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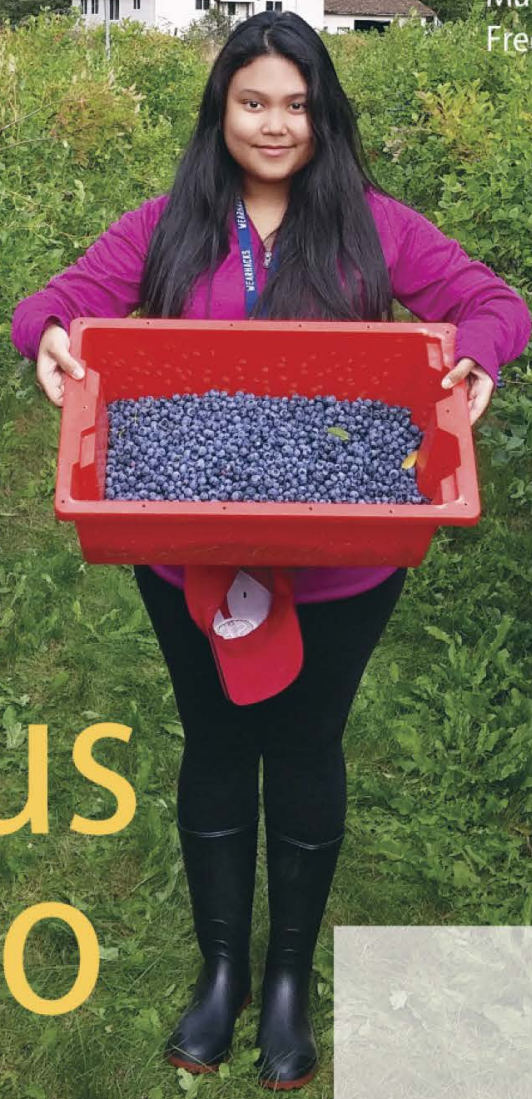
Messenger

may 2017

Plus

Jacquelyn's Story (p. 6)
Angels in Snow Pants (p. 7)
Matters of the Heart (p. 11)
Fredericton Youth (p. 22)

Out of the Status Quo



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Messenger

May 2017 Vol. 86 No. 5

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heart to heart

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

—Matthew 5:44-45, *ESV*

Enemies

I've been thinking a lot lately about how we treat people whom we don't like. In fact, if you have the news on, it is difficult not to think about it. Just about every newscast has a story about someone somewhere who disagrees with someone else.

The world around us right now has many divides. Some of these divides are cultural; others are philosophical. We disagree about political decisions. Within the church, there are differences over policy discussions. People of faith often disagree with lifestyle decisions of friends or family. Between faith traditions, there are significant doctrinal differences.

With so many opportunities for disagreement, how is a Christian supposed to handle relationships with the people who surround them? Especially when we disagree?

That's where this scripture comes in. Jesus, the narrator in this passage, speaks of a godly approach to disagreement. I notice three important propositions for people of faith in the text.

First, and this is unusual, the Christian moves beyond intolerance and practices love, even praying for someone with whom they disagree. And please notice that this isn't your garden-variety disagreement. These are situations where the words *enemy* or *persecution* are appropriate. And if Jesus is placing this love principle before us in extreme conflict, wouldn't it then fit in lesser disagreements?

Secondly, Jesus calls us to be like God in our behavior. That's a pretty high standard, but that's what He says. In other words, as we reflect on who we are and how we handle things, that popular phrase from a few years ago becomes appropriate: "What would Jesus do?"

Finally, we have the example of God Himself. In this passage God does not come down heavy on those considered evil. He blesses both the good and the evil with the sun and the rain. There's a huge lesson in that. We show displeasure toward others so quickly. God is not so fast.

Let's be like God, shall we? ■

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



What's it Mean to You?

"I believe in this school."

Levi Nepoose
MANS Parent
Professional dancer &
MANS Ground Breaking
Pow Wow organizer



Levi in regalia he made.
Photo by Crux Phiri.

The air was electric at MANS' High School Ground Breaking last May. It was charged in part by the dynamic presence of Northern Cree, the award-winning First Nations traditional music group, and by Levi Nepoose, the man who'd organized their performance. An imposing 6'4" in full regalia, Levi commanded the proceedings as wide-eyed students joined their musical heroes in the drumming circle—an experience they will never forget.

Famous in his own right as a competitive traditional dancer, Levi spoke with conviction as the camera rolled. "We don't live for today," he said, "we live for tomorrow. In my home, that's how I teach my kids."

It's the hope that's kept Levi and his community alive, and the reason Levi brought his children to MANS.

"I'm so grateful for what this school has done for my children," Levi says with passion when the camera is turned off. "I don't have a lot, but this pow wow—this is something I can give."

Levi's fervent hopes for his children have been tested, but MANS gave him reason to believe.

This spring, his second daughter will be part of MANS' third graduating high school class.

"Believing in this school and where they're at, where they're going," reflects Levi, "I wouldn't be here, and [my children] wouldn't be here if I didn't believe in this school."

A father's heart is revealed—a lesson of perseverance and of faith in the teachings his family found at MANS. Though everything else passes away, this remains to sustain us: faith, hope and (the greatest of these) our charity toward each other.

—By Lynn McDowell

Experience the ground breaking and Pow Wow finale and hear Levi's testimony in the video "Mamawi: A Ground-Breaking-Experience" at www.mans1.ca.

Contribute to the campaign to build MANS' high school at www.mans1.ca or make cheques payable to the Bridge Campaign, C/O Alberta Conference, 5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5.



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**
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THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

WHAT'S INSIDE

May 2017



FEATURES

- 22 **FEATURE** Fredericton Youth
- 24 **COVER STORY** Out of the Status Quo—
Mississauga Filipino SDA church members travel
out of their comfort zone to follow God's biddings.
- 27 **FEATURE** Who are Sulads?

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 **HEART TO HEART**
- 6 **ADRA CANADA**
- 7 **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 8 **TEEN TALK**
- 9 **CREATION CORNER**
- 10 **BURMAN UNIVERSITY**
- 11 **PLANNED GIVING & TRUST SERVICES**
- 12 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 14 **A BETTER WORLD**
- 15 **THE CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 16 **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**
- 34 **NEWS**
- 38 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADVERTISEMENTS**
- 46 **FROM THE EDITOR**





Left: Jacquelyn and her daughter. Above: Jacquelyn's mother cooking near their tent.

Jacquelyn's Story

"After peace came to South Sudan and we became a country of our own, I was very hopeful for the future, but it did not last long. After only 18 months, war and conflict returned to our homeland."

JACQUYLN'S HOPES FOR PEACE WERE DASHED when warring factions caused South Sudan to descend into open conflict in December 2013.

Three years later the country has been devastated. More than 100,000 people are at risk of starvation. Over seven million people have been forced from their homes. Schools are empty or destroyed. Thousands of people hide in swamps, hoping to escape enemy soldiers. Reports state that 80,000 people a month cross the border into Uganda to escape the violence.

Jacquelyn and her children were forced to flee their home. They now live in a refugee camp in Uganda. She does not know when or if her husband will be able to join them.

After her uncle was killed by the fighting, Jacquelyn knew that her family would no longer be safe. They began the long walk to the Ugandan border. It was a difficult journey, especially for the children. Fortunately, a kind stranger took them up in his vehicle and brought them safely to the border.

Jacquelyn was relieved to be welcomed by the Ugandan people. They were given food, blankets, and sleeping mats. They were also given a plot of land in the camp where they could settle and build a house. Jacquelyn is hoping to start building the house soon, but for now they are sleeping in a tent. It is hot, but at least it is safe.

She is very grateful that her children are still able to go to school, even though there are not enough teachers or classrooms.

She knows that an education will give them both better opportunities in the future. Her children are settling into their new life. They have made friends and play with the other displaced children.

Jacquelyn has not been idle in the camp. She has become an ADRA volunteer! She enjoys making contributions to the new community and is learning a lot from the "ADRA family." She is also part of a group that has started a small community savings and loan program. Jacquelyn is a seamstress, and she had to leave her sewing machine and materials behind when she fled. She hopes to borrow from the group to restart her business.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) network has been working in both South Sudan and Uganda for several years to help the people affected both by conflict and by famine. Emergency food distributions have meant the difference between life and death for many families.

ADRA Canada is grateful to the Government of Canada, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and our faithful supporters for enabling us to bring help and hope to many in difficult circumstances. Your prayers and support are saving lives. ■

Frank Spangler is the communications specialist for ADRA Canada.



Angels in Snow Pants!

“What could I do? I prayed and asked God for an ‘impossible’ solution.”

On Monday, Feb. 6, I left Abbotsford, B.C., at 2 a.m. to go to Seattle to catch a flight to San Diego, Calif., at 6:45 a.m. to attend a North American Division (NAD) meeting. This road trip usually takes two hours and 15 minutes. We had experienced a record snowfall in Abbotsford during the previous days, but the roads were driveable. I drove my car with snow tires across the United States border. Then I stopped at a gas station, filled the tank, and continued my trip towards Seattle.

However, 4.8 kilometres into the United States, I encountered a terrible snow storm. The road was completely covered with snow, and I could hardly see anything. As I could not go back, I tried to go around it until my car got fully stuck in the middle of the road. I tried to stay calm and use my snow driving abilities. That was in vain. I called 911 and explained my predicament. The friendly agent asked me four questions: *Are you okay? Are you warm? Do you have enough gas in your car? Do you have food?* I answered yes to all those questions.

Then she said, “I am sorry we cannot help you this evening. Someone will help you in the morning.” I asked, “Why?” She replied, “The road you are on has been closed and we have other more critical cases to take care of.” That sounded hard but reasonable because I had answered yes to those relevant questions. Nonetheless, I felt frustrated because no one at the border told me that the road was closed.

I called all the towing companies I could find on Google. They were extremely busy. Although the road was closed, I didn’t want to be in danger by sleeping in a deserted place and still in the middle of the road. What could I do? I prayed and asked God for an “impossible” solution. Shortly, out of nowhere, two gentlemen (angels in snow pants) came to my rescue. They shovelled the snow around my car and pushed it hard. The car moved, and I was out of the snow! It was 3:10 a.m.

I thought I could still reach Seattle and catch my flight. I drove another five kilometres and saw a 4x4 in front of me struggling to go through snow on the road. That was the sign; I made a U-turn and decided to go back home. I drove back slowly, and the road “appeared” to be not as bad as the first time, but my car got stuck again. I said, “Oh no.” Again, out of nowhere, two other gentlemen came to my rescue. They pulled my car back and I decided to sleep in my car by the road. My snow driving experience was of no help.

However, this experience helped me to refocus on some spiritual lessons:

- I received no warning at the border about the danger. In contrast, the Bible alerts us of an ongoing battle and that our enemy is ready to devour us. (1 Peter 5:8)
- I should not have taken the risk under those weather conditions. God’s Word tells us not to be presumptuous. (Luke 4:12)
- 9-1-1 is a great service, but it can get busy. 1-2-1 with God: Prayer works, especially when we realize and confess that we made a mistake. God is always available (Jer. 33:3)
- God sends his angels (or agents) to our rescue. (Psalm 34:7; 91:11, 12)
- Also, I received grace! (Heb. 4:16) The Alaska Airlines agent heard my story and was compassionate. He allowed me to use the same air ticket to my destination on the next available flight at no extra cost. Grace! Isn’t that what God is all about? However, as we were imparted grace, God expects us to share it with others! ■

Wesley Torres is president of the British Columbia Conference.



teen talk

Q: Is it acceptable for a teenager to date a guy who is about three years younger than her? Both value their faith highly, are raised in the church, and have been friends for a long time.

A: The fact that you're reaching out is very good. Dating can be fun, beautiful, intense, and stressful all at the same time!

There are three main things to consider in your case. The first one is age, the second is maturity, and the last one is student life.

1. **Age.** If you're in your early teens, then my advice is to hold off and remain good friends. If you're 18 or 19 years old, then you're free to choose, but he might need parental approval.
2. **Maturity.** The average girl matures much faster than a boy of the same age. If you add three years to it, chances are that the gap is too big.
3. **Student life.** Oftentimes, when one in the couple moves on to college, things start to change. High school and college are so different! It might accentuate any contrast already in place.

I admit the above points are very broad. There are many variables to consider that can't be covered in a just a few lines. Consider talking with your parents or with a trusted adult who knows you well. ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids



I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things.

—Philippians 3:8, NKJV



Greylag Goose

The greylag goose is a large goose with grey-and-white feathers. Its big beak and legs are orange. Greylag geese live in marshlands across Europe to western Asia. Like all geese, greylags are grazers, eating grass and water plants. They also eat spilled grain and can be seen gleaning in farm fields.

Most tame or domestic geese come from wild greylag geese, which were first domesticated 3,000 years ago. Domesticated greylags have given up the sleek look of wild greylags and instead have thicker necks and heavier bottoms. They've also given up their horizontal stance for a more upright position.

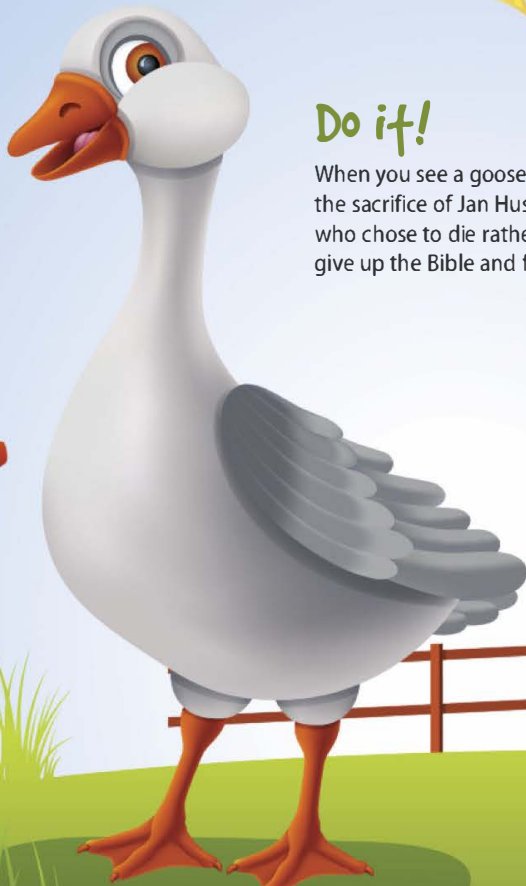
Think about it.

When it was domesticated, the greylag goose gave up some, but not all, of its wild traits. In contrast, many Christians have given up everything, even life itself, for the privilege of belonging to Jesus. Jan Hus, whose name means goose, was born a hundred years before Luther. For putting Christ and the Bible first in his life instead of the pope and men's teachings, Jan Hus died a martyr's death. His last words were, "You are now going to burn a goose, but in a century you will have a swan which you won't be able to cook." The "swan" was Martin Luther, whose coat of arms bears a swan.



Do it!

When you see a goose, remember the sacrifice of Jan Hus and others who chose to die rather than to give up the Bible and faith in Jesus.



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

Burman University Graduation



Graduates celebrate convocation with a ceremonial hat toss.



Baccalaureate service at College Heights church.

ON APRIL 30, APPROXIMATELY 100 STUDENTS received their university degree, marking the end of a chapter and beginning a new one. Jennica Santomin, Kaitlyn Brown, and Brittany Hudson are three students who graduated with the class of 2017. They each have their own unique experience and story to share about their time at Burman University.

Jennica Santomin's first encounter with Burman University was through a former enrolment advisor, Saida Belonio, who helped her see Burman University as a real option for education after high school. She soon made the decision to attend Burman University with the goal to major in English while also completing the class requirements for medical school. A class for first-year students taught by Professor Fehr challenged Jennica to question whether her choice of major and career would make her happy.

"What would make me happy is sitting in a classroom, teaching a kid who opens a book and comes to a realization about what he or she is reading," she explains. "What would make me happy is seeing that spark in that kid's eye." With this realization, she confidently made the decision to switch her major to secondary education with an emphasis in English. After graduation, Jennica will be moving to Berrien Springs, Mich., to teach at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School.

For Kaitlyn Brown, Burman University was always an option: her sisters had attended here and she was enticed by their stories about their experience on campus. She was encouraged by the small class sizes that allowed for a more intimate learning experience, as well as the strength of the biology program, her chosen major. Although Kaitlyn was confident about her choice of major, she was not always sure about her next step. "I took a class called Introduction to Dentistry to fulfill my elective requirements," Kaitlyn reminisces. "As I was taking the class, the more I could see myself continuing my education on that path. It was exactly what I wanted to do." After graduation, Kaitlyn plans to continue taking steps to establish a career in dentistry.

Brittany Hudson transferred to Burman University from the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago. Because of the need for student loans, she needed to find a school within Canada. As she searched for options, she became interested in Burman University, ultimately transferring in 2015. Since transferring, Brittany finds that she has grown in her ministry and as a leader. "I had heard great things about the school. When I got here, I felt it," she says. "There's a sense of community on campus. I felt part of something, a part of a bigger picture." After graduation, Brittany plans to follow up on her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies by pursuing her Master of Divinity.

We wish these three young women, as well as the rest of the graduating class of 2017, the best of luck in their next steps after Burman University. Please join us in keeping each one of these students in prayer. ■

Kryzia Abacan is the communications coordinator for Burman University.

Matters of the Heart

Marta Cherkashin was many things. She was a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist, devoted and pious for all her days. She was a refugee and survivor, an immigrant who made a new life for herself through hard work, personal resolve, and a little help from friends. She was a mother to those who needed one—she was known to help and even take in troubled kids and treat them like family. To those who knew her, she was soft-spoken and kind, compassionate and accepting, generous and caring. Marta was a quiet woman with a big heart.

Perhaps Marta's heart was so big because her life had been so hard. Born in 1923, she lived her early years in Volhynia, a German settlement in Stalin's Soviet Union.¹ Shortly before World War II broke out, Marta's father was taken by the KGB and sent to a Siberian labour camp. His family neither saw nor heard from him again. In his absence, life for Marta's family became more difficult. Not long after the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union, all Germans were evacuated back to Germany. There, Marta was sent to work on a farm, where she was treated horribly. When she refused to work on the Sabbath, she was accused of being a Jew, severely punished, beaten, and even imprisoned. Through all her struggles, Marta clung to her faith to see her through—and she became more committed to her church and to God with each passing day.

Marta came to Canada as a refugee in the 1940s and settled in Paris, Ont., where she joined the Paris Seventh-day Adventist Church, dubbed the "little church with a big heart" by its members. Pastor Zins offered Marta care

and friendship, and helped her to get a job at nearby Penman's Clothing Manufacturing Company. Once established, Marta grew in her compassion and caring spirit. Perhaps because of the hardships she had faced, Marta became known as someone who did whatever she could to help others in need.

While Marta was pleasant and friendly, she was also reserved and didn't socialize very much with church members. She participated in other ways, such as giving through her tithe and offerings and regularly attending the prayer meetings she so loved. Marta liked to help people on a more personal level—she was known to have helped homeless and abused children, one of whom she took into her home and raised as her own son. Although she never officially became a foster parent or guardian, she considered him her son—and accepted and treated him as such for the remainder of her days. The boy she took in has since become a teacher, husband, father, and devoted church member.

Marta's loving, compassionate spirit lives on beyond her passing. She bequeathed much of her estate to the Ontario Conference, so that it could be used to continue God's work. Her life and story were so inspiring that Manny Munir, a member of the real estate team that oversaw the sale of her home, donated his commission to Marta's home church. Munir surprised the church members and pastor when he presented a cheque for \$2,500 to the Paris church at its 110th anniversary celebration in April 2016.

Marta—a quiet woman with a big heart—is a reminder to us all that a big heart can have a long reach and lasting impact. ■

Leah Keys writes from Newcastle, Ont.



Far left: Marta Cherkashin, 24 years old, while still living in Germany, 1947-1948.

(Photo credit: David Schulz)

Left: Marta's passport photo at the time she was evacuated back to Germany from a settlement in Volhynia in the Soviet Union.

¹ After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Volhynia became part of present-day Ukraine.

Where Are They Now



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

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



Linda and John Gilbert

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

John Gilbert: I was born in Thunder Bay, Ont. My father was a dairy farmer, and I had a brother, David (deceased), four years older than me; a sister, Sylvia, two years older; and a sister, Phyllis, two years younger.

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

J: My schooling began in a one-room country school-house in the township of Scoble, 20 miles [32 kilometres] from the city then known as Fort William, followed by Grades 9 and 10 at Selkirk High School, taking Industrial Arts. I took Grades 11 and 12 at Oshawa Missionary College, followed by two years of college. I was a member of the first graduating class from Kingsway College following the name change. I earned a BA at Atlantic Union College, majoring in theology, and a minor in psychology, followed by a master's degree from Andrews University.

M: *Describe your call to the ministry and the places you served.*

J: When I began my education at Oshawa Missionary College, I intended to continue with industrial arts, but since the school did not offer much in this field, I sought the Lord's will regarding this matter following my conversion to Christ in a series of evangelistic meetings in Massey Hall in Toronto with George Vandeman. My conversion was one in which I very personally felt the Lord speaking to me. I later worked with George while I was pastoring in Winnipeg.

As I drew close to completing my studies at Atlantic Union College, I sought the Lord for a Canadian conference to sponsor me to the seminary. I covenanted with the Lord, saying that I would take the first call that came to me, but pleaded, "Please don't let it be Newfoundland." Well, wouldn't you know it, Elder Ray Matthews, who was the president in Newfoundland, came to AUC seeking recruits (he had known me from my childhood days). He asked my major professor, Doctor Wallenkampf, what he thought of me. My professor responded by answering, "John Gilbert, I don't think he's interested in anything."

At the time I was working from 11 in the evening until 6 in the morning at a plastic factory, and my first class was with him. Being determined not to fall asleep, I would sit in a front seat but always fell asleep. I never did explain why to him, so he assumed I just wasn't interested. This did not deter Elder Matthews, and so following my graduation, my wife and I made our way to Newfoundland. I was the pastor in Glovertown and Cape Freels followed by serving in Botwood. While in Newfoundland, I also worked in evangelism with Neal Wilson Sr. From there we worked in the Quill Lake and Nipawin district in Saskatchewan. We followed that by pastoring in Winnipeg at the Silver Heights Church along with Portage la Prairie and Morden district. While there, we spawned a new church in Charleswood, becoming charter members. I pastored four years in this district and was then reassigned to the Henderson Highway Church. My next assignment took us to Halifax, N.S., where we served for seven years. Then seven years in the Vernon, B.C., church before moving to Chilliwack. My last pastorate was in Wetaskiwin and Warburg, Alta.

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

J: My greatest joy has been in prayer ministry public evangelism. Along with pastoring in the B.C. conference, I served as a volunteer director of prayer ministry working with Polly Hosking as my assistant. I have conducted evangelistic presentations in many of my districts and in Romania. It has also been a wonderful privilege to teach the ShareHim evangelistic program at the BC and Alberta campmeetings.

M: *Your wife, Linda, served as a teacher. Where and what grades did she teach?*

J: Linda taught Grades 1 and 2 in Botwood, N.L.; Grades 7 and 8, in Winnipeg; followed by Grades 3 and 4 in Halifax. At Sandy Lake Academy she taught Grades 1 to 8 all at the same time. In Vernon, B.C., she taught Grades 9 and 10, Kindergarten, and then Grades 2 and 3 at Pleasant Valley Adventist School. While at Chilliwack, B.C., she taught in Fraser Valley Adventist

Academy in Grades 6–8 and 9–12. She also served as the middle school head teacher while at Fraser Valley.

M: *I remember a few years ago, we had conversation about a unique ministry you were involved in during the summers. Describe this activity and how you have used it for ministry.*

J: We have served with Alberta parks for a total of five consecutive years with this coming season being our second year at Peaceful Valley day park. I will share here about our experience in this park because it gives a very unique opportunity to witness and service in a practical manner. We are the only regular campers in this park, with our visitors arriving every day Monday through Friday. We hosted more than 1,700 visitors last summer. This park is dedicated to seniors and people with disabilities.

A typical day, with visitors arriving around 10 and remaining until two or three, is to meet them as they stop at the lodge, offer a warm welcome, and assist them into the lodge. At noon Linda gives a little history of how the park came to exist, and I follow up with a poem or reading. It is also my privilege to give up to three people a golf cart ride along the path, and during this time, I pause in strategic areas and quote a poem or render illustrations from nature that glorify our Creator. (I am careful to ascertain the spiritual experience of my passengers before venturing into this area.)

On boarding the bus to make their journey back to a nursing home in Edmonton, one of the lead workers turned to me and said, "John you aren't just hosting here; you are truly doing a real ministry." This thrilled my heart! From time to time, it is my privilege to pray with some of our visitors.

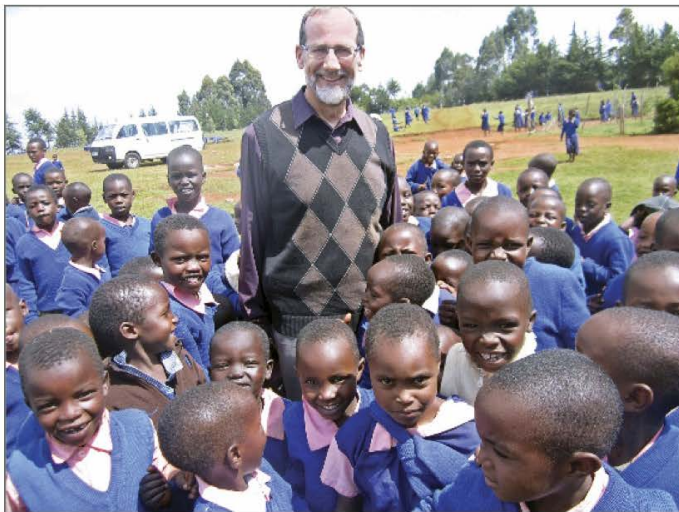
M: *Tell me about your family.*

J: Linda and I have a son, Paul, who drives transport for Arrow trucking in B.C. and lives in the Dawson, B.C., area. Our daughter, Jill, lives in Edmonton and is a home care worker.

M: *Where are you now?*

J: Linda and I currently live in Wetaskiwin and serve the church. Linda is the assistant treasurer and serves on the worship committee. She also served the church school for six years as the treasurer. She is treasurer of the condo association where we live, and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers ministry with the Steven Lewis foundation. I currently serve the church as an elder, assistant prayer ministry, school board member, assistant Sabbath school superintendent, teach in Sabbath school, and preach from time to time. During this retirement phase, I have also worked part-time with a centre for people with disabilities. ■

A Better World Canada takes a better look inside Kenya's classrooms



Children at Simotwet Primary School in Kenya surround Keith Leavitt to celebrate A Better World Canada's new classrooms. A Better World is gathering data on how to improve student performance and teacher professionalism.



Keith Leavitt of Lacombe, Alta., enjoys volunteering with A Better World Canada because he can help children, the future of Kenya. He met this boy attending class at Simotwet Primary School in October 2016.

Keith Leavitt is number crunching student- and teaching-performance levels across rural Kenya. It's an important task, to improve education at schools sponsored by A Better World Canada (ABW).

Last October the man from Lacombe, Alta., travelled to 14 out of 17 sponsored schools to gather general data, including enrolment, girl-boy ratios, staffing changes, and government test results for Grade 8 levels. Leavitt, ABW's project manager for education, also looked at whether schools have electricity, since the Kenyan government is issuing laptops for all Grade 1 students.

With nearly 40 years of teaching experience behind him, Leavitt is excited about this latest project he's heading.

A general database is being created so that ABW will have comparative numbers on schools so that guidelines can be created for improving student performance and teacher professionalism. The project has been done over several previous years, with the intent to do it annually.

Leavitt said the Central Alberta-based international development organization has already made a difference building classrooms, dormitories, and installing water wells. A Better World Canada is now directing its efforts within the classroom as well, Leavitt said. "We would like to measure the impact that A Better World is having on schools," said Leavitt. "The ultimate goal is to improve the learning of students."

Leavitt is also reviewing whether schools have meal programs, including vegetable gardens. After all, sometimes poor children don't have anything to eat when they attend school, he added. Professional development also plays a key role, so ABW has

offered mentorship and training to Kenyan teachers from ABW teaching volunteers. Teaching trips are held annually, so volunteers are always welcome.

Kenya's education system has several formidable challenges when it comes to teaching—a lack of resources, for one thing. For example, there may be only one textbook per five students, which makes it tough for students to learn at home, Leavitt said.

He described how schools can have problems with class overcrowding and a lack of teaching assistants. As well, there can be teacher instability because of salary variances. Leavitt referred to how public school teachers paid by the local community often receive a smaller salary than government-paid teachers. Some teachers' training is only at a Grade 12 level, with no actual university education.

As it accumulates more information, ABW will identify trends, where the gaps are, and where it can seek sponsorship. Leavitt is hopeful about how Kenya's education system will look five years from now. He said more girls are attending school and staying in school longer. There are also more and more parents who want their children to attend secondary school and continue from there. With a small amount of help, these schools will be able to take big steps forward, Leavitt said.

"I find that encouraging," said Leavitt. "Even in some small way, A Better World may have a part in the growth and development of local schools and communities and even the nation as a whole." ■

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



COMMUNICATING WORSHIP PLANNING

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a strong emphasis on worship. The practice of worship is critical to our identity as a people who worship on the seventh-day. Even our eschatology (understanding of end times and Christ's second coming) is intermingled with the theme of worship. We believe that in the last days, worship will be a pivotal issue for God's remnant people.

If worship is such a crucial part of our identity, why, then, is it one of the most neglected elements of the Sabbath? Let me explain: If you've been part of the worship planning team in your local church, can you articulate who puts the order of service together? Is there a common thread or theme that is woven throughout the service? Are the musicians working in tandem with the preacher? Is the preacher working in co-operation with the liturgist? Does the morning prayer reflect the tone of the worship experience?

I have personally witnessed the worship service coming together in the back room

moments before the participants are supposed to take the platform. The elder on duty will often attempt to pull together the cornucopia of elements into something that makes sense to the audience.

As your church leaders plan worship, here are tips to guide your planning.

WHY BEFORE HOW

Before you start putting together the worship service, ask first why you are even assembling the program. In his book on worship, Sanjeev Sukumaran reminds the reader of Simon Sinek's idea that the *why* is "the purpose, cause, or belief that inspires you to do what you do."¹ Once you have articulated why you are assembling the worship service, everything else that follows will be rooted in that purpose.

WHO BEFORE WHAT

The worship experience is designed for an audience of One. The divine service is "performed" for the one and only

sovereign God of the universe who is seated on His throne (see Isa. 6:1). The entire week's preparation is to bring glory and adoration to God. Once the "who" is established, personal preferences, musical styles, and liturgy readings are secondary issues.

WHEN BEFORE WHERE

The Sabbath is the most glorious day of the week. It allows us to gather in community so we can worship together. Our heavy emphasis of the seventh day may have unknowingly taught our members not to worship on other days. However, the climax of the Sabbath is a culmination of our daily worship experience with God. Worship is the outward expression of our day-to-day personal devotion. If we are not having personal time with God daily, our Sabbath expression will be as dry bones. ■

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

¹Sanjeev Sukumaran is a worship leader in Ontario. His book *Why Comes First; How Comes Next: Worship as God Intended* is available on Amazon.com. See also Simon Sinek, *Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Action* (Toronto: Portfolio/Penguin, 2009), 39.

Daily Adventures



The Aguilars at the Equator.

Back in beautiful British Columbia, life was same-same. A routine. I woke up at 6:45 a.m. to the sounds of crows, robins, and cars whizzing by. Getting ready for school, the drive to school, schoolwork, extracurricular activities (afterschool activities), driving home in terrible traffic, dinner, homework, then sleep.

Now, Uganda is a bit different.

For the past seven months, I get to sleep in for as long as I want. You read that right. I get to sleep in!

The reason I get to sleep in is that I am enrolled in British Columbia Conference's distance learning school, West Coast Adventist School (WCAS). Because of the different time zone, WCAS classes usually start at around 6:30 p.m. (Ugandan time), and my last live online class ends close to midnight.

In the morning, instead of waking up to the sounds of crows and robins, I wake up to the sounds of roosters, goats, sheep, cows, and the loud hadada ibis bird.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) compound sits near the top of Kireka Hill, and the hill is surrounded by different faith groups and denominations. Every day at 5 a.m. sharp, I can hear the beautiful Muslim call to worship echoing across the beautiful valley and several hills around Kampala. Right after the morning Muslim call to

worship, the Pentecostal church starts playing their lively praise music and prayers.

The beautiful Muslim call to worship begins again at noon and then later in the late afternoon. The Pentecostals start singing and praying right after sunset, and most of the time, the music and prayers continue right up to midnight!

Not only do I hear sounds of praise music and prayers throughout the day, but I also hear catchy Uganda dance music coming from the market at the bottom of the hill.

There is never a dull moment in our home. We always find something new. Every day we hear and see a new kind of bird. We don't know the names of all these beautiful birds, so we just name them by their call. For example, there is a bird we call the "bomb bird" because it sounds like a ticking bomb.

The other day we found a litter of kittens in our compound! Five cute and cuddly kittens!

Whether the exciting moment is finding new kittens or a huge cockroach sneaking up your leg or millipede hiding in your shoes, it's always lively here.

The rainy season has arrived in Kampala, and I love it! The rain goes sideways and



Jewel, Jaden, and Onyx working on a makeshift swing from the mango tree.

comes with bright flashes of lightning and loud thunder, and most of the time, the roads in Kampala are all flooded.

When we first experienced the intense Ugandan rainstorm, Onyx, Jaden, and my dad were all out playing in the rain and dancing to the beat of the thunder booms. They danced until the rain stopped.

Every day we check the fruit trees for ripe fruits. We are competing with some beautiful parrots living in our guava tree for fruit. All the fruit and veggies we eat from our backyard are 100 percent organic, and the freshness is remarkable. Freshly squeezed fruit juices, smoothies, and fruit salad are a part of our everyday meals.

There is never a dull moment in Uganda.

Hopefully, you get to visit Uganda and experience what the Pearl of Africa has to offer, including sleeping under a mosquito net to protect yourself from malaria. *Sula bulungi!* ■

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

Memorizing Scripture

"The Word of God may one day not be as available as it is today."

There are many ways to keep our hearts anchored in Christ. One method that has blessed God's people over the centuries is memorizing Scripture.

Several years ago our church (Calgary Mountain View) was challenged by our pastor (Honey Todd) to memorize a chapter a month. We gather the first Sabbath evening of the month at a Scripture supper and repeat to one another our chapter for the month. It is an enriching experience. As I write, we are preparing for our annual camp out in the mountains of Alberta, and on Sabbath evening we will be gathering around the campfire to repeat our chapter.

What are the benefits of memorizing Scripture? It helps soak the words of God into your mind more firmly than when you just read them. They are more available for recall when you need them. It helps to develop and structure our minds on spiritual themes. Memorizing uses imaging to help recall as needed. Those spiritual images from the words of Scripture stick with you to bless your life.

Memorizing scripture comes recommended by Ellen White, who says, "Let the more important passages of Scripture connected with the lesson [Sabbath school] be committed to memory, not as a task, but as a privilege. Though at first the memory be defective, it will gain strength by exercise, so that after a time, you will delight thus to treasure up the words of truth. And the habit will prove most valuable aid to spiritual growth."

My wife and I have proven the words of Ellen White, "It will gain strength by exercise." We were intimidated with the thought of memorizing chapters. However, memorizing a chapter a month means memorizing a verse or a couple of verses per day. Each day adding them to the verses from previous days until the chapter is committed to memory. We have memorized books of the Bible that way. My wife recently finished memorizing the Gospel of John. This is a great blessing to her life. I have memorized some of Paul's epistles, and the messages are much more powerful to me now.

In order to keep the ability to repeat what was committed to memory, you have to go over the passages each week. This is not always possible so at times the memorized chapters need refreshing in our mind. But even if you struggle to repeat the entire chapter, the verses are much more familiar and its message becomes riveted in your mind.

I am currently reading the book *The Heavenly Man* by Paul Hattaway. This remarkable story of "Brother Yun" tells about his persecutions and imprisonments in standing for Christ as a leader in the house church movement in communist China. It also tells about how Scripture memorizing helped him to remain faithful when Bibles were not available to him. He and others with him could repeat the Scriptures they had stored in their memory.

As I read this story, I realize the importance for Adventist Christians to store the Word of God in their hearts through memorizing portions of Scripture, because the future will be filled with times of difficulty. We, too, may be imprisoned for being faithful to God's Word. The Word of God may one day not be as available as it is today. Then we will be blessed, enriched, and helped through repeating the cherished scriptures that have been stored in our memory. God will be honoured, and we will hear the words spoken to us from Matthew 25, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (verse 21, NKJV). ■

Don Corkum is the former prayer coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1913) 138, 139.

²Paul Hattaway, *The Heavenly Man: The Remarkable Story of Chinese Brother Yun* (Grand Rapids, MI: Monarch Books, 2002).



barry's blog

"If the only impact is negative against faith-based universities, it is no longer about equality; it is about exclusion."

Universities Canada Bylaw: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Universities Canada's (UC) Board of Directors proposed a new bylaw for adoption at its October 2016 Membership Meeting. It discriminates against faith-based universities. Framed in benevolent language, UC's proposal is anything but. UC is the club that all universities want to belong to. It claims to be "the voice of Canadian universities, at home and abroad." It provides university presidents "a unified voice for higher education, research, and innovation." When UC speaks, government listens.

Consider the seemingly benign words of this newly proposed bylaw:

With respect to all institutional policies and practices, the institution affirms its commitment to equal treatment of all persons without discrimination, and without limitation, on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical or mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, sex, and sexual orientation.

Upon first reading you have to say, "What's wrong with that? It seems straight forward. Being against discriminatory universities is a good thing." Indeed, that is the disingenuous part of the UC proposal; it sounds and looks harmless. But it is far from harmless. It is a sophisticated mechanism to ensure that the small number of faith-based Canadian universities are not able to remain true to their moral convictions if they are UC members.

Notice that the bylaw refers to "religious beliefs"—human rights legislation uses the term "religion" or "creed." The courts recognize freedom of religion to include two aspects: belief and conduct. A person/community has the right to believe and act on that belief subject to reasonable limits. UC only recognizes the right to religious belief and is not at all interested in the right to exercise those beliefs. In other words, they do not have much patience for universities carrying out their faith in practice on their university campus.

The Universities Canada enforcement policy will not permit the use of “bona fide occupational requirement” exemptions in human rights legislation. This is the most amazing aspect of the whole issue—you have to waive your rights under legislation that is meant to protect you! To understand what that means, you need to know that Canadian human rights protections allow religious organizations (and other cultural groups) to discriminate (for example, in its hiring practices) to maintain their identity. Our legislatures understood that if religious universities were to continue as such, they must be able to ensure that their staff, faculty, and student population are active participants and followers of their religious community. A faith-based school is no longer faith-based if those on campus are no longer following its faith in practice.

UC’s “anti-discriminatory” jargon wraps itself in a blanket of “inclusiveness,” when, in reality, it is an attempt to conceal antireligious bigotry. Consider the following: 99.9 percent of the constituent members of the Universities Canada will have no problem with this bylaw, because it only affects the very few faith-based universities. If the only impact is negative against faith-based universities, it is no longer about equality; it is about exclusion. Simply put, the bylaw seeks to expunge the religious schools from the club. It says, *You are not wanted*.

Philip Landon, Vice-President of Governance and Programs at UC, sent a circular to the membership noting that UC has “been considering this complex and challenging issue for some time.” Why would it be so “complex and challenging” if 99+ percent will have no problem with the bylaw? I suggest it was “complex and challenging” because they want to do indirectly what they cannot do directly—that is, to get rid of faith-based universities from their membership.

Indeed, the complexity comes from the fact that, as the Supreme Court said in its decision to allow a Sikh boy to wear his kirpan to school, religious tolerance is a foundational principle of our democracy. UC has found it challenging to craft a policy that would be laser sharp to exclude the faith-based universities and yet maintain that they mean no harm. That takes skill, a lot of work, and time. All of which UC had.

As Landon noted, the “non-discrimination criterion” to UC’s “bylaws has been the focus of careful and in-depth discussion by the board, governance committee, and membership over the past six years.” And it included “an expansive, respectful and thoughtful dialogue, moderated by former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci.” It was “on the agenda of the governance

committee eight times, and the focus of board discussion seven times,” and he assured the members that “throughout this time ... communications with the presidents of the member institutions most concerned by this potential change remained regular and open.”¹

While the communication was “regular and open” the fact remains faith-based universities will, if this bylaw goes through, have a very difficult time being able to become a member of Universities Canada, or if a current member remain so. That is not only unfortunate it is a rejection of the principle of religious tolerance. That should concern everyone. For assuredly as the religious communities are not tolerated today, we can expect that there will be others tomorrow.

Why should faith-based universities be concerned about UC membership? First, membership in UC is seen by many organizations as a benchmark for other privileges. For example, a university student athletics program will not be able to compete in university sport leagues unless the university is a UC member. Therefore, a faith-based university will lose its ability to attract athletic students. That is a huge loss. Second, according to UC’s T3010 (being its annual return filed with CRA), it distributed \$16.5 million in 2015 in scholarships and grants to universities across the country. Third, UC membership makes it easier for graduates of faith-based universities to have their degrees recognized by graduate programs in other Canadian universities. Finally, UC receives some \$6.8 million/year from the federal government, making it a quasi-government actor.

To see another prominent actor in the public square limit the full participation of religious-based universities is disconcerting. It is offensive in our society that a religious community has to constantly be on guard, looking over its shoulder for the next attack. Members of Universities Canada would do well not to vote for the proposed bylaw. Faith-based universities simply living their faith in compliance with Canadian laws ought to be welcomed, not excluded from the sisterhood of universities that claims the inclusive moniker “Universities Canada.” UC would do well to heed the Supreme Court in 2001: “The diversity of Canadian society is partly reflected in the multiple religious organizations that mark the societal landscape and this diversity of views should be respected.” ■

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 Emphasis added.



Photo: Keith Chant

Almost vegan

Got lots of rhubarb? Need a great way to top off a meal with a sweet treat? Here is a fun recipe we have discovered for using fresh rhubarb, that also works well with frozen rhubarb. This cake is really good topped off with coconut whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla non-dairy ice cream.

This recipe originally used buttermilk, but we have found that adding 1 tablespoon of lemon juice to a cup of almond milk makes a good substitute. The trick is to let it sit for a few minutes to develop the buttermilk flavour. ■

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

* 1 Flax egg = 1 Tbsp ground flax + 3 Tbsp hot water.

Lunar Cake

INGREDIENTS:

BATTER

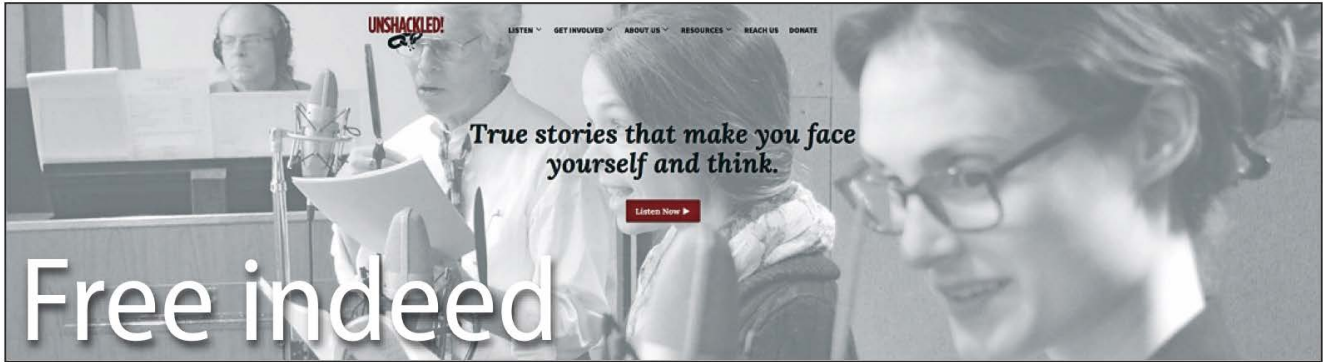
- ½ cup (125 ml) coconut oil
- 1 ½ cups (375 ml) sugar
- 1 flax egg*
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 2 cups (500 ml) flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking soda
- ½ tsp (2.5 ml) salt
- 1 cup (250 ml) almond milk
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice
- 2–3 cups (500–750 ml) chopped rhubarb
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) flour

TOPPING

- ¼ cup (60 ml) coconut oil
- 2 tsp (10 ml) cinnamon
- 1 cup (250 ml) brown sugar, packed

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Combine almond milk and lemon juice and let sit for 5 minutes.
- Cream coconut oil and sugar. Beat in “egg” and vanilla.
- Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Alternately, add milk mixture and dry ingredients to creamed mixture.
- Toss rhubarb with flour. Fold into batter.
- Pour into 9 x 13 pan and smooth. Mix topping ingredients together and sprinkle over batter.
- Bake at 350° for 40 minutes (until inserted toothpick comes out clean).



Most of our listeners are familiar with the radio drama program *Unshackled*. It tells real-life stories of how God has worked in the lives of individuals to free them from the clutches of sin. Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) connects Matthew Benedict with spiritual support on a daily basis through programs like *Unshackled*. He stumbled onto VOAR four or five years ago and was encouraged to keep listening to VOAR by his Baptist church family in Golden, B.C. Now VOAR is his radio station, strengthening his connection with God every time he gets in his car.

Reading God's Word and spending time with fellow believers also helps nourish Matthew spiritually. Matthew has been sober for over six years now, having answered God's call to come out of a life of alcoholism and drugs. God has relieved the obsession

that Satan once fed, and now he finds lots of practical ideas to help keep him on the right path by listening to *Focus on the Family*. He says that life is good for him today even as he is faced with a new set of challenges. He longs to share his Saviour with his family and friends, many of whom aren't ready to follow God's call on their lives. He realizes that through his example, they are seeing the difference that Christ can make in a person's life as the Son sets them free and they become free indeed. May God continue to bless Matthew and the church members in Golden, B.C., who make sacrifices to keep VOAR on the air. ■

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



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE BRAMPTON AND CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

How does God get your attention?

Joan Reynolds: He allowed me to be laid off ... so I had to completely rely on Him and His promises. It caused me to trust Him, pray more, [and] I learned to leave everything to Him Recently, [I] got a new full-time job that is the best fit for me and my family.

Erykah: Sometimes I pray and what I pray for happens, like when I lost my mom in Costco. I prayed and found her within five minutes.

Kathleen Garcia: One of the ways in which God gets my attention is in times of sickness Sickness draws me closer to my Creator. Then I think to myself, *I should always stay close to Him and allow Him to have my attention.*

Jessika Molnar: When I go through hardships and I wake up feeling like I can get through anything, I know Jesus has my back.

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, so continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Fredericton

YOUTH



A youth group may not be what immediately comes to mind when one thinks of “church,” but what Acts 2 describes is exactly what the Fredericton Seventh-day Adventist youth group has been experiencing.

In the fall of 2015, God led Ricky and Stephanie Schwarz, a young ministry couple, to the Maritime Conference to pastor over the local churches in the Saint John and surrounding area. Their main focus was to reach out and build relationships with the youth of the church. As in many of today’s churches, youth were few and far between. Although they were few in number, they dedicated themselves to meeting regularly in fellowship and study, and soon friendships grew, and relationships were built with Christ at the centre.

Soon thereafter, three members of this group were called from the area to Fredericton for work and university. Although they had to leave, what had been established in that group would serve as an image of health and act as a template for what would become in Fredericton.

Upon arriving in Fredericton, the three realized the huge potential the city had for outreach and introducing others to God.

It seemed that God had brought Frank Kelemen, Alyssa Parent, and Taylor Burke here for a reason. Once again, God’s hand was leading. Known as a university town, Fredericton had two universities, four colleges, and four high schools in the surrounding area. God wanted to reach their hearts.

As the year progressed, the three found it very difficult to make time to start a ministry. Frank, as a high school teacher, and Alyssa and Taylor attending university, soon realized that dedicating time to starting a ministry would prove challenging. A valuable lesson was learned through this process: If you stand for God, God will stand for you. After feeling called by God to start a ministry in Fredericton, the three met one night, and as they felt the Holy Spirit impressing their hearts they decided that they would start a youth group.

The focus and message of this group was simple yet powerful: “We worship a risen Savior, and He desires and longs for a relationship with you.” The focus and message of this group was the beautiful character of God. The focus and message was Jesus. The passion for Jesus and the

testimony of what He was doing in their lives came to burn in the members’ hearts, and they desired to share this message. Members would come to find that the gospel of what God was doing in their lives was too amazing not to share. Resurrection, for the group, was the resurrection of the new person they were becoming as they grew closer to God. This is the message they took forward to share.

Starting with three members, the Fredericton Seventh-day Adventist Youth Group grew to nearly 15 members in one month. As God poured out His Holy Spirit and led person after person to the group, they started to notice something incredible. Each member of the group had the same experience with the image portrayed of God. Whether it had been through experiences in the church, school, through family members, or broken relationships, each member found that their image of God was torn. Time after time God would bring members to the group who had had negative experiences with the image portrayed of God, and particularly the image that the church portrayed of God. Many nights were spent



listening to personal testimonies of how members longed for a deeper relationship with God but had been driven away from Him. After noticing this trend and how God was leading these people together, they realized they had been broken so that God could rebuild. They believed a Light will shine brightest in the darkest hour, and the light found in Jesus was shining bright for all to see.

God brought together not only people with similar pasts but also their much-needed talents. Where one group member was weak, another member was strong. God had brought members from all walks of life and from different areas around the world—all with unique experiences that would allow the ministry of God in Fredericton to grow and reach the hearts of many.

After only five months, the Fredericton SDA Youth Group has grown to 40 members and continues to grow together. God has been blessing the group so abundantly that they soon outgrew the apartment they had been meeting in and were forced to expand. Fortunately, God had a plan. The local Fredericton Seventh-

day Adventist Church generously offered a building for the group to use for outreach and Bible studies. This building was ideally located within walking distance from the university, which provided the perfect location and opportunity for campus outreach. It was evident that God had further plans to reach His people.

The group continues to meet weekly for Bible studies and fellowship. A major focus of the group is on building and establishing relationships founded on Christ, and the group regularly plans fellowship opportunities such as potlucks, hiking, skating, skiing, movies, and game nights. The group also frequently meets with the youth group from Saint John area and participates in fellowship and combined outreach. The group has also become actively involved in community outreach with members of the group leading outreach at the local community kitchen, churches, universities, and high schools.

After experiencing the power of God's character in their own lives and witnessing Him change the lives of others, the Fredericton Youth Group has full faith in what God can do and is looking

forward to the plans He has in the Fredericton area and what He is able to do through their ministry.

Looking forward, the youth group has plans to expand their campus, community, and online ministry. They believe not only that they are called to go and make disciples but also that by going to tell others of God's love, they themselves become disciples of God.

This group has been a testimony to the power found in the character of Jesus. God took individuals who had their image of God shattered and showed them who He is. Through this experience, the members of the Fredericton SDA Youth group have found the true meaning of what a "church" is. They have found their family in Christ, and God continues to make that family grow. God is taking these broken pieces of each of us, and He is assembling them into a vessel that will reflect an image of His character to the world. The Fredericton SDA Youth Group has experienced the life-changing love of Jesus, and Jesus wants to do the same for you. ■



Out of the Status Quo

The Mission Trip

For most travellers, the preparation time is the most exciting part of the trip. Mississauga Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church (MFSDAC) was no exception!

This was a mission trip to Kitwanga, located in a reserve in Terrace, B.C.

The preparation was lengthy and tedious. The whole church participated. Some members sent letters of donation to friends and acquaintances. An ad hoc committee to spearhead their biggest fundraising project, "Cultural Night Presentation," was organized. Financial blessing kept pouring in. Just for one night, the "Cultural Night" project has

by Carmen Dimaapi

generated \$7,500 net income from 350 attendees. With donations and the financial support from church members and contributions of those who joined the trip, the projected budget for the trip was reached.

Excitement was in the air!

Fourteen enthusiasts confirmed they were joining the mission trip. Meetings were held to discuss the details of the trip. Flights were confirmed, and tickets were purchased. Dedication of the group, officiated by Pastor Charles Ojano (church pastor), concluded the final preparation.

Departure

Genesis 12: God bid Abraham, a wealthy man, to go to an unknown place and leave families, friends, and the comfort of his home behind. The group for the mission trip was composed of 14 individuals (seven young people and seven adults). All came out of their comfort zone to follow God's bidding. They left the comfort of their homes in the city and went to an unfamiliar village in British Columbia to have a peek at how people live there.

August 14, 2016, came swiftly. It was time to go. Pastor Ojano and other volunteers from the church dropped the group off at the airport. The six-hour flight was uneventful. The group arrived at Terrace Airport where they were greeted and picked up by the Sulads' Pioneer Missionary Group, Limwel and Sister Alta Ramada.



Nonoy, Bambi, Rosten, and Yanny enjoying the blueberries at Kitwanga.

Days 1-2

Proverbs 3:27 states, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due." Although the trip sounded like a vacation, it was actually saturated with hard work. Painting the village church was the top priority. This was in preparation for the village chief's nephew's wedding. The missionary volunteers spent two whole days on the painting job. Both days were exhausting but rewarding. Unknown to the group, a budding friendship with the natives started to develop. Arms and back felt very sore. Went straight to bed after worship and dinner.

Priceless reward: Chief Barbara (one of the natives' chiefs) was so pleased with the splendid and "look-like-a-pro" painting job. Everyone was invited to the wedding ceremony and wedding reception. At the reception authentic food was served, and our youth were even requested to give two musical renditions at the reception. An experience of a lifetime!

Day 3

The next assignment was mowing the lawns, pulling out weeds, and backyard cleanup of some of the elderly's homes in the village. The youth also cut the logs for firewood using the wood splitter. Cutting the logs was something they had not done before, and it brought them so much joy! One of them sprained her ankle, but it didn't stop her from working. Another exhausting day, but muscles were less sore—getting used to the vigorous exercises!

Day 4

Berry picking and carpentry workshop:

The morning was spent on berry picking at the Sulad's farm. After picking, berries were packed and finally delivered, at no cost, to the village people. Everyone enjoyed the organic berries! The afternoon was spent at the carpentry workshop. The young carpenters were able to make stools for young children in the village. Stools were used to reach high tables when making crafts.

Days 5-9

Bus Stop Shelter: This is the highlight of the mission trip. The whole group pooled their efforts and energy together for the construction job. Some were mixing cement, some were digging holes, while others were aligning woods and hammering nails to secure the foundation. The bus stop shelter was strategically erected, built right by the school. It was intended to provide a little shelter from the harsh, cold winter and a little roof from the burning heat of the sun during summer to children while waiting for their school buses. The project was very historical, as it was the very first bus stop shelter ever built in that village!

Day 10

Memorial Day: A turnover ceremony concluded the bus shelter project. It was at this ceremony where the group was able to share God's love through their angelic songs and heartfelt speeches to the entire village. This was not an original part of the trip; however, it's important to note that the group was composed of abled musicians—pianist, guitarist, and singers. God is amazing. He prepares us for the unforeseen. Chief Gary's thank-you speech elevated the soul. What a life-changing experience for everyone!

Day 11

Fun Day: Went out fishing with selected village people. Lots of catch!

Activities In-Between

Supporting the Grieving Community: Another amazing experience! After the funeral service, there's a week-long community celebration in support and comfort to the bereaved family. The missionary volunteers were so privileged to attend and observe this feast; it was a seven-hour-long ceremony. Soup was served the whole time, and you are not supposed to refuse what they offer you, or it would be taken as a big offense to the host. Smiling was strictly forbidden at the service!

Visiting other tribes in the native community was another unforgettable experience. There were four tribes in total, and each tribe has a population of 700 to 800 people. Through the efforts of the Sulads, Chief Gary and his wife, Gloria, have been regular visitors in our church at Kitwanga. To date, five precious souls have been baptized. May God be praised!

Endless Rewards: The chief and the people in the village were so pleased and happy with what the group had done for them. Fish in bulk were given as gifts—40, 50, 80, 100 pieces of fresh sockeye salmon. Daily meals were loaded with omega-3s. There was so much left over, however, and unfortunately, one can't take them all home!

Time Flies

August 28, 2016, was the day to fly back home. Malachi 3:10 teaches us to refuse to dwell in the comfort zone. Break away from the ordinary and watch God bless and use your life in extraordinary ways. Unlike Abraham in Genesis 12, everyone initially was hesitant to join the trip. They said, "Why go to a place where there were only mountains and a handful of less sophisticated village people?" However, they ended up trusting God every step of the way, and God stirred within their hearts and turned their attention to something new and better. Out of the status quo came a life-changing experience.

In spite of some setbacks (sore muscles, sprained



Putri and friend during the "Clean up" at Kitwanga.

ankle, back pains, etc.), no complaints were made. Everyone felt blessed, empowered, and committed to joining the second trip. The group (especially the youth) had reconnected again with the same village and developed a working plan to help decrease the high incidence of smoking and drug addiction, especially among the young villagers.

To date, the group has already started raising funds for the next trip, which is scheduled for August 2017, another two-week mission trip. Each week they chip in \$20, which goes to the mission trip budget. Parents of the youth volunteers are already budgeting for this trip. They engaged in caroling last December, and more fundraising events are on the way. Their project is to help in building the youth centre in Kitwanga and to run a Vacation Bible School.

The Kitwanga mission trip was such an incredible experience, and it has positively impacted the whole Mississauga Filipino church family. The children's department has decided to join in on the second trip. This makes our small church of about 200 faithful believers manage a hectic but exciting fundraising project. MFSDAC cannot just let go of the golden opportunities to serve the Lord!

"I shall return," said General Douglas McArthur to the people of the Philippines. The same promise was made by MFSDAC group to the Kitwanga's village! ■

Carmen Dimaapi is a nurse and serves as leader of the Sabbath school ministry at Mississauga Filipino Adventist Church.

Who Are Sulads?

SULADS is an acronym for Socio-economic, Uplift, Literacy, Agriculture, and Developmental Services and also means “brother” or “sister” in the Filipino Manobo dialect. The ministry began in the Philippines in the 1960s at Mountain View College (MVC) as a student missionary program to reach out to the primitive Manobo tribes in the nearby mountain ranges.

Participants were trained on teaching techniques, health education, agricultural techniques, home treatments, anthropology, and eventually expanded to include hospital-based outreach and education.¹ They operated eight schools that ministered to the villagers.

The program experienced growth and decline until being revived in the 1990s. Acceptance from the Manobo people was difficult at times, with villagers unsure of the Sulads’ motives for establishing a school in their village. Suspecting that MVC was trying to steal their land, the people presented strong resistance. However, consistent prayers and a few miracles led villagers and their new chiefs to realize that a school would benefit their children and community as a whole.

Eventually, recognition by various government and media outlets helped expand the program further. They currently serve several unreached people groups both within the Philippines and internationally.

Despite its evolution over the years, the heart of the Sulads ministries remains the same. Their philosophy is to reach the unreached. Sulads programs are led by Adventist Filipinos reaching the unreached or underserved indigenous people in their territories.

One such program is Sulads Canada, which was

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

UPLIFT

LITERACY

AGRICULTURE,

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

co-founded by Charles Aguilar, a former pastor of the Terrace Adventist Church who was heavily involved with First Nation missions in Northern British Columbia. Sulads Canada serves the people of the Gitksan Nation, which occupy 33,000 square kilometres in Northern British Columbia.

Sulads Canada, through the hard work of their dedicated missionaries, operates the Gitwangak Seventh-day Adventist Church Fellowship, Pathfinder club, and farmers market. By providing educational, agricultural, and health programs while respecting cultural traditions and beliefs, Sulads are able to provide help and support to alleviate many issues that normally plague the Gitksan people. Programs and events are held frequently throughout the year to develop and maintain close relationships.² As a result, Sulads have been welcomed into the Gitksan community with open arms.

Through Sulads Canada, several church groups from around Canada have also had the opportunity to volunteer at their headquarters in Kitwanga, B.C. For more information on Sulads Canada and how you can get involved, go to suladscanada.com. ■

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

¹www.suladsasia.org/our-story
²www.suladscanada.com



“How much are you planning to make?”

It was very hot outside, and I was having a really rough day. I had signed up for my first summer of door-to-door ministry with Canada Youth Challenge (CYC), but things weren't going well. My first day I had made only five dollars the entire day, and it looked as if this day was not going to be much better.

Feeling discouraged, I began to talk to God, telling Him that I was really trying, that everyone was rejecting me, and that I didn't know what I was doing out here in this heat. Soon afterwards I approached a door and knocked, and when the door opened, a child about 10 years of age stood there.

“Hi,” I said, “are your parents home?”

“Yeah,” he answered. “I'll go get my dad. You can come inside for now.”

“Oh ... I don't know,” I stammered. “Are you sure?” I felt strange just entering someone's house, but the boy said, “Yeah, don't worry.” So I came in.

The home was refreshingly cool, and I was so glad for this break from the heat. After a short while, the boy returned with his father and the man looked suspiciously and curiously at me. I began my presentation and showed the father the books I had. He took one, turned to the back of it, and, for some time, looked at the page advertising a children's Bible story set. He flipped through other pages, then returned to that last page. Looking up, he asked, “So ... are you guys Christian?”

“Yes,” I answered, “We are a Christian organization.”

With that, he began to ask many questions about why I was going door to door. When I explained that I was a student and the work helped me raise funds for school, he asked, “Well, how much are you planning to make?”

I really didn't know how to answer that question, but I told him it was my first time doing this and that I'd be happy if I made \$1,000.

“Really?” He exclaimed. “All summer and only that much?”

“Well,” I responded, “I guess our main objective is to get the literature into homes and point people to Jesus.” The man seemed satisfied. He then said, “If I write a cheque, whom should I address it to?” I told him, and a couple of minutes later, he handed me a cheque for \$100.

That cheque helped make up for my low sales the previous day, but it also taught me something even more important. Even though I had experienced repeated rejection at the doors, God was still with me and was able to provide. I learned that I needed to keep going, even when things were difficult. Why? Because so long as I did my part, God, who is faithful, would come through in the end.

Regardless of what you are going through, remain faithful to God and His mission. God, in turn, will be faithful to you. ■

Victoria Lim served as a student literature evangelist with Lifestyle Canada, a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada.



Ch-Ch- Changes

A PACeS Story of Transformation

Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS) is where I chose to spend my last years in school. It is where I have grown so much, and it is where I know I will continue to grow in my last year of school. PACeS is the school where I have always felt at home, and in PACeS, I have been transformed in many ways.

After attending College Heights Christian School (CHCS), I came to PACeS because I was struggling with health issues that seriously affected my attendance. Although PACeS was fun and I liked my teacher, I struggled with motivation, and I returned to CHCS for two years.

At age 11, I felt that God was leading me back, so I decided I would like to try PACeS again. With the help of my grandparents, I went out and bought a laptop and other items I would need. I was scared to start a new school again, but PACeS is a very welcoming school, and I felt at home right away.

I loved my junior high teacher, Ms. Rochford, and she is the reason I fell in love with photography. I started photography classes with her in Grade 9, although I was technically too young, but Mrs. Morehouse let me take it without receiving credits. This was a defining moment for me. Photography is now what I want for my life's work: capturing memories and all of God's handiwork.

My high school years in PACeS have continued to transform me. I still struggle with some health-related difficulties, but all of the teachers are really amazing. In senior high, I have continued to be more motivated about my school work. I even took a heavy load in Grade 11 so I could have a better senior year, and my teachers have supported me all the way through this journey. They always ask how I'm doing, and I never hesitate to ask a question; whether I have a school question, or I just need to talk about something that is happening at home, the teachers are always there for me and are praying for me. My high school years have been quite the adventure. I have had a math teacher who taught from Japan and I have watched a pig dissection. While my high school years are not yet done, I know that PACeS and my teachers will continue to support me while I grow and face my last two diploma courses.

I know that PACeS has changed me, and that is a good thing. I am more mature and self-motivated. I know that when the school year is over and I have graduated, I will be ready for the world. I am confident that God will lead me in the right direction. The world is a scary place, but I also know that I have the tools and support to make it, thanks to my family and PACeS. ■

Kelcey Pollard writes from Lacombe, Alberta.

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

Giving of Ourselves

Tesopaco is a small town in Mexico located about an eight hours' drive south of Nogales, Ariz. In 1984, the Tesopaco Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school was home to 300 local and boarding students. That year a group from Kingsway helped to dig a septic system for the school and participated in other school activities for the students. Some years later, however, the Tesopaco School was closed, and there was no longer an Adventist school in the area.

In 2003, after many years of working at an orphanage in Mexico, Isaac and Francis Chagoya, who have always had a burden for young people, felt called to start an elementary school in Tesopaco.

A new generation of Kingsway students returned to Tesopaco in 2007, and together with local Oshawa trades people, built a 27 x 40 block building with a steel roof that would be used as classrooms by the students. Isaac had a plan to enlarge this small school into a boarding school for secondary students in Mexico and asked if Kingsway College would be willing to return and construct another building.

February 2009 would see another Kingsway group travel to Tesopaco to build a similar 27 x 40 building that was divided into a classroom and a chapel venue for worship services and graduation programs.

This year, after much planning, a new team from Kingsway returned to Tesopaco. Over the next five working days, we completed the construction of two buildings, dug a trench and laid a water line, ran daily VBS programs for the students at the school as well as students from the town, mixed many batches of cement, painted the exterior of two existing buildings, ate some great Mexican food, took cold showers (some days there was no shower at all), slept on cement floors, enjoyed the hot days—and cold nights—met and became friends with some really great students from the school, and, maybe best of all, gained a life-changing experience helping others.

On the last day of work, Isaac took me aside and told me that the local parents of the high school students wanted to have a special meal for our group that night. I was thinking this would be a simple meal around some tables. As the parents and their children came to prepare for the meal, we were in awe of the beautiful traditional Mexican attire our hosts wore. As the Mexican music was playing, eight different food stations were set up. Soon the fiesta began. The night air was warm enough to enjoy this outside event; it was like a movie scene from a John Wayne movie with the sounds, smells, and incredible food from our amazing hosts.

A representative from the mayor's office of Tesopaco presented us with a certificate and a Mexican flag and thanked us for the work we had done for his community as well. He also delivered his observation on how well behaved our students were when in town.

Living in the best country on the planet, Canada, we are prone to taking the basics we enjoy every day for granted and not giving it a second thought; however, when we have the opportunity to travel to other countries and "give of ourselves," we learn to appreciate what we have at home.

Kingsway College students continue to live the motto "Service, not Fame." ■



Isaac and Francis Chagoya, along with the boarding students from the Adventist school in Tesopaco. The building behind them is one constructed by our team. It will now be used as a second classroom.

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



One Year After the Party Building on Goodwill and Vision

“You are building a model that will be of value far beyond the walls of MANS.”



Solid from the ground up—Llew Werner, Building Committee chair, advises that both the exterior school walls and the gym walls are constructed of precast concrete sections. In addition to having very good fire resistance and durability, the precast wall sections also have a substantial layer of high density foam insulation “sandwiched” in the middle of each section, which will result in a warm school. The gym walls were raised first and the gym roof trusses installed, and then the exterior walls and trusses will be installed. The roof will be sheeted and clad with metal roofing material.



On-site at God’s Project—William Piersanti, who also drafted the plans in collaboration with architectural draftsman Zayda Steinke, coordinates and oversees the day-to-day work at the construction site. For all who in some way have contributed to this miracle school, there is no doubt about it: “This school is God’s project” (Judy Gimbel, May 2016).

May 16, 2016, was a historic day for the Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) community, the Alberta Conference, and all Canadian Adventists. The ground-breaking ceremony and the powwow that followed were the culmination of years of faith and hard work on the part of the teachers and principals who are on the front lines; on the part of conference leaders, members, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada who support it and its mission; and the steering committee that works hard behind the scenes to keep the funds coming in to build the new high school.

One year later the walls are up, and the expectations are high. A charitable family foundation in Calgary with no prior connection to MANS was impressed with the success of our school and the positive effect it is having on our youth. The family generously donated \$80,000 to the construction of the high school, writing that “You are building a model that will be of value far beyond the walls of MANS.”

Perhaps the greatest miracle of all, however, is the trust that has grown among the families of Maskwacis, who, despite the brutality many of them experienced in religious residential schools, believe in MANS. They entrust their precious children to us every day (see Levi Nepoose’s testimony on page 4), believing that we will keep them safe and give them a reason to hope. ■

Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference and a huge fan of Mamawi Atosketan Native School.

Learn more about Mamawi Atosketan Native School and our students at MANS1.ca. You can also find out more about how The Bridge Campaign is changing the future of education among youth.

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"...I can see that I'm not alone in the struggle."

At Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA), Hadassah Heimann is a stand-out student, but one of the most important lessons she has learned in her high school years is that she does not stand alone. PAA has become the community to encourage her over the last two years in what she has come to call her "overall theme: God puts people in your life so you can take their counsel and rely on Him to make tough decisions for the future."

Enrolling at PAA was not a tough decision for Hadassah, as her Mom (Jana Heimann, née Nelson) is an alumna, and her family has always been a supporter of Adventist education, but the way it came together "was definitely a God-thing, for sure," she shares. "When we first talked about me coming to PAA, I thought I would be leaving my family in Armstrong and moving to the dorm. Another option was that maybe I wouldn't get to come, because it might be one of those things that was a good idea but maybe never actually happens. But we moved together when I was 13, and now I am really thankful that my family is here."

Hadassah's family has expanded to include the teachers and mentors from PAA, who were quick to include her in campus life, just as her parents were excited to get involved. Luke and Jana Heimann joined forces with the campus to host the Senior Survival weekend every fall for the graduating class, and Luke has coached the female Panthers volleyball team for several years now. Together they also invested labour and love into constructing the new Burman University campus signage under their company, Fos Contracting. "My dad named his company 'Fos,' which is Greek for 'Light,' because he wants to be a light to those around him," Hadassah shares. The joy of serving God runs in their family, as Hadassah has found herself in many positions of influence since her Grade 10 year.

She has served on her class executive council and has also helped with Campus Ministries. "I got to be one of the Week of Prayer speakers for Grade 10," Hadassah says, "and it was a really cool experience. It's easier to talk in front of people when you have a personal story about how you have seen God working



Hadassah Heimann

in your life, and I see God working in my life every day." Her testimony inspired others to examine their own experience for the ways in which God was already speaking to them.

"I really appreciate the faith-based foundation of learning at PAA, and I like hearing people talk about their individual experience in a more public way, like at Week of Prayer, because I can see that I'm not alone in the struggle."

Belonging to the supportive community that is PAA, Hadassah, now in Grade 11, also feels as though she can help others, too. "There's been a huge jump in interest for Campus Ministries, I've noticed. I feel like everyone really just wants to be involved and all the ways they can contribute revolve around Christ-centred activities, so it doesn't really matter where they jump in, because they'll be able to do something for God."

Hadassah knows that one of the things she can do is to help others fit in the same way she was fostered into her role. "Being part of a team—like volleyball, chapel worships, and life—is not a 'just you' event, because you can't do everything alone, and [you] have to trust that other people will be there to help you," and PAA is full of those people who are ready to support. ■

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

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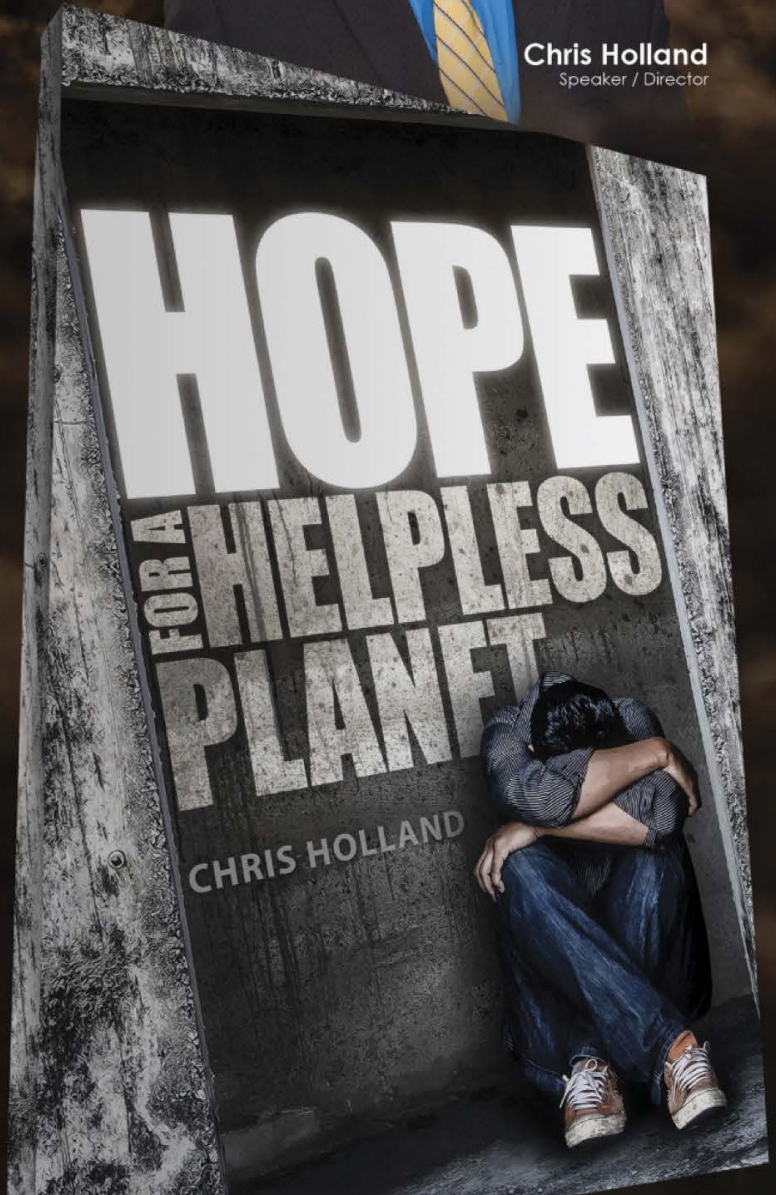
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Maritimes

Truro Church Embarks on Building Project



Left: The existing Truro SDA Church. Above: A rendering of the plans to add a new wing and to make improvements to the outside appearance making it more recognizable as a church.

Truro is the third-largest population centre in Nova Scotia. Located on a major junction of the Trans-Canada Highway, it is referred to as the “Hub of Nova Scotia.” The town of Truro is home to the agricultural branch, and a portion of the engineering department of Dalhousie University, and one of Nova Scotia’s several community colleges. The opportunities for evangelism are many.

For many years the Truro Seventh-day Adventist Church has struggled to meet the needs of families with young children, primarily because of a lack of facilities in the children’s divisions. In one or two recent instances, families with a number of children have actually attended for a time and then left for another church or another location, simply because the church could not offer adequate programs for their children.

The Truro church is located close to the new Wilson Recreation Centre, directly across the street from Wal-Mart

and a number of other retail stores. In short, it’s an ideal place for visibility within the community. However, because of its nondescript appearance, many persons are surprised to learn that it is actually a church!

Late last autumn, the church took action to add a new wing onto the church building, including two Sabbath school classrooms and a parents’ room. We believe God wants us to make children a priority by providing excellent Sabbath school classes and other programs to help young people grow spiritually, especially since we do not have an Adventist church school in Truro. The plans also include making improvements to the outside appearance of the overall structure, to ensure that the renewed building will be recognizable as a church.

Our members are committed to build debt-free, going only as far as we can with the funds we have available. The decision to build was an act of faith, because although

some funds were on hand, an additional \$50,000 still needed to be raised.

In order to help reduce the overall cost of this project, much of the work will be done by volunteers. A group from Maranatha International will be coming in August to help move the project forward. But there will be much work to be done both before and after that. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact David Streifling, Building Committee Chairman, at (902) 800-5085; or Pastor David Hamilton at (902) 759-0008.

We thank God for the human and financial resources that will be provided, and we pray that hearts will be reached for Jesus as we move forward in this major undertaking. It is our vision that, with the Holy Spirit’s blessing, the Truro church will become a prominent centre of spiritual influence and evangelism in the Maritime Conference. We solicit your prayers that men and women, boys and girls, will find the Lord here. ■

Ontario

Do It Now; God Will Do the Amazing

My experience at the annual Ontario Conference Young Women’s Weekend Retreat last June, 2016, held at Seneca College in Toronto, brought a twofold blessing. Attending for the first time, I really did not know what to expect; however, as I packed to go, I felt in my heart it would be a life-changing experience. At the last minute, I grabbed my prized possession, a sample collection of poems I had been writing. *Oh, how I long to finish my book of poems!* was the quick thought that sailed by as I packed it, anticipating showing a friend I knew would be there.

Sharon Platt-McDonald, Women’s Ministries Director, British Union, and author of the “Woman of Virtue Program” used for the weekend’s theme, was the phenomenal keynote speaker. The purpose of the retreat was to bring self-awareness to ladies of their many roles as women and empower them to identify and grow their specific talents, finding ways to use them in ministry to others. As the weekend progressed, although richly blessed by the singing, the workshops, the sermon, the fellowship, and the prayers with other ladies, I had a sense that this was not all. God had another blessing for me.

On Sunday the final session of the program focused on booth displays. It featured ladies in their varied roles and their accomplishments. I was impressed to see that our speaker, Sharon, had written so many books of her own. My heart stirred with excitement as I pulled out my collection of poems to share with her. After gazing through the first few pages, Sharon turned to me with her face lit up. “Angie,” she said, “You must publish this book and send me a copy!” A surge of new excitement raced through my veins! Two years ago God had nudged me to write a book, but I never saw myself as a writer, so I struggled and kept putting it off.

I felt a renewal of energy; I knew at that moment I would finish my book.

God knows when we need encouragement. He knows just where to send us. He knew what I needed, and He had sent me

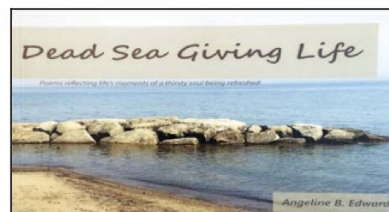
this weekend to get it. I showed many others, including my friend, the draft of my book that weekend. I

was very encouraged by the positive feedback I received. Today my poetry book, *Dead Sea Giving Life* is published and has been my blessing, and has also blessed others. I have been encouraged by Joan Rogers, my own Women’s Ministries director in Canada, to nurture other ladies who are interested in writing poetry. She has supplied me with names. What empowerment this experience has brought to my life! It has strengthened my belief in my own abilities. God has built my confidence.

But it does not end here. Recently I met a lady whose interest is to start a Christian poetry group. I had always wanted to be a part of a poetry writing club. *Isn’t God amazing? I thought. It just keeps getting better!*

My ministry opportunities are growing. Not only have I received nurturing but also mentorship and leadership opportunities from my own conference leader. Having experienced the blessings of this empowerment and growth, I am committed to do the same for other women. I have accepted the challenge to assist as the prayer coordinator on the advisory committee for Young Women’s ministry of Ontario Conference. I am also committed to continue with my poetry and to nurture others with that interest and talent. I thank God for the ministry of women, who mentor, nurture, and empower others like myself to rise up and do things God puts in our heart to do. Are you a woman called to do the same? By not doing so, you will miss your blessing. Don’t wait any longer to join us. Do it now! Let your desire be known to Him, and He will do what He always does, which is something absolutely amazing in your life. ■

— Angeline Edwards, Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Heritage Matters Southern Ontario Campmeeting

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Assistant Pastor,
Windsor Adventist
Church, Windsor,
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Loma Linda
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Linda, California

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

When the World Recognizes Christian Service

Those who humble themselves will be exalted.—*Luke 18:14*



Mr. Derrick Stewart, Chair of the Board of Governors, presents Judy Ramsay with the Board of Governors' Excellence in Community Service award

It was a somewhat surprising scene at Brandon University Convocation on May 27, 2016, in Brandon, Man. During the same ceremony that former prime minister Paul Martin gave an address and received an honorary degree, Seventh-day Adventist Judy Ramsay walked across the stage to receive the Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Community Service. Mr. Derrick Stewart, Chair of the Board of Governors, had just read a biography describing her service for the Brandon Seventh-day Adventist Church and numerous mission trips with Maranatha Volunteers International.

How does a former church treasurer and avid Adventist mission trip goer receive an award from a public university for her Christian service?

First of all, Brandon University has employed Judy for 30+ years. Currently, she is the administrative assistant to the dean of the Faculty of Health Studies.

Judy was nominated by two co-workers for the Excellence in Community Service award. One of its purposes is to "give recognition to a Brandon University employee who through cumulative volunteer activities best contributes to the community service function of the university."

Judy says, "I was a bit skeptical that the Board of Governors would be interested in church-related service." Despite her doubts, she submitted letters describing her service in detail as well as letters of reference from then Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference president Ron Nelson and Lisa Emmanuel of Maranatha Volunteers International.

So what did the Board of Governors read that merited such an award? The life of a woman dedicated to serving God wherever she could.

The bio read at her award ceremony noted that in 1995 she became the treasurer for the Brandon Seventh-day Adventist

Church and held that post for 20 years. What they didn't mention was that she'd held numerous other posts, including Sabbath school superintendent and secretary, personal ministries secretary, music coordinator, primary Sabbath school teacher and bulletin secretary. The bio also noted she had used her musical education received at Brandon University to bless many people at church, weddings, funerals, and even the Brandon 2014 Remembrance Day ceremonies with her piano playing.

What particularly stood out to the awards committee were Judy's 12 mission trips through Maranatha Volunteers International. In 2003 Judy was invited to join a church-building project trip by a friend. After that trip to the Dominican Republic, "I was hooked," recounts Judy. "From then on I tried to go on a Maranatha mission trip at least once per year." On her subsequent trips, she did everything from laying block and re-bar on the construction sites; drilling metal sheets and painting; testing and distributing eye glasses; presenting topics at health fairs; raising money and assisting with food distribution; assisting with children's ministries; kitchen duties; and follow-up presentations to encourage others to participate in the world of volunteerism. From an orphanage in El Salvador, church building projects in Zimbabwe, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Panama, to building large education centres and classrooms in India, Ecuador, and Honduras, Judy describes the experiences as "rich." "I get to interact with the local people and assist in outreach ministries," she explains. "These people believe it takes a big God to bring people halfway around the world to build them a church or a school. These buildings will help change their lives for generations to come."

The ceremony held an extra special

significance for Judy. During her employment at Brandon University, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts double major in both Rural and Community Studies and Sociology, immediately followed by a fourth-year BA majoring in sociology, all the while working full-time. However, Judy recounts, “I did not attend my 2002 and 2004 graduations from Brandon University because they were held on the Sabbath. As I had received the Gold Medal in Arts in 2002, I was somewhat disappointed that I had not been available

to receive the medal in person. Especially since my parents were still alive. A few years ago, Brandon University changed Convocation ceremonies to Friday. When I received the Board of Governors’ Excellence in Community Service award it was a real surprise. On reflection it occurred to me that God was smiling at me for my faithfulness as I had questioned my decision many times. ... But what I got was even better than receiving a degree and medal in a few seconds walking across the stage.”

The Bible teaches that God loves to exalt His humble servants wherever they serve. Judy’s award is one example of how He lets His people shine for Him wherever they are. There are many faithful servants in our churches, schools, and care homes across the Man-Sask Conference.

Thank you for the service each of you submit to God in your sphere of influence. Please continue to do so for His glory. ■

—*Brian Bell, communications director, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference*

Reports From the North

Report From Rankin Inlet

Our Adventist congregation in Rankin Inlet have embraced the vision of becoming a “house of prayer” for all people. Bible worker Benton Lowe reports that three men from a Rankin Inlet family (father, son, and uncle) fell through the ice and perished on their way to Arviat. The funeral happened February 9, and the community was in mourning. Our Adventist church members are ministering to the family and to the community in this time of grief.

Report From Igloolik

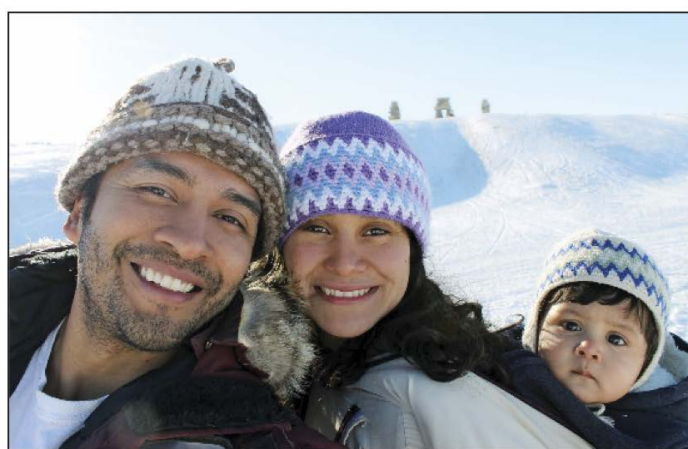
Church group leaders José and Ghadihela Quezada report that the Igloolik radio station is back up and running—now under the direction of the hamlet. A couple who heard José’s appeal on the radio for people to keep the Bible Sabbath are now attending regularly. The husband overcame his reticence to attend church, because he is a residential school survivor, but is now happy to be attending. The church is known in the community and recently hosted a spaghetti dinner with 50 guests. God has used José and Ghadihela to save several young people from committing suicide in the past few months. Let’s pray for the youth of Nunavut that God will give them a future and a hope.

Report From Iqaluit

Church group leader Bekin Khumalo reports that the Iqaluit church is now meeting in a rented facility—the Hotel Arctic, in the centre of the community. They meet on Wednesday evening for prayer meeting, and on Sabbaths for worship and for Pathfinders/Adventurers. There are now 15 young people registered in the Pathfinder Club, most of which come from non-Adventist families. Meeting in a public building has increased the profile of the church. On a recent Sabbath, there were 45 people in attendance. Our Adventist church choir recently sang at the Black History Gospel Concert organized by a member of a Sunday church. Our choir was so well received that people have been calling for TV interviews, and there are requests for the choir to sing elsewhere—in all 25 communities of Nunavut.




Benton Lowe




José and Ghadihela Quezada

The Iqaluit church is really making some noise! The government of Nunavut recently donated 65 flags for the Pathfinder Club. Bekin says he needs Pathfinder and Adventurer uniforms for the club. ■



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PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks a new president, to begin serving July 1, 2017. A successful candidate must be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, with demonstrated leadership experience in higher education. Candidates for this position must have a commitment to academic excellence in an environment that affirms Christian faith.

PUC is looking for a person who is enthusiastic about the distinctive culture of a small, residential, liberal arts college in a unique natural setting. An ideal candidate must be prepared to make a long-term commitment to this assignment, i.e., three to 10 years. He or she must also be a persuasive communicator, able to inspire support from a variety of audiences, and to articulate a compelling vision of the college's mission.

The president is expected to exemplify the values of a life of learning, pursuing a leadership style based on teamwork, candor, and unwavering integrity.

Applicants for president of PUC are expected to have a doctorate in an academic discipline. College-level teaching experience is preferred.

The Presidential Search Committee seeks either recommendations or applications for this position at search@puc.edu.

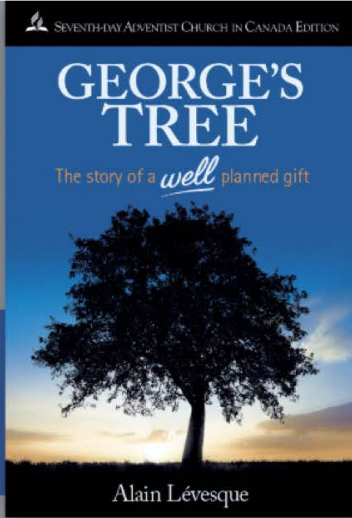



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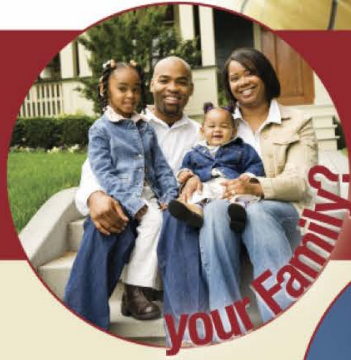
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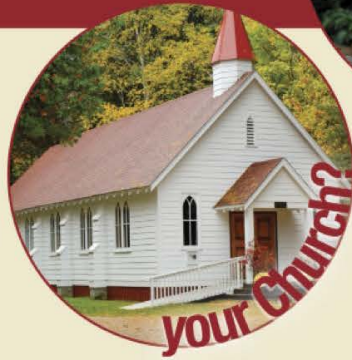
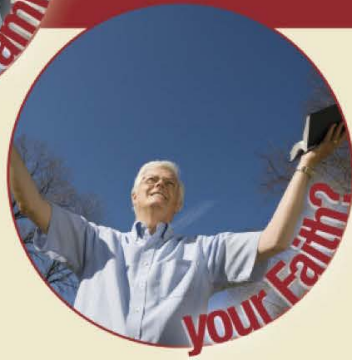
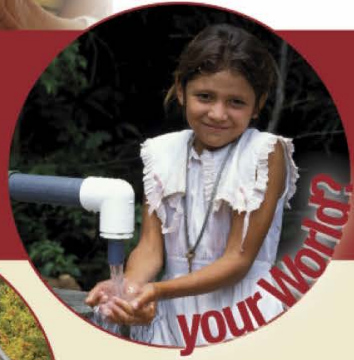
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- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click "Writers' Guidelines" then click "announcements."

■ **Announcements**

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

■ **Legal Notices**

Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference)

Notice is hereby given that the 58th Regular Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) will be held at Camp Hope, 61855 Lougheed Hwy (Hwy 7), Katz, British Columbia. Camp Hope is located on Highway 7, approximately 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Hope.

The General Meeting of the Regular Session will begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017, in the main Campmeeting Pavilion.

The agenda of the Regular Meeting will include: 1) election of officers for the ensuing term; 2) appointment of the Board of Directors; 3) appointment of the Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; 4) transaction of other business as may properly come before the Regular Session.

The Constitution provides for representation from each church within the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) on the basis of 1 (one) delegate for each church without regard for membership, plus 1 (one) additional delegate for each 50 (fifty) church members or major fraction thereof, based on the membership as of Dec. 31, 2016.

*Wesley Torres, President
Ern Brake, Vice-President
for Administration*

Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Notice: Notice is hereby given that the 34th Quadrennial Session of the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will take place on Friday, Aug. 18, 2017, beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing to Sunday, Aug. 20, 2017, concluding at 5 p.m., at College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1164 King St. East, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 1H9.

Purpose: This constituency meeting is called for the purpose of receiving reports for the past four years, to elect officers and directors of departments, to consider proposed updates to the Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session.

Regular Delegates: The Bylaws provide that regular delegates to the session be chosen as follows: one delegate per church, without regard to size of membership, and one additional delegate for every 100 members or major fraction thereof.

Delegates at Large: The Bylaws provide that delegates at large are as follows: All employees with credentials and ministerial licenses issued by the conference, members of the Ontario Conference Board of Directors, members of the Bylaws Committee, board members of the SDACC who may be present, and member(s) of the Executive Committee of the North American Division as nominated by the said committee.

Organizing Committee: Notice is hereby given that the Organizing Committee will convene at College Park Church, 1164 King St. East, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 1H9 at 9 a.m., (with registration starting at 8 a.m.) on Sunday, July 9, 2017. The Organizing Committee shall appoint: (1) the Nominating Committee; (2) the Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; (3) other committees as may be necessary. "Each church represented at the quadrennial constituency meeting shall choose from its chosen delegates and its delegates at large, or empower the said delegation to choose representative(s) to serve on the Organizing Committee based on church membership as follows: One (1) if less than three hundred (300) members; two (2) if three hundred (300) to eight hundred (800) inclusive; three (3) if more than eight hundred (800) members." Ontario Conference Bylaws Article IV, Sec. 1, a.

Nominating Committee: Notice is hereby given that the Nominating Committee will convene at the office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 1H8, on Sunday, July 23, 2017, at 8 a.m. "The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to nominate: (1) officers of the Board of Directors; (2) members of the Board of Directors; (3) Directors of departments and services." Ontario Conference Bylaws, Article IX, 9:02, h, 1, 2, 3.

■ **Anniversaries**

Wilford and Anne (née Krause) Tetz of Lacombe, Alta., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on



Dec. 29, 2016. They were married and have made their home in Lacombe. The Tetzes have six children, Beverly (Fred) How, Carol (Glen) Rick, Jim (Shirley) Tetz, Gerry (Karen) Tetz, Jack (Cindy) Tetz, and Doug (Debbie) Tetz; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

■ **Obituaries**

Deborah "Debbe" (née Willard) Bartley was born on Jan. 27, 1954, in Calgary, Alta., and died on Jan. 19, 2017, in Calgary. She is fondly remembered for her gentle country gospel music that she shared at camp-meetings and throughout Alberta. Debbe is predeceased by her parents, Jack and Elsie (née McNiven) Willard. Surviving: husband, Noel Bartley; son, Daniel Bartley; daughters, Opal Bartley and Sandra Bartley; brothers, Doug Willard and Blake (Shelley) Willard; sister, Noreen (Allan) Cameron; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Noel Bartley was born on May 15, 1932, in Jamaica, and died on Feb. 6, 2017, in Calgary, Alta. He lived for his God and his wife, Debbe. Noel and Debbe were charter members of the Fort McMurray church. Noel is predeceased by his wife, Debbe Bartley. Surviving: son, Daniel Bartley; daughters, Opal Bartley, Sandra Bartley, and Lavurn Bartley; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Demetro Beynon was born on Nov. 5, 1928, in Manitoba, and died on Jan. 4, 2017, in Keremeos, B.C. He was known to all as "Mate" and lived in Cawston, B.C., on a small orchard until his retirement. Surviving: wife, Lorna Beynon Diebel.

Wilma Estey was born on Aug. 26, 1957, in Fredericton, N.B., and died on Feb. 5, 2017, in Fredericton. She was a member of the Zealand Adventist Church and knit numerous items, which were given to family, friends, and strangers. Wilma is predeceased by her husband, Gary Brewer; father, Ossie Estey; and brother, Vernon Estey. Surviving: daughters, Eileen Lavoie and Nicole Mattatall; mother, Julia Estey; brother, Jack Estey; sisters, Vera Irion, Gladys Brawn, Faye Brawn, Juia Burt, Penny Sharpe; and four grandchildren.

Evelyn (née Medina) Guarin was born on July 25, 1936, in Camiling, Tarlac, Philippines, and died on Dec. 26, 2016, in Victoria, B.C. She worked as a pharmacist at Cagayan Valley Sanitarium and Hospital and Manila Sanitarium and Hospital in the Philippines; and served as a missionary at Benghazi Adventist Hospital in

Libya. Evelyn is predeceased by her parents, Marcelino and Porfiria Vigilia Medina; and brother, Marcelino Medina Jr. Surviving: husband, Primo Guarin Reyes of Victoria; son, Desmond (Laura) Guarin of Victoria; daughter, Primelyn Guarin of Victoria; brother, Virgilio Medina; and one grandchild.

Dorothy "Dolly" (née Stevens)

Jewkes was born on March 27, 1913, in Oxford, England, and died on Feb. 20, 2017, in Victoria, B.C. She was a member of the Victoria church for 89 years, serving in the children's and adult Sabbath school departments, Dorcas society, and church orchestra. Dorothy is predeceased by her husband, Stanley Jewkes. Surviving: sons, Dayle Jewkes of Victoria and David Jewkes of Riverside, Calif.; daughter, Jeanette (Herb) Shiroma of Mt. Holley, N.J.; eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Edna (née Brod) Mannerfeldt

was born on Jan. 9, 1932, in Thorsby, Alta., and died on July 6, 2016, in Red Deer, Alta. Edna is predeceased by her parents, four brothers, and one sister. Surviving: husband, Ragnar Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake, Alta., sons, Ron (Rosa) Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake and Jamie (Gaylene) Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake; daughters, Jaelene (Jim) Jenkins of Okotoks, Alta. and Karen (Rob) Gain of Red Deer; sister, O'linda Germaine; 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ronald Milne was born on Oct. 23, 1932, in Boseman, Man., and died on Dec. 27, 2016, in Abbotsford, B.C. He worked for LomaLinda Foods in Canada, but his greatest joy in life was to serve on the building committee of the Vancouver Central Church (now Oakridge Adventist Church). He also volunteered for Voice of Prophecy Canada. Ron is predeceased by his parents; brother, Lawrence Milne. Surviving: wife, Yvonne (née Ziegler) Milne.

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from the editor

SONscreen

I RECENTLY ATTENDED THE SONSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL at Loma Linda University. This is the festival's 15th year, and it did not disappoint. Approximately 50 submissions were screened, ranging from short trailers to 20-minute films produced by creative Adventists who have found stories that share the gospel and send messages of information, hope, and encouragement.

One of the festival's special guests was Bill Mechanic, one of the lead producers of *Hacksaw Ridge*, the major motion picture about Adventist conscientious objector Desmond Doss. Mechanic received recognition for his work in bringing Doss's story to the general public and making Desmond Doss a household name.

While there were many great submissions this year, two of them stood out as particularly powerful to me. The first was about life in high school, ethnic struggles, and one boy's journey from the top to the bottom. What amazed me more than the film itself is that it was produced by a group of high school students as a church ministry. We could use more of this visionary thinking in the church.

The other film that caught my attention was "Come Before Winter," directed by Kevin Ekvall, a story about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's last days. While the DVD is available in the United States, it is not yet available on the Canadian Amazon website. A digital version is available to rent or download through vimeo.com. However, I suspect that it will soon be made more widely available, and in the meantime, I believe it is worth the hunt to obtain.

When I pick up my Bible, I see pages and pages of red letters—Jesus's words—telling stories, delivering messages of hope and wholeness, fulfilling needs, and answering soul-deep questions. Too often, we create clever, well-thought-out answers to questions that no one is asking.

Let's work at telling more stories and answering the questions people are actually asking. Jesus did it, and so can we. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

PS: For more information about SONscreen and details for next year's festival, go to sonscreen.com.

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For information on the program schedule, speakers, accommodation and registration:

GlowCanada.ca/mission





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