as an individual Christian? Unfortunately, it is possible for us to lose focus on what matters most. Clothing the needy, handing out bottled water at a special event, cleaning up the local park, and a long list of similar things are all good. They build relationships (maybe). But sadly, many times they distract us from the thing that tops the list.

Right now, the big thing is Jesus! Lost sight of by many, He's the game changer. Either I come to grips with the reality of sin and let Him straighten things out for me, or I'm dead—forever. So while there are many important things, if I'm distracted from the message of Jesus as the primary focus of His church, I've lost it all.

Let's stay focused, shall we? ■

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



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WHAT'S INSIDE

February 2017



FEATURES

- 22 **INTERVIEWS** Q&A with Karen Nation.
- 24 **COVER STORY** A Catalyst for Change— Larry Wilkins' unfailing faith in the mission of MANS and the power of Adventist education played a pivotal role in The Bridge campaign, inspiring many with his vision of reproducing the MANS model across Canada.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 **HEART TO HEART**
- 6 **ADRA CANADA**
- 7 **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 8 **TEEN TALK**
- 9 **CREATION CORNER**
- 10 **BURMAN UNIVERSITY**
- 11 **PLANNED GIVING & TRUST SERVICES**
- 12 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 14 **A BETTER WORLD**
- 15 **THE CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 16 **NEW—AGUILARS IN UGANDA**
- 17 **PRAYER LIFE**
- 18 **BARRY'S BLOG**
- 20 **ALMOST VEGAN**
- 21 **VOAR/ON THE ROAD**
- 28 **LITERATURE EVANGELISM**
- 29 **EDUCATION**
- 30 **KINGSWAY COLLEGE**
- 32 **PARKVIEW PROFILES**
- 33 **NEWS**
- 41 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 46 **FROM THE EDITOR**



Shielded From Harm

SUZIE* SAT ON THE GRASS STRUMMING HER GUITAR. Her nimble fingers moved from chord to chord. Her dimpled smile lit her eyes. She looked, for all the world, like a happy 11-year-old girl, enjoying a beautiful day in the sunshine. And that was what she was. But she could have been a very different 11-year-old girl.

Suzie grew up in rural Thailand. Her home life was shattered when her parents divorced. Her mother moved on to Bangkok, not to be heard from again. Her father left her at her grandmother's house to pursue his musical career.

Suzie's grandmother would forget to cook meals. She would prevent Suzie from going to school, adamant that it was Sunday and not a school day. Her grandmother altogether forgot many things and confused many others. Suzie's grandmother had Alzheimer's.

Given the situation with her absent, divorced parents and her sick grandmother, Suzie was at risk. In her region of northern Thailand, an estimated 40,000 children under the age of 16 are trapped in the sex trade. In a situation such as hers, Suzie was vulnerable to sex trafficking, whether through recruitment, coercion, or abduction.

When a concerned neighbour called ADRA's Keep Girls Safe shelter, the house mother responded immediately. She met with Suzie and her family. She explained that the Keep Girls Safe shelter would do just that—keep Suzie safe. She would be able to go to school. She would learn gardening skills. She would live with other girls who would become her friends. She would have support, love, and a purpose. She would have a more secure future.

The ADRA Keep Girls Safe shelter in northern Thailand has been in operation for at least 10 years. It has been a safe haven for girls vulnerable to the sex trade, shielding them from harm and preparing them for a better future. It is currently home to 27 girls.

At seven years of age, Suzie moved into the shelter. Any dread she may have felt soon faded as she was welcomed by the bright, pleasant, polite, and gentle girls who would become like family to her. She was given a tour of the clean, cheerful building and shown the beautiful garden and the banana tree field.

Suzie shared a room with three other girls. Two of them were much older than her, and they mothered and mentored Suzie and her other young roommate. Suzie's days were filled with school, chores, and play. Her weekends were spent at church on Sabbath and gardening on Sunday. But above all, Suzie loved her music. If she wasn't playing the guitar, she was practising the piano. She dreams of one day becoming a singer.

Four and a half years later, 11-year-old Suzie is safe, content, and looking forward to a more promising future. She has learned much about the love of God through the words and deeds of those at the shelter and at the nearby Seventh-day Adventist church.

Your support of the program through ADRA Canada's Really Useful Gift Catalogue has rescued girls like Suzie from dark paths and set them on the path to a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life. Thank you so much for supporting ADRA in keeping girls safe! ■

Heather Grbic is the church relations coordinator for ADRA Canada.



My Mother's Song

"Even in our fallen state, God still loves and values us. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner."

I fondly recall my mother singing her favourite hymn, "A Child of the King," made popular by Skeeter Davis. Mother would affirm us that every child of God is true royalty and that we must derive our self-worth from that.

Alfred Adler, psychologist and founder of individual psychology, speaks to the human need to create positive social change. He associates this need with mental health and argued that everyone has feelings of inferiority that can be overwhelming enough to cause us to withdraw from others, eventually leading to an inferiority complex. This results in feelings of inadequacy and futility. Adler aptly advised that we should not compare ourselves with others. Like my mother, he encouraged a healthy self-esteem.

Mother often encouraged us to have a positive picture of ourselves, our "self-concept," as it were. This determines, to a large degree, our thoughts, attitude, and feelings about ourselves. Recently on CNN, a mental health professional declared that overcoming inferiority has become "a major issue in both secular and Christian counselling." *This statement caught my attention.*

Self-esteem may well be important enough for us to discuss as believers in our Sabbath school classes. There are strange theologies that may, if not properly understood, lead to poor self-concept. It is not uncommon for me to hear a preacher pitting self-denial against self-worth, encouraging the crucifixion of self. However, it is also true that the Bible teaches us to have a positive image of ourselves because we are new creatures in Christ. "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearances but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

The solution to poor self-concept is to grasp a biblical kind of self-esteem, which includes the following:

1. I accept myself as a child of God, which makes me valuable and important (see Psalm 139:13, 14).
2. I sense my need of God's forgiveness and accepting His redemption. Christ died for me. *If He thinks*

that much of me, I had better start thinking something good about myself.

3. We were created a "little lower than the angels and crowned ... with glory and honour" (Heb. 2:7). This was God's initiative and His passion for our restoration.

4. He has sent angels to guard us, the Holy Spirit to guide us, and the Scriptures to teach us—helping us to truly be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We are special.

5. The Scriptures affirm that I am a part of the "body of Christ."

6. He has called me to be a part of His church where it is comforting to know that I am accepted as a valued member, building self-esteem, as members show care and concern for one another. It is not a small thing that we are referred to as brothers and sisters.

Even in our fallen state, God still loves and values us. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner.

Now, I am not encouraging pride, which is something God abhors. Psychologist Craig Flilson says pride is an exaggerated desire to win the notice or praise of others. This is claiming the glory for oneself, which belongs to God.

The Bible encourages humility. The humble accepts imperfections, sins, and failures but also acknowledges God-given strengths, gifts, and abilities and commits to using them to His glory.

So Skeeter Davis says, "I once was an outcast, a stranger on Earth, a sinner by choice, and an alien by birth! But I've been adopted, my name's written down, an heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown."

I still cherish my mother's song. ■

Mansfield Edwards is president of the Ontario Conference.



teen talk

Q: How do you maintain good relationships with friends?

A: The ability to make friends is one of the most rewarding traits that God instilled in human beings when He created us. But, oh boy, it can get messy at times! Here are a few things that you can find pretty much in every good relationship:

(1) Be a good listener—you know, stop scrolling your Instagram feed, and make eye contact when they are sharing something that is important to them. So yeah, engage in the conversation. Show genuine interest in what they are saying.

(2) Demonstrate that you can be trusted. Don't gossip about anybody (even the people you don't particularly like) and keep secrets safe.

(3) Support them when things get tough. Don't bail on them when they need you the most! Hardships are a natural triage between acquaintances and true friends.

(4) Don't take your friends for granted. Thank them when they do something nice for you, and be happy to return the favour.

Bonus: Choose your friends carefully! They will influence you for good or bad. As the proverb says, "Walk with the wise and become wise." ■



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

Metallic Green Bee

When you think of wild bees, do you immediately picture a plump, round bumblebee with yellow and black stripes? If you do, it's not surprising because bumblebees are so big and noticeable. But there are many different kinds of wild bees, including metallic green bees, whose head and thorax might remind you of a shiny new green car.

These small bees are important pollinators for many different kinds of flowers. Females carry pollen on their leg hairs into burrows in the ground, where they build a ball of pollen on which to lay a single egg. The larva that hatches from the egg eats the pollen and grows. When it's grown enough, it changes into a pupa, a resting stage for the tiny bee. Inside the pupa's shell, God works the miracle of metamorphosis, where the cells come apart and re-form to make something completely new—a shiny, brand-new, metallic green bee.



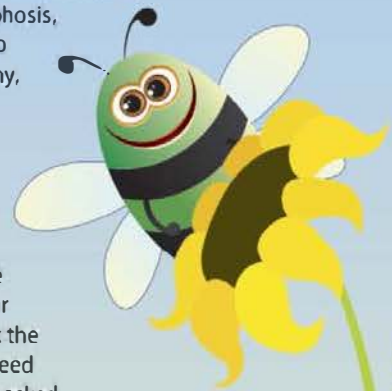
Think about it

Only God can re-form a pollen-munching little worm into a brilliantly shiny nectar-sipping bee. In the same way, God re-formed the hearts of Reformers like John Wycliffe and Martin Luther before the Reformation began. The new unselfish hearts of the Reformers were pained by the stumbling blocks the church had put in the way of people's salvation. Reformers wanted to clear the way to God.

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com.

Do it!

Would you like to see some changes in your church? Do you think the people around you need to change? Have you asked God to re-form your own heart first? That's where change must begin. Ask God to work His miracle of re-form on your heart right now.



Burman Campus Ministries Maskwacis Children's Ministries



Left to right: Breeann Burghardt and Aiyanna Potts



Back row, left to right: Ryan McNulty, Jodelene Sajous, Treyton Waardenburg, Colton Murrell, and Breeann Burghardt. Front row, left to right: Jade Montgomery-Waardenburg, Aiyanna Potts, Nancy Reyes, Kathryn McNulty and Akeem Ambrose

AS I SAT DOWN WITH BREEANN BURGHARDT, Maskwacis Children's Ministries co-coordinator, I could tell that she was exhausted—finals week, basketball practice, tutoring, TA-ing, the list goes on. But her face lit up, and I could feel her passion for the Burman Campus Ministries Maskwacis Children's Ministries program. Her enthusiasm was contagious. As she told me about the program, how it works, whom it benefits, and how her life has changed because of it, I couldn't help but get excited with her.

Pastor Adam, Burman University's head chaplain, explains, the ministry is "an opportunity for the students of Burman University to partner with the Maskwacis Seventh-day Adventist community to support them in providing ministry, friendship, and support to the children of the church." The program supports not only the children, Breeann adds, but also the teens and adults who attend the church.

A unique element of the program is transportation: every Sabbath after the Burman bus drops the students off at church, it drives around the Maskwacis community to provide rides for anyone wanting to go to church. The program not only provides support for the church's programs but also offers a soup kitchen after every service, open to anyone, whether or not they attended church.

As the ministry grew, Pastor Peter Ford recruited some members of his basketball team to help with the church program, and more outreach opportunities evolved. The lasting relationships between Burman students and the youth in the church continue to this day as they invite each other to basketball games: some at Burman, some at the church youth's public schools. They support each other and connect through the sport, growing friendships, and mentorships. Burman students also organize on-campus "fun days" open to all church members. Fun days offer a whole day of relaxing, hanging out, and taking a break from regular life.

Breeann sees the positive difference the ministry is making. For the students, it's a great alternative to going to College Heights Church every weekend; it provides other ways of seeing God and caters to those searching to see God in a different light. It is an amazing training ground for almost every career path, and the volunteerism opens job opportunities as a stand out on resumés. However, the point that she emphasized most is that Burman students make lasting relationships with the youth through an "exchange of culture"—learning about one another and the differences between quality of life just a half-hour drive away.

The impact on the kids of the Maskwacis community, though, is "more than anyone can ever understand," according to Breeann. Pastor Adam sums it up by explaining: "I've seen firsthand the way the children react when they see their friends from Burman—the joy and excitement on their faces is incredible."

Church is a break from the norm for them; they receive love one-on-one, they enjoy people spending time with them, and they observe positive examples of family structures and relationships, something that not everyone in attendance would otherwise get. The benefit of having these role models often results in teens aspiring to go to college, play basketball, and pursue and recognize their astounding talents. These experiences are life changing for everyone involved in Maskwacis Children's Ministries. ■

Jacqui McCarty graduated from Burman University in May 2016 and is currently working at A Better World Canada in Lacombe, Alta.

John and I grew up together in Calgary. We went to the same schools and had the same friends. We were close, but eventually the business and busyness of life put time and distance between us. When I moved to Victoria, B.C., some years ago, I learned he was living in Kelowna. We had not seen each other for seven years.

I was planning a trip to Kelowna to meet with some clients, so I called my old friend and asked if he'd like to play a game of golf while I was there. John was quick to take me up on the challenge.

John was waiting in his driveway when I arrived to pick him up. I jealously admired his full head of hair and noted he had aged a little, but he still had that familiar twinkle in his eye and mischievous smile, where just one corner of his mouth turned up. As it is with old friends, the conversation flowed as if we had just seen each other yesterday.

John, always the joker, said, "You know that baseball was first spoken of in the Bible?"

"Really," I replied. "Now where can I find that?"

"Right in Genesis—it says, In the BIG Inning," he chuckled as I groaned. And the corny yet laughable jokes continued for 18 more holes.

After our game, we stopped at the 19th hole for refreshments. When we sat down, John's demeanor changed. The corner of his mouth was no longer turned up, and he gazed at his water glass with deep concern. I knew this look; it was one I had seen when John was faced with big decisions, such as which university to attend or girl to date, or when he was struggling with his faith. I was relieved when he asked if we could discuss some estate planning issues.

John had been a dentist and done well financially. He and his wife, Pat, had retired several years earlier. They had funded their children's educations, and both children had become medical specialists and were doing well financially.

I asked John what he and Pat wanted their money to do. John replied that they really wanted to leave the money in their RRSPs¹ and the money they had left in their company to their church. There would be plenty from the sale of the family home for their children to share.

I suggested they designate their church as the beneficiary on their registered plans (either RRSPs or RRIFs²) so that the proceeds at death would be considered a charitable donation and the church would receive the full benefit of their legacy gift.³

John's company also had tax consequences to be addressed when the surviving spouse also passed away. I told John that one common solution is to use some or all of the cash and investments within the company to buy life insurance. This would reduce current taxes in the company and cover some or all of the estate taxes, which means a bigger gift for charity and/or family.

I added that putting some estate planning ideas in place now would give John and Pat peace of mind. Immediately the twinkle returned to his eye and that tilted smile to his face.

As I dropped him off, he turned to me and said, "Did you know that vegetarian is a Native word for pooh hunter?"

Groan. I responded with a wave. From the beginning to the big inning of his life, John was always the joker. ■

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

In the Big Inning



*John, always the joker, said,
"You know that baseball was
first spoken of in the Bible?"*

¹ Registered Retirement Savings Plan

² Registered Retirement Income Funds

³ Any tax consequence to the estate would be offset by the charitable contribution receipt.

Where Are They Now



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

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



Lawrence and Janet Brock

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

Janet Brock: My birthplace is Oshawa, Ont., and I was born into the Prouty family. My mom and dad met at Kingsway College—Oshawa Missionary College in those days. Dad was the son of a Seventh-day Adventist farming family from Exeter, near London, Ont. Mom was the daughter of a seafaring man and his seamstress wife, both Seventh-day Adventists, in St. John's, Newfoundland. Dad could fix anything mechanical, and Mom loved her teaching career. He was trained as a radio repairman but became a printer when he became engaged to Mom. My childhood was a happy one, spent in Oshawa, with my three brothers, three sisters.

M: *What influenced you to choose Adventist education as a career?*

J: The biggest influence on my choice of teaching career was my mother. She loved teaching. I loved to play school. As the oldest, I got to be the teacher. In church school and academy, I noticed that different teachers had varying teaching abilities. I was also a questioning kind of student, and it upset me that some teachers felt we shouldn't question religious doctrines and ideas within our church. In fact, at one time I was called out of class and told not to ask questions in Bible class, because it was "disturbing the faith of the other students." I began to think that I could be a teacher who could make a positive difference in students' lives, allowing students to ask questions in order to grow in their faith.

M: *Where did you receive your education and what degrees did you earn?*

J: After Kingsway College, I went to Courtice Secondary School for Grade 13, since at that time, Kingsway was

not accredited for Grade 13. From there I went to Andrews University, where I received a BA in history, with minors in English and secondary education. After teaching for three years in public school, I returned to Andrews to get my MA in history. Then I attended Queens University for a year to work on a doctorate in history, but decided that I didn't want to spend my youth in the library working on a doctorate. Later in my career I took courses in educational administration to qualify for a principal's certificate.

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

J: I began my teaching career in public school—junior high in Val-d'Or, Que. Later I taught Grade 4 at Crawford in Toronto and then small schools in Ryley, Alta., Thunder Bay and St. Thomas, Ont., and Red Deer, Alta. Whenever my husband and I taught together in small schools, we always split our teaching according to our subject strengths. In Winnipeg, I served half-time as principal of Red River Valley Junior Academy and half-time as teacher. In British Columbia I became principal of Okanagan Adventist Academy.

Later, I embarked on a totally new year-long adventure overseas. I became the literacy coordinator for Ekamai International School in Bangkok, Thailand, a Seventh-day Adventist school with over a thousand students, helping teachers improve their literacy and teaching skills. It was one of the most exciting years of my life! New culture, new country, new teaching experiences! Within weeks of returning to Canada I received an email asking me to come to Las Vegas, Nevada to fill a sudden principal vacancy. By the next year, my husband and I had decided we'd really like to be in the same place to work, and we achieved that goal when we were offered positions at the same school, Fraser Valley Adventist Academy, in Aldergrove, B.C. After several years as alumni/development director, I became vice-principal of this K–12 school. From there, I went to the British Columbia conference office as associate superintendent of education.

M: *Briefly describe your philosophy of Adventist education.*

J: "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children" (Isa. 54:13). Every student can learn, and my job as a teacher is to find the best ways to help a student learn so that they can be all that they can be. My job as an administrator is to find the best ways to support teachers, so that teachers can help their students be all that they can be. When we provide the right blend of love, discipline, academics, and physical and social activities, students will grow in all aspects of their lives and be able to live productive and happy lives here on earth as well as be prepared for life eternal.

M: *As an administrator or teacher, how have you been privileged to help your students grow spiritually, mentally, physically and socially?*

J: It goes without saying that you want to have excellent academics in schools, but also a balance of academics and physical and social activities. However our schools are meant to be all that and much more. As a teacher I tried to make Jesus real to students and relevant to their lives. As an administrator, I tried to have teachers in place who would have a positive influence on students' spiritual lives. I also liked to have a variety of teachers whose spiritual lives and teaching would appeal to different students. Some teachers taught from a deeply faith-oriented view, some from an historical perspective, some from an intellectual, reasoned approach. Different teachers resonated better with different students. Students need to see that there are many ways to become acquainted with God within the context of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian faith so that they can develop their own faith.

M: *Your husband, Lawrence, has also served as an educator. What were the areas of his teaching?*

J: My husband has also taught a wide range of subjects throughout his career from Grades 1–12. He has an undergraduate degree in mathematics and a master's in teaching physics. He has most enjoyed teaching math, physics, and chemistry at the high school level.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

J: Our oldest daughter, Lauralce Dukeshire (Mark), is a family physician in Red Deer, Alta. They have been blessed with three lovely children, Jacob, Beth, and Ember. Our oldest son, James (Jamie Zelinski), is a tax specialist for the Illinois State government. They have given us two wonderful grandchildren, Aidan and Lizzy, and live in Springfield. Steven, our second son, became a high school teacher. He teaches math and science online for West Coast Adventist School and lives in Abbotsford, B.C. Janelle Sadoway (Nicholas), our youngest, is a high school teacher in Fort St. John, B.C. She is teaching at a Christian school in a variety of subject areas, though her favourite area is science.

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

J: A year ago I retired, and we are enjoying condo living in Abbotsford, B.C. To keep from growing completely rusty, I do some contract work for the BC Conference: mentoring of new principals of small schools and filling the international student coordinator position. In my local church, I serve as church clerk, and sometimes Sabbath school superintendent for the adult service. I'm also passionately involved in websites promoting women's ordination in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Genealogy is also a favourite pursuit. Lawrence and I have also done some cruises and hope to do more, now that he has successfully battled prostate cancer this past year. We're trying to stay fit and healthy, doing our 10,000 steps a day. ■

Alberta couple add fuel to unique project for women in Kenya



Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World Canada (left), Beatrice Limo, head of a women's collective (second from left), celebrate with a few of the women who received a loan to open the rural service station. A couple of the gas station attendants were also present.



Joan and Jack Donald of Red Deer bought their first gas station in 1964, and now they've given a business loan to 10 Kenyan women so they could open their own service station.

In a rural area near picturesque Kenyan Rift Valley, 10 women are running a successful service station. Diesel fuel, unleaded gas, and kerosene—these are all things a community about 15 kilometres northwest of the town of Kericho in southwestern Kenya didn't have.

The women saw a need, and with the financial help of a Canadian couple, they opened their service station, called Ten Stars, in August 2016. Male gas station attendants serve hundreds of customers each day, many of whom are riding on motorcycles. With the little cash they have, the customers buy what they can and often return the same day to get more.

Residents fill up bottles of kerosene from a different tank. It's then used for cooking and lighting their homes.

Jack and Joan Donald of Red Deer, Alta., sponsor this unique A Better World Canada (ABW) project. They loaned \$10,000 for the service station and also donated another \$30,000 for income-generation projects involving poultry, beekeeping, and agriculture. The money is given to a community bank, which then loans it out.

The 10 women are part of a large income-generating collective of 4,000 women run by an empowerment group and supported by ABW. A Better World Canada co-founder Eric Rajah said the applicants must show they're investing in a savings account for six to 12 months before they're eligible for a loan.

"These 10 women decided to open this station, and that's why it's called Ten Stars," Rajah said. "They range in age from 45 to 50 ... and they're considered to be real entrepreneurs." They had been working on their small farms where their income

was much smaller, he added.

As a result of their success, other women are interested in receiving loans to open service stations, Rajah said. "This empowerment program is for women who need to get out and start things, and they're definitely hard workers," he said.

It costs about \$10,000 to open a service station.

A Better World is open to finding projects that sponsors can relate to or have experience with.

The Donalds bought one station in Red Deer in 1964 and later went on to found Parkland Industries Ltd. Today, Parkland Fuel Corporation, known for its Fas Gas Plus stations, is Canada's largest and one of North America's fastest growing independent marketers of fuel and petroleum products.

Jack, 82, wants to leave a legacy at home and overseas. In November 2016, the couple donated \$3 million towards building a health and wellness centre in their name at Red Deer College.

"We have lots of opportunities to help in Canada, without having to go to Africa," said Jack.

However, after seeing A Better World doing great things to bring about self-sustainability, Jack said they were keen to help. The Donalds also had a vision to help after seeing their daughter Kathy and son-in-law Peter Lacey, also of Red Deer, invest in ABW's income-generating projects.

"It's a pretty worthy cause," said Jack. "If people want to help themselves and they play by the rules, then I want to help them." ■

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

SECRETS

Dr. Joseph Linsk, a hematologist and oncologist, kept a deep dark secret for most of his life. The 94-year-old man only recently revealed to his son what he had been hiding since he was eight years old.

"When I was eight years old, I was running in the schoolyard and my arm struck the eyeglasses of one of the students. And he began to cry," he recalls. "He was going to tell his father. It would cost \$2 to fix the glasses. And I was frightened to death—where was I going to get the \$2?"

Linsk was afraid of the repercussions he would be subject to if he didn't pay for the glasses.

"We [Linsk's family] had a cleaning lady by the name of Pearl, a black woman. And I knew that every week, she'd get \$2 for her services," he says. "On this particular day, I was so terrified, I took the \$2 and took it to the teacher and settled the problem of the broken glasses."

He thought this would solve the problem and everything would be forgotten. He didn't realize the domino effect that one act would create.

"When Pearl finished her day's work, she went for the \$2 and they weren't there. And my mother said there was no question that Pearl [had taken] the \$2 and didn't admit it. And my mother was so angry that she told Pearl not to come back anymore," Linsk says.

As a result of his deception and his mother's false assumption, Pearl, who had several children of her own, couldn't find work in the community, because Linsk's mother told others that Pearl was dishonest.

"I kept that secret to the age of 94, which is hard to believe, but the event never left me."¹

We may never know how this child's deceit affected an entire family. After 80 years, Dr. Linsk was able to unload the burden he had been carrying.

Everyone holds secrets. There are deep, dark areas of shame in our life that we either repress or refuse to acknowledge because of the associated pain they can cause. This story reminds us that it is never too late to confess your sins (see 1 John 1:9) and that God is always willing to accept us despite our own failures (see 1 Timothy 1:15). ■

Dr. Kumar Dixit is the WGTS 91.9 chaplain. You can receive his weekly devotional at OneMinuteDevotional.com.



¹ This story was recorded by the NPR StoryCorp project.

ADRA Distributes “Dignity Kits” in Northern Uganda Refugee Settlement



A line of people waiting for the Dignity Kits in Bidibidi Zone 2.

*“I never worry about not having a sanitary pad back in South Sudan. But now, because of the demand of sanitary pads here in the settlement, I worry. At times, I would find a way of improvising a pad (made from my clothing) or borrow a friend’s reusable sanitary pad, which she had already used.” — Deborah, age 15.**

Deborah’s story is just one of the many I have heard during my visit in Bidibidi, Northern Uganda, on December 9 of last year.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) update on Jan. 16, 2017, some 2,300 South Sudanese refugees arrive in Uganda daily. Of these, approximately 83 percent are women and children.

Since the outbreak of violence in South Sudan on July 7, 2016, South Sudanese refugees have made every Ugandan border point with South Sudan an entry point for refugees. Bidibidi Refugee Settlement currently hosts more than 272,206 South Sudanese refugees.

The Ugandan Government has assigned the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Uganda to operate in Zone 2 (roughly 14,000 households) of the Bidibidi Settlement, where ADRA Uganda is implementing several activities in several sectors:

- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)—Provision of safe drinking water, complete dignity kits for women and girls, construction of latrines, promotion of hygiene and sanitation in schools and refugee settlements
- Energy and Environment—Tree

mapping; renewable energy technologies, including briquettes making and promotion; training, construction, and promotion of energy-saving stoves

- Capacity building and education—Recruitment of refugees as volunteers; training and supporting them to become agents of health promoters and other income activities at the settlements
- Livelihood enhancement initiatives that include supporting homesteads with quick-maturing seeds for backyard farming; tree nursery planting/management in refugee hosting schools

In one of the UNHCR interagency meetings, UNHCR identified that one of the most significant gaps was a lack of reusable sanitary pads for women and adolescent girls in the refugee settlements. ADRA Uganda responded by procuring over 5,000 “Dignity Kits” for the women and adolescent girls of Zone 2 of Bidibidi refugee settlement.

With funding coming from ADRA Denmark and the ADRA Network (through ADRA International), ADRA Uganda was able to hand over the Dignity Kits to UNHCR on Dec. 30, 2016. World Vision and ADRA volunteers were then able to distribute them to the hundreds



A South Sudanese refugee with her Dignity Kit.

of adolescent girls and women in Zone 2.

Deborah, with her Dignity Kit on hand, said, “I thank God for ADRA! Not only have you given me four new reusable sanitary pads (good for one year), but you have also included three bars of soap, two brand-new panties, and a water bucket!” As Deborah walked happily towards a group of the girls from Zone 2, a thought suddenly struck me: *When was the last time I was so happy to have a bar of soap?*

The reason ADRA exists is to follow Christ’s example by being a voice for those in distress and serving and partnering with those in need—like Deborah. Thank you for supporting ADRA as we continue to work with people in poverty and distress and as we continue to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible actions. ■

Charles Ed II Aguilar is the country director for ADRA Uganda.

Wonderful Saviour

"It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

Yesterday I received incredibly good news. The first thing I did as I hung up the phone was shout "Woohoo!" in praise to God. Then I had to tell my wife and visit the office and tell the people who would be excited to hear such good news. Phone calls were made and messages sent. Because good news has to be shared!

God's Good News is even better than the good news I received yesterday. This is how Paul describes it: "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life'" (Rom. 1:16, 17, NLT).¹

Wow! Now that is good news. It is about Christ, and in Christ, God's work of saving everyone who believes is accomplished. God makes us right in His sight, and whatever that makes He has accomplished—from start to finish—for it is through faith that we have life. Sigve Tonstad points out that this faith does not necessarily refer to our faith but rather to Christ's own faithfulness.²

The attribute of God as Saviour is such amazing good news. You and I find ourselves on this planet of sin through no choice of our own. We just get born here. So God sends Jesus to be our Saviour from sin, something we will never be able to change. And the good news is that He has already accomplished our salvation from start to finish; we just need to believe. That seems to be the hard part.

To further underscore what he has said in Romans, Paul makes this declaration: "God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin" (1 Cor. 1:30).

There you are. With Christ we are justified, sanctified, and eventually will be glorified, because when we are free from sin, nothing prevents us from that wonderful reality. Some translations say Christ is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

Reflect prayerfully on the following passages:

"This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time" (1 Tim. 2:3–6, emphasis mine).

"For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:9).

"This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people and particularly of all believers" (1 Tim. 4:10).

God has, in fact, purchased freedom and salvation for everyone. While not everyone will be saved, it is not because He has not saved them but because they choose not to believe the Good News can be that incredibly good. The words of this psalm is perhaps our best prayer of response to such amazing good news.

"I love you, LORD; you are my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety" (Psalm 18:1, 2). ■

Warren Kay is the Alberta Conference Prayer and Revival Coordinator.



barry's blog

"The right of all Canadians is to live their identity to the full."

Part One of a Two-Part Series

British Columbia Court of Appeal Rules in Favour of Trinity Western University

On Nov. 1, 2016, the British Columbia Court of Appeal unanimously held (5–0) that the Law Society of British Columbia's (LSBC) decision to reject the Trinity Western University (TWU) School of Law was unreasonable. The LSBC refused to accredit the school because TWU requires that students, as part of the admission process, sign a Community Covenant Agreement (CCA). The CCA expected students to agree with and adhere to the policy that sexual activity was acceptable only within the marriage relationship between a man and a woman.

Background

In June 2012, TWU applied to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC) for accreditation for its proposed school of law. Opposition rose against the proposal because of TWU's CCA.¹ It was felt that the CCA discriminated against LGBTQ student applicants. Also, it was argued that the federation's accreditation would be seen as an endorsement of TWU's discriminatory practices. Further, the law had changed since the 2001 Supreme Court of Canada decision in favour of TWU against the BC College of Teachers who refused to accredit TWU's education degree because of the same admissions policy. The Federation set up a special committee to study the allegations and decided that there was no public-interest reason to deny TWU accreditation.

The opposition then argued that the individual law societies across Canada should conduct their own investigations of TWU and not accredit the proposed law school because of the discriminatory practices.²

The Facts

On Feb. 28, 2014, the BC Benchers debated whether to let the federation's approval of TWU stand or deny the TWU accreditation.³ Opportunity was given for public input. On April 11, 2014, the BC Benchers voted on a resolution to declare TWU's Faculty of Law "not an approved faculty of law" despite the federation's decision. Seven benchers voted for the motion and 20 voted against—therefore, the federation's approval remained and TWU was accredited.

A special general meeting of the members on June 10, 2014, called on the benchers to declare TWU not an approved faculty of law. A total of 3,210 members voted for the resolution, and 968 voted against. The benchers were called upon to revisit the issue.

On Sept. 26, 2014, the benchers decided that a referendum of the full membership would be the way out of the impasse. The referendum results, they declared, would be binding. They also voted that the results of the referendum, whatever the outcome, met their statutory duties. On Oct. 30, 2014, the results were 5,951 against TWU; 2,088 for TWU. The next day on,

Oct. 31, 2014, the benchers voted that TWU was not an approved law school. TWU applied to the BC Supreme Court for judicial review.

On Dec. 11, 2014, the Minister of Advanced Education decided that until the litigation was settled, he would withdraw the province's consent to the TWU law school "to protect the interests of prospective students."

On Dec. 10, 2015, Chief Justice Hinkson declared that the Law Society of British Columbia had inappropriately fettered its discretion because the October referendum did not attempt to resolve the collision of the competing Charter interests. The remedy was to restore the results of the April 11, 2014, decision.

The law society appealed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

The Decision

The BC Court of Appeal (BCCA) concluded that the TWU community has a right to hold and act on its beliefs, absent evidence of actual harm. The law society's refusal to approve TWU was a denial of religious freedom. The impact on religious freedom was severe, whereas if TWU were permitted to have its law school, the impact on LGBTQ persons was minimal. Declaring TWU not to be an approved law faculty was unreasonable. There was only one reasonable answer. The court said:

[193] A society that does not admit of and accommodate differences cannot be a free and democratic society—one in which its citizens are free to think, to disagree, to debate and to challenge the accepted view without fear of reprisal. This case demonstrates that a well-intentioned majority acting in the name of tolerance and liberalism, can, if unchecked, impose its views on the minority in a manner that is in itself intolerant and illiberal.

The Analysis

The court answered the four issues:

1. Did LSBC have statutory authority to reject TWU's law school on the basis of an admissions policy?

The law society had the authority to deny approval to a law faculty based on factors beyond the academic education being offered to students.

2. Did the benchers unlawfully sub-delegate or fetter their decision-making authority?

The court decided that the benchers' decision to pass a binding resolution based on the outcome of the referendum, regardless of the results, was inconsistent with their duties.

Administrative bodies, like LSBC, have an obligation to properly balance the potential Charter infringements of their decisions against their statutory requirements. When done properly, the courts would defer to their wisdom.

Case law said the court requires decisions of administrative bodies "to fall within the bounds of reasonableness." If it fails to

appreciate the significance of the Charter values, then its decision will not be reasonable. You have to "balance the severity of the interference of the Charter protection with the statutory objectives."

By making the Oct. 31, 2014, decision to be bound by the referendum, the benchers did not take into account how the Charter values could in this case best be protected in light of its obligations under the Legal Profession Act.

3. Was TWU denied procedural fairness?

TWU was not denied procedural fairness, as there was ample debate on both sides of the issue and TWU knew what legal issues it had to address.

4. Does the Law Society's decision reasonably balance the statutory objectives of the Legal Profession Act against the religious freedom rights of TWU?

Two rights—religious freedom and equality rights—were at issue. No right is absolute. Each has to be measured in relation to the other rights and the context in which the conflict arises. The law society was required to balance the competing rights and not limit a right unreasonably in light of their statutory objectives. The question then is, *Did the decision of the law society not to approve TWU's faculty of law interfere with freedom of religion of at least the faculty and students of that institution no more than is necessary, given the statutory objectives of the law society?*

In its April 11, 2014, meeting, the benchers did consider the Charter issues and sought to balance the competing interests. However, the special general meeting of June 2014 had no such balancing. Instead, what motivated the members was the view that TWU's law school is "premised on principles of discrimination and intolerance" and "would not promote and improve the standard of practice of lawyers." There was no concern for the competing Charter rights of TWU.

The benchers' meeting on Sept. 26, 2014, was to simply adopt the vote of the meeting of the members in June. There was no balancing. As a result, the court would not give deference to the law society on this matter.

Unlike the Ontario Court of Appeal,⁴ the BC Court of Appeal found the following principles of the 2001 Supreme Court of Canada dealing with TWU applicable, though not dispositive:

- The starting premise cannot be that one right trumps another—equality does not trump religious freedom.
- Charter rights are to be balanced against the statutory objectives of the law society.
- It is not enough to just consider the competing rights and choose one over the other. The law society must consider the nature and degree of the detrimental impact of the statutory decision on the rights. ■

Barry W. Bussey is director of Legal Affairs at Canadian Council of Christian Charities. His opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of his employer. He blogs at lawandreligion.org.

1 https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2202408

2 www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/law-societies-must-show-more-courage-on-trinity-western-application/article16023053

3 For a complete listing of all the materials of the BC Law Society see: www.lawsociety.bc.ca/page.cfm?cid=3912

4 As noted in: www.nd.edu.au/sydney/schools/law/on-the-case/on-the-case-issue-16



Almost vegan

Cheese was a food we did not want to give up when we were switching to a vegan diet. We have come across many vegan cheese recipes, but invariably they either require weeks of carefully fermenting a base that will make the cheese, or come out tasting nothing like cheese. So when we came across a simple recipe for feta, we were excited. With a few adjustments to the recipe we produced a feta that was really close to the real thing.

With this recipe, it is especially important to press the tofu for at least 20 minutes to remove as much liquid as possible so it will absorb the flavour of the broth. This feta is good in a Greek salad or other recipes that require feta, such as spanakopita—look for the spanakopira recipe in next month's issue. ■

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

Vegan Feta

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package of extra-firm tofu, pressed
- 2 cups (500 ml) water
- ¼ cup (62.5 ml) lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup (62.5 ml) olive oil
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) salt
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried basil
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried chives
- 1 tsp (5 ml) garlic powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried parsley

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Press tofu and then cut into 1 cm cubes.
- While tofu is pressing, combine remaining ingredients in medium pot, bring to a boil, add tofu, and return to boil.
- Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes.
- Remove from heat, cover, and let cool.
- Refrigerate overnight to allow flavours to blend.

Even in the Little Things

During our Sharathon in November, we asked listeners to call in and tell us how Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) has been making a difference in their communities. Many churches across the country have sponsored VOAR repeater towers as a way of helping to reach people for Christ. Many people gain a real blessing from Christian radio, but some take for granted that the music and programming that is helping to shape their lives little by little will keep flowing. Change happens a little at a time, and quite frequently, listeners don't notice the impact until the service is interrupted. Often sponsoring churches are unaware of how many lives are changed by the sacrifices that they make. We see the positive difference from the stories that we hear from our listeners.

One listener called to let us know that the membership in their Al-Anon group had increased because of VOAR. This listener appreciated the fact that we gave prime time to radio spots

that raised awareness about support groups for families of people with drinking problems. These spots make it easier for those with drinking problems to get help as well. This translates into strengthened families, better mental health, and, hopefully, safer streets. God works in amazing ways, even in the little things!

VOAR is making a difference in the lives of people in communities all across Canada and around the world. We would like to thank the members of the churches and conferences who sponsor VOAR repeater sites for helping to keep the small changes flowing.

Please contact us at www.voar.org to share your story. ■

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 NEWFOUNDLAND MISSION
CONSTITUENCY MEETING.

*Do you need to read your Bible?
Why?*

Pamela Reyes-Prieto: Absolutely! It reminds me of whose child I am and encourages me to carry on regardless of circumstances. It is my food and offers me hope.

Phyllis Batten: It is my source of strength.

Elizabeth Williams: Yes, every day. I feel empty when I don't read it. I am not as happy and have problems; things are just different. When I read the Bible, then God is in my house and my life.

Richard Sheppard: Yes, you need to read your Bible in order to grow as a Christian in sanctification, which is part of salvation (see 2 Thess. 2:13). Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17). Therefore, if we don't read His Word, we will not be sanctified. It is profitable to know Scripture so that we can be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:17) and that we "may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2).



Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Almyra Hodder recently moved to Alberta, as her husband was elected president of the Alberta Conference. While we miss her, we are pleased that Karen Nation has joined our SDACC family. We have come to know this friendly and vibrant person; now you can get to know her.



Karen Nation

EDITOR: *Tell me a little bit about yourself.*

KAREN NATION: I was born on the beautiful island of Trinidad and Tobago, and I was very young when my parents first immigrated to Canada. They planted their roots in Winnipeg, Man., yes, very cold, especially after coming from a tropical climate. Looking back, though, I could not think of a better place in Canada to live, because when I reflect on my childhood, “fun, safe and secure” comes to mind. I have two brothers and two sisters.

Our lives were simple. My parents worked in the medical profession. My mother worked two jobs, and both parents worked diligently to provide for us. Although I did not grow up in an Adventist home, I remember my mother praying a lot. To this day, she prays for her family, calling each one of us by name when she prays.

EDITOR: *What is your favourite childhood memory?*

KAREN: I remember my brother and sisters waiting anxiously for my mother to get home before we opened our Christmas presents. Because she worked two jobs, opening gifts on Christmas morning was not always the case. If she came home at 11 a.m. or even 3 p.m. that day, we’d wait anxiously for her.

I also remember my dad pushing me on a swing on a cold winter’s day—strange yes, as it was winter, but children just like to experience quality time with their parents. They were not strict parents, so I believe that contributed to me exploring religion and following my heart where I met God. I remember kneeling beside my mother when she prayed each night.

EDITOR: *How did you become a Seventh-day Adventist?*

KAREN: I always had love for God in my heart, although I did not fully understand it. I truly believe we are chosen by God to do His work, but I did not know what He had in mind for me. Without prompting from my parents, I began to read the Bible. It was a small blue Bible, and by the time I was finished with it, it was taped up and bound repeatedly. The Bible always called out to me, and I was drawn by the words on its pages.

I began to search for a church to attend, and I started attending a Pentecostal church in Winnipeg. It was an interesting first experience for me. I remember the pastor was dynamic, so that made me keep going. However, I did not attend the Pentecostal church for a long period, because I did not feel like I belonged.

I was first introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church by our neighbours. They invited my brother and me to attend with them at the Henderson Highway church in Winnipeg. After moving to Toronto, I began looking for a Seventh-day Adventist church to attend, so I simply looked one up in the phone book and I came across the Scarborough SDA Church, where I was eventually baptized and which became my first home church. I loved attending the Scarborough church. It was there I made friends for a life time and my faith in God grew.

The Scarborough church became my second home, and the church family became my second family. The people there were phenomenal. I will always remember Ann Worth, who unfortunately is no longer with us. I walked into that church, and I was greeted with a warm smile, and I kept attending. I became good friends with the Singh family and felt adopted into their family. Later on in life, I transferred my membership to the Kendalwood church in Whitby after moving from Scarborough.

EDITOR: *What ministries have you been involved with in church?*

KAREN: I've served as Adventist Youth leader, music coordinator, church clerk, Sabbath school superintendent, church elder, and in women's ministry.

EDITOR: *Tell me about your family.*

KAREN: I am married to my husband, Adrian, and we have four children and two dogs, Mia and Mocha. My daughter Lauren is a certified mediator and is a graduate of Trent University with a BA Honours in psychology. Matthew is a welder, Sarah is a very talented artist, and Leanne is still exploring a field of study in human resources. They are all now young adults, leading separate lives with the seed of God planted in their hearts. I'm

grateful for the love and nurturing they received at Kendalwood church. Two of my kids attended the College Park Elementary School, and one attended Kingsway College.

EDITOR: *What are you passionate about?*

KAREN: I'm passionate about biblical truth, and I'm passionate about serving God and representing Him in everything I do. I love learning something new each day and being grateful for the gift of life, knowing that each new day represents a new beginning and one step closer to Jesus' return.

EDITOR: *Where have you worked in the past?*

KAREN: I started my first job working with editors at Prentice-Hall Canada, a publishing company, in their administrative department. After Prentice-Hall, I worked with the accounting firm of McGovern, Hurley, Cunningham LLP, in Toronto. While working for MHC, I was also furthering my studies with the Herzing Institute in Legal Administration, specializing in real estate and corporate law, which led me to my career with the Kraft Heinz Company, formerly Kraft Foods, where I was employed as an executive legal assistant and billing analyst in the Law and Compliance department.

EDITOR: *I realize you haven't been here long, but what is your favourite aspect of working at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC)? What surprised you the most when you joined the office?*

KAREN: My favorite aspect so far has been starting our work day with group prayer, and the overall atmosphere in the office. I'm impressed by the speed in which we serve our members and the personal care and concern there is for everyone. What surprised me most was the volume of work and many calls we receive on a daily basis!

EDITOR: *What is your favourite Bible verse?*

KAREN: It is impossible for me to think of just one favorite text, however, Mark 9:35 comes to mind. "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." That is why I'm here today, to serve His people and further His work with the talents He has blessed me with. With over 20 years of experience working in non-Christian environments, I feel truly blessed to be here at the SDACC. ■

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



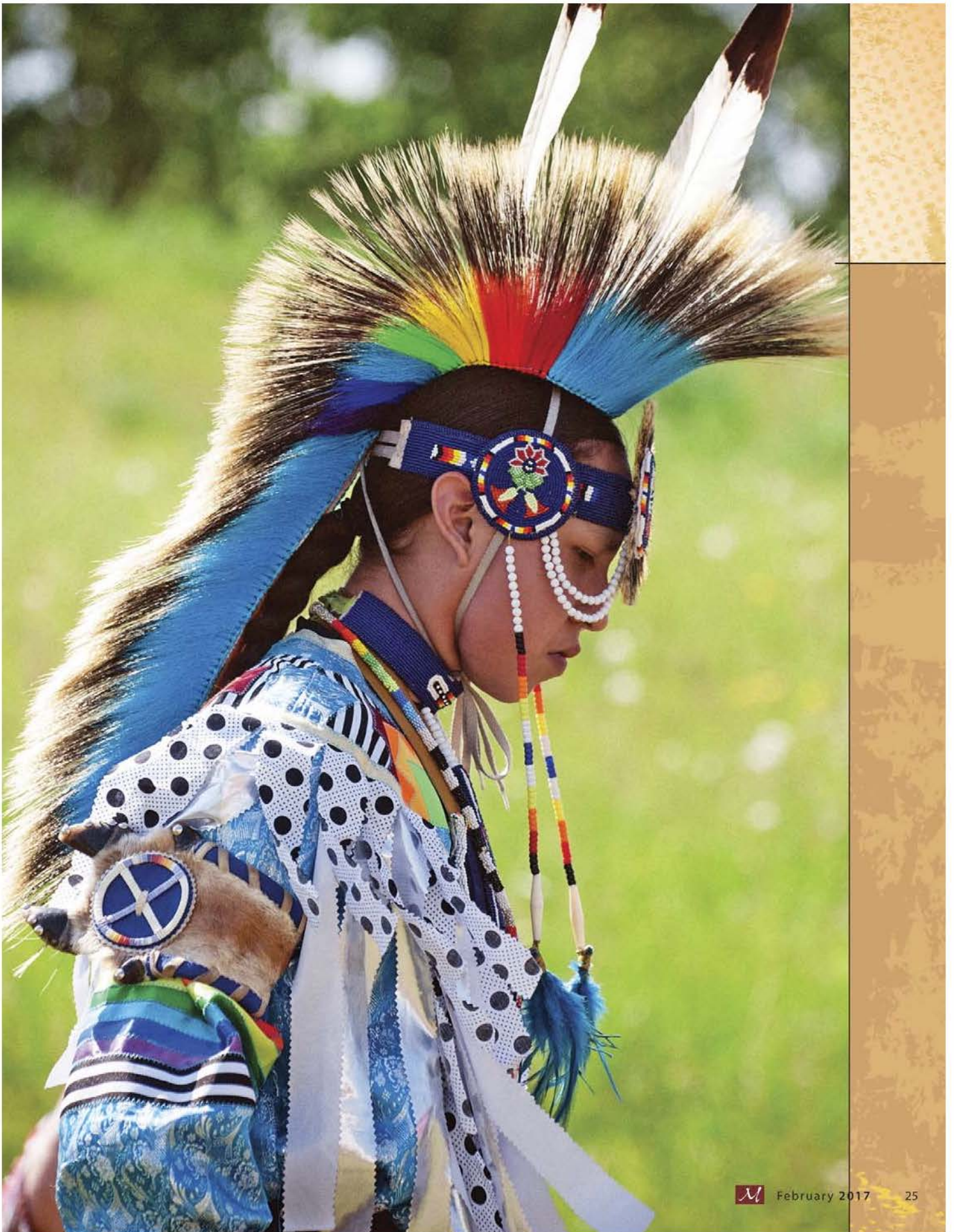
“I expect Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) kids to change the world, and I am eternally grateful to the Adventist school system for being the catalyst for that change.”

A Catalyst for Change

BY LARRY WILKINS

As a young man in high school, I was trying to understand myself and this world we live in. I wasn't just curious; I had a voracious appetite for knowledge and understanding. I studied all of the sciences. I loved studying our physical world. It all made sense to me, and it kept my mind very busy. In fact, I have never experienced boredom. For me there has always been more to learn, always more work to be done.

In high school, while my young mind was being developed, I was sold the biggest lie of all. In, amongst all of the pure sciences, they threw in a complete work of fiction so that my mind accepted it along with everything else. For a while in my formative years I believed in the theory of evolution.





The Original “Home” of MANS—Students feel good about coming to MANS because of the clear respect shown to their culture. The tepee at the entrance of the existing school is an important symbol for the Cree, traditionally associated with the mother and the giving of life.



McDowell did a story on me in the *Messenger*, and a faithful reader was inspired to match my donation. I knew that if I could increase the amount of my donation and the couple would match it, the building project would receive a much-needed boost in seed money. I asked Lynn to give me the night to think about it.

I didn't sleep much that night. I prayed and fretted and fought off the distraction of the No-1 thing as hard as I could. I focused as hard as I could on Jesus and on God's words in Malachi. What a battle. The truth is I was petrified, anxious, nervous, sweating like a pig, and praying as hard as I could.

I thought about Jesus in the garden the night before He was to be crucified. While Christ was the embodiment of God on earth, He did wear a “meat suit” the same way everyone else does. He knew what was coming and He knew this was gonna hurt—every way that a body and mind could hurt.

So, I decided that if Christ was my example, I would put my big boy pants on and do it anyway. I called Lynn that morning and asked her to double my commitment and tell the donor. After I did that, my mind continued to race. I was a nervous wreck.

The next morning I looked out my window and saw my neighbour wheel into his driveway. Right behind him was a car I didn't recognize. My neighbor had moved out about a year and a half ago and never once, to my knowledge, returned. I was going to be late if I went

over to say hi, but I thought I should go to see how he was doing. As it turned out, the second car was the realtor's, and the realtor was there to list the house. He handed me his card and told me to call him later.

My neighbor had bought the house in 2007 before the real-estate crash. He paid \$700,000, then spent about \$200,000 in renovations. I offered him \$525,000 with no financial conditions and immediate possession. By 5 p.m. that day I owned the house that was ready to sell with a healthy profit.

The moment of time I had doubled my commitment to MANS to the time I had more than enough money to make my first year's payment (with zero sacrifice) was around eight hours.

This year the Alberta economy is down at least 14 percent, layoffs galore, and my competitors across the board are down compared to 2015. Yet, my businesses are up year-to-date 11 percent, and we are now the number one volume age management clinic in Northern Alberta and one of the top clinics in Canada.

Please understand: I did not suddenly become a much smarter businessman. I take no credit for my success. This is all from the hand of God. I am a firsthand witness to the hand of God in action. I don't know why, but the Alberta Conference gave me a front-row seat to watch our Father do His thing.

While we still need help and we are a long way from completing the MANS High School funding and construction projects, I am already eagerly anticipating what job our merciful Father is going to put us to work on next.

My prayer is this: “Lord, please don't fire me. Please let me work for you for the rest of my life. Lord, You know I get scared and I'm absolutely useless when I take my eyes off of You. Please have mercy on me. Let me focus on You instead of on this world, and let my work be Your will And Lord, please give me the faith and the bravery I need in this life in order to prepare myself to meet you face to face. Amen.” ■

Larry Wilkins is Honorary Chair of The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School's high school building project. He is a Mohawk entrepreneur who owns and is CEO of External Affairs Medical Spas in Edmonton and St. Albert.



“Food Can’t Help You.”

“Nora,” she said, “I need your help. The doctor has given up on me.”

I was in my front yard tending to my garden when I looked up and saw something troubling. Across the street, my neighbour, a woman in her 40s, was being supported by her husband as they struggled to their car. Rushing over to them, I asked, “What’s wrong? What’s going on?”

The answer, an answer with which I was all too familiar, came immediately. “I have cancer.”

More than a decade earlier, soon after the shocking news that my son, in his 30s, had suddenly died of a stroke, I learned I had colon cancer. As I tried to process what was happening to me, I remembered Isaiah 43:2, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” That verse became my rallying cry in those dark moments. I repeated it over and over again, and I held strongly to the belief that God could heal me. Sometime afterwards, I started watching a number of health presentations by Dr. Hans Diehl. Those presentations convinced me that I needed to change the way I ate. Leaving cheese, milk, and other animal products behind, I began to adopt a plant-based diet. Soon, my cancer specialist noticed marked improvements in my fight with cancer. When I explained the dietary changes I had made, she asked me for some recipes to share with her other patients. In time, the cancer went away completely.

As I looked into my neighbor’s eyes, remembering what I had been through, I felt I needed to help. She told me she was on her way to see her doctor, so I said, “When you get back, can I come and see you?” She said yes.

That evening I told her my story, and her response was immediate. “Nora,” she said, “I need your help. The doctor has given up on me.” From that moment on, I took her under my wing. She decided, on my encouragement, to switch to a completely plant-based diet, and I began cooking for her. Meanwhile, I asked the members of my church to pray for her healing.

My neighbor began to experience improvements in her fight against cancer. When she explained to her doctor the changes she had made, he insisted, “Food can’t help you.” But her progress was steady and the results undeniable. Then one day she and her husband gave me a call. Through tears of joy they told me they had just learned that her cancer was almost clear. Later that year, it disappeared entirely.

My neighbour, a devout Catholic, insisted on coming to my church to give her testimony. And she did. She also began to tell many people about the help I had given, even sharing with them my phone number. Realizing that God could use this as a ministry opportunity, I prayed and searched, trying to discover the direction He wanted me to go. I felt I needed to be properly educated in the health message so I could share it with others. So when I saw an ad in the *Messenger* for the iHeal Certification program, the training course offered by Lifestyle Canada, I knew my prayer had been answered.

There is a tremendous need all around us, and God is looking for us to answer that need. As we, through sound training, educate people on how to achieve physical health, we open the way for them to receive the greatest healing of all—a saving relationship with the Great Physician. ■

Nora Woolery is an iHeal Healthy Lifestyle Coach with Lifestyle Canada.



Daniela Alina, Mircea, and Dumitru Nitu

Adventist Education Makes a Big Difference!

MIRCEA NITU WAS BORN IN ROMANIA on Feb. 8, 2002, and has lived with his parents in Montreal since 2005. His parents think of him as a miracle child because of his survival at birth. Since 2006, Mircea has attended Greaves Adventist Academy. His story demonstrates how Adventist education can make a difference.

Isabelle Bagassien: *What happened to Mircea at birth?*

Daniela Alina Nitu: Mircea weighed only 850 grams at his birth. We never stopped praying for him to survive. I am blessed now to have a healthy son. He started walking by the age of three. But we discovered that a deformity in his legs made it hard for him to walk normally. In 2012, he had surgery to loosen tendons in both legs. After this surgery, he had to stay home for many months, so he could not attend school. Thanks to Greaves's teachers and administrators, Mircea was able to study from home and pass his exams. I am grateful for all the accommodations the faculty has made to help my son.

Isabelle: *Why did you choose Greaves Adventist Academy?*

Daniela: Once we arrived in Canada, I always wanted to send my son to an Adventist school. Since I had only attended public schools in Romania, I always dreamed of going to an Adventist

institution. Consequently, as soon as I heard about Greaves in Montreal, we decided to register Mircea without hesitation. He started at the age of five in kindergarten. Our family considers Christian Adventist education the best model for our young people.

Isabelle: *Why didn't you decide to register him in a school that was better equipped to provide for his physical needs?*

Daniela: Our choice is purely religious. There was no doubt that Greaves was the only option for our son. We believe that Mircea's spiritual needs are more important than his physical ones.

Isabelle: *Describe the challenges Mircea faces every day in order to succeed.*

Daniela: So far, he is doing quite well, even though he always needs more time to study. He also needs more calmness around him to concentrate. Physiotherapists indicated that his condition may result in a need for more time. He tires more quickly than other students because of the physical demands of walking. Therefore, working at night became a challenge. By God's grace, he is extremely motivated to succeed.

Isabelle: *How does Mircea feel at school?*

Daniela: Mircea is happy and has integrated well into his classes. He has great relationships with his classmates, who

respect him. He is very interested in theology matters and takes time to discuss biblical principles with people at school. Now, at church, he attends the baptismal class to get ready for baptism.

Isabelle: *What difference do you see between public education and Adventist education?*

Daniela: If I compare public schools in my country with this Adventist school, I would say that it is a dream for Mircea to attend an Adventist school. The Adventist program nurtures and prepares the mind with spiritual matters. Public schools cannot prepare Christian students to become disciples of Christ.

Isabelle: *Would you recommend Greaves to other parents who are looking for a school for their children? Why or why not?*

Daniela: Definitely yes! In fact, I have already recommended our school to some of my friends. By enrolling our son at Greaves, we did not expect to find perfection, but we wanted to support our unique school in Montreal. My family chose Greaves in spite of our son's physical handicap, because Adventist education makes a big overall difference in one's life. ■

Isabelle Bagassien teaches K-9 French at Greaves Adventist Academy in Montreal, Que.

If you are interested in an Adventist Christian education at Kingsway College, contact the enrolment office at admissions@kingswaycollege.on.ca.



The bell has just rung. Another class is over. Time to go to other classes. But not all of my ESL students leave. The ones who don't have a class in the next period stick around. They are mostly Chinese and Korean students, teaching and learning each other's language. This classroom has become a hideout, a relaxing place. Other students, from other classes, join the group. They bow as they enter my classroom, and when it is time to leave, they bow again and walk backwards so they won't have their backs turned to me. That would be disrespectful for these Korean students.

I am telling you: In all my years of teaching (and they are many—trust me), I have had students confronting me, talking back to me, opening up their hearts to me. But never have I had a student bowing down to me! Makes you feel pretty special, eh?

International students represent a third of Kingsway College population. They are diverse and speak different languages: Chinese, Korean, German, French, Spanish, and Portuguese, just to mention a few.

What they bring is this beautiful mixture of laughs, traditions, and beliefs that make our teaching a surprising and amazing adventure each day.

What do we do with them?

Teaching them the English language is but a small portion of our job here at Kingsway. Besides their brilliant math skills, many of these students actually

have pretty good speaking and writing abilities.

Staff at Kingsway College make them feel at home. Everywhere they go, they are learning something new, another survival tool in a foreign country.

I, too, come from a different part of the world, and I can relate with them on many fronts. I know how frustrating it is not being able to understand and be fully understood.

Yes. Here at Kingsway, they learn way more than language skills. Of course, we teach them history, Shakespeare, and business. But the true learning lies beyond lessons in the classroom. Not only have they become friends with teachers and peers, they've come to know the Best Friend of all: Jesus.

They learn how to talk to Him, sharing their deepest feelings and dreams.

When they leave ...

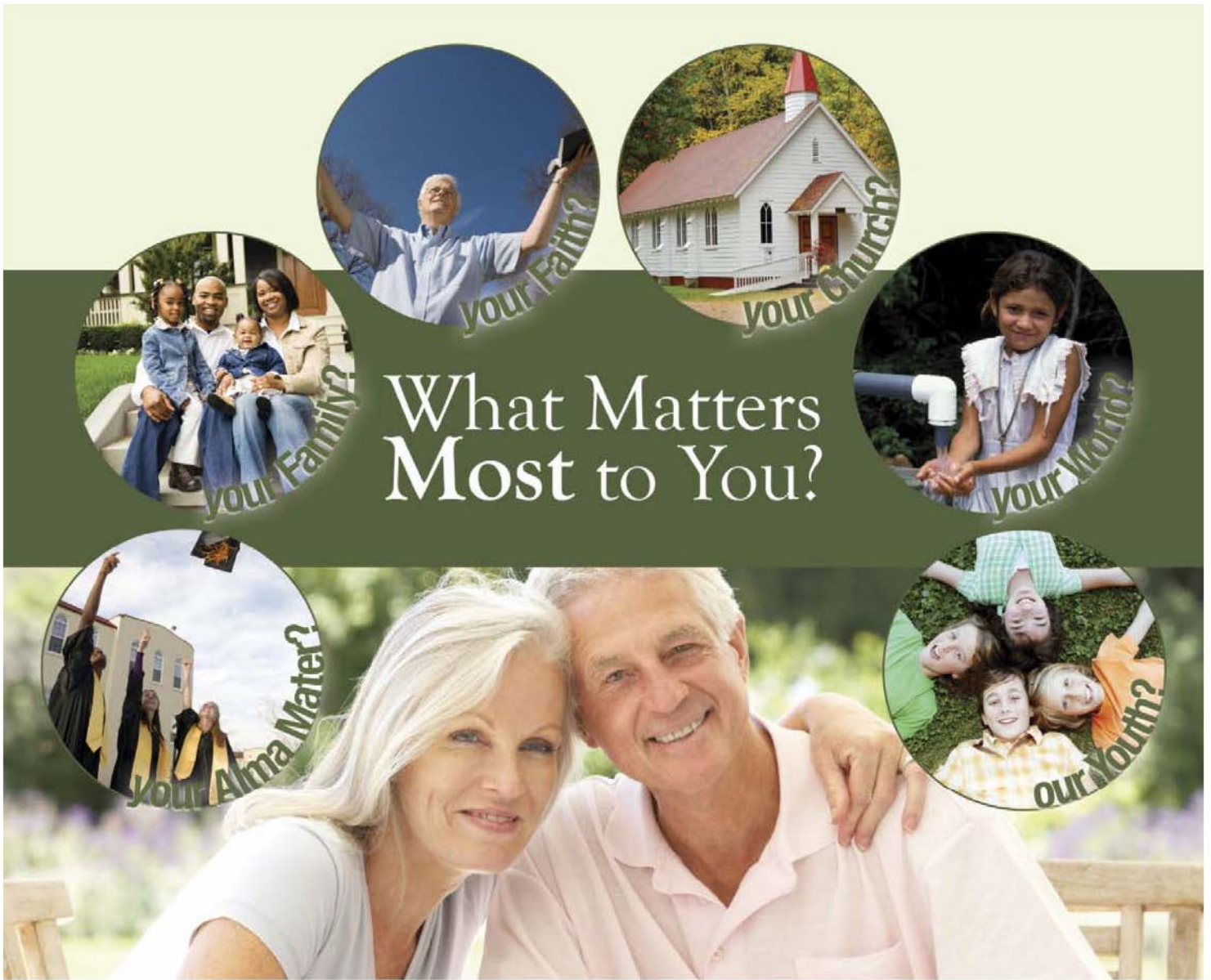
Well, you hear things like "I will never forget you!" "I have learned so much here at Kingsway College" or "My parents said you were always right" (my favourite!).

It is our privilege to share a little of us, a little of Jesus with them.

The results?

Only eternity will show. ■

Dorcas Tosi teaches English as a second language at Kingsway College.



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

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Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"I can count on teachers being available if I need their help. I can email or text them outside of school hours, which is really cool."

For Ethan Burgess, Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) was the only high school option made available to him, and while he admits that this may sound restrictive and kind of scary to some, the soon-to-be graduate thinks it was advantageous: "The mindset of PAA being the only option meant that if it wasn't going well at the start, I had to find some way to make it good for me."

Ethan's high-school years have been good for a number of reasons, including his mature approach as well as the support his family has devoted to Adventist education.

"PAA is where Dad went," Ethan shares, "and I guess he wanted to come back here. Moving was a good choice because I got to meet new people and gain a well-rounded experience."

The Burgess family had lived in the Okanagan Valley. Ethan and his sisters attended North Okanagan Junior Academy (NOJA) for all of elementary and junior high. Because NOJA did not offer high school, the family committed to continuing their church-based education and moved to Lacombe in order to enroll at PAA.

The reason, Ethan says, is personal: "I look up to teachers a lot, especially in our Seventh-day Adventist system, because you can count on them to be accountable for your spiritual life as well as your education." At PAA, Ethan has learned to count on his teachers for the guided instruction and professional strategies. "I realize the importance of teachers here because they know what you're learning, how to do it in many different ways, and how to apply it so there's not just one narrow path to an answer, but different options to choose from. And I can count on teachers being available if I need their help. I can email or text them outside of school hours, which is really cool, I think."

In working hard at the discipline of learning, Ethan has fully grasped the distinction of Adventist education. "I've been with PAA through all my high school years, so I know the advantages of coming to a Christian school. The teachers are always there for their students, and the spiritual environment is a huge thing for me. I feel safe here," shares Ethan.

The safety the students sense at PAA allows them to choose activities for personal growth that they may not otherwise have



Ethan Burgess

engaged in. Knowing that they are fundamentally cared for and supported, shy students with a great deal of potential, like Ethan, take calculated risks and aim for something they previously thought was unattainable.

"I had never played basketball until I came here," Ethan says. "When I started in Grade 10 as the rookie, I was always intimidated, but I looked up to the older students for guidance and learning, and now that I am a senior, I try to encourage the younger players as well, because I know I went through the same thing."

Ethan's extracurricular involvement includes starting positions in soccer, basketball, and flag football as well as music and serving on the PAA Student Association. He is also a strong advocate for PAA's weekly chapels. "One of my favourite quotes from my dad is that everything is fluff and filler, which means we're called to look for the things that matter," Ethan explains. "Being at PAA matters because I'm much encouraged to see students wanting to learn more about God and teachers aiding students in their spiritual walk. We spend an hour in the middle of the week laying our studies aside to focus on what's most important in life. That matters. If I came to an Adventist school and the majority of students were not interested in spiritual matters, it would be a turnoff" but thankfully, that is not the case.

For Ethan and so many others, PAA is a place to grow in grace and knowledge of God. ■

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

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Alberta



Vera and Ken Wiebe

Ken Wiebe Retires

"When I was growing up, there was very little money," recalled Ken Wiebe. "My parents had bought a farm in Manitoba, and although my dad was hard working, the land was not fertile and yielded little. Consequently, money was scarce, and although we never went hungry, fruit was rationed to one orange per day. I loved fruit and longed for more. As I expressed my wish, my mother placed her orange on my plate.

"Have this," she said.

"Don't you like oranges?" I queried.

"Not today," she responded.

"I owe so much to my mother," stated Wiebe as he wiped a tear. "She was mild tempered, soft spoken, spiritually sound, and always put others' needs ahead of her own. That was her legacy. When company came for dinner, she rarely sat down to eat—she was too busy serving."

"She's the one who taught me Bible stories," Wiebe continued. "I remember as a little boy kneeling on the chair at the kitchen

table watching Mom mix bread dough. While doing so, she told the stories of Joseph and the coat of many colours, Daniel in the lion's den, and the birth of Jesus. This memory has never left me."

Wiebe was 11 years old when he was baptized. It was at this tender age that the Holy Spirit began to prepare him for pastoral ministry. Almost imperceptibly he felt intrigued with the Scriptures and fascinated with the life and work of the pastors who served his little home church in Brandon, Man. When he was 15, the pastor sensing his interest in pastoral ministry, took him on Bible studies, and his style became Wiebe's model to this day.

"I might say," Wiebe commented, "the influence of a congregation taking a genuine interest in its young people cannot be overestimated!"

Wiebe attended CUC for Grade 12 and continued on through college, pursuing a degree in theology. While in college, he noticed a special someone, Vera Werner, who also attended college but lived in the community. Vera was both talented and industrious. She played the piano, the organ, the saxophone, the clarinet, worked in the furniture factory sewing room, served as secretary to the theology department, but, as he said, "I was attracted especially to her infectious laugh and good nature."

Ken and Vera dated two years and married on August 1968. Following graduation, the Wiebes headed for Andrews University, where Ken graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. They have been blessed with two sons—and now four grandchildren.

Pastor Wiebe and Vera have worked 44 years in denominational service throughout Canada: Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba-Saskatchewan, and Alberta as pastor and administrator. Speaking about his wife's involvement in ministry, he said, "Vera has not only been my support in ministry, but my partner in ministry as well."

Most recently, Wiebe served six years as president of the Alberta Conference. Each aspect of his ministry including serving as pastor, has been filled with blessings.

Those who worked alongside Wiebe accredited him as a caring, wise, and of humble spirit, a man of patience, principle, and integrity.

"Retirement for me will include lots of family time. Time with my wife, time with my boys, and time with my grandchildren," smiled Wiebe. ■

—Linda Steinke

Burman University Students Conduct VBS in Yellowknife



During the week of July 4–8, the Native Ministries Team from Burman University came to Yellowknife to conduct a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program and introduced many children to Jesus. “We need to hold each other’s hands and pray before our meal,” said six-year-old Jared. The rest of the family obliged.

While most of us wouldn’t think twice about this practice, in Jared’s home this was unique. Jared then went on to pray for the family before they started breakfast. “Our family wasn’t in a habit of praying before our meals, but since Jared came home from VBS, things have started to change,” said Jared’s mom. Then she shared that when she was a child, she would sneak away from her family’s home on Saturday morning to attend the nearby Adventist church. Though currently not connected with a church, she still realizes the importance of God in her life. She and her two children came to church after VBS and said they would be back next week. Her family are Dene, a local indigenous group of people. At the end of VBS several children signed up for Pathfinders. ■

— Jonathan Geraci, Yellowknife church

British Columbia

Fisherman and Friends’ Reunion 2016



Since the 1950s, there have been Adventist commercial salmon and herring fishermen on our West Coast. Since the 1970s, most have been based in Port Hardy. This came about largely because of the “beaching” of the GMG floating logging camp that included homes, a school and church, that moved up and down the B.C. coast for many years. But times change, and as these loggers and their offspring put down their chainsaws, they transitioned into commercial fishing. During the later 70s, 80s, and 90s, this

riny Adventist fleet was in a period of growth, due largely to the acquisition of boats and licenses by one First Nations man, James Walkus, a very talented and blessed fisherman who became an Adventist through contact with the floating loggers.

As time went on, young men who worked on James’s boats as crew became skippers and started to run boats too, creating a demand for more crewing positions. James was dedicated to Adventist education, and he would always require his skippers to hire two students. Over

the years that hiring practice was quite a blessing to many young people, getting them through college and university and off to a career.

The late 1990s saw a big downturn in the West Coast salmon fishery. Too many boats and too few fish. The government bought back boat licenses, and soon unlicensed boats and gear were selling at bargain prices. This downturn hit the Adventist fleet too, which at its peak was about 40 boats mostly seine, but also gillnetters and trollers.

The tight-knit, burgeoning Adventist community in Port Hardy soon started shrinking as the fish runs decreased. Their unique working lifestyle out on the ocean, covering the coast from Alaska to Washington, was slipping away like the falling tide. The summer fishing student crowd slowly disappeared, and soon, too, families started selling their homes and moving to other areas for work, education and retraining.

It was about 10 years after the majority of the Adventist fishing fleet slipped their mooring and went into the history books that many ex-fishermen, ex-fisherstudents,

and Port Hardy Friends got together at Camp Hope for a reunion in October 2010. Since all had such a good time reconnecting with one another, and some were unable to make it, another reunion was held in October 2013. Then three years later, a third was held on November 11–13.

About 55 people showed up at Camp Hope for the Fishermen and Friends'

Reunion 2016. There were joyful reunions; hugs, tears, handshakes, and many stories told of remembrances of another time, another life, making a living on the ocean. Stories of God's leading and providence warmed many hearts. Ex-fisher Herb Larsen Jr. spoke Friday evening, and Port Hardy Pastor Berr and wife, Donna Williams, aged 78–80, from Nebraska, spoke for church service. James Walkus

(still fishing at 78), and Andy Waterman (in his 80s) were our senior "skippers" in attendance. The 200+ fishermen and women who spent time on the boats are now scattered all over North America in every type of occupation. Being able to fish was a real blessing in helping so many to make their way through high school, college, university, and beyond. ■

— Bill Gerber, Director, Camp Hope, BC Conference

ROCK and Kicks for Kids

Leverage, according to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, is "influence or power used to achieve a desired result." The positive effect of leverage was evident on April 2016 when the Rest Haven Outreach of Community Kindness (ROCK) and the Kicks for Kids charity came together to improve physical literacy among children in less fortunate circumstances.

ROCK is a ministry of the Rest Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church in North Saanich, B.C., on beautiful Vancouver Island just north of Victoria. In spite of what many consider to be an idyllic island paradise, there are many social challenges that face the local communities in and around Greater Victoria. According to Gerald Kazanowski, Community Project Director, "[ROCK]'s goal is to lift those who need a hand by tapping into the generous resources of the community, and, with our commitment and resources together, ... make a big difference."

Indeed, ROCK has been active within its community over the years by spearheading projects such as conducting a home makeover to improve in-home accessibility for a person with a mobility need; providing a refurbished vehicle to a single parent without a means of transportation; and supporting a local non-GMO organic egg farmer on a small disability pension to improve productivity by building a new chicken coop and supporting equipment (chicken tractors).

Kicks for Kids is a charity founded by Sarah Russell, a Physical Literacy Leader at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence. Sarah specializes in adaptive sport, which brings physical literacy to children with special needs. In her work with various schools in the community, Sarah observed that children in low socio-economic areas did not have adequate footwear to benefit from the physical literacy exercises she was leading. She explains, "There was one child attending the program who, I noticed, was wearing a pair of Crocs, which are inappropriate footwear for a sport program. I found this to be a little odd, and when I looked closer I noticed that the Crocs did not have soles. Essentially, the child was walking around barefoot. I decided to find this child a pair of proper running shoes so that nothing would hold him back from achieving his full sporting potential."

This was the beginning of the Kicks for Kids charity. Sarah started by contacting principals at schools in well-to-do areas asking them for permission to collect gently worn running shoes that she could distribute to kids in need at schools in



Sarah Russell, Kicks for Kids

low socio-economic areas. This initiative grew to include the placement of collection boxes at community centres, participating businesses, and places of worship. Sarah's dream for Kicks for Kids is "to provide an entire school with 'new to them' running shoes—starting in the school with the most kids in need; have every child go home at the same time with a 'new to them' pair of running shoes."

The work that Kicks for Kids was doing in the community was brought to the attention of Rick Wiegel (founding member of ROCK) by a member of the Rest Haven Rest Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mr. Wiegel invited Ms. Russell to submit a proposal for funding which ROCK subsequently approved. On the Sabbath of April 9, 2016, at the Rest Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church, Rick Wiegel presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to Sarah Russell to fund the purchase of new running shoes for Kicks for Kids to distribute to children in need. As a result of the positive leverage between ROCK and Kicks for Kids, 24 brand-new pairs of running shoes were purchased and distributed to happy children who will now receive the full benefit of physical literacy. ■

— Desmond Guarin, member, Rest Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church

Maritime

Provincial Exhibition

The churches of Truro, New Glasgow, and Pugwash joined together for four days to do outreach at the Provincial Exhibition in Truro this summer. Sue Hummel shared information about Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and displayed the rugs she makes as a fundraiser for ADRA. Posters displayed the recent work of ADRA in Fort McMurray as well as overseas, and other posters displayed a Health Expo that was provided in New Glasgow. Lots of health and Christian literature was shared with those who visited the booth. Church members provided information about the Adventist churches in the area, summer camps at Camp Pugwash, as well as opportunities for children to gain a Christian education at Sandy Lake



Academy. Free bottles of water were provided during the hottest part of the day. It is our prayer that the literature we shared will bring glory to God, plant seeds of truth, and help to prepare more people

for the blessed hope and soon return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ■

—Cheryl Hamilton, New Glasgow church

Reprinted from the Maritime Pulse.

Reformation Celebration



"Mr. Tetzel" trying to sell "sacred relics" to the people.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenburg Church in Germany. That act is said to be the official "start" of the Protestant Reformation. On Sunday, Oct. 30, Cheryl Hamilton organized a Reformation Celebration for the New Glasgow Seventh-day Adventist Church

and homeschool friends. A group of 27 people, 11 church members, and 16 from the community gathered together to learn about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Luther's story was told using a story book, pictures, and even a skit. Activities for the children were interspersed throughout the story to reinforce key aspects.

It was a custom of Luther's day for school children to sing to neighbours in order to receive food when food at home was sparse. Upon learning this, the children sang "Away in a Manger" to the adults and received food. (Some hymnbooks have Luther as author of "Away in a Manger" originally titled "Cradle Song").

The children climbed the stairs on their knees like Luther "paying penance" and then found eggs with a message inside stating "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). The children then stood up and walked back down the stairs.

We all learned about Mr. Tetzel who sold indulgences claiming these items would grant them forgiveness over all their sins, and that if someone purchased these, their family and friends could be moved from purgatory to heaven. The children did three-legged races to "Mr. Tetzel," and he tried to sell them "wood from Jesus' cross," "Jesus' nails", or bits of "Jesus' clothing" while at the same time "Martin Luther" tried to convince the children to ignore Tetzel and instead gave

each of the children a Bible text. After the game the group read some of the texts Luther had given the children and discovered how salvation is a free gift from God and cannot be earned by our own efforts.

Blindfolded, the children posted the 95 Theses on the door of the church. They watched a re-enactment of the Diet of Worms with Luther telling Charles V he could nor recant. And they searched for the five "Sola" or "Alone" statements of Luther—"Faith Alone," "Scripture Alone," "Grace Alone," "Christ Alone," and "Glory of God Alone."

Many of the participants were dressed

in Reformation attire, and we all ate a meal based on foods from the Renaissance time period. People were offered a copy of *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White if they wanted to read more about Luther and the other Reformers.

The evening ended with the children holding lights and were reminded that each one of the Reformers through history did not have all the light of truth, but they studied their Bibles and each discovered more truth. They were encouraged to search the Scriptures and find truth for themselves as the Reformers had done. The evening closed as everyone sang "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," written

by Luther, while one of the children accompanied them on the piano.

This year (2017) is the 500-year anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. We would encourage churches all over to celebrate this very historic event with their communities and reflect on the critical importance of this event. Discuss how the Reformation has affected the world and the religious freedom that we all enjoy.

Let's challenge each other to be "Solo Scriptura" Christians. ■

—Cheryl Hamilton,
New Glasgow church

Reprinted from the Maritime Pulse.

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

Saskatoon Youth Rally



Photo: Dustin Corneta

Youth at the Man-Sask Saskatoon Youth Rally exchange prayer requests through the air as Youth Director Sandra Wall looks on.

The fall Man-Sask Youth Rally commenced on Nov. 18 and 19 at the Victoria Avenue Church in Saskatoon. Pastor Jordane Smid's sermon series focused on learning to hear the loving call of God in a modern world of so many distractions. Sabbath morning over 190 people were in attendance, including Victoria Avenue members, and then evening programs had over 110, a healthy increase over previous youth rallies.

Sabbath afternoon included outreach opportunities for street ministry and

homeless ministry. Attendee Krisian Wall, from Winnipeg, said that "singing at a homeless shelter was quite nice. ... I felt like we were doing a good deed. ... I hope we blessed someone that weekend." Though the day was cloudy and chilly, the youth brought many smiles to people's faces through flowers, high fives, and their voices.

The weekend would not have been a success without the help of a group of young adults from Saskatoon called LOGOS Collective. The members of this group are talented and passionate

about ministry and took much of the lead for the rally. The Youth Department were honoured to work with them and thanked them for the hard work that they had put into the weeks of planning and into the weekend itself.

Special thanks also to Pastor Julio and the Victoria Avenue church, who graciously opened their doors to host this event, as well as the many parents, church members, and adult sponsors who pitched in to make the event a success. ■



"I will be taking these ideas back to our church and telling our members how these simple, thoughtful acts can make a huge difference!"

Total Member Involvement



Over 220 people from across the conference received ministry training at three EQUIP events in Regina (Oct. 22), Saskatoon (Nov. 26) and Winnipeg (Dec. 10). EQUIP events are organized by the Total Member Involvement (TMI) department and are designed to provide training and resources for a wide variety of outreach, all in service of the new Man-Sask mission and vision. Popular sessions, led by conference personnel and employees, included "Relational Evangelism," "Sharing God's Health Plan for Your Community," "How to Connect with Guests So They Stay in the Church," and "Ministry Reaching Out Into Your Community."

Terri Bruce from the Moose Jaw church said, "The highlight of the EQUIP weekend for me was how inspired I was to see so many of our area churches had sent representatives to this event. It showed me that we are not working alone!"

Terri also particularly appreciated the "Connecting With Guests" session: "This event was so full of ideas of how to make a church guest feel welcome and *want* to come back. I will be taking these ideas back to our church and telling our members how these simple, thoughtful acts can make a huge difference!"

Tom and Marj Koch from Hill Ave church enjoyed all the seminars they attended but were especially thankful for other aspects; "What we appreciated was the organization, and how

well the sessions were timed. . . . The sessions were not too long, and very enjoyable and inspiring."

Weekend Series: TMI also offers discipleship and outreach training for individual churches. Pastors David and Lynn Ripley provided this first Weekend Series for both the Transcona and Neuva Esperanza churches in Winnipeg Aug. 12-14 and then for the Moose Jaw Church Nov. 11-13. "We want all our members to be fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ, who are actively involved in witness where they work and live," Pastor Manzanares said when asked about his Winnipeg church's enthusiasm about hosting the series.

The Weekend Series is a mix of seminars, group discussion, and hands-on training in topics such as "Ministry Action Units —United Prayer," "Living as a Disciple," "Relational Discipleship," "Mentoring," and "Becoming a Missional Church."

Response has been positive, with one attendee sharing, "It was a real eye-opener in the way we reach out to our community." Another commented, "Most hermeneutical! Quite enlightening and challenging!"

The Total Member Involvement theme is: "Each One Win One, Lose None, Disciple All"

Learn more about upcoming TMI events at www.mansaskadvocantist.ca. ■

Ontario

CPC Community Food Drive

The College Park church and the Adventist Community Services (ACS) sponsored a community food drive. They provided two large dropoff bins to receive the community's food contributions to feed approximately 600 to 700 families each month. This event was advertised in the newspapers, and flyers were sent out inviting the community to support this local food drive initiative.

Children who attended the event enjoyed a jumping castle, and approximately 200 people were served free veggie burgers. A car wash took place in front of the church, and various booths provided the people with information about the elementary school, Pathfinders, and health tips.

Many enjoyed the musical concert, and overall the event was so successful the members plan to do it again next year. Having the event just prior to celebrating Thanksgiving gets people in the spirit of giving and being thankful which benefits everyone.

Adventist Community Services has been working in the community for 40 years. The ACS team worked hard to make this event meaningful in the community and practical in the sense of feeding the hungry in our midst.

As of Nov. 20, 2016, a total of 13,348 pounds of food has been collected by the following: Gibb Street Real Canadian Superstore, Kingsway College, the Refuge, Pathfinders, College



Over 200 free veggie burgers were served at the Adventist Community Services food drive.

Park Church, College Park Elementary School, Joe and Barb's No Frills (on Townline Road). Also, on CPC Community Outreach Day, some 1,501 pounds were collected. ■

—Helen Northcott

Quebec

Board of Directors Elects New President and Executive Secretary



Left to right: Lucian Stefanescu, Kwasi Ansah-Adu, and Abiola Arthur.

The first meeting of the Quebec Conference's newly elected Board of Directors took place on Sunday, Oct. 23, chaired by the SDACC president, Mark Johnson, who was accompanied by Daniel (Dragan) Stojanovic, the SDACC executive secretary. On this occasion the board learned that after he and his wife had taken time to earnestly pray about it, because of difficult family circumstances, they were unable to come and serve the Quebec Conference.

Hence, the first decision that the board needed to make was to elect a president for the Quebec Conference. The ideal person was described as a spiritual and visionary servant-leader who is evangelistic and people focused with managerial and leadership skills and who is working for the unity of the conference. With prayer and careful consideration, the board voted to elect Kwasi Ansah-Adu as the Quebec Conference president.

Pastor Adu has served for over 18 years in Ghana as pastor, president, secretary, and treasurer in three conferences, as well as

general manager of the publishing house in West Africa. Having come to the Quebec Conference in 2007, he has served as pastor and ministerial director before being called to the presidency. He humbly accepted the task stating that he relies on the grace of God and on our support to accomplish it to the glory of God.

As Adu had previously been elected executive secretary by the Constituency, this position was now to be filled by the board. In the same prayerful manner, they elected Lucian Stefanescu as the Quebec Conference Executive Secretary. The first thing after the election was a joint prayer of the board members for Pastor Adu, Pastor Stefanescu, and Miss Abiola Arthur (treasurer), who knelt down before the Lord, knowing that He is the source of

all wisdom, strength, and blessing.

The board continued to fill two vacant positions. Kavan Roy Shand, first elder of the Mount Zion Seventh-day Adventist Church, was voted to replace Samuel Colas. Pastor Joseph Batiandila, of the Montreal Filipino and Mount Carmel Filipino churches, was voted to fill the board position formerly occupied by Lucian Stefanescu.

We encourage each church to take a moment to pray for the leadership and Board of the Quebec Conference just as Jesus did for His disciples: "That they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me" (John 17:21, NLT). ■

SDA Church in Canada

Shad Lehmann, New Associate Director of Education



Shad Lehmann

The SDACC Office of Education is very pleased to welcome Shad Lehmann as our new Associate Director of Education, a position that came open when Betty Bayer was elected as the Director of

Education in August 2016. After a search process that lasted several weeks, the SDACC Board of Directors voted to approve Shad's name on Saturday evening, November 19.

After completing his B.F.d. through Union College, Shad completed an MA in Administration and Leadership from La Sierra University. He is currently enrolled in a PhD program in Educational Leadership and Administration through Andrews University.

Shad has taught in classrooms from Grade 1 to university, and has administrative experience in three conferences across Canada, most recently as director of education in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Conference, where he also served as director of trust services. Shad's wife, Tara, recently started a volunteer position as Family Ministries director at the Man-Sask Conference.

Shad believes strongly in Adventist education that is Christ-centred and accessible to all. An experienced administrator, an outdoor education specialist, a spiritual leader, and the father of three, he brings a wealth of experience and a desire to support Canadian Adventist teachers and schools in their journey to excellence. Shad will officially begin his duties at the SDACC Office on Feb. 1, 2017. ■

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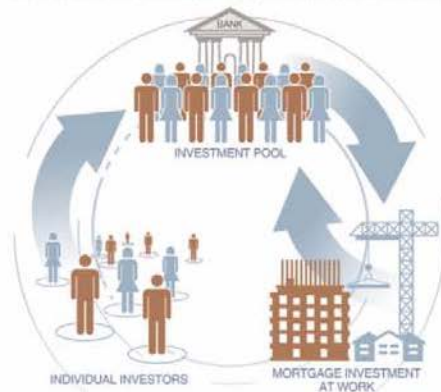
>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Nov. 30, 2016, there were 429 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,426,046. There were 88 loans with a value of \$27,091,023.

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

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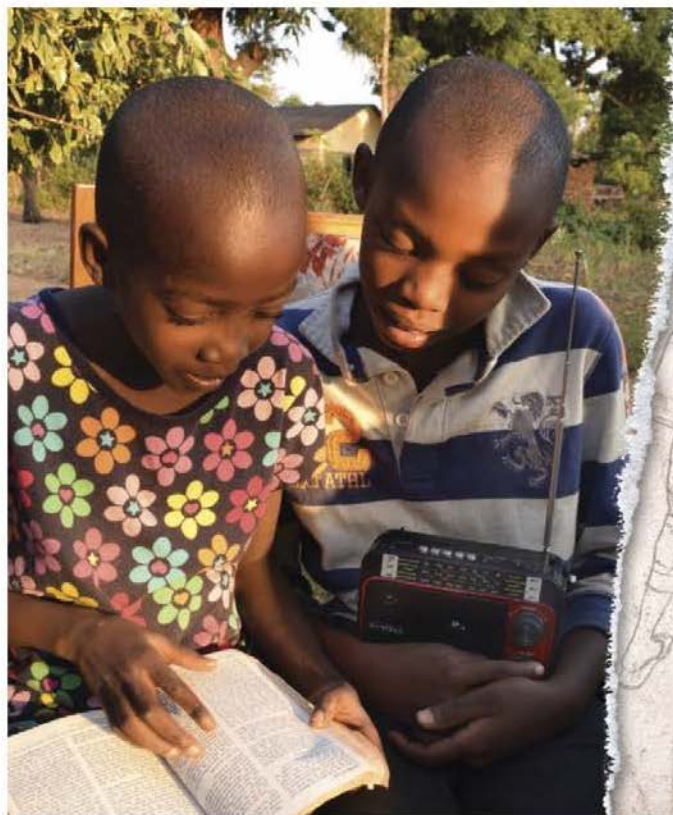
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The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Excellence in Education Awards

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.
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about Messenger announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click "Writers Guidelines" then click "announcements."

■ Announcements

64th TJA/CAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend—Crawford Adventist Academy will be holding its 64th Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 27 and 28, 2017, honouring TJA classes of 1982 (Grade 12), 1977 (Grade 10), 1972 (Grade 10), 1967, and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992, and 1987. We welcome all our alumni and families, former and current administrators, board members, faculty & staff, parents, friends and supporters. Please contact Judy Cardona Gamez, Development Director, 416/633-0090 / toll-free 866/960-2125 ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.caasda.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAAlumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/17)

Missing Members—The Chilliwack church is looking for the following missing members: Darren Bristow, Barbara Den Admirant, Irma Den Admirant, Martin Den Admirant, Nadene Johnson, Rick Layton, and David Bruce Torrance. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Tim Nagy at 778/549-0059 or t.moreus@live.ca.

■ New Members

MARITIME

Marion Giroir was baptized in Halifax, N.S., on Nov. 19, 2016, by Kevin Scott. She first learned about the Adventist Church while volunteering at Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank. After attending a series of evangelistic meetings, Marion committed her life to Jesus. She is now a member of the Halifax church.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Wesley Stanley was baptized in Lethbridge, Nfld., on Aug. 27, 2016, by his brother, Carter Stanley. Wesley came into the Adventist Church at a young age but drifted away until a couple of years ago. He is now a member of the Lethbridge church.

Alicia Holloway was baptized in Lethbridge, Nfld., on Nov. 12, 2016, by David Bourcher. She has been studying intensely for the past several months and continues to do so. She is now a member of the Lethbridge church.

Logan Reid-Millmine was baptized in Lethbridge, Nfld., on Nov. 12, 2016, by David Bourcher. He has been studying intensely for the past several months and continues to do so. He is now a member of the Lethbridge church.

Beverly Barrington-Norris and **Gerald Norris** were baptized in Lethbridge, Nfld., on Nov. 12, 2016, by David Bourcher. They have been studying intensely for the past several months and continue to do so. They are now members of the Lethbridge church.

■ Anniversaries

Bill and Jean Yuros of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 14, 2016. A



lovely fellowship meal was enjoyed at the Kelowna Adventist Church, and a great time was had by all.

■ Birthdays

Trudi Charles of Maple Ridge, B.C., celebrated her 90th birthday on Nov. 8, 2016. Several friends and family



from across the country called, mailed, and visited. As well, there was cake and celebration at church.

■ Obituaries

Peter Dudar was born on July 7, 1923, in Two Hills, Alta., and died on Jan. 22, 2016, in Sun City, Calif. He completed elementary and high school at Canadian Union College and continued his education at Willa Waila College, La Sierra College, and Loma Linda University. As a physician he ministered to thousands in his 40+ years of practising medicine. Surviving: wife, Rosamond E. Dudar; sons, Peter Dudar Jr. of Cuenca, Ecuador, Gary (Julie) Dudar of Menifee, Calif., Brian (Monica) Dudar of Paradise, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Pearl (née Stanley) Ellis was born on Sept. 27, 1931, in George's Brook, Nfld., and died on Oct. 30, 2016, in Port Hope, Ont. She, along with her husband, family, friends, and Pastor Crook, helped build the Lethbridge church. Pearl also thought of Barbara Wiseman as her daughter and requested that she remain close to the family. Pearl is predeceased by her husband, Joseph Ellison, Herbert Ellis; daughter, Dorothy Tiller; parents, Wilson and Lucy Stanley; brother, Haveloc Stanley; half-brother, Herbert Bailey; and sisters, Molly Stanley, Jewel Stanley, Violet Stanley, Maggie Ellis, and Bessie Chaulk. Surviving: son, Calvin (Sharon) Ellis of Courville, Ont.; daughters, Patsy (Leo) Budgell of Port Hope, Ont., Yvonne Ellis of Courville; brother, Meryle (Eliiza) Stanley of George's Brook; sister, Emma (Jack) Stanley of George's Brook; nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Elma (née Lotsari) Halminen was born on Feb. 18, 1925, in Uusikirkko, Finland, and died on June 10, 2016, in Oshawa, Ont. She was a faithful

member of College Park church in Oshawa for over 60 years and had a gift for hospitality. Elma is predeceased by her parents, Aaron and Hilja Lotsari; brother, Pentti Lotsari; and sister, Elna Suojoki. Surviving: husband, Kauko Halminen; sons, Hannu (Karen) Halminen of Orono, Ont., Juha (Susan) Halminen of Bowmanville, Ont., Paul (Lisa) Halminen of Courville, Ont.; daughters, Marja Halminen of Summerland, B.C., Anu (Peter) Thorne of Newcastle, Ont., Anita (Joe Hawco) Halminen of Whitby, Ont.; sister, Hilikka Axelsson of Sweden; 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Annie (née Chernepeski) Knight was born on April 18, 1922, in Theodore, Sask., and died on Sept. 20, 2016, in Williams Lake, B.C. She was a member of the Adventist Church for almost 60 years and was one of the founding members of the Yorkton, Sask., church. Annie is predeceased by her husband, Harry Knight; parents, Steve and Agafia Chernepeski; brothers, Nick Chernepeski and Harvey Chernepeski; sister, Kay Manchur; and daughter-in-law, Lynda Knight. Surviving: son, Chris Knight of Williams Lake; daughters, Elizabeth (Jerry) Chamberlain of Green Lake, B.C., and Patsy (George) Ohlander of Stockholm, Sask.; brothers, Ivan (Lilly) Chernepeski of Yorkton, Mike (Bernice) Chernepeski of Yorkton, Alex (Adele) Chernepeski of Lacombe, Alta., Victor (Marge) Chernepeski of Yorkton, Ed Cherney of Penticon, B.C., Steve (Marina) Chernepeski of Yorkton; sister, Emily Chernepeski of Yorkton; nine grandchildren and 70 great-grandchildren.

Norma (née Carlson) Loran was born on Oct. 13, 2016, in Bow Island, Alta., and died on Oct. 18, 2016, in Abbotsford, B.C. She faithfully led our in the children's divisions and community services in her husband Russell's pastoral districts. Norma is predeceased by her first husband, Russell Spangler; second husband, Joseph Loran; and sister, June Spangler. Surviving: sons, Russ (Ann) Spangler, of Abbotsford, David (Lois) Spangler of Abbotsford, Frank (Truc Khanh) Spangler of Newcastle, Ont.; daughter, Joanne Wageman; sister, Zelma (Tom) Kay of Lacombe, Alta.; 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Roy William Pfanmuller was born on March 13, 1952, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Nov. 13, 2016, in Midway, B.C. He is predeceased by his father, William Pfanmuller; and brother-in-law, Wally Chikowsky. Surviving: wife, Pamela Pfanmuller; son, Zachariah (Stacey) Pfanmuller; stepsons, Michael Krogel and Brian Krogel;

mother, Julie Pfannmuller; brothers, Barry (Deloris) Pfannmuller and Dean Pfannmuller; sisters, Leeann Chiskowsky and Gwen (Eugene) Skoretz; and two grandchildren.

David Francis Warner was born on Sept. 18, 1937, in Kelowna, B.C., and died on Sept. 12, 2016, in Red Deer, Alta. He served as school board chairman for several years at Sylvan Meadows Adventist School and was an active participant and faithful supporter of the Sylvan Lake church and church school during his 40 years as a member. David is predeceased by his parents, Walter and Bertha Warner. Surviving: wife, Ida Warner; sons, Dennis Warner of Washam, Alta., David (Dorothy) Warner of St. Albert, Alta.; daughters, Debbie (Stan) Bell of Sylvan Lake and Diane (Randall) Reiman of Wanham; brother, Art Warner of Adams Lake, B.C.; sisters, Virginia Gonthier of Tukwila, Wash., and Chris Johnson of Roseburg, Ore.; 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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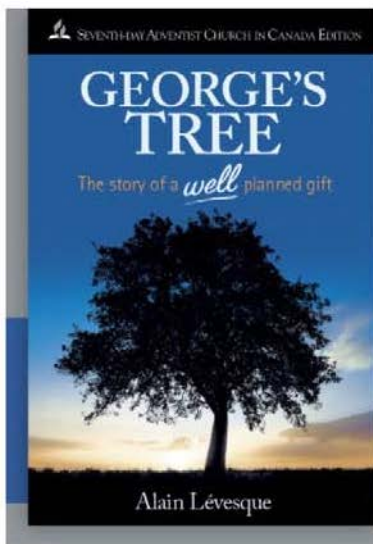
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from the editor

Our family in Africa

UGANDA IS REFERRED TO AS THE PEARL OF AFRICA. It was once led by Idi Amin Dada, who became known as the “Butcher of Uganda” for his brutal, despotic rule as president of Uganda in the 1970s. Now this landlocked East African country has experienced consistent economic growth and is determined to unfold with a strong economic base.

However, 37.8 percent of Uganda’s population still lives on less than US\$1.25 a day.¹

This beautiful country has been home for so many Canadian Adventists in service over the years. In the past few months another Canadian family was added to that list. Charles Ed II Aguilar, pastor and former communication director for the British Columbia Conference, is now the ADRA Uganda country director.

Charles’s family ranks high with me as a family that makes a significant difference.

Charles, his wife, Betty, and their three children, Jewel (15), Jade (11), and Onyx (9) have packed their bags to move 13 time zones away to a continent they have never stepped foot on before. They were prepared to taste food they have never eaten before, supervise a huge staff they have never met, drive on the side of the road they have never driven on, speak with people through translators with languages they have never heard of—all because they maintain an active pathway of communication with a God we all know.

What about their children’s education? The good news is that they will still be students of the Canadian Adventist school system. Thanks to the Internet, Jewel, Jade, and Onyx will study with West Coast Adventist School (WCAS),² part of the education department of the British Columbia Conference.

For the next few months we are going to be following the Aguilars closely as they send us their monthly reports. Thanks to social media, we can get continual updates about the work ADRA Uganda is doing.

Our family in Uganda has hit the ground running—already in charge of the well-being of thousands of South Sudanese refugees, and so much more. Check out page 16 of this issue for the first report. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan".

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

PS: Interested in helping out in the refugee camps or other places as needed for 2 to 3 weeks in Uganda? If you have not yet been to the Pearl of Africa, or are wanting to return, this is your chance. Contact me at jensen.stan@adventist.ca if you have an interest.

Did you know that there are many ways you can watch the It Is Written broadcast? You can watch on CTV, Saturdays at 11:00 am, across the nation. You can watch on our YouTube channel—www.YouTube.com/IIWCanada as well as on the VOAR app.

You can share the program with your friends, family, and neighbours as a non-threatening avenue of sharing the three angels' messages.

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Chris Holland
Speaker
/ Director

www.ItIsWrittenCanada.ca toll free: 855-308-6510
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GO AND SOW



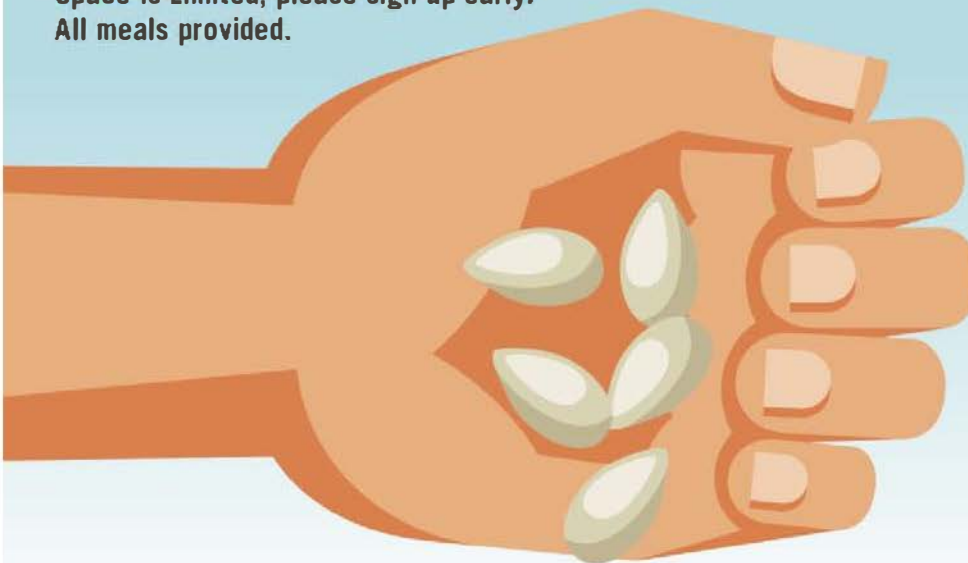
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