

A Simple Farmer (p. 11); Missionary Kids (p. 16);
Angel in Plain Clothes (p. 28); Bridge Building (p. 35)

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Messenger

March 2017 Vol. 86 No. 3

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heart to heart

“We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

—John 9:4, 5, ESV

With Jesus

Have you ever wished you could have Jesus with you—even just for a day—before He returns for good? What would that be like? If you had Jesus with you for a day, where would you take Him? What do you suppose He would want to do while you were together?

Once, while travelling, Jesus saw a fellow who had been blind his whole life. The disciples thought they'd get some theology out of the encounter, but Jesus didn't bite. Instead, He spoke of the urgency to do the work of God while it was still possible.

What did Jesus consider to be the work of God? Healing the blind, caring for the lame, listening to the one who couldn't speak clearly. These were all things He knew were the work of God. And what sets God apart from us is that through His intervening power, He could just walk up to someone and heal him or her, then and there.

Maybe if I had Jesus for 24 hours, we'd just go around and heal people. I think He'd like that, and can you imagine what that would be like? Maybe hit a couple of hospitals in the morning and then stop by some homes where you know that Jesus would make a big difference?

Really soon, Jesus is going to heal on a scale that's unfathomable, but until then you and I can bring a little of the light of Jesus into the world. How, you ask? By caring for those whom Jesus would heal if we had Him for a day.

And that, my friend, is why every year, in Adventist churches across Canada, we take an offering in April so we can minister to those around us who are blind. That's why we do Camps for the Blind. That's why the Ontario Conference recently launched a church for the blind in the Greater Toronto Area.

Please don't forget the Offering for the Blind, and please take time to serve those whom Jesus would heal if you had Him for a day before He comes again. ■

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





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WHAT'S INSIDE

March 2017



February 2017 cover photo by Crux Phiri.

FEATURES

- 22 **INTERVIEWS** Q&A with Samsara Arboite.
- 24 **COVER STORY** Really Living in Peru—Hamilton's Really Living Adventist Church hadn't planned to do another humanitarian trip this year. But God had other plans.
- 33 **TESTIMONIAL** One Year Down.
- 35 **FEATURE** Building Bridges.

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 **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**
- 31 **MANS**
- 32 **PARKVIEW PROFILES**
- 36 **NEWS**
- 41 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 46 **FROM THE EDITOR**





ADRA ensured that a well was installed at Srib's home. Inset: Srib

WASH

WHEN MOST OF US THINK OF THE WORD WASH, we think of the act of washing, of making things clean by using water and soap to remove dirt.

When the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) uses the term WASH, we are speaking of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. WASH is a serious public health concern in countries all over the world. Lack of clean water and proper sanitation, as well as the neglect of hygiene causes preventable illness and even death. Without access to WASH, families can remain locked in poverty.

In Cambodia, ADRA has been working for several years to bring the benefits of WASH to communities living in hard-to-reach areas.

The name Siem Reap conjures visions of the awe-inspiring temple complex of Angkor Wat, Buddhist monks in brilliant orange robes, and the bustling night market.

Srib and her family, however, live far from the tourist-filled city in a rural farming village. Srib has never been to school. Her husband has a Grade 4 education. Supporting their six children with no income was a struggle.

When ADRA began the project in her village, Srib saw an opportunity to create a better life for her family, and she eagerly joined the group. She learned how to raise chickens and how to cultivate pumpkins, winter melons, cucumbers, bananas, eggplant, mangoes, and chilies. The food she grows is just enough to feed her family.

Chickens and gardens need water, so ADRA ensured that a well was installed at Srib's home. Srib no longer had to buy water

or use a neighbour's well. Her well provided enough water for all of Srib's other household needs, such as cooking, washing, and cleaning. ADRA also helped to provide a latrine, as the family could not afford one on their own and were using open fields as their toilet. Srib's family is now happier and healthier.

At ADRA we want to maximize our impact on the communities we work with, so we source our project materials from local suppliers whenever possible.

Sarin and his wife, Sophoan, are the proud owners of a latrine and well-making business that also supplies water filters. They opened their business over six years ago. When they opened the business, not everyone in the communities understood the importance of WASH, but ADRA's awareness-raising sessions have changed the villagers' mindset. Sarin says that the ADRA project has increased their business by 70 to 80 percent. They have hired another three workers and now have six full-time staff. They install the wells and latrines from parts that are manufactured at their warehouse. Sarin enjoys visiting with his customers because everyone is happy when he arrives to install a well or a latrine. Although Sarin and Sophoan are not direct beneficiaries of the project, as partners their lives, too, have changed for the better.

Your generous support of ADRA's work is making a real difference to real families in real communities in Cambodia and around the world. ■

Sharmilla Reid is the supporter relations director for ADRA Canada.



Powerful

“Doing the same things harder or more is not going to accomplish what is needed.”

The Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists published a document as part of their 2010 Annual Council, on Oct. 11, 2010. The document is titled “God’s Promised Gift.” Here are the introductory paragraphs, under the first section heading, “An Urgent Appeal for Revival, Reformation, Discipleship, and Evangelism”:

God has uniquely called the Seventh-day Adventist Church both to live and to proclaim His last-day message of love and truth to the world (Revelation 14:6–12). The challenge of reaching the more than 6 billion people on planet Earth with His end-time message *seems impossible*. The task is *overwhelming*. From a human perspective, the rapid fulfillment of Christ’s Great Commission anytime soon *appears unlikely* (Matthew 28:19, 20).

The church’s growth rate is simply not keeping pace with the world’s burgeoning population. An honest evaluation of our current evangelistic impact on the world leads to the conclusion that unless there is a dramatic change, we will not complete heaven’s assignment in this generation. In spite of our best efforts, all our plans, strategies, and resources are incapable of finishing God’s mission for His glory on earth.

As you read this, I wonder if you are struck with the things we confess to ourselves. This admission means that if we keep doing what we are doing, we will keep getting the same results we are getting. If we, as a church, continue the current path, we will not finish the mission God has placed before us. Doing the same things harder or more is not going to accomplish what is needed. We must change what we believe and understand about our calling and what a disciple knows in his or her heart.

I believe that God does want us to finish our work of sharing the gospel—and soon! So, in order for this to happen, we, as a church and as disciples, need four things instilled in our minds and hearts.

SPECIALNESS, URGENCY, RELATIONSHIPS, AND EXPECTANCY (SURE)

• **Specialness**—We are Chosen: God has already chosen us as His special people. We have a God-sized mission and vision we can accomplish through His power. We are a called-out movement brought together for His purposes to do what no one else can do in our community.

• **Urgency**—It is the end times: We are in the last days of earth’s history. Jesus is coming soon! There are souls in our community to rescue. Being active disciples is God’s way to reach people. Total member involvement is what is needed now.

• **Relationships**—With God and with others: First we must be connected with our true Friend, Jesus. Then we will be ready to develop trusting relationships within the church and throughout the community around us.

• **Expectancy**—God is eager to perform miracles: God is all-powerful. God’s will for our conferences, churches, schools, and institutions is to grow, and what God wills can happen if we cooperate. We are to look for and recognize the miracles of God and expect many more miracles as we share the good news across Canada and beyond.

Where must this begin? It must begin with each one of us knowing that we are weak and helpless but that we serve an all-powerful, all-knowing God. I urge you to seek to understand what it means to be a true disciple and not just a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It means that you are SURE of your faith and in whom you believe. With God, all things are possible. We can even complete our mission in Canada through His guidance and strength. **Be SURE!** ■

David Ripley is president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.



¹ Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “God’s Promised Gift,” October 11, 2010. <http://cdn.ministerialassociation.org/docs/Annual-Council-2010-Gods-promised-gift.pdf>.

teen talk

Q: How come new Christians seem so much more authentic than Christians who have been members for years?

A: Good thing you said “seem” instead of “are,” because perceptions are quite tricky.

Seasoned Christians are not necessarily less authentic than their newly converted friends. They are at a different stage in their relationship with God; that’s all. Is an elderly couple less committed because they sit quietly on a park bench instead of chasing after each other, running on the grass?

The church needs people in all stages of life, even Christian life. New Christians provide vitality, energy. They try new ways of doing things; they are not afraid to explore. “Middle age” Christians bring strength and know-how. They will support the new adventurers. Seasoned Christians bring maturity to the table. They’ve been there for a long time and are an endless supply of wisdom.

I’ll leave you with this illustration: New converts are the long branches of a tree that aim to reach the sky. Middle-age Christians are the strong and thick trunk that support those branches. And the seasoned Christians are the roots that reach deep into the ground. When you combine the three, you’ll end up with a majestic tree full of life that houses birds and provides refuge for countless creatures. ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.—Romans 10:17, NKJV

Barn owl

Barn owls rely on their amazing hearing ability to find food. They have to be able to locate mice moving about in the grass in order to hunt them. Although you can't see an owl's ears because they're hidden by feathers, they're very keenly tuned hearing instruments. But hearing well, for a barn owl, doesn't begin with the ears. The barn owl's excellent hearing relies on the amazing design features God used to make the owl's face and head.

A barn owl's face is divided down the middle by a ridge of feathers that splits the face into two sound-collecting dishes. Sound waves collected in these facial dishes are directed by the feathers toward the ears. The left ear, which points downward, is located higher on the owl's face than the right ear, which tilts upward. This remarkable design makes it possible for a flying owl to instantly pinpoint the exact location of a mouse on the ground below it.



Do it!

Pray that God will increase your faith and help you to always and quickly obey His Word. Then, when you hear the word of God, believe it, and act on it immediately while the impression is still strong on your heart.

Think about it.

To be a good hunter, a barn owl only has to believe what its ears tell it about its prey and then act on that information without delay. The Reformers taught that anyone who has faith and believes in Jesus will be saved (*sola fide*).

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



Honouring a life of service through “the little things”

This Little Light of Mine



Ron Sydenham

Ron and Nicole Sydenham have made a lasting impact on Burman University in countless ways. Growing up, I always looked forward to Pastor Ron's sermons, loving the moments when he would make a joke to Nicole in the audience, and the two of them would share a laugh with the congregation. But it's not just the humour and cheerfulness these two so easily radiate that has affected the Hilltop. An entire book could be written about the journey that they are sharing, but until it's written, we'll share a few highlights.

RON AND NICOLE BOTH GREW UP IN MONTRÉAL, QUE., were raised in the Catholic Church, and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the summer of 1979. Just a few months after their baptism, Ron felt the call to be a pastor. The two of them packed up and moved to study on our very own campus in Lacombe, Alta. After graduating in 1983, they accepted a call to the Weyburn-Estevan District in Saskatchewan. From there, they moved to Andrews University, where Pastor Ron enrolled in the Master of Divinity Program.

Now, it is important to note that according to Pastor Ron, ministry is a “ream approach.” While he was attending Andrews, Nicole was selling Tupperware and supporting their family of six. When Ron graduated from the program, their family moved back to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference to pastor in the Rosethorn, Prince Albert, and Shellbrook District until 1988, when he was ordained. That same year they accepted a call to the Quebec Conference. In 1992 they transferred to the Henderson Highway Church in Winnipeg. In 1998, 15 years after he graduated from CUC, they made their way back to Lacombe, accepting the call to pastor the College Heights Church and blessing us with over 18 years of friendship, mentorship, and love.

Pastor Ron would sum up the theme of their ministry as the importance of “the little things.” He tells the story about the power of seemingly small gestures based on an exchange he had in a lounge of the Salt Lake City Airport on a Sunday. As Pastor Ron was waiting for his plane, a man walked up to him and said, “Aren't you Pastor Ron from College Heights Church?” Surprised, he said yes, and the man, who turned out to be a pastor from British Columbia, expressed his appreciation for a book Pastor Ron had recommended in a previous sermon. At that moment, Pastor Ron realized just how powerful the little things are and just how much potential College Heights had, and still has, to positively affect the worldwide community.

The most powerful testimony to the theme of their ministry is the effect that “this little light of theirs” has had on the students of Burman University. Ron is often described as “the pastor who encouraged me to stay in the church,” and he is cherished for his “love and passion in seeing young adults succeed in their own unique ways.”

Rea-Anna Walters, a current Burman student, recalls: “When Pastor Ron came down from the pulpit, he never hesitated to engage in personal conversations with people; he is a pastor who closed the gap between a leader and a friend.”

So, thank you, Pastor Ron and Nicole, for sharing your ministry through “the little things”; it has touched our lives in a big way. ■

Jacqueline McCarty graduated from Burman University in May 2016

Dave's 90th birthday party fell on a hot summer day. Family and friends, stuffed with food and cake, sought our shade as they gathered at the front of the family farm house, anticipating the coming surprise. Bees buzzed in the garden, and a breeze rustled the wheat fields as they whispered and waited. Dave stood, a little bewildered, hands in the pockets of his old Levi's, a toothpick in the corner of his mouth, and his dusty, worn John Deere cap shading his eyes. From around the back, they heard, "puckita, puckita, puckita ... bang!" A moment later, a rusty, old tractor chugged around the side of the house—and a huge smile spread across Dave's face.

As a surprise, Dave's grandson had revived one of the old John Deere tractors in the yard. The young man invited his granddad to take the wheel, so Dave climbed up into the metal seat, engaged the clutch, and drove several laps around the yard, smiling and waving at his guests.

Dave had been a farmer all his life. His father and his father's father had tilled the same land that Dave's son and grandson now work. Dave and his family knew the importance of agriculture and the hard work it required.

God has blessed this family. While Dave considers himself a simple farmer, in worldly terms he is a wealthy man. Like a good CEO, Dave surrounded himself with people knowledgeable in areas that he was not. Estate planning for farm owners can be complex. Dave wanted to be fair. Some of his children are interested in farming, while others are not—and therein lay the challenge of putting his affairs in order.

Because the farm had been in the family for so long, there

were valuable mineral rights attached to the property and the gravel onsite fetched a good price. All this had to be considered. Beyond his family, Dave also wanted to leave some of his estate to church affiliates like Burman University. With the help of good lawyers, accountants, and individuals at the Alberta Conference Planned Giving department, Dave was able to create a legacy with which he was happy.

Dave wanted to provide Burman University with ongoing contributions. This could be done in several ways, but in the end, Dave chose a Donor Advised Fund (DAF).

A DAF is like setting up a personal charity without the setup costs and a board of directors, or having to write bylaws or apply for a charitable number. Through third parties, most of this is done for you. Initially, the DAF—called "Dave's Family Foundation"—was funded by Dave. He received a donation receipt for his lump sum contribution, after which the fund paid out a yearly amount to Burman University. To provide for these annual payments, the money in the fund is professionally invested.

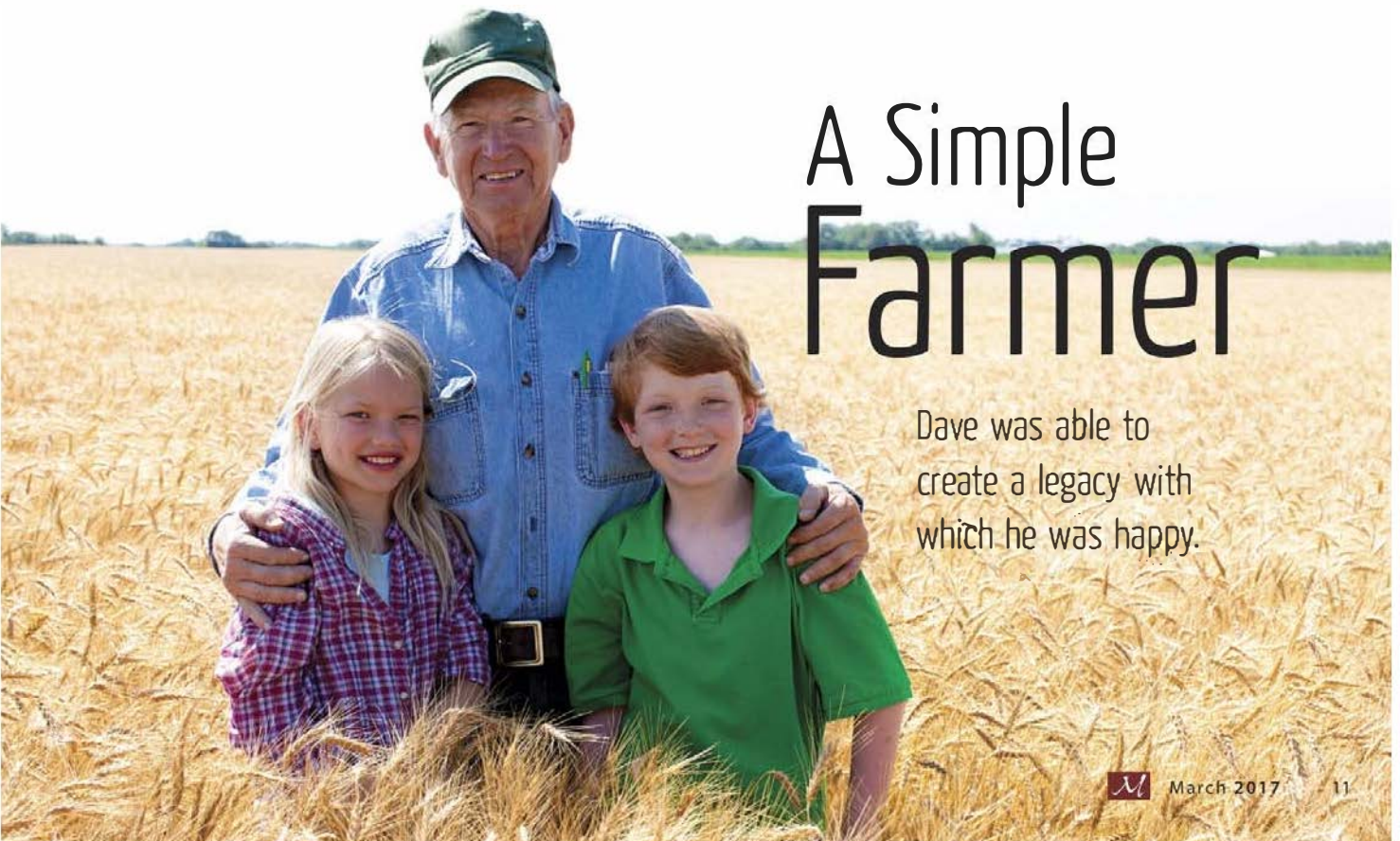
Anyone can contribute additional funds to "Dave's Family Foundation" and receive a donation receipt for each year they give. When Dave passes away, his kids will decide where the annual payouts will go.

The day Dave finalized his estate plan, he was as happy as he was the day of his 90th birthday party, when his old tractor rounded the corner of his farmhouse whilst his family and closest friends watched and smiled along with him. ■

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

A Simple Farmer

Dave was able to create a legacy with which he was happy.



Where Are They Now



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

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



Herb and Lorraine Larsen

Messenger: *Tell me about your childhood.*

Herb Larsen Sr.: My parents were missionaries in China, where my father was the publishing director. I, along with my two brothers, were born in the Shanghai Sanitarium and Hospital. My mother was a registered nurse and worked with Dr. Harry Miller. He was founder of the hospital and established a strong medical presence in China. He was known as the "China Doctor" and was also the inventor of the soy milk industry. General and Madame Chiang Kai-shek were regulars of the sanitarium.

Following that, we moved to northern China to Muckdon. It was in this city that my two brothers and I would sit in our attic and look out a dormer window and watch as the Japanese Zeros bombed the city below. Because of the war, we were forced to move back to Shanghai, where we were eventually rescued by the US marines and shipped to the Philippines and eventually to the United States.

M: *What brought you to Canada?*

H: Shortly after marrying my high school sweetheart, Lorraine Schneider, I was drafted into the army and served as a medic during the Korean War. After serving my term, I was discharged from the Fort Lewis army base in Tacoma, Wash. Lorraine's father, a piano tuner and music business owner, and her mother made the radical decision to move from Wisconsin to British Columbia. We decided to join them in their move in the fall of 1955, settling in Prince George.

At that point in Canada's history, the immigration process involved simply showing up at the border, filling out some paperwork, going to the old Abbotsford hospital for chest X-rays, and the next day we became Canadian Landed Immigrants. My brother-in-law, Arnie, and I formed and operated the Schneider & Larsen Construction

Co. out of Prince George in the summertime and Southern California, Loma Linda, and Los Angeles areas during the winter.

M: *What brought you to CUC to study theology?*

H: While we lived in Prince George, an evangelist named John Holstein came to conduct meetings and asked if I would join him in running the meetings. During this time of my life, I had been feeling the tug to give my life to God and enter the ministry. Pastor Holstein strongly encouraged me to go to Canadian Union College and study for the ministry. Shortly after that, I gave in to God's calling, and we, along with our three active boys, Herb Jr., Don, and Greg, moved to Lacombe.

After four years of poverty and struggle, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology on May 31, 1964. On the very day I graduated, we received a call from Phillip Moores, then president of the Alberta Conference, to join the pastoral team. But before we began serving, the conference chose to send us to Andrews University, where I graduated with a Master of Arts on May 29, 1966.

M: *Where and in what positions have you served the church?*

H: We began our pastoral duties as a district pastor for the Stettler, Sedgwick, Loyalist, and Hanna churches. Pastoring those four churches and their wonderful members remains a highlight in my life until today. In 1968 we were invited to join the Alberta Conference office as Lay Activities, Sabbath School, and Communication Department Director. Thus began a long and exciting relationship with Tony Kaytor, who became a kindred spirit for church visioning and asset development as we undertook many church-related building projects to broaden the work of the conference.

My next assignment was as the lay activities director for the Washington Conference. After two years Elder Kaytor, then president of the BC Conference, called us to join the team as conference secretary. In 1981 we received a call to serve as president of the Alberta Conference. Upon acceptance, I, along with the excellent leadership of John Howard, started the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Alberta, which later moved to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) in Oshawa and became ADRA Canada. Evangelism remained my passion while serving in Alberta, with the desire to see lost souls find relevance in Jesus; that desire was the fuel that kept me passionate about serving our church. After serving as president of Alberta for seven years, in 1987 we were called to serve as executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference in Berrien Springs, Mich., until we retired in 1999.

M: *As a former builder tell me about your involvement in construction in your ministry.*

H: By combining strong vision with aggressive development, I felt it a humble privilege to be involved in the

development of many projects, including the following: in Alberta, the Sherwood Park Nursing Home in Edmonton as well as Foothills Camp; in Yellowknife, N.W.T., the church and gymnasium, a project made possible by a group of many of my pilot friends called Maranatha Flights International; at the BC Conference, I assisted in the building of the Whitehorse, Y.T., church and in the building of a beautiful church and medical office in Prince Rupert, B.C. With the great financial support, volunteer labour, and trades support of our BC Conference church members, the beautiful Camp Hope was constructed. These are some of the projects God chose to use my experience as a contractor/builder.

M: *What brought you the greatest joy in your ministry?*

H: The privilege I have had to serve my church in whatever capacity God chose to use me was simply the most fulfilling experience I could have ever used my life for. I would have to say that probably my greatest joy and privilege came from being directly involved in evangelism. Through my entire service to the church, it has been my goal to be a soul winner to whomever I come in contact with. As part of that passion, I made it a point to conduct at least one public evangelistic campaign per year throughout my entire ministry. To observe, firsthand, lost souls discovering Jesus was the catalyst I needed to give me the energy, direction, and vision to engage in the rest of the internal church work. These evangelistic campaigns also gave me the opportunity to appreciate and associate with the pastors and to gain perspective in what they were experiencing in their everyday ministry.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

H: I was so blessed to have such a wonderful wife as Lorraine. She was extremely talented in music, art, and every avenue of creativity. She tirelessly laboured beside me, most of the time without pay, since she believed in the calling. We had three sons. Herb Jr. and Tammy have two adult sons. Ashley and Spencer; Don and Laura have two married daughters, Taylor and Camille; and Greg has a son, Shane, and a daughter, Serena.

M: *Where are you now?*

H: After 60 years of marriage, I lost my beloved Lorraine to cancer on Sept. 4, 2013, and have since continued our retirement routine of dividing my time between living in our Desert Hot Springs, Calif., residence during the winter months, returning to our permanent home in Abbotsford for a couple of springtime months before heading off to our cabin on Francois Lake, B.C., for the summer months. I then come home to Abbotsford for the fall to be near my children and grandchildren. As opportunities come, I still preach and give Bible studies. I attempt to stay physically active with daily walks plus golfing nearly every day in Desert Hot Springs. ■

Challenges and rewards mark eight-month Adventure to Bolivia



Cecilia, one of the young mothers at the orphanage, and student missionary Mikelle Wile plant lettuce in the garden located in front of Fundación El Sauce orphanage. Wile has Cecilia's two-month-old baby on her back.



Joshua Bradburn got to know Emanuel, who was orphaned at a young age. Emanuel, now nine, and five other orphaned boys came with Bradburn to Fundación El Sauce after their orphanage shut down.

High in the foothills of Bolivia's Andean Mountains, two young volunteers lived an adventure helping children. Mikelle Wile of Yellowknife, N.W.T., and Joshua Bradburn of Tillamook, Ore., friends from Lacombe's Burman University, volunteered at orphanages in this South American country from September 2015 to May 2016.

After doing their own fundraising, the pair received logistical support through A Better World Canada (ABW) and Burman University so their plans would run smoothly. There were challenges at the outset—from having to take on different responsibilities once they arrived to disciplining appropriately and trying to communicate in Spanish.

Instead of teaching English, both assumed a greater parental role. Wile became a “house parent” to six girls and two boys at Fundación El Sauce, located near a tiny village and three hours from the city of Santa Cruz. Bradburn found himself cooking, gardening, and looking after other duties to help house parents at the orphanage where he stayed.

Wile learned most of Fundación El Sauce's children had either been abandoned or taken by government authorities because of neglect. Some were very young mothers who had become pregnant as a result of incest. “The hardest thing was that I wanted to give so much to the kids, and I saw that they had a great need,” said Wile, 21. “They had gone through a lot of trauma. You were wondering if you were helping them enough.”

Wile taught hymns and “silly songs” to lift the children's spirits. The volunteers took the 26 children on a short vacation to east Bolivia. Wile said she experienced loneliness after fellow Burman University student Kaylic Copeland returned to Canada after

two months. Wile's faith in God grew; she was impressed to call on Him with any concerns she had.

Three German women came to volunteer, and so did Bradburn, who brought along six boys after the orphanage where he stayed had closed because of financial difficulties. While at both orphanages, Bradburn typically got up at 5:30 a.m. for some quiet time and then worked until about 11 p.m.

“There is so much need in the world, and if those opportunities could be presented to youth, I think they'd be more willing to step up and get involved,” said Bradburn, 21. He said Burman University leaders were proud to send them as student missionaries so they could live out their faith through active service. The biology student said this is the way he wants to live his life now and in his future career.

Wile also discovered her passion. The Andrews University student is now taking social work instead of education. “When we were in Bolivia, we really felt we were doing something really purposeful,” she said. A Better World Canada encourages youth participation so they will become lifelong humanitarians.

“We are developing these volunteers and giving them opportunities to understand the world and giving them hands-on experiences about poverty, lack of clean water, and so on,” said ABW co-founder Eric Rajah.

A Better World helps individuals with disabilities who have no homes or families to go to. Various projects, including agricultural ones, are helping this group in Bolivia. ■

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

Communicating Stewardship to Seekers

I recently visited a church that is known for reaching the community. Approximately 30 percent of their weekly attendance is composed of seekers. Seekers are people who don't identify as Christians but would likely self-identify as curious and in search of the values taught by Jesus. During the offering call, it was announced, "If you are visiting for the first time, please feel free to let the offering basket pass by you." On another occasion, during the offertory, it was mentioned, "If you are visiting and wondering why the offering is being taken, this has nothing to do with you. This is a responsibility of our members."

My heart sunk as I witnessed this "free pass" being explained from the pulpit. I was saddened because I was the one responsible. I had taught this church, about 15 years ago, to lower the expectations of giving tithes and offering for visitors. The research at that time, and still today, suggested that seekers feel like the church is after their money. Tele-evangelists and current pop culture has portrayed preachers as money-hungry religious charlatans. As a result, seeker-sensitive churches have downplayed the offering so as not to make seekers feel uncomfortable.

Over the years, however, my opinion on this matter has changed practically and theologically. Giving is an act of worship. Think about all of the examples in the Bible depicting and describing worship. In almost every account, the act of offering is an integral part of worship. Can you imagine if we were to discontinue holding

the morning prayer on Sabbath morning? Just as prayer is an essential element of worship, so, too, is giving. Here are some practical ways to convey the importance of tithes and offerings while remaining seeker sensitive.

Reframe Worship as Evangelism

Even though all creation was designed to worship God, the act of sin has denigrated in our natural inclination to honour God. Every element in worship, including giving, is an opportunity for the seeker to observe, learn, and participate. Just as a seeker learns to pray by observation, so, too, must they learn to give.

Use Consistent Spiritual Language to Frame Giving

There has been a movement toward using secular words like *donations* and *nonpro fit* to help the seeker learn how the church operates. While this can be helpful to the unchurched, I would recommend adopting language that is both understandable while simultaneously teaching stewardship. Instead of saying, "Thank you for donating to the church fund," say, "Thank you for giving back to God through your finances." Instead of saying, "Feel free to let the offering plate pass you by," say, "One of ways you can participate in worship today is by giving

financially to our mission of reaching our community."

Keep the Offering Appeal and Process Under 90 Seconds

It is true that seekers are wary of financial giving; they are especially uncomfortable with how long the offering appeal can last. Keep the appeal to under 30 seconds. Most people have a church bulletin to inform them when the offering is going to take place. This is not the time to tell a cute, humorous story. Rather, this is a vital time to convey the mission of the church. Consider having a good news report shared while the offering is being taken up by a person whose life has been changed because of the ministry of your local church. ■

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



Missionary Kids



Jewel and one of her five chameleons.



Left to right: Jewel Aguilar, Gina and Carla Moroni, and Karen Glassford in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

When my parents received the official “call sheet” from the General Conference, my mind rapidly flew through images of me living in Africa—pumping water, owning animals, getting a nice tan, and helping as much as I could with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). However, the transition from Canada to Uganda wasn’t easy, especially for a 15-year-old.

Had we made this transition without any help, I can tell you honestly that I would have persuaded my parents to send me back to beautiful British Columbia. I was terribly missing my friends and my amazing school. I love Vancouver because it is such a multicultural city. In Ugandan markets, I sometimes hear children pointing at us or calling us “Mzungus” (which means “foreigner” or “white skinned”) or “China man”! I felt different and out of place.

I thought my homesickness would fade away with time. I was mistaken. I began to miss my friends so badly. I wanted to tell them about my experiences in Uganda, but I was hesitant to appear annoying or needy. The transition and move made me introverted; I started hiding my real feelings and having troubling mood swings. It was at this low point when God sent us to the GC Institute of World Mission (IWM) in Chiang Mai, Thailand!

At IWM, I learned how to effectively deal with the challenges of adapting to new situations, working in new cultures, and cross-cultural training. IWM taught us Missionary Kids (MKs) about our crucial part in the mission field and how we fit in the culture we are called to serve.

IWM also helped me realize that all the emotions I experienced were completely normal! My troubling mood swings were the “transition phase” in the life of a missionary. In the Teens Class, our teacher, Mrs. Glassford, taught us about the Transition Bridge and identified three phases:

The first phase is *Home* (friends and identity): I’m at home (and comfortable) and secure. The second phase is *Goodbyes* (packing for the mission field and unknown expectations). In this phase I had to say my goodbyes to my friends and experienced much insecurity, confusion, uncertainty, and just pure sadness. I entered the second phase when we arrived in Uganda on October 21 and remained stuck there for three months. The third phase is *New Home* (observing, asking questions, learning the new language). In this phase, I should start to settle in and get comfortable with the environment and culture. This is where I can say, “This is my *new* home. I belong here, and I have friends here.”

I was so relieved to know that I wasn’t the only one going through these troubling mood swings! All MKs and TCKs (Third-Culture Kids) experience the same thing! Why? Because we were all stuck in the second phase!

IWM was such a God-given blessing. I was at my lowest when I left for Chiang Mai. But God sent me two fun-loving MK friends, Gina and Carla Moroni (missionaries to Mexico), who lifted my heart and made me laugh for the first time in five months! IWM was such an amazing experience. I felt understood. I felt special. I felt empowered to do more for Jesus. I felt affirmed; I am part of God’s work in Africa. I’d like to thank the General Conference for offering the IWM to missionary kids around the world.

After three weeks with the IWM, I am now back in Uganda with my family. My dad just went up north to the refugee settlements where ADRA is working, my mom is in a planning session with the Uganda Union Health Department, and I am with my two younger siblings, trying to catch some grasshoppers to feed our five chameleons.

I can’t wait to see what God has prepared for me to accomplish in Uganda. *Mukama Mulungi* (God is Good)! ■

Jewel Aguilar is the eldest child of Charles and Betty Aguilar.

What Do We Really Pray For?

"Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him."

Someone once said to me that if the Bible is the Word of God, then it is an expression of the mind of God. Therefore, the ideas and concepts are from an infinite mind, and thus, the Bible is inexhaustible—in other words, we can never reach a point of exhaustively knowing the thoughts that God had when He inspired the writers.

A fascinating subject in the Bible is prayer. Jesus Himself even gave a model prayer to study and follow. What is the purpose of prayer, really? A classic definition is found in the book *Steps to Christ*: "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him."¹

I admit I had read this statement many times, but I had never stopped to compare the contents of my prayers with the objectives Ellen White's statement expresses. I was impressed by Romans 8:26: "Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." This surprised me because I do have plenty of material to pray for.

We have plenty to pray for: our salvation, our families, our children, our plans, our finances, our health, our communities, our countries, and many other issues in our lives. Job told his friends that "man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). We are invited to bring these trials and tribulations to Jesus, for He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28–30). Paul also affirms this in Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

But when we pray, do we focus on being brought up to receive God, or are we merely seeking relief from our troubles? In Matthew 6:33, 34, Jesus makes the call, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow."

There we have it! The temporal needs that occupy the bulk of our prayer time should not be of major concern to us. We are still to bring them to the Lord, but these should not be the priority. If we look at the context of Philippians 4, Paul is really talking about the work of evangelism (see verses 1–5), and in John 14:12, Jesus talked about "greater works" that the disciples were to do in preaching the gospel to every creature (see Col. 1:23).

With this in mind, we ought to change our prayer agenda by first pleading with the Holy Spirit to guide us on what we *ought* to pray for and, secondly, to focus on evangelism: The gospel must be preached to the whole world as a witness. Lastly, we need to stay focused on and understand the real reason for prayer—which is to be raised to receive God—not just to obtain relief from our troubles. ■

Nyasha Mukura is the prayer coordinator for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.



barry's blog

"Disagreement and discomfort with the views of others is unavoidable in a free and democratic society."

Part Two of a Two-Part Series

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

Last month I introduced the Nov. 1, 2016, decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal that ruled 5–0 against the Law Society of British Columbia's (LSBC) refusal to accept Trinity Western University's (TWU) School of Law. The LSBC refused to accredit the school because of TWU's admissions requirement that students sign a Community Covenant Agreement (CCA). The CCA expected students to agree not to engage in sexual activity unless it was within the marriage relationship of one man and one woman. This month I review the court's analysis of the LSBC's impact on religious freedom.

IMPACT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Court of Appeal noted that the LSBC's decision had a "detrimental impact" "on TWU's right to religious freedom" and it "is severe."¹ Denying accreditation to the TWU School of Law would mean that TWU graduates would not be recognized

and TWU's religious freedom rights as an institution would be significantly affected, as it could not open the law school.

IMPACT ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION EQUALITY RIGHTS

INEQUALITY OF ACCESS TO LAW SCHOOL

In principle, there is discrimination of LGBTQ students in TWU's CCA. To comply with the CCA, LGBTQ students would either have to lie in their application to the law school and sacrifice deeply held aspects of their lives or face disciplinary action, including expulsion. However, the impact must be considered in context and concretely. There was no evidence that TWU law school would impede access to law school and the legal profession for LGBTQ students.

LAW SOCIETY ENDORSEMENT OF THE COVENANT

The court rejected the argument that the law society would be

deemed to have endorsed TWU's views if it approved TWU. "If regulatory approval is to be denied based on the state's fear of being seen to endorse the beliefs of the institution or individual seeking a license, permit, or accreditation, no religious faculty of any kind could be approved. Licensing of religious care facilities and hospitals would also fall into question." The court further said:

[185] State neutrality is essential in a secular, pluralistic society. Canadian society is made up of diverse communities with disparate beliefs that cannot and need not be reconciled. While the state must adopt laws on some matters of social policy with which religious and other communities and individuals may disagree (such as enacting legislation recognizing same-sex marriage), it does so in the context of making room for diverse communities to hold and act on their beliefs. This approach is evident in the Civil Marriage Act, S.C. 2005, c. 33 itself, which expressly recognizes that "it is not against the public interest to hold and publicly express diverse views on marriage."

IMPLICATIONS OF THIS CASE

The BC Court of Appeal's decision is a major breakthrough for the cause of TWU's accreditation battle. Two other provincial courts of appeal have ruled in similar situations. In Nova Scotia, the Court of Appeal ruled against the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society on administrative law grounds.² In Ontario, the Court of Appeal ruled in favour of The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) on the basis that the LSUC only had to consider the religious freedom rights of TWU and that whatever decision it made would be reasonable. The Ontario Court also agreed that the offensive TWU CCA was evidence of that reasonable decision.

However, the BC Court of Appeal decision rejected the Ontario decision and noted that a decision maker must deal with the infringement of a Charter right not on the basis of feelings. "While there is no doubt that the Covenant's refusal to accept LGBTQ expressions of sexuality is deeply offensive and hurtful to the LGBTQ community, and we do not in any way wish to minimize that effect," said the Court, "there is no Charter or other legal right to be free from views that offend and contradict an individual's strongly held beliefs, absent the kind of hate speech described in *Wharcott* that could incite harm against others." Further, it said, "Disagreement and discomfort with the views of others is unavoidable in a free and democratic society."

The BCCA decision means that there have now been 18 judges (six in British Columbia; six in Ontario; six in Nova Scotia) that have heard the TWU case. Twelve of those judges have ruled in TWU's favour. The six who went against TWU were all in Ontario. This is telling. The Ontario courts have adopted the interpretation of the Charter that was publicized by the law deans in a letter to the Federation. Law dean Bill Flanagan's letter stated, "Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unlawful in Canada and fundamentally at odds with the core values of all Canadian law schools."³ There was no acknowledgement of the necessary religious exemptions of generally applicable law. This has resulted in what William Galston calls "civic totalitarianism."⁴ The law deans were willing to brook no other view of discrimination but their own. Five members of the BC judiciary have rejected the elite view of constitutional law. That is sobering. Up until now, the deans and their faculty have controlled the narrative on TWU. Not anymore. The BCCA decision can be interpreted to mean that the law dean's view has been reviewed and found wanting.

Iain T. Benson was prescient in an article⁵ published in BC's *The Advocate* three years ago when he chided the law deans stating, "it is wrong in principle to seek to impose one's views on others under the guise of 'liberalism' or 'equality,' both of which should admit of different approaches, depending upon the context." Otherwise, "without context-sensitive exceptions to general rules of equality or discrimination, religious differences and associational liberty would not long exist." The BCCA's view parallels Benson's approach.

The 5-0 holding of BC's highest court is an articulate and substantive ruling on the reasonableness of protecting religious freedom, while, at the same time, ensuring that sexual equality rights are protected and only minimally impaired. It stands as a game changer in this long TWU saga. The Supreme Court of Canada will now have to decide not only between two distinct treatments of TWU's right to accreditation but also between two distinct interpretations of constitutional law. Given the intellectual depth and sound reasoning of this decision, it will go a long way in TWU's favour at the country's highest court. ■

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 At para. 168.

2 See "Religious Freedom and the return of Common Sense in Nova Scotia," *On the Case 17*, The University of Notre Dame, Australia, www.nd.edu.au/sydney/schools/law/on-the-case/on-the-case-issue-17

3 Bill Flanagan, President of the Canadian Council of Law Deans, to the Federation of Canadian Law Societies, November 20, 2012.

4 William Galston, "Religion and the Limits of Liberal Democracy" in D. Farrow, ed., *Recognizing Religion in a Secular Society* (Montreal: McGill-Queens, 2004), 46, 47.

5 Iain T. Benson, Law Deans, Legal Coercion and the Freedoms of Association and Religion in Canada, *The Advocate* 71:5 (September 2013): 671-675.



Photo: Keith Chant

Almost vegan

Spanakopita is one of our favourite treats, but as vegans, how can we enjoy something that uses feta cheese as a key ingredient? The answer is vegan feta, and once we figured out how to make it (see the February 2017 issue of the *Messenger*), the next step was to try making our own spanakopita. After a few attempts, we figured out a recipe that was delicious and hard to distinguish from the real thing.

This recipe works best with fresh spinach, but two packages of frozen spinach may be substituted for the fresh; just thaw and drain before using. ■

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

Spanakopita Squares

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb of fresh spinach leaves, washed
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) dried dill
- 2–2½ cups (500–625 ml) vegan feta
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 package vegan phyllo sheets
- olive oil for brushing (about ½ cup/125 ml)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a large saucepan, heat the two tablespoons of olive oil, add onion, and sauté until starting to brown.
- Add garlic and sauté one more minute.
- Add dill and spinach and cook until spinach is wilted and mixture is mostly dry.
- Add crumbled feta, balsamic vinegar, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Cook until heated through.
- In a greased 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish, place a sheet of phyllo, brush with olive oil, and repeat, using half the phyllo sheets. Spread spinach and feta mixture over base, then add remaining layers of phyllo, brushing each layer with olive oil.
- Using a sharp knife cut into two-inch squares. Bake at 350°F for 45–50 minutes; should be golden brown on top.
- Remove from oven and let rest 20–30 minutes before removing from pan and serving.

Eagles

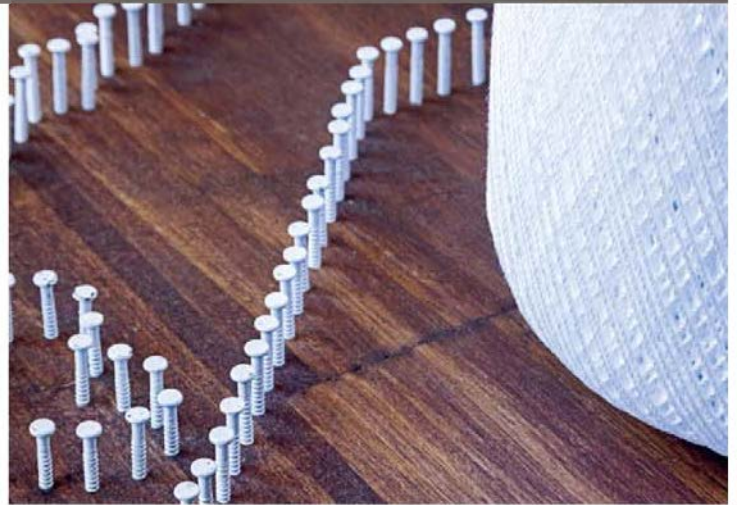


The Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) office received a huge package in the mail about a year ago. Upon opening the contents, we discovered a lovely piece of art work in a style not seen very much these days: a giant eagle done entirely in string art. This had clearly taken the artist hours and hours to complete. The kind gift had come all the way from a small town in Quebec, a gift from a VOAR listener who simply wanted to bless the station.

Just recently, after hearing VOAR promoting the Discover Bible School on the air, that same listener, Rick, called the station to request a copy. He owns a small fishing lodge in Quebec and is smitten by the outdoors. Rick lives in an area in Kipawa and pilots a small plane from time to time.

We talked about his work with string art, and Rick confessed he simply gives them away to different charities raising money, or groups that he'd like to bless. On cold winter evenings, he will work away at his desk, with VOAR keeping him company for the night. When he heard the offer to study the Bible, he knew he had to accept God's call. "Step one!" he told me.

Rick listens to VOAR over Bell Satellite TV. Even though he's living in a wilderness area, he's never lonely with VOAR



ministering to him around the clock. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will impress the truth on Rick's heart and that VOAR will continue to build relationships with our listeners and that 2017 will be a tremendous year of blessing and spiritual growth. ■

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



Rebecca Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky AT THE BETHEL CHURCH
IN ONTARIO

In one word, tell me about Jesus.

Stella Henry: Loving.

Sanique Smith: Magnificent.

Monique Parver: Miraculous.



interview

SAMSARA ARBOITE

Consecrated to the Lord

Samsara Arboite is a 10-year-old girl
who received a vocal gift early in life.



She was born in New York to two Haitian parents. They chose her name based on two illustrious individuals in the Bible: the prophet Samuel and Sarah, Abraham's wife. Just as Samuel and the judge Samson were, Samsara was consecrated to the Lord before birth and presented to the temple afterwards. Her parents wanted to establish a devotional pattern from the outset so that she could have a strong spiritual foundation. Their efforts bore fruit quickly. At the age of two, Samsara started to pray and sing spiritual hymns everywhere in the house. Her father, Samson Arboite, started to teach and orient her so that she could sing on various occasions. At the age of four, Samsara performed a solo for the very first time in public at the Bethesda Seventh-day Adventist Church in Montreal.

Having passed this vital step in her development, Samsara was ready to receive further instruction. First, her father gave her piano, singing, and musical notation lessons. Then he had her taking classes with other experts in those specific disciplines. Thus, Samsara became a singer who glorifies God through her songs. Having acquired vocal abilities, she can sing various styles of songs and in different languages. Also, thanks to her strong memory, she can learn and master songs very quickly.

That being said, her greatest quality is not in her amazing artistic talent, but in her noble character. When she was only eight, she approached her parents and presented her fourfold vision to use her gift for God: to aid children living in developing countries; to support other children who possess a vocal gift, through bursaries for their vocal or musical instrument lessons; to launch a Gospel album; and to build or acquire Seventh-day Adventist churches in Quebec and other parts of the world with the funds from various concerts. Despite her busy schedule, she has happily accepted to take a moment to answer a few questions concerning her life and ministry.

J: How important is your family to you?

S: Without my family, I would not have succeeded so well and be so good in the areas of songs, music, and academics.

J: Where do you go to school?

S: I attend the Montessori Ville-Marie School in Montreal.

J: What motivated you to become a singer? When did you sense that this was what God was calling you to do?

S: When I was little, I used to sing everywhere in the house: in the bathroom, in my room, etc. My dad saw in me a future artist. Consequently, he took the time to give me some voice and piano lessons and got me to take singing and piano classes from other teachers. Later he arranged for me to sing in different Adventist churches and in various programs like galas, weddings, and concerts for some hospital foundations.

I personally felt the call when I was eight, but I started to sing at major events since the age of 4.

J: In your opinion, what is the link between singing and the gospel message?

S: There is a strong relationship between singing and evangelism. By way of song, we can reach many people and bring them to Christ. Some folks are attracted only to songs. If a preacher or a Bible worker comes to them, they would be more reluctant to respond favourably, whereas they would be more willing to be influenced by songs.

J: Samsara, can you tell us how your spiritual values have shaped your ministry?

S: I am a child blessed by God because before birth, Leduc Pierre-Louis, the consecrated elder, doctor in theology, vice-principal, and teacher at Greaves Academy, dedicated me to the Lord according to my parents' wishes. After my presentation at the temple by Pastor Herold Norelus, the same elder did another consecration prayer on my behalf at the Mont Sinai Church. On both occasions my parents gave a thanksgiving offering to the Lord.

J: Tell us how God uses you as an instrument to reach others?

S: God uses me to reach others through songs, concerts and my upcoming album. I also have a YouTube account and a Facebook page through which many people have said that they have been touched by my songs.

J: What do you think is our church's greatest need?

S: In my opinion, the greatest need of our congregations is to attract people from various cultures and nationalities, to have a more loving church, a better school, a college, a university, and a hospital or a nursing home.

J: To conclude, what message of hope would you like to share?

S: I would like to proclaim that Jesus is our Saviour and that we must share His love by the way we live and reach out to others. Finally, we must tell everybody that the Lord is coming soon. ■

Jean-Michel Lubin is a member of the Béthanie Adventist Church in Montreal, Quebec.

REALLY LIVING IN PERU



► Tony Brown, a volunteer from the community in Hamilton, with two of the kindergarten children in traditional Peruvian dress.



► A young Peruvian boy pitches in to help the Hamilton, Ontario team rebuild the school's bathroom facilities and septic system.

AS CLOSE TO THE SUN AS I HAVE PHYSICALLY BEEN, dust of earth swirls beneath my feet. The altitude is some 3,700 m. The pressure feels heavy in my chest. The arid wind sucks the moisture out of everything. Welcome to the Velille district with a population of 4,000, in Peru. The nearest neighbouring community is on the other side of the mountain, well over an hour away. It is a poor agricultural community where not much grows besides potatoes.

Out of this poverty and isolation, God planted a school, Colegio Adventista Velille. The school is celebrating its second-year anniversary. In just over a year, it has grown from 55 students to 200, and they are hoping to increase enrolment by 100 more students in the next year. I was privileged to be there with a group from Hamilton's Really Living Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our church had not planned to do a humanitarian trip this year. But God had other plans.



► The youngest team member, Jaedyn Townsley, surrounded by the kindergarten children and some of the teachers at the school in Velille.

Really Living is in the process of building our own church. It has been a long, drawn out process, born of big dreams to have a space that would really make a difference in the community. Our mission is to embrace our community with the Adventist message of hope and wholeness. It is our vision to be a Christ-focused centre for teaching and healing of mind, body, and soul. At the core of our values is the desire to be a church that serves both in our local community and around the world. Typically, every two years we partner with one of our Adventist organizations such as Maranatha's One-Day Church and do a global outreach. This was the year to go, but we had decided to forego a trip because of the expense of building our new facility.

But God knows the plans He has for us better than we know our own plans. His are good plans, full of hope, and God was at work behind the scenes to bring them to pass. Through a chance encounter while waiting in line at the grocery store, our team coordinator, Szasza Paz, formed a friendship with Tony Brown and his wife, Laura. Tony is an avid traveller who loves adventure. He heard about past humanitarian trips our church had been involved with and kept asking, "When's the next one going to be? I want to go!" Inspired by his enthusiasm, Szasza started to make some phone calls.

After a lot of prayer and phone calls, Szasza was connected with Pastor Yeison De Ávila, Director of Education for the Adventist Conference in Peru, Misión Sur Oriental del Perú. After reviewing a list of schools and their various needs, Szasza felt that the school in Velille would benefit from our help the most. The poorest and most isolated of the schools, it has many needs, so it was decided that we would build a computer lab as well as update their bathroom and septic system. The school has only two squatting stations for 200 students, so this was to be a priority!

Our initial goal was to raise \$15,000 for these projects. Through various fundraising efforts such as a barbecue, silent auction, and garage sale, as well as generous donations from family, friends, and the community, we were able to raise \$28,000

for the school. We also had many school supplies donated as well as 15 laptops and 10 iPads. I was involved with soliciting donations from local businesses in our community, something I had never done before. It was heartwarming to see the generosity of so many local businesses.

It took nine months of planning and endless Skype calls to coordinate, but finally it all came together. On Oct. 26, 2016, our team of 16 boarded a plane, excited to begin the adventure of a lifetime. We were a multigenerational, multicultural group. The youngest member of the group was 14, and the oldest was 71. Under the banner of our Canadian flag, we represented eight different countries. Five members of our group had never even heard of Adventists before becoming involved with this trip. But for all our apparent differences, we were united in our desire to give our time and talents to this impoverished community and to offer them hope.

The mayor of Velille, who is not Adventist, was so impressed that total strangers would come and help out a school in his community that he paid for our accommodations. He also donated several instruments to the school's music program. With its commitment to excellence in education, and the love they demonstrate to the students (85 percent of whom are not Adventist), the school is making a huge impact on the community. Many families are choosing to send their children here instead of to the government-run school, even though paying tuition is difficult for them. The school is becoming a centre of hope for their surrounding community.

The principal, Eduardo Muñoz Pacco, attributes the success of the school to the power of prayer. We learned that from the time they knew we would be coming, they had been praying for each of us daily by name. There is a mountain behind the school that they call their prayer mountain. Pacco and some of the other faculty and staff make the 40-minute climb to the top several times a week. There they petition God for the many needs of the school, the children, the community. They come down from

the mountain boldly expecting to see the hand of God move in miraculous ways. So far, He has never disappointed.

A highlight of the trip for many of us was our final evening together at the school. We had a feast and worshipped together, singing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” in Spanish, English, and Quechua (the local dialect), as well as singing a Spanish/English version of “How Great is Our God.” It was a small taste of what heaven will be like, and we left there hungry for more of these heaven-on-earth experiences.

We came to offer them hope and to improve their facilities, and while we did accomplish these goals, what we received was far greater than anything we had to offer. We received unconditional love and acceptance, and were shown an example of what it should be like to be part of the family of God here on earth. The children there are taught to respond to “Good Morning” or “Good Evening” with “*Sera como Jesus*,” which means “I will be like Jesus.” The purity and innocence of these children was unlike anything we had ever experienced—evidence that Jesus is very much alive in this place! I felt as if all my broken places were being made whole as I experienced Jesus through their eyes. I felt a new longing to really be in community with others. This is what it means to be the church and to carry Emmanuel, God with us, wherever we go.

When the day came for us to leave Velille, the entire school showed up at our hotel to see us off. They brought us gifts and sang us songs. They promised to continue to pray for each of us individually at specific times during the week. We watched tearfully as the children chased our bus down the street waving goodbye. Nobody wanted to leave.

We were all deeply moved by our time in Velille. Tony had this to say about his experience: “The Velille trip was an emotional one for me. I do like to travel and have been to lots of places, but it was good to feel that I was giving something back this time and not just visiting for my own pleasure. The whole village was so appreciative for what we, the group, were doing. Just amazing!”

Ben, who had heard about the trip while renovating Szasza’s kitchen and bathroom, said, “The trip to Peru has changed my life in that I appreciate the simple things in a totally different way. It was an amazing and emotional experience—out of this world! There are no words to describe it; the love from the people there was unbelievable!”

Ted, who was invited by Ben to come along, recalls an experience that stuck with him. “One morning on my way to the school, I met up with a little girl also walking to school. She was about seven years old. Smiling, she came up beside me and grabbed my hand. She wanted to practise her English with me, so she told me the words for *banana*, then *mango*. Reaching into her pocket she pulled out three pieces of corn to share. She grinned as I popped them into my mouth and thanked her. This encounter really gave me a sense of community and stays with

me. She appreciated what we were doing and that we were no different than her. Remembering her smile inspired me to work harder while I was there.”

The young people involved were impressed by the gratitude and joy the people continuously demonstrated. Meghan said, “We rake materialism and brand names so seriously here, but to them—they don’t care. They have little to nothing, and they are so happy all the time! Everyone was just so kind and loving the whole time!”

The needs of the school are still many. We gave them a computer room, but they don’t have money for desks and chairs, something we didn’t even think about at the time. They also need more computers. Many of the children have to walk for several hours just to get to school and so are in need of bicycles to make the journey a little faster. They are also looking for volunteers to come and teach them English. They continue to petition God for these needs in full confidence that He will supply all their needs and more.

This trip was an important reminder for all of us involved to be intentional about creating community. Ellen White states in *The Ministry of Healing*, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”¹

God has called us all to leave our comfort zones and form meaningful relationships with those around us, whether it be the stranger standing beside us at the grocery store or our neighbour down the street. We don’t have to cross the globe to accomplish God’s work. We just have to show up and pay attention in the space in which He has placed us. He will be faithful in completing the work. ■

Melissa Townsley is a member of Really Living Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hamilton, Ontario. To experience more about our trip, check out our blog at <http://reallyliving.ca/peru>.



► This photo was taken in the computer science lab built by the Hamilton group. It was named after their church: Really Living Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor Yelson De Avila, their co-ordinator in Peru, is sitting in the front.

¹ p. 143.



Madalina Rotaru

Angel in Plain Clothes

It was almost 40 degrees Celsius outside, the hottest day so far in my summer Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) adventure. It was my first summer ever going door to door, and one thing seemed certain: I wasn't having a tremendous amount of success.

On this afternoon I came up to a door and knocked. After a little while, a woman answered. "Hello, my name is Madalina," I said, "and I am a student with Canada Youth Challenge." With that, I launched into my presentation and showed her all the books I had.

The woman was very interested, and when I spoke to her about the book *Peace Above the Storm*, she said she would like to have it.

She invited me into her home, and I was very happy to be out of the heat. "Do you want something to drink?" she asked me. I gladly accepted, and after a little while, she brought me water and the money for the book. Then we began to talk.

*"You are like my angel
that came to me today."*

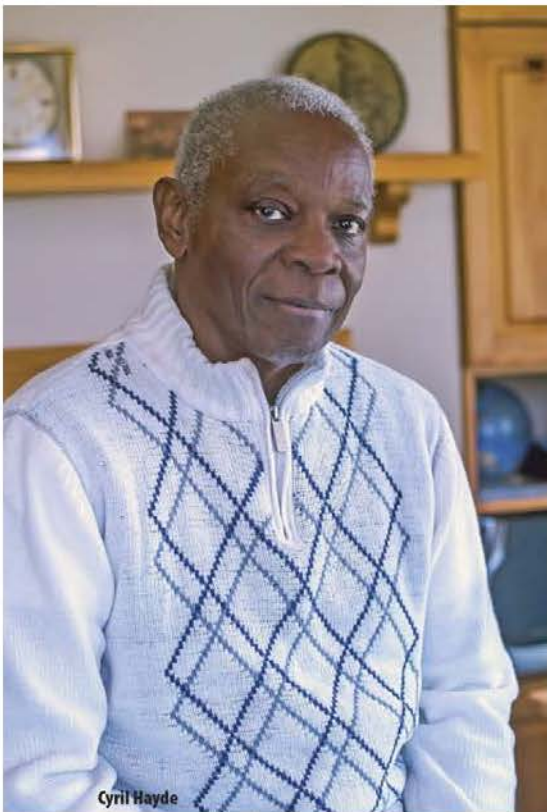
I learned that her husband had just passed away, and she was grieving and felt so sad now that he was gone. Sensing that her sadness was deep, I asked if I could pray with her. It was the first time I had asked anyone to pray in the field that summer. She said yes, and when we bowed our heads, I prayed that God would be with her and would comfort her in this difficult time. I finished and looked up to see tears streaming from her eyes. Looking at me, she said, "You are like my angel that came to me today."

That experience was powerful for me. Here I was, a teenager in plain clothes, and in me this woman had seen a messenger from God. Yet that is exactly what God wants us to be. Hebrews 1:14 describes angels as "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" (NIV). But the word *angel* simply means "messenger," and those who inherit salvation are all those who hear the message of love and accept it.

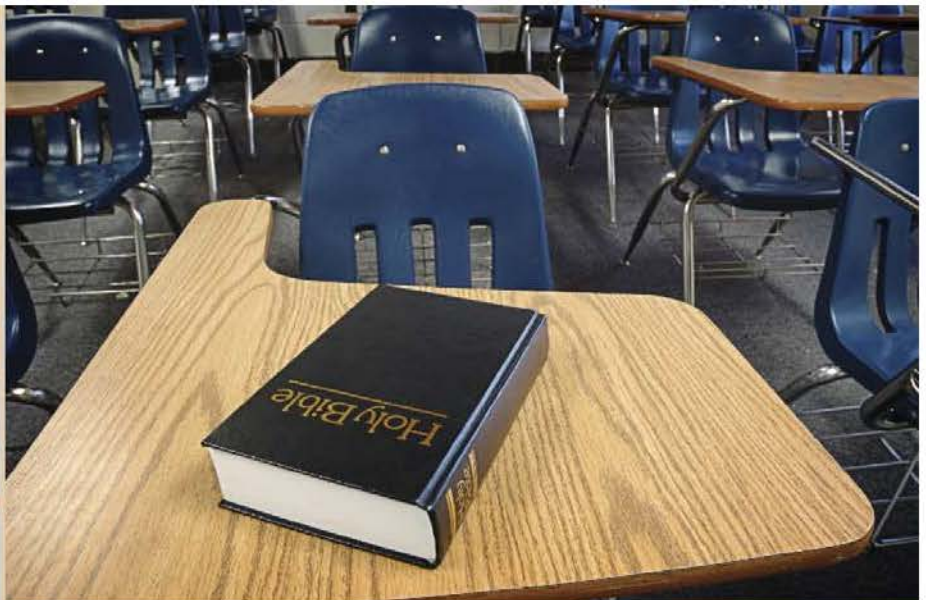
It is true that God sends his heavenly angels as messengers. But he has other messengers, too, the ones made of flesh and blood. We are his plain-clothed angels on earth, sent to bring comfort to a world in need, and an invitation to become inheritors of God's salvation.

In choosing to join CYC this summer, I chose to be God's angel and to allow God to use me to care for others. That, in itself, is the greatest success of all. ■

Madalina Rotaru served as a Literature Evangelist with Lifestyle Canada, a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the SDA Church across Canada.



Cyril Hayde



A Pleasant Surprise!

In 1982 my wife expressed the desire to enrol our five-year-old son in the local Seventh-day Adventist school. I was totally opposed to the idea because, in my mind, church school meant emphasis on religion and not on academics. I had big and lofty plans for my son, and I could not see how this little Adventist school was going to help my child achieve this goal.

I was not a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, and I did not share my wife's beliefs. I knew nothing about their educational system, and I was very skeptical. We had several discussions on the matter, and I was adamant. However, because she was so insistent, I decided one day to go with her to see the principal and to look at the curriculum and the student program. I wanted to prove my point and strengthen my argument against this church school idea.

I was amazed and pleasantly surprised at the principal's attitude toward us, as well as the manners and decorum that teachers as well as students exhibited throughout the school. To top it all, they wore uniforms. I saw students engaged in serious academic exercises and teachers teaching strict curriculum-based material that was pertinent to modern education. The principal showed us the curriculum from kindergarten all the way up to Grade 8, and I swallowed hard. I was so impressed. This happened in the month of March, and by the following September, with much excitement, we enrolled our son in the school.

We were not disappointed as we watched him thrive academically and grow spiritually in his new environment. I had nothing to complain about. All the obstacles that I had initially perceived were completely addressed. Originally, I was concerned about the amount of money to be paid for tuition when he could have received his education for free, but no amount of money could buy what I observed in my child's education. Not just academics but character building and a desire for the spiritual.

My wife's Christian beliefs and standards were affirmed at the school. We had no fear of what might be taught in the classroom. I watched as the church school children consistently tested higher than their public school counterparts. I saw the true value of a Christian education, and because of this, I was led to a closer encounter with the church. In part, it led to my conversion and later my baptism.

Our son graduated from Grade 8, and we wished there was a Seventh-day Adventist high school in our city. The closest one was too far away, but we were not afraid to send him to a public high school here. Our son entered the public system with a firm foundation academically and spiritually. When he was tested upon entering Grade 9, his language/arts skills ranked at the Grade 12 level.

By God's grace, today our son is successfully making his way in life and he is still happily involved in church and its activities. He speaks fondly of his teachers who made a difference in his elementary education. After leaving high school, he attended CUC (now Burman University).

In those early years, I did not understand the difference Christian education could make in a child's life. Today, as a Christian, I do not understand why so many parents who are Christians cannot see that our children deserve the best: a God-centred education.

My message to all parents is that you must consider your children's eternal destiny. Please do not neglect your children's salvation for the things of this earth. Give them the best start ever in life. Give them an Adventist Christian education. ■

Cyril Hayde is presently an elder in Ottawa. He and his wife are very active proponents of Adventist Christian education.

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



“He works in ways we cannot see”

Growing up in an Adventist home, I remember frequently hearing the song “God Will Make a Way” by Don Moen in my home. Only recently have I realized how true one of the lines is: “He works in ways we cannot see.”

Let me start from the beginning.

About two years ago, I graduated from university. I had chosen a profession that, I thought, would leave me with some options. *I can do this particular thing, but if I don't like it, I can also go into that*, I thought. But after graduating, I, along with many in my generation, was at a loss for what I should be doing. I ended up doing small, menial jobs to help my family out.

I took up a freelancing job designing a book for a client. This type of work was something I had studied for and something I was confident I could do. But since this was my first real gig and I had no one to guide me, I made poor decisions concerning my contract. As a result, I worked for months and months for almost nothing but kept telling myself that this project would serve as good experience. Long story short, I appreciated the project, *But never again*, I thought, and *At least I know better now*.

With the help of a friend, I got another job, a stable office job. It wasn't much, but compared to my past experiences, it was practically heaven. At first, I told myself I'd stay a year and then find something to match the thousands of dollars I had spent on education. My friend, on the other hand, was restless; after day two, she wanted something more. Meanwhile, I got so comfortable after a while that I thought staying at that place was the best I could do. I had a routine, a place to go, and that

was just going to be my life.

Now, my church has a tradition of going camping every year. Usually, only members of the church go. However, this particular year a friend of mine, Ashley, came along. I had known her because we both attended Kingsway College for high school. We ran in similar circles, but she had never come to any of our church camping retreats before. Catching up during the trip, we talked about school and work. She told me to apply for the communications assistant position at Kingsway College that she had previously held before returning to university. I didn't know anything about the position. It had already been filled since she left, and she didn't know the next time they would hire again, but she told me that she would let me know if she saw another job. I didn't give it too much thought, because it was unlikely that the job would come up again.

However, a week or two after that, I got a message from Ashley saying the position was open! I immediately sent in my resumé, and obviously it worked out—since I am currently writing this as the communications assistant here at Kingsway.

God had made a way. When I thought everything was settled, when I had settled, God made a way for something better, for me and my family. He gave us a new home in Oshawa. He gave me a job, something that would give me a chance to make a difference and help influence people for the better. ■

Ybb Villegas is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.

MANS Pillars Honoured as New School Walls Delivered

As construction on the new high school building gets underway, Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) took time to reflect on the past and the pillars who have made this ministry possible through decades of changes and expansion.

In a special reception hosted during the annual MANS Open House on November 10, 2016, MANS and the Alberta Conference honoured the vision, hard work, and commitment of those who initiated the first school on the Samson Reserve decades ago and have supported the ministry's growth. These MANS "pillars" include former principals, dedicated board members, and individuals who have been with the school and its ministry from the beginning.

"Without people in the field doing this work, we can't realize this project," Keith Richter, Alberta Conference treasurer, said addressing the guests assembled in the high school portable that will soon be replaced by new, permanent classrooms. "We are grateful for people who are participating and building the ministry up."

The pillars who were honoured were early years' principals Grace and Paul Dara; teacher's aides and later principals Linda Calderbank and Linda Nawalkowski; long-term board chair Ian Hartley; past principal and current Bible worker Bob Spratt and artist Jeanie Spratt; and past principals Juanita Neal and Julie Hodder. These individuals have been integral to the mission of MANS to provide Adventist education among First Nations in Maskwacis. Their contributions not only developed the mission as a whole but also kept the school growing.

"I feel God has abundantly blessed the school," said Grace Dara, who served as the principal of the school in 1984. Since

then she has watched enrolment at the school multiply and community support intensify. "Parents are bringing students to the school because they can see the difference in the behaviours and the character of their children." To Grace and many of the other pillars honoured at the event, the awesome achievements at MANS clearly demonstrate that God is hard at work in the Maskwacis Reserve.

MANS has always been made possible through the collaboration of committed individuals, teachers, staff, and family members—the very name Mamawi Atosketan in Cree means working together. "The reason we can continue at the school is because of what all of you have contributed," current MANS principal, Gail Wilton, said in her thank-you address to the guests. MANS could not stand on its own, she acknowledged, without any of the singular pillars who formed it.

As MANS honoured the past, they also looked to the future: The pillars got the first glimpse of walls for the new high school building. General contractor William Piersanti described the new building as every bit "God's plan, not ours" as he updated guests on how the new high school has expanded far beyond any of the original founder's conceptions. With the continued support of MANS long-term pillars and the surrounding community, there is only more to grow in this plan!

Stay tuned for next month's story on the MANS 2016 Open House and see inside the school for yourself! ■

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

➤➤ Read more about Mamawi Atosketan Native School and how The Bridge Campaign is funding a new high school for First Nations youth at www.MANS1.ca.



Paul and Grae Dara, Irina and Ian Hartley, Jeanie Spratt, Julie Hodder, Bob Spratt, and Linda Nawalkowski honoured as pillars of the MANS project. Each was given a unique beaded artwork from Maskwacis artists to celebrate their contribution and connection to the community.

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"It's a great environment to be open about your beliefs and be who you are."

Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) thrives on a physical campus but is a place of learning built on faith and community connections. Because of her lifelong passion for working toward the success of a team, Gillian Holly fit right in when she came in 2014 for Grade 10. Further, it is because of this same eagerness to give and grow that she is a celebrated senior at PAA today.

Gillian lives with her family just outside Sylvan Lake, Alta., and is a dynamic part of a generational commitment to Adventist education. "Both my parents came to PAA for their high school years, and for them, it was a really big deal to be able to go to an Adventist school. I also watched my brother [Austin Holly, class of 2014] experience his time here and how much fun he had. I always knew I would be coming here too."

Gillian's parents, Glen and Wendy, graduated from PAA (classes of '90 and '92, respectively), and Gillian shares their sentiment that, "PAA offers great opportunities to grow as a person and become independent and learn to rely on your relationship with God."

Having been involved in lots of sports from the time she was young, Gillian was excited to become part of PAA's athletic program. "Before coming here, I grew up on hockey and soccer, playing since I was six years old, first on a boys' team until there were enough girls to have our own team. Sports have always been part of my life, and I looked forward to coming to PAA because I knew I would never have to worry about Sabbath being an issue. I could live my faith freely without judgment. It's a great environment to be open about your beliefs and be who you are."

Throwing herself into life on campus, Gillian has demonstrated what it means to be a team player on the student body. "I've been on the soccer, volleyball, and basketball teams as well as helped out with campus ministries programs and praise teams. Here at PAA there are so many opportunities to be part of lots of different groups. There are a lot of choices to make about how to be involved," she says.

Gillian also serves as the yearbook editor and vice-president for the dorm club while holding office on the Grade 12 executive committee.



With her many commitments and responsibilities, Gillian is a living example of hard work in service to a loved community. "It's so great to see the effect of Adventist education on my classmates who have grown up without the opportunity to know Christ. I can really see how much this affects their lives. I've been blessed to see my friends get baptized and make positive choices to cut out bad things, and I know that this school has a really huge impact on their choices."

Gillian's own choices have led her to join her friend Brooke Severtson, together with their families, in covering PAA with prayer. At the start of the 2016/2017 school year, their mothers organized a prayer appointment for all PAA's employees, and Gillian was glad to be part of the group because she personally knows the power of being prayed for: "It is so important that the teachers at PAA know they have our support," Gillian says. "As a student, it is so nice to know you have someone praying for you, so we wanted to give that to the teachers, too."

Prayer is the spiritual conditioning of the Adventist athlete, and with our faith in the winning team, PAA is committed to training our young people, like Gillian, to see the value and the beauty in the discipline of prayer as they grow in a knowledge of Christ. ■

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



Iesha and Daniel Madden

One Year Down

"I am learning that ministry is not microwavable but it takes time."

I remember the first time I saw a car burnout. It was on the TV show "Top Gear" and I remember being so intrigued by it. The back wheels were spinning out furiously while the engine roared with all of its V8 glory. Once in drive and the hand brake released, the car shot off like a spaceship would go into hyperdrive in a sci-fi movie like Star Trek or Star Wars. It was a thing of beauty when done right and I realized I was that car waiting to speed off. Better yet, all the enthusiastic ministry-driven men and women that seek to be in full-time ministry are that car—wheels spinning, waiting for the green light. Maybe that was the problem; we saw conference employment as the green light to do ministry but that's another article for another time.

Well it's been a year, and what I have learnt as a 24-year-old in full-time ministry is that it is a great calling but also a balancing act. School could not teach us the level of multitasking that is involved in ministry. Even after counseling, church activities, finance meeting, leaders meeting, business meetings, church board meetings, school board meetings and etc., the job is still not nearly over because there is vision planning, sermon preparation, visitation, organizing events and so much more. And to think that I am an associate pastor so needless to say I keep my senior pastor in prayer.

I have also learnt that personal devotion as a pastor is your lifeline. If we do not stay connected to God, we endanger the people to whom we minister and run the risk of becoming like Eli's two sons; working for an almighty life-changing God but remaining unchanged. It is very easy to take spiritual things for granted in full-time ministry because we are always dealing within the realm of "holy" things. Much like the priests in Israel,

who were literally closer to God than the people in courtyard. It is easy for the things of God to become a routine instead of a spiritual experience. So staying close God through personal devotion is a must or you run the risk of treating holy things ordinarily.

I recently asked one of my college deans, "How do I know I'm making a difference?" Thinking about it now, my only thought is, *That's a very millennial thing to ask.* As a millennial, we want to know that we are making a difference. The problem is, we want results fast but it is prideful of me to think I was going to make a difference and change lives forever in just one year. I am learning that ministry is not microwavable but it takes time. It takes time to get to know people before they allow you to lead them spiritually. This why the greatest pastors visit their members because by getting to know them, they are that much closer to leading them spiritually.

More than anything, I have come to internalize what has always been said, "Pastoral ministry is a vocation, not a job." My parents may not specifically have said those words to me, but I have seen it through the way they continue to conduct themselves in ministry. However, it is one thing to observe and understand and another to experience and internalize, the latter has now become my reality. If full-time ministry is just a job then we are being underpaid for all that we do. Now, if it is a vocation then it is an honour to work for and alongside the King of the universe. ■

Daniel Madden is youth pastor at Really Living Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hamilton, Ontario.



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BRIDGE BUILDING



JESUS IS MASTER AT BRIDGE BUILDING! He bridged the great divide that the fall of Adam brought upon us all! He reunites fallen humanity with heaven.

Is it possible for Adventists to build bridges and thus bring about friendships with Muslims? The division between Christians and Muslims seems to be growing ever wider with each passing year, yet God has placed Adventists in a unique position to connect positively with Muslims.

Our faith resonates with Muslims on various levels: God as the Creator of heaven and earth in six days, our emphasis on avoiding pork and alcohol in our diets, our belief that we are living in earth's last hours and in the judgment. These are just a few of the connective links that our biblical faith has with Muslims.

So how do we begin a discussion with Muslims? I suggest we learn the Arabic greeting "*Assalamu Alieikum*." This greeting is nearly universal across Arabic-speaking peoples and one that most Muslims use. It means, "May peace be upon thee."

Recently, our family flew to Houston, Tex., to attend an annual event called Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), which brings together thousands of youth from the Adventist Church. I had arranged for a friend to meet us at the airport, but he informed me that he was stranded in Wyoming because of a snow storm. My next option was to call a taxi. It was about 5:30 a.m.

As I approached the cab driver, I noticed that he was from the Middle East. So I greeted him in Arabic. "*Assalamu alieikum!*"

He answered, "*Wa alieikum asalam*" ["And may peace be upon thee"]. Who are you?" he asked.

I said, "We are Seventh-day Adventists, and we don't eat pork or consume alcohol. We worship one God, don't worship with

images, believe in the resurrection and that we are living in the last days, and we are followers of *Isa al-Masih* [Jesus the Messiah]!"

This was all new to him, and for the next 40 minutes, we had a most delightful discussion. Then he asked me, "So is Jesus the son of God?"

This can be a landmine that may either make or break a continued friendship. I responded with, "I read the Qur'an, and it tells me that Jesus was born of a virgin and that he was holy or righteous from birth."

He paused to think a few moments and then affirmed that, yes, it does say that. He then moved on to a different subject. So I had passed the first major hurdle. We actively discussed the great judgment theme, and he affirmed to me that Muslims fear the judgment and that it causes such anxiety. I assured him that God was doing everything possible for him to come through the judgment in His favour. God is in the business of desperately trying to save us, I emphasized. These thoughts were also new to him.

We finally arrived at the hotel, and he was excited to receive a number of tracts that I had already prepared for this type of encounter. He assured me that he would read these materials.

God is genuinely and wholly interested in reaching those who embrace Islam and is using every avenue to bring the light of the gospel to them. Will you pray for tact and wisdom and allow God to use you to reach out to this massive people group? Contact me to obtain resources you can share with them. ■

Rudy Harnisch is AMR Liaison for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

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

Alberta

Former Conference President Passes Away



William (Bill) Olson

was born in Lacombe, Alta., and lived on a farm with his parents and younger sister, Jeanette. The family moved to British Columbia's Fraser Valley prior to Bill's fifth-grade year. His father died when Bill was 16, and although Bill felt responsible to stay home and share in the farm work, his mother insisted he finish high school

at Canadian Union College.

Upon completing high school, Bill studied theology at Canadian Union College. Before finishing his degree, he signed on with the Campbell Soup Company. His then girlfriend, Judy, suggested he look for a job that required less travel so they could consider developing a family together. Love prevailed, and he attended Andrews University and earned a degree in psychology.

Immediately upon graduation he returned to Alberta and Judy, where he held an administrative position at the University of Alberta's Department of Psychology. Bill and Judy soon married and had their first son. All the while, Bill pursued a Master of Business Administration, graduating in the first Canadian program

of its kind: in hospital and health care administration.

One portion of Bill's research connected him with the Sherwood Park Nursing Care Home and Adventist Health Care. It wasn't long until he was recruited to lead at Park Manor Personal Care Home in Winnipeg, Man., thus beginning his commitment to serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Bill's career path included secretary-treasurer for the Alberta Conference, president and chief executive officer for the Gimbel Eye Centre, treasurer for the British Columbia Conference, secretary-treasurer for the Middle East Union, treasurer for the Trans-European Division, and finally back home as president of the Alberta Conference.

Bill retired in 2008 and enjoyed living with Judy on an acreage near Wetaskiwin. He passed away on Jan. 19, 2017. A memorial service celebrating Bill's life was held on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Wetaskiwin Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Bill is survived by his wife, Judy (née Lindberg) and their three sons: Gregory, a pediatric dental and orthodontic professor at Loma Linda University; David, a general surgeon in Edmonton; and Edward, a chartered accountant and advisor with Crowe MacKay, LLC in B.C. ■

British Columbia

Let's Move Vancouver

On Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m., a three-part series entitled "Reimagining God" began at the Bell Performing Arts Centre in Surrey, B.C. Ty Gibson, a passionate author and motivator, delved into the problems with our current picture of God. From Dec. 2 to Dec. 4, Ty Gibson painted a picture of God worth more than a passing glance. Gibson highlighted how

a conventional understanding of God often conflicts with rationality, thereby resulting in atheism. It is often overlooked that much of the atheistic mentality is not grounded in science but rather rational thought and philosophy. By developing our understanding of the nature of God, much of these inconsistencies can be answered. One problem many people

have is the notion that a loving God would allow such horrific acts in the world to occur. Ty Gibson drew on his own personal experience to answer this question. Growing up in a severely abusive household, Gibson was able to draw on his firsthand experience and reconcile this apparent contradiction.

Ty Gibson has authored eight books,

including his most recent best-selling release, *A God Named Desire*. He is the lead pastor of the Storyline Church in Eugene, Ore., and co-director of Light Bearers, an international media ministry. He is a captivating speaker that uses personal and relatable stories to resonate with the audience and provide greater context for his message.

In addition to the exploration into God, singer and songwriter Brandon Bee (his actual name) travelled from Washington to lead the worship service each night. Each of Brandon's sets featured popular praise music that the audience could sing along to, as well as some of his original music that all could enjoy. Bee's brilliant vocal talent and the band's heartfelt cadence rang through the gorgeous Bell Centre, and after the first song, it was clear to see that Brandon is fulfilling his purpose by using his talents to lead others in worship. Bee also offered his own view on God between the songs, further focusing the audience on the message of



Ty Gibson presented a series at the Bell Performing Arts Centre in Surrey, B.C., entitled "Reimagining God."

the night.

This was Let's Move Vancouver's last event for 2016. The intimate setting ended what has been an amazing year. It has been filled with beautiful experiences and fostered amazing relationships with some truly extraordinary people. Let's

Move Vancouver has one more evening of worship planned for the Metro Vancouver area on Jan. 28. With the combination of the local talent from the churches, personal testimonies, and a recap of the year's evangelism, this is an event you do not want to miss. ■

British Columbia Pastors and Principals Retreat



Nearly 100 principals, administrators, pastors, as well as spouses and children gathered at Camp Hope for four days of fellowship and spiritual renewal. Joe Kidder, PhD, and author of the book *The Big Four: Secrets to a Thriving Church Family*, set the tone of the retreat by beginning with his testimony of converting from Islam to

Christ while living in Iraq under Saddam Hussein. The next full day was spent on the power of prayer in personal growth and the growth of God's kingdom. The statistic that only one fifth of pastors spend regular time in devotions and prayer made this personal to the pastors. They reacted by purchasing every book and CD that

Kidder had brought with him.

More attention was paid to the pastoral family than in the past. Some sessions were set aside for lessons on neck and shoulder massage for the spouses and a family skating time at the local rink in Hope. The retreat concluded with a stirring communion service led by our president, Wesley Torres. The BC Conference baptized 222 individuals in 2016.

Torres challenged the pastors to cooperate with God in growing His kingdom with 333 baptisms in 2017. When the principles that Kidder presented are put into place, we expect the challenge to be met. ■

—Tom Glatts, Ministerial Director, BC Conference

Maritimes

Yarmouth Church Grows Up

Someone once said, “Yarmouth is not the end of the world, but you can see it from here.” Sometimes it feels as if we are at the end of the world at this end of Nova Scotia.

Yarmouth has had a Seventh-day Adventist presence since before I can remember. I remember Elder Norman Frost holding meetings in a funeral home here back in the '60s. My parents were members then.

Elder Wilfred and Helen Michaels came to Yarmouth, and we had a wonderful group that met in the church in Tusker, which had been purchased some years before. Over the years attendance dwindled as people left the area.

Pastor Jacques LeBlanc and his wife, Irene, along with their children, were here for a few years. Then they moved to Bridgewater, and he would come occasionally to meet with us. When he was called to another area, Pastor Glen Corkum returned to Yarmouth.

Corkum invited Pastor Victor Gill to

hold some meetings in Yarmouth along with Jared Browne, who was working as a Bible worker in this area. By this time a couple of people had returned to church and, after a baptism following Gill's meetings, we rented a room at Beacon United Church to hold regular Sabbath services. There were six members in attendance along with Jared Browne. Jared worked in this area for three years.

Pastor Leroy Corkum (nephew of Glen Corkum) was assigned to our district. He served us for six years before leaving to serve in Kenya, Africa (where he and his wife, Debbie, are living today).

Today Courtney Dookie has become our pastor and is working toward building our own church. Leta Dukeshire has generously offered to donate a piece of land on the outskirts of town on which to build a church. There is much work to be done to get the land ready, but we are depending on God's guidance to show us where we are to be and how we are to proceed.

It is amazing to me how God has worked to increase our numbers. We have seen people move in from British Columbia, Ontario, and even Russia. Our membership is listed as 24, and several more people may be joining our group within the next few months.

We have faith that God is on our side, and we will follow His plan for us as we work towards not only a larger group but also a building of our own in which to worship. We know that God's will will be done, and we implore you to pray for this group as we move forward.

Jesus is coming soon, and we want to be ready to greet Him from the top of the hill in Yarmouth. The location we have been given is high on a hill overlooking the beautiful Yarmouth Harbour and the Atlantic Ocean. May God guide us in this endeavour and bless our efforts to worship Him. ■

— Winona Pierce, treasurer,
Yarmouth church

Ontario

20th Anniversary of Yugoslavian Church in Vancouver



On Dec. 24, Vancouver Yugoslavian Church celebrated its 20th anniversary. The church started back in 1996, when a couple of Yugoslavian immigrants in Vancouver got together and started their worship services with the goal of organizing the church so they can preach the gospel to their countrymen in the Vancouver area.

This special anniversary worship service was attended by many guests who had connections with the church throughout its 20 years of existence.

The main speaker for the day was Pastor Petar Djakov, who was the first pastor to serve and organize the

Yugoslavian church leading up to 2002, when he moved away. Through singing, worshipping God, studying His word, and fellowshiping around the table, we reminisced our history, our reason for

existing and the future possibilities of preaching the gospel as we wait for our Lord's return. We were reminded that as the Lord blessed us in the past, He is also ready to bless us in the future if we give

our hearts to Him in service. ■

— *Slobodan Bob Babic,*
Pastor, Vancouver
Yugoslavian Church

Manitoba - Saskatchewan

Ministry Expands In Nunavut

The following story is told by Ghadihela Flores. She and her husband, Jose Quezada, along with Ilisapi Haulli, are co-leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Igloodik, Nunavut. They had a chance to visit the remote hamlet of Naujaat (formerly known as Repulse Bay), and God opened some doors in amazing ways!

Jose, Ilisapi, and I had a wonderful time sharing God's message to the community of Naujaat, Nunavut. For me and Jose, it was our first visit to Naujaat, but it was Ilisapi's first visit since her teenage years. Ilisapi has family in Naujaat, so she was very excited to spend time with them as well.

At first we didn't have the finances to go, but we took that leap of faith, and God provided. It was amazing to see how God opened the doors for us to visit and provided a place for us to stay as well.

When we first arrived, we asked the hamlet leader if we could use the radio station each night to do a Bible program. They told us we could go on the air for only one hour that evening. God placed in our hearts that the message that night would be about "Why We Need the Bible." Jose also shared a health nugget about water before the study.

This message touched the hearts of the listeners, some of whom requested for the Bible program to be on air again the following day. In the four days we visited, we were able to get a total of 9.5 hours on the radio, allowing us to share more Bible truths, including the Sabbath. One lady was very interested in the health nuggets that Jose and Ilisapi presented as well.

On Sabbath we rented the community hall to host Bible studies and a concert. We gave away 20 Bibles in Inuktitut and 36 Bibles in English. We were also able to visit some homes to pray for individuals.

The people of Naujaat were very welcoming and hungry to search the scriptures for God's word. We thanked God for opening the doors for Ilisapi, and for Jose and me to visit and share God's Word in Naujaat.



L. to R.: Jose Quezada, Ghadihela Flores, and Ilisapi Haulli and her son (top of arch).

We ask for prayers for those who continue to search and learn more about God's Word. We are in contact with them through Facebook and hope to return one day. ■

— *Ghadihela Flores,*
Igloodik Church Co-Leader

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Dec. 31, 2016, there were 428 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,290,816. There were 87 loans with a value of \$26,890,574.

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

SDA Church in Canada

Burman University Votes New President



Loren Agrey

On Feb. 6, 2017, the Burman University board of trustees voted Loren Agrey

to serve as the institution's 25th president. Agrey will succeed current president, Mark Haynal, who will be stepping down due to the expiration of his work permit.

"I am confident that Dr. Loren Agrey will be an effective leader for Burman University," says Mark Johnson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) and Burman University Board Chair. "Loren is both a 'people person' and an excellent administrator."

Agrey is currently serving as the Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs at Kettering College in Ohio. He previously served as the president for the Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand. Agrey has served as an educator for over

35 years. From 2003 to 2010, he served in different capacities at Burman University: Contract Lecturer (2003), Associate in Academic Administration (2004–2005), and Vice-President for Academic Administration (2005–2010).

"Throughout its 110-year history, Burman University has provided excellence in faith-based education," says Agrey. "I look forward to working with the administrative team, along with the faculty and staff, to continue this legacy of helping students achieve their academic, spiritual, and other life goals."

Details about the transition between current and incoming leadership will be made available at a later date. ■

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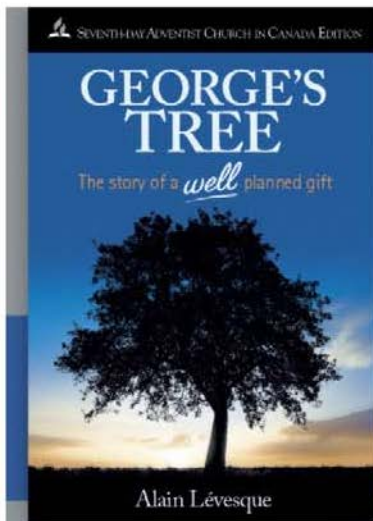
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The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Excellence in Education Awards

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—Craford 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@adad.com. Visit our official website www.caasda.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/17)

Okanagan (Adventist) Academy: 100th Anniversary Centennial Celebration. Calling all Alumni, Teachers, Students, and Staff (anyone who ever attend or was otherwise involved) to join us June 30–July 2, 2017. Go to www.okaa.ca, click on "Alumni" to register for the weekend, Sabbath lunch, and to reserve an OK(A) History book. For questions, please email okaaalumni@shaw.ca.

Join us for an opportunity to reconnect with friends and classmates where students are "Developing Purpose and Shaping Character."

The Heritage Green Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Dan Badiuk, Jan Badiuk, Robert Beurivage, Arlene Benavides, Irma Bendziel, Chauzinc Bowman, Maxine Bowman, Sean Bowman, Eleonore Budny, Hector Cruz, Alfredo Henson, Gina Kretschman, Paulin LaChance, Linda Linger, Rebecca Morron, Veronica Petre, Alexandra Tabora, Fernando Tabora, Marbella Tabora, Nonna Tabora, Maria Temple, Roland Temple. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Pastor Paul Casey at 905/973-5750 or pcasey@adventistontario.org.

The British Columbia Conference Is looking for the following missing members: Kenneth and Irene Deweltz, Hilda Eggelstone-Preston, John and Florence Glover, Anthony and Deborah Grear, Douglas and Joan Harter, Linda Hartmann (Neish), Ernesto and Arlene Mindoro, Donald Mullen, Susan Pang, Pauline Pawlinoski, Lorne Potentier, Sheila and David Price, David Roberts, Wesley and Lenna Schultz, Margaret Scruggs, Gordon and Bessie Sheers, Judith Smith, Edward and Geraldine Smith, Zoe and Burton Weiss. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Esther Kupperts at 604/853-5451 ext. 331 or ekupperts@bcadventist.ca.

■ New Members

MARITIME

Faith Belhomme was baptized in Pugwash, N.S., at campmeeting on July 22, 2016, by her father, Gary Belhomme. She is now a member of the Box Point church.

Merel Douglas Chase was baptized in Bridgewater, N.S., on Nov. 12, 2016, by Pedro Graça. He is a member of the Bridgewater church.

Jeff Chetwynd was accepted on profession of faith on Oct. 29, 2016. He is now a member of the Moncton church.

Peter Doucet was accepted on profession of faith on Nov. 19, 2016. He is now a member of the Moncton church.

Pauline Hood was baptized in Charlottetown, P.E., on Nov. 12, 2016, by Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Charlottetown church.

Abby Htoo and her husband, Pleh Htoo, were baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Dec. 17, 2016, by Métard Salomon. They are now members of the Moncton church.

Judy McGregor was baptized in Charlottetown, P.E., on Nov. 12, 2016, by Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Charlottetown church.

Ludwig Enrique Pineda Menard was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Dec. 17, 2016, by Métard Salomon. He is now a member of the Moncton church.

Peter Shelfoon was baptized in Charlottetown, P.E., on Nov. 12, 2016, by Métard Salomon. He is now a member of the Charlottetown church.

Christine Trenholm was accepted on profession of faith on Dec. 17, 2016, in Moncton N.B. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

Dallas Urquhart was baptized in Moncton, N.B., on Dec. 17, 2016, by Métard Salomon. She is now a member of the Moncton church.

■ Anniversaries

Daniel and Barbara Hrenyk of Toronto, Ont., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 20,



2016. A celebration was held in their home with many friends, family, and neighbours. The Hrenyks have two children and one grandchild.

■ Obituaries

Lalabela Chhangte was born on June 2, 1934, in Langdai, Mizoram, India, and died on Nov. 13, 2016, in Courtice, Ont. In Canada, he worked as a carpenter in St. John's, Nfld., at the Adventist school in Corner Brook, Nfld., and at College Woodwork in Oshawa, Ont., as well as serving 18 years at schools in India. Lalabela is predeceased by his parents, Jhantranga

and Lalzapi Chhangte; brothers, Lawrathanga Chhangre, Jhanbawia Chhangre, and Lalngaihthanga Chhangre; sisters, Dartluangi and Darmavii. Surviving: wife, Elsie (née Chawngreth) Chhangre; sons, Lawrence (Nicole) Chhangre, Kevin (Abishag) Chhangre; daughters, Cordelia (Anthony) Phillips and Donna (Kevin) Plut; brother, Lalngaiuala Chhangre; and three grandchildren.

Irma (née Longard) Graves was born on March 8, 1939, in Halifax, N.S., and died on Nov. 14, 2016, in Halifax. She was a long-time member of the Halifax church. Irma is predeceased by her parents, Gilbert and Dorothy Longard; and brother, Laurie Longard. Surviving: husband, Dennis Graves; sons, Dwight (Marilyn) Graves of Bayside, N.S., John (Dawn) Graves of Upper Sackville, N.S., Geoffrey Graves of Bayside, and Christopher (Ivana) Graves of Vancouver, B.C.; daughters, Pamela Graves of Halifax, Terri Graves of Dartmouth, N.S.; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Myrtle Eleanor (née Clarke) Grovet was born on May 23, 1936, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Nov. 5, 2016, in Spruce View, Alta. Although she left high school in Grade 11, she continued to take courses, and one of her proudest achievements was earning her GED a few weeks before her 60th birthday. Myrtle is predeceased by her first husband, Ezequiel Raposo; second husband, Albert Grovet; parents, Charles and Maude (née Hager) Clarke; and brother, Robert Clarke. Surviving: sons, Tony (Joyce) Raposo and Amario (Sylvia) Raposo; daughters, Maria (Allen) Haubrich, D'ia (Heath) Hurten, and Alda (Kevin) Conroy; brothers, Allen Clarke and Elmer Clarke; sisters, Gertrude, Violet, and Margaret; and nine grandchildren.

Mary (née Wilson) Hubbard was born on Dec. 24, 1922, in Shafron, England, and died on July 18, 2016, in Lethbridge, Alta. She was a faithful and active member of the Lethbridge church for 52 years, serving in many positions. She was most loved for her encouraging words, phone calls, prayers, and smile. Mary is predeceased by her husband, Alfred Hubbard; parents, Samuel and Edith Wilson; and son-in-law, Fred Kwan. Surviving: sons, Ken (Doris) Hubbard of Red Deer, Alta. and Philip (Annerce) Hubbard of Lethbridge; daughter, Linda Kwan of Port Elgin, Ont.; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Clifford Norman Martin was born on April 4, 1929, in Edmonton, Alta.,

and died on Nov. 30, 2016, in Kelowna, B.C. He built the married student quarters at Fulton College in Fiji. Clifford is predeceased by his parents, Harry and Hilda Martin; and brother, Clarence Martin. Surviving: wife, Margaret Elsie (née Lamming) Martin; sons, Wayne (Virginia) Martin, Terry Martin, Howard (Louise) Martin, and Bary (Isabelle) Martin; daughter, Lorinda (Bill) Andersen; brother, Gord (Ella) Martin; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Marjorie (née Bell) Severtson was born on June 22, 1922, in Sylvan Lake, Alta., and died on July 4, 2016, in Sylvan Lake. She served her Sylvan Lake church for many years as the Pathfinder leader, community services leader, and church pianist. Marjorie also served as a missionary, teaching nurses' training in Nicaragua for four years. Marjorie is predeceased by her husband, Arthur Severtson. Surviving: sons, Keith (Tara) Severtson of Bragg Creek, Alta., Duke (Jerrilyn) Severtson of Sylvan Lake; daughter, Beth (Carl) Severtson of Toronto, Ont.; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ferris Williams was born on Sept. 26, 1929, in Charlotteville, Tobago, and died on June 10, 2016, in Oshawa, Ont. He lived in Saskatoon, Sask., for 40 years, where he served in numerous church positions. Surviving: wife, **Ermine Williams**; sons, Michael (Olive) Williams of Whitby, Ont., Novak Williams of Fresno, Calif., and Gerhard (Suzette) Williams of Oshawa; daughter, Patricia Dale (Carlton) Roulston of Scarborough, Ont.; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

■ Tribute



Lalbela Chhangte
Jun. 2, 1934–Nov. 12, 2016
 Before immigrating to Canada in 1981, Lalbela Chhangte worked in India for 18 years. His work included headmaster at Helen Lowry School in

Mizoram and at Adventist Training School in Meghalaya. In Canada he worked as a colporteur in St. John's, Nfld., and a teacher at the Adventist School in Corner Brook, Nfld. He also worked at College Woodwork at Kingsway College. Before he passed away, with generous donations received from members of College Park Church through Mizo Mission, he and his wife built four churches and supplied benches for a number of other churches, computers and printers, beds and student desks for schools in the Indian states of Mizoram and Assam.

Lalbela is survived by his wife, Elsie Chhangte; children, Cordelia (Anthony Phillips) Chhangte, Donna (Kevin Plut) Chhangte, Lawrence (Nicole Currier) Chhangte, Kevin (Abishag) Chhangte; and a brother, Lalingaizuala (Lianmawii) Chhangte. His four brothers and two sisters predeceased him.

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from the editor

My Canada includes Muslims in Quebec

ON JAN. 29, 2017, A HEARTBREAKING TRAGEDY STRUCK QUEBEC CITY, QUE. Dozens of Muslim men, having gathered at their local mosque for Sunday prayers, lost their sense of security in their house of worship when a gunman entered their prayer room and opened fire. Earlier that evening six families likely had dinner, not knowing that they would see their loved ones for the last time. Wives became widows, and children became fatherless.

Unfortunately, scenes like this are all too common today. Images of violence around the world infiltrate our homes and minds. This particular tragedy hits home, literally, on Canadian soil.

Canada has always been known as a country with people as diverse as its landscape. As members of the worldwide Adventist Church, we know something about diversity too. According to a recent study by The Pew Research Centre, Seventh-day Adventists are the most racially diverse religious group in the United States.¹ We may struggle with it at times, but I love the diversity within our church, and I recognize the opportunity it presents for our churches to spread the gospel message to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.

In addition to our health message, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is also known for its involvement in religious liberty. Our churches are poised to become centres of hope and wholeness in our communities. This is a great opportunity for us. Imagine if our churches held rallies for tolerance and religious liberty in our churches as we do cooking schools and smoking cessation seminars.

When I conducted seminars at ShareHim outreach events on connecting with the community, I would often ask, "What does a church have to do to get visitors to return a second time?" Answers ranged from, "Be loving" and "Be caring" to "Hold potluck." While there were plenty of good responses, my answer is this: We've got to get them in the *first* time.

Many of us have read the oft-quoted passage from Ellen White's *Ministry of Healing*: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"²

The calamity in Quebec is an excellent opportunity to connect with neighbours, co-workers, friends of all faith and non-faith communities, to do that *one thing* to get people in our churches for the first time. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

1 <https://goo.gl/X4lkbZ>
2 p. 143.



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