

canadian adventist

# Messenger

June 2017



# Waiting for God

*Plus*

- Contentment (p. 3)
- Ministry Lessons  
From Costco (p. 15)
- Why I'm Happy to  
Be a Millennial (p. 22)
- 2017 Campmeeting Guide (p. 33)

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# Messenger

June 2017 Vol. 86 No. 6

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heart to heart

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.”

—1 Timothy 6:6, ESV

## Contentment

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”—1 Timothy 6:6–10, ESV*

Have you ever gotten an email from far away promising you millions of dollars if you will help settle someone’s estate? I get these every few days. The rationale behind them seems to be the assumption that I want more—more money, better car, bigger house—you get the picture.

One of the most significant characteristics of people who really understand the life of faith is contentment. But how does one arrive at contentment when we are surrounded by so much that suggests that we should be dissatisfied with what we have? (I have friends who worry that their looks aren’t what they should be. Others are upset with relationships. Some worry that they aren’t accomplishing much in their lives.)

At the risk of sounding simplistic, I believe the pursuit of God and of faith in Him is really the foundation of contentment. When I understand that God has a plan, then whether I’m doing big things or smaller things, whether I get the credit or not, whether my road is smooth or rough, I can be at peace as long as I know I’m where God wants me to be.

The funny thing is that there is no dollar value that we might attach to that peace, that contentment. And I think that’s what Paul is mentioning to Timothy and anyone else who is reading over his shoulder. If you or I know God and understand what a life of faithfulness is, then whatever else we may or may not possess, we’ve got it all.

Godliness and contentment truly bring us great gain. ■

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





Your child is *beautiful*;  
you are doing well.



“In these rural areas, disabilities are mistaken for curses from God. If parents can’t stomach abandoning or murdering their children, then they often hide or isolate them from others. The social shame of the “curse” is too great. For those who love their children regardless of the stigma, there is a critical lack of knowledge and resources to help their kids develop healthily.” - from our 2017 Rehab Trip blog “Your child is beautiful; you are doing well” [www.abwcanada.ca/trip-update/your-child-is-beautiful](http://www.abwcanada.ca/trip-update/your-child-is-beautiful)

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About Us: A Better World (ABW) was founded in 1990 by the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Burman University in Lacombe. A Better World involves community and church members and implements projects in direct partnership with local communities abroad. Over 2,800 volunteers have travelled with A Better World!

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## June 2017



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## The Life of a “Single” Father

**IT IS A FAMILIAR STORY IN THE PHILIPPINES.** When parents cannot earn enough in their local community to support their family, one or both of them must leave their children behind to find a job. Often a grandmother steps in to help care for the children, but that is not always an option.

Ernesto has found himself living as a single father. Unable to support their family in their local village, his wife Jonnalyn made the difficult decision to move to Manila, where she was able to find employment as a maid. Months went by before she was able to visit.

Ernesto had to rise to the challenge of raising their three children alone.

His task right now is even harder, as he has two jobs. In the mornings, he sells sweet bread rolls called *pandesal*. Afterwards, he drives a pedicab.

To cope with his heavy responsibilities, Ernesto adheres to a strict schedule of cooking, baths, laundry, and cleaning. His nine-year-old daughter, Princess Lorraine, is growing up fast as she helps with many of the chores.

His seven-year-old son, Ernesto Jr., is unable to go to school because he is developmentally challenged and experiences constant involuntary movements.

Last year ADRA began a new project in Ernesto and Jonnalyn's community. The EMBRACE project is a comprehensive program that will improve maternal and child health in Rwanda, Myanmar, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Approximately 100,000 people will benefit from lifechanging lessons in nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, health care, and childcare.

EMBRACE is possible because of a \$20 million grant from the Government of Canada, provided through Global Affairs

Canada, and the ongoing support of our generous donors.

Ernesto and Jonnalyn both joined the project, but Ernesto now attends alone. He shares whatever he has learned with his wife and his daughter. The lessons span topics such as handwashing, proper waste disposal, how to protect food and water from contamination, and more. Each lesson has a direct application in their daily life, contributing to healthier living.

Ernesto is especially excited about the nutritional training that he is receiving. Using the seeds, tools, and agricultural training, he will be able to provide his family with healthy food from his own kitchen garden.

ADRA has been using small kitchen gardens for many years to improve the nutrition of families. Kitchen gardens are environmentally friendly and enable families to plant sufficient amounts of nutritious food requiring low cost and maintenance. Besides contributing to the elimination of malnutrition, kitchen gardens also enable soil conservation and restoration, increase biodiversity, and build families' knowledge of positive and sustainable farming techniques. Kitchen gardens enable families with low incomes to access nutritious vegetables year round, and some families are even able to earn additional income from excess produce.

Ernesto is thrilled to have the additional support provided by the EMBRACE project, as it is helping him cope with his “single” father status.

“Thank you, ADRA,” he says. “Without this project, we would not have learned these new things.” ■

Sharmilla Reid is the supporter relations director for ADRA Canada.



ADRA  
Canada

# Where the heart is

“No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.”

There is an old song that begins with the line, “Home is where the heart is.” It turns out we are emotionally attached to our homes, and whether it be the memory of our childhood abode with all the carefree memories of youth, the first home of a married couple whose family begins and then outgrows it, or the current home we live in, we have strong attachment to home and all the warm feelings of love, security, and blessings it brings. No matter where our work, play, or travels take us, we love coming home again. There is a wonderful feeling of comfort that only home can provide.

Home can be larger than the house we inhabit. It can also include the community where we live. As I reflect on the privilege of coming home to Burman University, special memories flood back reminding me of the times past that I enjoyed on campus. First, as a student at both the academy and then the college, I received the training I needed to help complete the initial training for my life calling in Adventist Christian education. The friends I made, the fun times we had, the joys of being trained in the ways of the Lord and of exploring His purpose for my life are all what make up the memories of a wonderful home on the hilltop.

And most importantly, I met and married my wife, Shelley, who has supported me in achieving my life's goals. With the education I received, I was able to begin my teaching career and a few years later was called back to campus to teach at Parkview Adventist Academy. I was excited about coming home to help answer the major life questions of the next generation of students in the very place that I had received guidance in answering them for myself. Thinking that this was the teaching position that would entail my full career, I was surprised when God opened new doors for me

that moved us again from the campus and into an administrative role in the BC Conference.

But, after a few years and with a life goal unaccomplished at that time, I went back to school myself to complete my PhD. And with a pleasant surprise, even before I completed it, I was asked to come home and join the campus family again, this time in academic administration. Six years in that office led to a call to the mission field with Shelley and I being called to Thailand where I served as president of the Adventist university for five years. After our term was completed, we returned to North America and I have served at Kettering College as Academic Dean until Burman contacted me and gave me a call to come home. We are most excited at the potential opportunities that await at Burman University.

The line of the song continues, ... and the heart is heaven bound. While our family homes and our larger community homes bring us great joy, we are eagerly anticipating the home Christ has prepared for us. Our family and communities provide wonderful places to be, but as Paul says, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:9, NIV). We cannot imagine what it will be like to be at home with our heavenly Father. But if the homes we enjoy here on earth are in any way a foreshadowing of what is to come, we know it will be wonderful, since our hearts are there already. ■

*Loren Agrey is president of Burman University.*



# teen talk

**Q:** How can you tell when it's God's voice and not your mental illness talking? I can't hear the voice, though; it's inside my head. And it's so persistent. More persistent than any of my other voices.

**A:** I'm hesitant to answer your question with authority because I've never experienced God speaking to me that way. Your history of hearing voices definitely makes this case suspicious, though. If you haven't yet, follow up with a qualified counsellor. They can give you tips on how to cope with hearing voices.

From a spiritual perspective, something that you can do is to put this voice to the test. Is it similar to the voices you have heard in the past? Did they make you do things that got you in trouble or did they compel you to do things that God would've approved?

God's voice will never ask you to do harm to yourself or to others, so I'd say that's probably a safe indicator to consider. Bookmark in your phone this text, and read it whenever you hear these voices: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11, NLT). ■



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



# Creation Corner for Kids

Thus says the LORD: "If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant."—Jeremiah 33:25, 26, NKJV

## Nature's Laws

Imagine what life would be like without the laws of nature. What if, instead of putting your feet on the floor as you got out of bed, you floated to the ceiling? Or if the hot oatmeal in your bowl never cooled down, but instead got hotter and hotter? God's laws of nature ensure these strange things never happen.

God's rules in nature are so dependable that we can use math to predict regular events. For instance, the tides come in and go out right on time. The sun always rises in the east and sets in the west, and we can figure out the time of sunrise and sunset for any day of the year.

### Think about it.

God is dependable, so His laws of nature are dependable and complete. God's holy Word, the Bible, is also dependable and complete. The Reformers taught that the Bible alone (*Sola Scriptura*) contains all that we need to know God, to love Him, and to live for Him. We don't need human traditions or rituals to help us know God. Because of this, the Reformers gave the Bible to the people in language they could read. They taught that everyone should read the Bible and the Holy Spirit would instruct them.

### Do it!

Commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Start today!



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. You can contact her at [tammie.burak@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.burak@gmail.com).

# The Burman Camp Collective Fostering Community



John Henri Rorabeck recently graduated and will be serving as the Alumni Advisor of the Burman Camp Collective next academic year.



Members of the Burman Camp Collective.

THE BURMAN CAMP COLLECTIVE (BCC) is a new club on campus for Burman University students who enjoyed their experiences, whether as campers or staff members, at summer camps across North America. The purpose of the club is to build a camp community that extends beyond the summer and beyond each student's respective camp. To build this community, the members of the BCC have been intentional in putting together events and opportunities for fellow campers and camp staff to connect.

The club's first event was during camp hiring weekend in January. Canadian youth directors and camp directors gathered at Burman University to conduct interviews with students interested in serving as staff at the different camps across North America. Excitement filled the air on campus as conversations erupted about camp. To keep up with the enthusiasm, the BCC participated in vespers and AfterGlow, two student-led programs, to keep the focus on camp and keep the conversation going. Students were able to interact with fellow camp staff, as well as the youth and camp directors who were on campus for interviews.

"I was expecting to see just a few people with the camp directors, but I was pleasantly surprised. I walked into a lobby that had representation from every Canadian camp. Music filled the room with songs everyone knew. People were laughing, smiling, and telling their stories and experiences of camp," Kaitlynn Symonds, third-year Burman University student and dedicated staff member at Woody Acres Camp in Newfoundland, explains. "Questions were asked about future camp possibilities. I heard one guy say that if this is just a glimpse of camp, he wants to experience the full thing."

As hires were made and students prepared for the summer, the BCC decided to coordinate a training weekend for students who were hired. The purpose of the weekend was to prepare students for camp. Students were invited to hear four presentations: (1) Steve Roadhouse, the camp director for a local Baptist camp; (2) Josh and Jeff Bradburn, Burman students who regularly work at Big Lake Youth Camp in Oregon; (3) John Henri Rorabeck, another Burman student who loved working at camp; and (4) Kaitlyn Ruiz, Parkview Adventist Academy teacher. Students learned about the importance of being intentional about creating the culture at their respective camps, the significance of working at camp, and tips and tools to use as camp staff.

Our students work at camps all over Burman University, serving as staff members who oversee large groups of campers throughout the summer. As students head to their respective camps, the BCC is confident that their members and our students are equipped to serve and to lead. When students come back on campus in September, the Burman Camp Collective will be here for them to share their stories and experiences. ■

*Kryzia Abacan is the communications coordinator for Burman University.*

**M**arye was born with a degenerative eye disease that left her with only 10 percent vision in one eye and total blindness in the other. Now in her early 50s, Marye first came to Blind Camp when she was 11 years old. She never missed a summer. Once a painfully shy girl, she quickly came out of her shell at camp and earned her nickname, “Sherlock,” because of her blossoming curiosity.

Marye learned to waterski and holds four world records. A talented artist, Marye creates intricate drawings, nose pressed to paper, penciling one-inch squares at a time. She was first introduced to Jesus at Blind Camp. “God is the centre of our world,” she says, “and we seek to serve Him in our daily lives. It is my deepest hope that my art will somehow even minutely bless someone.”

Fred literally woke up one morning blind, the result of an undetected, underlying medical problem. As if this was not shocking and devastating enough, shortly after his wife left him, he became estranged from her and his daughter for years. At Blind Camp, he relearned how to do things for himself and regained his sense of humour. When asked what camp had done for him, Fred stated simply, “It saved my life.”

Just as Fred found himself alone in the world, so did brothers, Don and Allan. After their parents passed, Don and Allan had only each other and a caregiver who tended to their basic needs and cooked for them. They attended their first Blind Camp in 1972 and only missed one summer between then and 2013. The brothers have made lifelong friends at Blind Camp, and it is the one place they feel safe and comfortable besides their own home, and where they escape isolation and enjoy a vibrant social life.

Sisters Linda and Maria spent many years leading sheltered, isolated lives. “Being blind,” they explain, “meant we weren’t able to do anything.” Linda and Maria started attending Blind Camp when they were already in their 50s, after their brother was finally convinced to allow them to come. At camp, the sisters discovered they could do things like crafts, swimming, archery, and horseback riding. Every year they came back, and when Linda fell ill many years later, her brother asked if she would be allowed to go to camp one last time. She attended that summer and passed away two weeks later, happy to have been in the company of friends.

On Jan. 1, 1991, the national office of Christian Record Services Inc. and National Camps for the Blind opened their doors in Canada. Campers ages 9–99 are welcome at Blind Camps found at Camp Frenda<sup>1</sup> in Ontario, Foothills Camp<sup>2</sup> in Alberta and Camp Pugwash<sup>3</sup> in the Maritimes, where campers can enjoy activities that include archery, swimming, rappelling, climbing, boating, canoeing, waterskiing, arts and crafts, campfires, Bible study, and much more. At Blind Camp we believe that “blind people can do anything except see.”

The cost to attend is kept low so that as many campers as possible can afford to come, rejuvenate, and discover new, interesting, and exciting challenges. It is up to us to help the blind see Jesus, just as Marye, Fred, Don, Allan, Linda, and Marie did. ■

*Pat Page is the retired executive director of Christian Record Services.*

<sup>1</sup> [www.campfrenda.com](http://www.campfrenda.com)

<sup>2</sup> [www.foothillscamp.org](http://www.foothillscamp.org)

<sup>3</sup> [www.camppugwash.com](http://www.camppugwash.com)

# Helping the Blind See Jesus

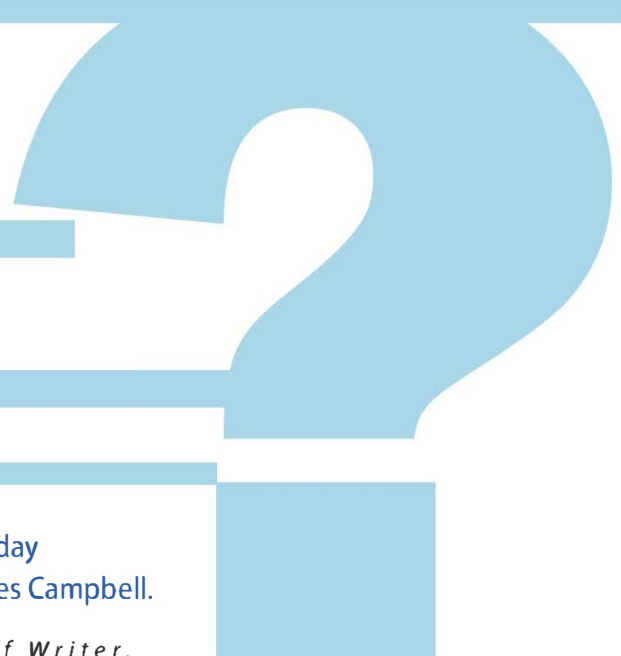


A blind camper tries his hand at rappelling at Foothills Camp in Alberta.



A horses-and-buggy ride is enjoyed by a blind camper at Foothills Camp in Alberta.

# Where Are They Now



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

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



James and Janis Campbell

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

**James Campbell:** I was born in Salmon Arm, B.C., to Neil and Florence. I have two brothers, Murray and Maynard, and twin sisters, Christina and Caroline. My paternal grandparents, originally from Prince Edward Island, came to Salmon Arm in 1902 by covered wagon. They were part of a small group, most of whom had become Seventh-day Adventists in Montana. My maternal grandparents were from Southern Ontario and Wisconsin, respectively, and had homesteaded in Cereal, Alta., where they were baptized with a large family group in

1915. One of my childhood memories occurred at my paternal grandmother's funeral. Soon to be four years old, my mother, who must have prayed for wisdom, explained to me the precious truth of the resurrection.

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

**J:** As much as a year before I was old enough to begin Grade 1, I stood with my hands in my pockets watching my dad and other men hoist logs into place for the walls of a log schoolhouse that I would attend for my first eight grades. I specifically remember Marvin Nickel, my Grade 7 and 8 teacher, making the lives, death, and ministries of the apostles come to life. As a boy of 13 years I wondered, could it be possible the same Holy Spirit was speaking to me?

I attended Okanagan Academy in Rutland, B.C., for Grades 9–12. Because of the support of the Rutland church, high school tuition was only \$12 a month. Since I lived 60 miles from school, I obtained room and board with an elderly bachelor, A. M. Anderson. For Grade 12, Malcolm Graham and I shared a bunk house that Milton Ritchey had moved from a logging camp. We were bountifully fed at the table of Charlie and Florence Moore, Malcolm's uncle and aunt. From 1950–1954, I attended Canadian Union College. Knowing I had experience handling cattle, Elbert Nielsen, farm manager, put me in charge of the Hereford cattle. My work continued on the farm and, during my last two years, I was invited to serve as the assistant farm manager. Originally, I began with a major in biology with a goal of medicine, but my spiritual involvement at the school caused me to change to theology. Since pastors need a supportive wife, I counselled with Elder Hugh Campbell, my dean.

God led, and Frances Bader and I were married on Aug. 16, 1954.

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

**J:** I was principal of the Junior Academy in Winnipeg, Man., for the 1954/1955 school year and the pastor of the Brandon church from 1955 to 1957. The Prince Albert, Sask., church was my next assignment from 1957 to 1959. After one year in Thunder Bay, Ont., I pastored the Fargo, N.D., church from 1960 to 1962. From 1963 to 1975 I served in India, first as president of the North India Conference, and then president of the Northern India Union.

Returning to Canada, I was president of the Newfoundland/Labrador Mission from 1975 to 1979. I returned to CUC in 1979 and served as director of Alumni/Development/PR until 1982. My next assignment was pastoring the Bentley/Rimbey, Alta., churches from 1982 to 1984. I was then called back to CUC in my former position as director of Alumni/Development/PR from 1984 to 1989. From 1989 to 1993, I served as president of the Guam-Micronesia Mission and then returned to India as the secretary of the Southern Asia Division from 1994 to 1998. During the last four years of my service, 1998–2002, I was pastor of the Morton/Onalaska District in the Washington Conference. Thus ended the joy of serving my church for 47 years and 7 months: 20 years in Canada, 17 years in Southern Asia, 5 years in Guam-Micronesia, and 6 in the continental USA. It was then my privilege to serve from 2002 to 2014 as volunteer area director for Gospel Outreach for India/Nepal.

**M:** *What piqued your interest in mission service?*

**J:** When I was growing up, Sabbath school always included a mission story. When I was nine, my heart was touched by a report from Africa where family and friends had to carry a sick person on their backs over steep trails for days to receive medical care. Right then I knew that someday I would go to bring help. When I requested Father Bader for his blessing to marry Frances, he put me in a tough spot. “Will you promise not to take Frances to the mission field?” he asked. I could not make that promise, but after silence for what seemed like years, he choked up and gave his blessing. Eight years later, when we were leaving for India, we saw him for the last time in the hospital with advanced cancer. Of course, we didn’t know he would die two years later. Frances heard of his passing only after he was buried. She was so brave. Had it been less than considerate to be so far away when Frances’s father and mother needed our comfort?

**M:** *Of all your service engagements, is there one that gives you the greatest joy and satisfaction?*

**J:** In 1986, Canadian Union College was struggling under heavy debt. The college board met, knowing that decisive action was required. Among the leaders there was a sense of dependence on God for guidance. After the allotted two days, a solution still had not been reached. It was agreed to pray earnestly that night and meet again the next morning. As the college development director, I felt a deep responsibility to especially seek the Lord for a plan.

By 4 a.m., details were formulated in my mind. The plan required a lot of sacrifice. Was the continuation and advancement of the college worth the challenges involved? I wrote out the proposal, and when I was sure she would be awake, I called Lorene Graham, my Development office associate, asking her if she could type the plan, share it with Malcolm, her husband, who was the college president, and Jim Wilson, board chairman. They both agreed to present the proposal to the board members. After thoughtful consideration, discussion, and amendments, the plan was accepted. I was humbled. The leaders of the Church in Canada committed themselves to great sacrifice knowing there could be delays, or even cancellation, of cherished programs in their respective conferences. The decisions made in 1986, though painful, helped enable Canadian Union College to become qualified for University status. What the Lord has done is marvellous in our eyes.

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

**J:** Frances (passed away in 2002 from cancer) and I had three children. Merle (Steven) Hilderbrand, a nurse, lives in Redlands, Calif.; Colleen (Larry) Verico, a speech pathologist, lives in Takoma, Wash.; and Richard (Lyris), a cardio-vascular surgeon, lives in El Dorado Hills, Calif. They have given us five grandchildren. In 2005 I married Janis Larsen, who had lost her husband in a car accident. Janis has three daughters: Karen (Robert) Godfrey, a vice-president with Maranatha Volunteers, lives in Gold River, Calif.; Debra (Anthony) Barata, a nurse, lives in Folsom, Calif.; and Cyndy, an administrator of a senior care facility, lives in Gold River, Calif. Janis has four grandchildren.

**M:** *Where are you now, and what has been your involvement since retirement?*

**J:** Janis and I live in El Dorado Hills. Although initially actively involved as a volunteer in Gospel Outreach with its work in India and Nepal for 12 years, now, because of health concerns, I have been unable to continue international travel. Among our activities, we both assist in our local church food bank. My petition, paraphrasing our Lord’s Prayer, is—Thy will be done in me, as it was in Jesus. Thy kingdom come, and come soon! ■

# Alberta Family Muscles Up to help in Kenya



**Alex Walls and the rest of her family. Mother, Mona; brother, Gordie; and father, Roger, pose with occupational therapist named Veronica, who works closely with A Better World Canada and Ndanai Small Home for the Physically Challenged to identify and evaluate children with disabilities.**



**Mona Walls of Red Deer gives a physiotherapy assessment while showing the family different positions that will help the child's development. This photo was printed and given to the family as an example.**

**A**n Alberta physiotherapist found out that three times can truly be the charm. Mona Walls of Red Deer, Alta., had already been to Kenya twice with A Better World Canada, and now her husband, Roger, said he'd like to come along. "The first two times [Mona] went to Kenya, I declined because I wasn't sure what kind of role I could fill on a physiotherapy rehab trip," said Roger. "I said that if she goes a third time, then I'll go with her."

Soon thereafter, their daughter, Alex, and son, Gordie, were on board too. It didn't matter these three had no training to treat people with disabilities.

Roger, a civil engineer, Alex, a new bachelor of science degree graduate, and Gordie, a 19-year-old lifeguard, took on vital, supportive roles.

The two-week trip in late February wound up being a great way for the Walls family to create positive family memories as they served some of Kenya's less fortunate, and for a short time in Rwanda as well.

With the help of another husband on the trip, Roger repaired bicycles and checked over wheelchairs before sending them into town for minor welding. He taught bike maintenance and also assembled an all-terrain wheelchair donated by a Red Deer charity.

Alex inputted information on children and then referred them to a physiotherapist. She also helped with the technological side of the trip.

Gordie was the "everything kid," according to his sister. He built standing frames for children with disabilities, took photos of children in various rehabilitation positions, and even took first-ever snapshots of families.

The volunteers also spent a day at a Rwandan community centre giving advice to mothers of disabled children. Mona ensured her family had some fun times together. They visited a Nairobi area elephant orphanage, boated on Lake Naivasha, and stayed at a nice game park hotel. They also took a gorilla trek in Rwanda. Alex was initially pleased to go on a "free trip" thanks to her parents.

"I didn't know what I was really getting myself into," said Alex, 22.

Her adventure included staying in a little shack she called a "chicken coop." She slept on a bed; however, the mosquito net she brought along was too short, so that made her nervous.

The nearby rooster woke the family at 5:30 a.m.—and to a beautiful sunrise.

The Wallises found it was easy to be together and with a great group of volunteers. The team treated at least 100 people.

"When we needed a break or we didn't feel like we could contribute, I think people felt comfortable backing out," said Mona. The Wallises say the trip is expensive but also eligible for a tax-deductible receipt.

So what kind of families might want to go on a volunteer trip with A Better World Canada? Those who are flexible and adventurous. "You have to be willing to roll with the punches," said Roger. And be prepared for it to be amazing, too. "And you get that fulfillment of helping other people, which means a lot," Roger added. ■

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

*“What ministry lessons can the church learn from Costco? Are there similarities that can be transferred from Costco’s success to growing God’s kingdom?”*



## Ministry Lessons from COSTCO

Costco Wholesale is one of the largest retailers in the world. They have a successful profit margin, while increasing membership each year. How does this megastore attract large crowds of shoppers without the bells and whistles or high cost of marketing? How are they able to maintain 91 percent of their members each year who renew their paid membership dues? What ministry lessons can the church learn from Costco? Are there similarities that can be transferred from Costco’s success to growing God’s kingdom?

### **ONE OF THE SECRETS TO THEIR SUCCESS IS THE WAREHOUSE MANAGER.**

Some 76 percent of all managers started as hourly-wage employees, thus learning company values and culture from the ground up. The main job description for the manager is to “develop people.” Imagine if our churches would spend less time in board meetings and planning committees and developed a strong discipleship program that strengthened individual members. Could the role of the elders be to “develop people”?

### **THEY UNDERSTAND THEIR CUSTOMER.**

The average Costco customer has a higher education and salary than their competitors’ customers. Costco understands the demographics and psychographics (how they think and their desires) of their customer base. Because of this deep insight into their customers, they are able to offer products that not only have appeal

but also are ones that the customer already wants. When was the last time you walked into Costco to buy milk, eggs, and cheese and walked out with a lawnmower? They seem to know your needs before you have even put words to your desire. Sadly, the church is still using data from the 1950s and 1960s. The church has failed to stay current with the latest trends, thus failing to provide a place where people can grow based on the cultural landscape we currently live in.

### **COSTCO ADVOCATES HEAVILY FOR THEIR CUSTOMER.**

As a Costco customer, you are guaranteed to be getting the best possible deal. Costco also has an outstanding return policy that puts the customer first. If you have ever returned something, you know firsthand that they will accept anything and everything, including half-eaten food, without asking you why you are returning the product. The church must foster an environment where people are advocated for, too. This includes inside the church, as well as outside of the walls of the church. Does the local community see your church as advocating for their needs? Do members feel that you have their best interest at heart? If the church becomes a voice for the marginalized, people both in and out of the community will take notice. ■

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*Kumar Dixit is the WGTS 91.9 chaplain. You can receive his weekly devotional at [OneMinuteDevotional.com](http://OneMinuteDevotional.com).*



Onyx and Jaden in the British Airways pilots' cockpit in Heathrow Airport, London stop-over on route to Uganda



The Aguilars in Copenhagen, en route to Uganda

## A Mother's Prayer

Having been blessed with three precious children, we derive great joy from hearing and observing our children's reactions and perspectives to the various situations they experience. It is usually enlightening, eye opening, and, at times, humorous. Serving in our first overseas post in Uganda has provided many such opportunities.

Transitioning to a new lifestyle, I have seen my children becoming innovative, learning to improvise with the resources available to them, and adapting to the different cultures we have encountered. Although they still miss the formal classroom setting and daily social interactions, my children have unknowingly taken advantage of the flexibility that comes with being enrolled with West Coast Adventist Distance Learning School (based out of British Columbia).

Onyx, aged nine, loves to make things. Using the tiles in the living room, he has recreated a large chess board and has built several online DIY projects, from watermelon kegs to cross-bows made of pencils and rubber bands. He hopes to get his hands on some syringes and tubing to make a hydraulic robotic arm. He has always taken an interest in gardening,

and I had promised him we would start a garden since he was three. With Uganda's rich, fertile soil and our huge backyard garden, he now cultivates his green thumb skills with his dad, growing flowers, beans, okra, squash, onions, all sorts of leafy greens, and bananas.

Eleven-year old Jaden is honing her creative skills. With online tutorials, Jaden has taught herself how to crochet and hand sew. She has been resourceful in turning a spool of twine into decor accents for her room, and she crochets and sews clothes for her stuffed pets. Initially, she was using her fingers and arms until her grandmother sent her a set of crocheting needles. Jaden is planning to invest her money in a sewing machine that uses foot power. She regularly asks if anybody has any clothes they no longer use so she can reuse the material and put it toward a new creation. Jaden shares she has also had to be creative about making friends here in Uganda. Even though most Ugandans understand and speak English, communication barriers still exist. In reaction to the Ugandans' fascination with her long hair, she, in turn, reaches out to touch their hair and smiles. A huge smile is given in return, and friendship is started.

Jewel, 15, admits she has improved her navigational skills online and finds various ways to watch free movies for family movie nights. Offline time for Jewel usually means strumming on the ukulele and mastering new chords. Jewel overcomes the communication barrier with little ones by making origami figures and offering them as gifts along with her infectious smile. I call her my kid magnet. She has enjoyed the opportunity to write for the *Messenger* and hopes to continue contributing her perspective in upcoming months.

Moving my family across the globe to a different culture and lifestyle has been challenging. When my children tell me how much they miss their friends and wish they were back at Deer Lake School and going on gymnastics tour or Pathfinder campouts, it sends pangs of guilt through me. However, our earthly goals are temporary. Charles and I are aiming for heavenly goals for our children.

My prayer is for my children to have a heart of service and help grow God's kingdom wherever they call "home."

*Mukama yembazibwe* ■

*Elizabeth Calaguian Aguilar is Technical Assistant for Health at Uganda Union/ADRA*



# Prayer, Our Native Air

"... prayer is the opening of a person's heart to God as to a friend."

We have seen the power of prayer in Quebec. Our churches often organize weeks of prayer, prayer vigils, and days of prayer and fasting.

Last August, we planned a retreat around the theme "If My People Pray." Karen and Lynn Martell from the Southeastern Conference in California and the Pacific Union Conference were the guest speakers. God used them in a mighty way to touch many lives. We prayed for the community, for the parents, for the youth, for the children. And we did a prayer walk in the community, but the enemy was not sleeping.

The weather in the morning was very nice. At 2 p.m. we planned to go out to pray for the community, and it started to rain. We divided the church into small groups, some people stayed in front of the church, and we prayed for the community. We experienced the power of the Holy Spirit. When we finished praying, the rain stopped.

Through the seminars we learned how to bless one another through prayer and how to pray earnestly for our children. Tears came to our eyes because we had never seen anything like this before. God was there, and He blessed us. Sylvain Duval, a Bible worker, said, "The Holy Spirit used Karen to answer my prayers, and she was obedient to His voice. She is a woman of God and cares for the needs of others. I am amazed at the way God used her."

Centre Eau Vive had a prayer and fasting day. We prayed for the families and the community. When we finished, we shared a meal together. The sister-in-law of one of the members called to say that there was a suicidal woman in front of her garage. The member asked me to go talk to the woman. We went to the house and saw Lily<sup>1</sup> she was lying on the ground saying, "I want to die." While we were there, four police cars arrived. The officers began to attend to her and thanked us for taking care of her until they arrived.

While we were standing beside Lily, a man came and touched Lily and touched her hair, trying to see her face. The police officers were surprised, and they asked him why he had done that. He said, "I am looking for my daughter." We were in shock. My eyes filled with tears, and I prayed for him that God may sustain him. (We decided we would eventually go to his house as a team and help him.) We were able to share *Steps to Christ* with Lily.

At the end we asked Yves, a police officer, how we could keep in touch with Lily. He said that the case was too big for us to handle. We told him that it wasn't by chance that God had sent her here, and that we had prayed for her and for him. We hope one day we will see her, because God has a plan for her.

We thanked the police officer for his time and for what he was doing for the community. We gave him a *Steps to Christ* and prayed with him. He was pleasantly surprised and impressed. When we finished praying, Yves asked us, "Where did you learn to pray?" We told him that prayer is the opening of a person's heart to God as to a friend. God is His friend, we told him. And the police officer left happy and thanked us for praying with him and for the community.

Let us remember that the Master is on His way. Let's pray for one another and keep the faith. Let's pray without ceasing (see 1 Thess. 5: 17). ■

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*Esther Paul-Emile is the former Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Quebec Conference.*

<sup>1</sup>Not her real name.



## barry's blog

"If Jehovah's Witnesses are extremist, then most versions of Christianity could be accused of the same thing."

# Persecuting the Unpopular: The Case of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia

**These days in Russia**, the Jehovah's Witness (JW) community is not the most comfortable community to be a member of. In fact, it is downright scary. The Russian court has agreed with the government's contention that the JW faith community is an extremist sect that can no longer be tolerated. It is accused of all kinds of malfeasance, such as splitting up families, defaming other religious communities—particularly the Russian Orthodox Church—and posing a threat to Russian society in general.<sup>1</sup>

In March the Justice Ministry ordered that the JW denomination be liquidated and disbanded. In April a Russian court ordered the closure of the JW national headquarters (known as the Administrative Center of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia) and the nearly 400 local congregations. Further, the court ordered that JW church property be confiscated. The denomination is appealing the decision.<sup>2</sup>

This comes within the context of an ever-increasing pressure put on religious communities in Russia. Last year the Russian Duma passed legislation that severely restricted freedom of religion. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), noted that the legislation redefined

"missionary activities" as religious practices that take place outside of state-sanctioned sites. The new law thus would ban preaching, praying, proselytizing, and disseminating religious materials outside of these officially designated sites, and authorize fines of up to \$15,000 for these activities conducted in private residences or distributed through mass print, broadcast, or online media. Foreign missionaries also must prove they were invited by state-registered religious groups and must operate only in regions where their sponsoring organizations are registered; those found in violation face deportation and major fines.<sup>3</sup>

Russia's legal definition of extremism, according to USCIRF, does not include the threat or use of violence. Extremism can include "the peaceful promotion of 'the superiority of one's own religion.'"<sup>4</sup> That has led to the imprisonment of nonviolent Muslim groups and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Many experts and observers have rightly been outspoken on this issue. Heiner Bielefeldt, former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, stated, "If Jehovah's Witnesses are extremist, I think we all are."<sup>5</sup> Annika Hvithamar, Associate Professor/Head of Studies, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional

Studies, at the University of Copenhagen, said, "If Jehovah's Witnesses are extremist, then most versions of Christianity could be accused of the same thing."<sup>6</sup> Even Father Chaplin, the former Russian Orthodox Church spokesman who favours the right of the state to declare a religion's ideology as being "antipatriotic," is concerned with how far this case has gone against the JWs. "I think we should be more careful about this," says Chaplin. "Every religion thinks it's the only true one. I am Orthodox, and I certainly believe that about my faith. If the state forbids us from saying that, it will put itself at odds with the majority of its citizens."<sup>7</sup>

If the appeal of this decision fails, we can expect to see a widespread crackdown on this religious community. It is not too hard to envision police, dressed in all the modern antiterrorist gear, systematically bursting into the JW houses of worship and administrative offices and removing all "evidence" of wrongdoing that can be found in paper documents and computer records. One can only imagine the feeling of helplessness of those who may see government agents take away the most intimate records a religious organization holds of its members. Such records would include contact information, religious status, and names of those holding church office and responsibility. All taken under the guise of protecting the state but potentially to create a list of citizens who are deemed problematic for the state.

Already in the last year, "Russian authorities blocked imports of the Witnesses' religious literature, as well as Russian-language Bibles, and made Russia the only nation in the world to ban the Witnesses' official website, [jw.org](http://jw.org)."<sup>8</sup>

JWs beliefs may not be popular, but do they deserve to be persecuted because of their religious teachings? What could cause a nuclear power such as the Russian Federation to be so enraged against a small religious group (175,000 out of a country of 146,000,000<sup>9</sup>) who hold strident religious opinions on not taking part in military service, refuse to salute the flag, refuse blood transfusions,

and have unorthodox views on what happens to a person's soul in death or on the end of the world?

What is it that makes a state so afraid that it would exercise such draconian power? Was there evidence of the group engaged in violence? Or, were there secrets being disclosed that would jeopardize state integrity or security? Surely, it could not be a simple case of someone in the state apparatus being afraid of mere religious opinion? It does seem like an over-the-top response to persecute people who have not engaged in any form of sedition or violence.

Those of us living in liberal democratic countries such as Canada will always have a responsibility to be concerned about how minorities are treated. Given the right circumstances, freedoms in our country can be likewise curtailed. Consider that during World War II, the Defence of Canada Regulations (DOCR), invoked by an order-in-council on Sept. 3, 1939,<sup>10</sup> took away basic rights, including freedom of speech, of assembly, and of religious freedom. Jehovah's Witnesses and the Communist Party of Canada were declared illegal. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police was zealous in making rounds to the homes and headquarters of these two groups to search for and seize suspected enemies. Any criticism of Canada deemed to cause disruption of the war effort subjected one to imprisonment without trial.<sup>11</sup> While the majority of religious groups carried on their business, JWs in Canada were outlawed.

The current Russian case is one that every person who supports religious freedom must keep a close eye on. This is a serious breach of human rights that may well be a harbinger of troubling times ahead not only for the JW community but also for all religious communities. ■

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*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](http://lawandreligion.org).*

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Photo: Keith Chant

# Almost vegan

**P**esto is sauce or paste containing fresh basil, but it is hard to find vegan because most pestos contain parmesan. This recipe gets around that, while retaining the rich flavour you want from a pesto.

When we make the recipe, we start with a few herbs, and add more as needed to accomplish the strength and blend of flavour we want that day. Using fresh herbs gives more depth of flavour to the sauce, but in a pinch, dry herbs will also work. ■

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

## Pesto

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1–2 Tbsp (15–30 ml) lemon juice
- ¼ of a sweet onion
- ½ of a jalapeno
- 3 cloves garlic
- fresh basil
- fresh oregano
- fresh chives
- black pepper
- salt

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- In a blender, purée all ingredients until smooth, adjusting seasoning to taste.
- Add to cooked pasta, and toss to coat.

# It's Like Missing an Old Friend

*You don't know what you've got till it's gone.*

Since 2007 the citizens of Quesnel, B.C., have enjoyed the benefits of Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) Christian Family radio. For Pam, God used VOAR and a series of seminars on Revelation to lead her to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was in search of truth, and VOAR provided a constant connection with faith as she went about her daily activities: as she drove in her car, worked in the garden, and did chores around the house. She would hear unexpected stories of success in the lives of others that encouraged her and added a wholesome atmosphere to her day.

Now the Christian airwaves are silent, and it's not only Pam who is feeling the loss.

One day as Pam endured loud rock music while waiting for her car to be repaired, the owner of the mechanic shop admitted that he, too, really missed

their Christian station. Pam is friends with a young student whose 35-mile commute was enriched each day by VOAR. Another friend works at the local Salvation Army store, and she, too, misses the spiritual benefits of having Christian programming and music so readily available. Pam's husband, although not an Adventist, actively supports her desire to see VOAR return to the airwaves of Quesnel, B.C. More than ever, people need the positive influence that VOAR provides on a daily basis.

Our prayer is that by the time this article runs, VOAR will be back on the air and the friendship will be renewed. ■

*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 CAMBRIDGE AND PETERBOROUGH  
CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

*If you could go to a certain place and enter heaven, would you go or would you stay and help your family and friends?*

**Geanelle:** I would stay to help as many friends and families [to] come with me, because the more the merrier to have in heaven.

**Heather:** I would like to stay for the second coming and pray for God's help that I might be an influence in my friends' and family's lives that they might also be there.

**Leanna Webb:** I would stay and help family and friends so heaven would be complete with us all there together.

**Adriana Boldi:** I would wait for my family because it is not heaven without my family. I know they have a choice, but I would wait for them.

"[Sigh] ... it's your generation."

"Ugh, your generation."

"This is what your generation  
has come to."

# Why I'm happy to be a Millennial

I have heard these sayings throughout my life from family, strangers, people thought to be mentors, and others. Not necessarily directed at me, but about my generation. Categorizing my friends and me and those I don't like much and those older than me and those younger than me all into the same group. And with one reason only: to criticize us.

We get told we have poor work ethic. We get told we don't know how to communicate. We get told that we're overly emotional. And all of this with the starting sentence of "It never used to be like this."

As a person who likes history and values learning, I understand the thought process. Change is hard but necessary. I know that sometimes people get stuck in a rut and refuse to accept change. And I think that there are some things that shouldn't change, like being kind to one another, or being grateful for what you've been given. Other things, though, do change, and despite what some people believe is a fault of my generation, it's actually a good thing.

Millennials have been very accepting of others—other races, other genders, other jobs, other ideas, other religions, other political views, and much more. We have ways to communicate with one another quickly and efficiently, and this doesn't make us impatient; it's the world we live in. Yes, we know how to actually pick up a phone and call someone. No, sometimes that isn't the best way to get a hold of someone. Yes, we make plans last minute. No, that doesn't mean we're trying to blow another person off. Yes, we have idealistic views of how the world could look. No, we don't think that the world is filled with roses and waterfalls and rainbows. Yes, we can know what we want. No, we don't think that we deserve to have it handed to us on a silver platter.

These statements are general statements. They don't reflect every millennial in this world. There are some who are spoiled, some who purposefully use texting to manipulate others, some who are racist, or sexist, some who have radical, terrible ideas. But every generation has these people; every generation has groups of people who stand out and negatively impact how the generation is viewed.

I'm not sorry for my generation. We've become less focused (typically) on race and colour and more accepting of interracial relationships, friendships, and marriages. We've opened the world to new forms of idea sharing, of reaching out to others, of showing our personalities. Being a millennial, I feel I don't have to hide who I am. I don't agree with everyone around me, but that's the beauty of it. I don't judge others for their decisions, lifestyles, or choices, because it's not me. This doesn't make me selfish; it makes me accepting.

Some of us millennials have become a generation to try and lessen the use of phrases like "man up" and "you just have to wait for *him* to call *you*, Sweetie." We've become observant of gender equality and gender stereotypes. We try to accept people while still sharing our opinions. And the thing that I love most about us is how we tend to care for another person's emotions and feelings. We can recognize our emotions and aren't afraid of showing them. It's not wrong to feel depressed or anxious. It's not something we should feel embarrassed about. It's something we can learn from.

I'm grateful to live in a world where I can text someone in the blink of an eye, can create a blog in minutes, can research anything on the Internet at any time, can hear different opinions and see different perspectives. Nothing is set in stone with us. Nothing needs to be. Because with millennials and our ideas, inventions, and perspectives, we are changing the world little by little, whether others like to admit it or not. The problems people have with millennials are not problems: they're the result of changing times and huge advancements in almost every area. Every generation has significant value to the world—yes, even us millennials. ■

*Jordyn Boonstra is a British Columbian studying at Walla Walla University.*

# Be Part of Something Big This July 1!

Celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by  
**Giving Light to Our World**

## GLOW Ottawa Mission Trip

Sponsored by *It Is Written Canada*, the *Seventh-day Adventist Church* and *Lifestyle Canada*

- Join us in sharing over 300,000 Canada Day GLOW tracts and *The Great Controversy – Canadian Edition*.
- Be trained on how to reach the secular mind.
- Experience the power of God in new ways as we pray and go seeking His people among the masses.
- Be inspired by guest speakers and testimonies of changed lives.
- Receive your own GLOW T-shirt.

**WHERE:** Ottawa, Ontario  
**WHEN:** July 1, 2017  
**WHO:** Everyone! (Youth, Adults and Families)  
**WHY:** God's Word still changes lives

*"As we approach the end, there will be **large gatherings** in our **cities**... **Leaflets** containing the light of present **truth** should be **scattered** among the people like the **leaves** of autumn. **To many** who attend these gatherings these leaflets would be as the leaves of the **tree of life**, which are for the **healing** of the nations." -BLJ, p. 278*



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

**[GlowCanada.ca/mission](http://GlowCanada.ca/mission)**





“HOPE ... SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WORD, YET IT WAS NEVER SOMETHING I EXPECTED TO FIND HERE AT CAMPMEETING. BUT JUST LIKE A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH, IT HAD SURFACED FROM WHAT HAD BEEN SUCH DARK AND PAINFUL MOMENTS IN MY LIFE.”



# Waiting for God

Pastor Justis stood in the water, his hand outstretched, and gestured me in. I descended the stairs into the pool, which was not just cold but freezing like a glacial lake. As I looked out into the auditorium, I tried not to shiver as a couple thousand people looked on.

Justis raised his right hand, with his left hand firmly attached to my left arm, and offered his proclamation to the audience, the world, and God above, saying, “I baptize thee in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!”

He expertly lowered me until I was completely submerged. The water was so cold and I could hear bubbles in the tank, like being underwater in an indoor swimming pool and hearing the noise of bubbles, splashing, music, and people laughing and talking. All of this came to mind as I was under, waiting to be pulled to the surface.

*Hope* ... such a beautiful word, yet it was never something I expected to find here at campmeeting. But just like a diamond in the rough, it had surfaced from what had been such dark and painful moments in my life.

I was raised in Campbell River, British Columbia, a small logging, mining, and fishing community on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Although there were many other parts of my early childhood that I couldn't remember, I learned I had experienced some sort of trauma that manifested itself as anger. I was angry with my family, school, and the world.

As I entered my adult years, the anger within me had grown to the point that people feared me. I had long hair, a burly beard, and was covered in tattoos. I was an in-your-face, arrogant, and extremely volatile person. I drank heavily and took drugs for which I made the excuse that it was to help the pain in my back and osteoarthritis that was now crippling my hands.

Several years earlier, I had decided to deal with my anger problems by becoming a Buddhist. But no matter what I tried to cull my increasingly bad attitude, it didn't seem to work. Pain still controlled and devoured me. In addition, my depression had also been steadily growing and I had been getting frequent seizures (my family doctor had referred to them as “the shakes”). When undergoing an episode, I would shake uncontrollably, curl into a ball, and would be unable to speak. Many nights I would cry myself to sleep.

Then one night I couldn't take it anymore, and I felt I had to end it all. Harsh whispers in my ear had now become screams and told me that I was a failure as a husband, father, brother, and son. I was alone, unloved, lost, and hopeless, and I imagined that the world was closing in on me.

Yet as I made plans to go through with the dreadful act, suddenly I felt something deep inside. I don't know if it was the tiniest speck of hope or something else. I looked upward and did something I had never done before. I cried out for help. Then almost in an instant, the thoughts of suicide vanished and the floodgates

opened. I held my face in my hands and cried as I had never done before.

After that low point, I sought out professional help and ended up taking multiple therapy sessions to place me on the road to recovery. As I had made the choice to seek life, I was led closer to Christ and under His influence, began to experience a sense of peace that I couldn't fully explain. There was a change in the air, and I knew my life would never be the same again.

In July my wife, Kristiina, told me of her interest in attending BC Campmeeting in Hope. I could tell how much this event meant to her and how many memories she had had there. So despite my initial hesitation, the next thing I knew I was heading down the highway with Kristiina and our kids in a fully loaded RV.

Before long we finally arrived at Camp Hope, and the week's events were commencing. While my family made plans for each day, I found myself retreating to the RV. I wasn't interested in venturing out. I was sure I wasn't going to be accepted, so what was I doing here? All I really wanted to do was go home, where I could be myself, *by myself*.

Then one day Kristiina mentioned that she had talked earlier that day with Pastor Justis St. Hilaire, the man who had presented the prophecy seminar in Campbell River and led her to Jesus. She said he wanted to meet me and hear about the events in my life that had brought such a change in me.

As we walked along the campground, I told Justis about all the traumatic events



A photo of James Smith from his early adult years.

and the miracles that happened to Kristiina and me since he had last seen us. Upon hearing my story, he told me that he thought it was quite incredible and that people needed to hear it, Christians and non-Christians alike. He explained that my testimony could help many people, not only people who are lost and going down that dark road of drug addiction and destruction, but also others who had gone through similar trauma as I had as a child.

I never really thought what happened to me could help anyone. How could those horrible events that happened to me be of any benefit? Then it finally dawned on me. The benefit of this story wasn't meant for me, but to benefit others. It was meant for people who are holding on to life by a thread and have no hope. Like me, shame and guilt keep them hiding in the shadows, not wanting to be seen, heard, or even noticed. They feel unable to reach out for help and have no hand extended to lift them up.

These painful things happened to me not only to free me from *my* demons and give *me* peace and hope but also to help other people find that same hope and peace that I had been starting to find.

As I realized this, I felt a huge weight suddenly released and my heavy burden became light. A newfound hope washed

over me. The real joy in my heart that had been lost for so many years came back to me. Everything in my life changed at this point. It was like the clouds had lifted away to let the sun in and everything could be seen in its true vibrant colours. It was a beautiful feeling, a feeling I never thought I could have. A door opened that I didn't know existed, and now I had the strength to walk through it.

I also knew that I had not yet fully

dealt with all of my emotional baggage, as it was still a big part of me. I had to give it all away—the guilt, the shame, the pain, the anguish. Christ was the only one who could set me free.

So one night, there at Camp Hope, in a little chapel called the Garden of Prayer, I dropped to my knees and prayed as I had never prayed before. I asked Jesus to forgive me for all of my sins throughout the years. I gave it all to Jesus—every foul, arrogant, hurtful thing I could remember doing. Then I knew that I had to be baptized, immediately—here, at campmeeting by Pastor Justis. It was an overwhelming feeling, and this time the tears that were filling my eyes were tears of joy.

On the last day of campmeeting, I began to prepare myself mentally as I stood at the top of the stairs that led down into the baptismal tank, waiting to be reborn. My gaze was fixated on the glimmering light emanating from the rippling water in the pool. Then, just like that, I was underwater. I heard a whooshing sound as I broke the surface, like the sound made when you close your window when driving down the highway. I gasped my first breath and opened my eyes. I was somewhat startled to see smiling faces all around and the roaring sound of applause.

Moments later I had changed into my clothes and stood in the sunlight behind



James Smith following his baptism by Justis St. Hilaire at Camp Hope in British Columbia.

the auditorium, looking up at the sky. I was watching the clouds swirl and move about as I had never seen them before. Somehow my surroundings seemed different. I seemed different. It was as if I was, for the first time, seeing all the beauty that surrounded me.

That afternoon I was met with hugs and handshakes from so many people. I was then invited onstage to give a short testimony. The thought of going onstage in front of all those people again was daunting. Yet I somehow found the courage, and Justis and I walked up to the pulpit. I hadn't realized there would be so many people. I would later find out that there had been about 6,000 in attendance that day.

After I had finished sharing my story, again I was embraced warmly by people I had never met. But one person stood out from all the rest. I remember one young man approaching me on the verge of tears. As he took my hand, he told me, "I thought I was all alone. I, too, was a Buddhist, but I didn't think I could share that with others. Thank you!" To this day, that moment has stuck with me, and every time I reflect on it, it always stirs up my emotions.

By the time we made it back to the RV, I was emotionally exhausted but, at the same time, filled with so much joy and hope.

As campmeeting drew to a close, I knew I was leaving a new person. I decided

I wouldn't touch the drugs and alcohol again after I was baptized and I haven't felt any withdrawal symptoms since.

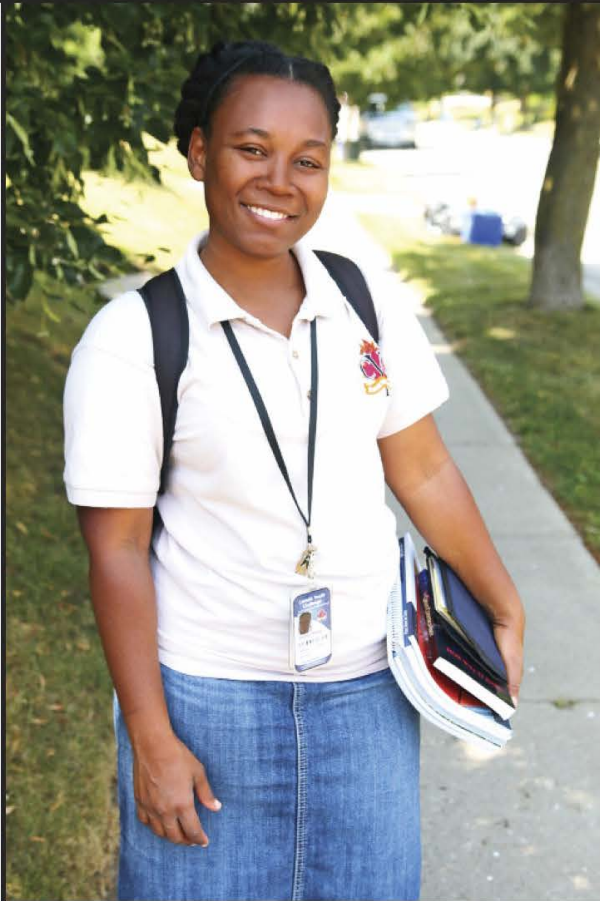
The warmth of the summer heat was just starting to rise from the pavement as we rolled out of Camp Hope and onto the highway, homeward bound. I had the window rolled down and let my hand surf the wind, something I liked to do as a child. I felt like that little boy again, free of so many worries and not quite ready to grow up. The world was out there waiting for me. Well, it could wait a little longer. ■

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*James Smith lives in Salmon Arm, B.C., is owner/operator of Dovetail Designworks, and author of the book Waiting for God.*



A family photo of James, his wife Kristiina, and their two sons Nathan and Jude.



Stacey Wheatley

# “Nuff Prayah! Nu-nu-nuff Prayah!”

**T**he afternoon began like any other afternoon in the life of a Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) student. I went from house to house, knocked on doors, and shared with people. But while working in one neighbourhood, I noticed a man three doors down staring at me. I moved to the next home and then the next, and still he was there, watching. Finally, I came to his house and introduced myself saying, “Hi, my name is Stacey, and I am a student with Canada Youth Challenge.” I explained why I had come and showed him my books, but in a slow and stammering voice he responded, “No-no-no money.”

After sharing with him more information about the program, he replied once again, “No-no-no money.” Then he told me he had had a stroke a few months ago that had left one side of his body useless, and he was no longer able to work.

“Would you mind if I pray for you?” I asked. Immediately he responded, “Nuff prayah! Nu-nu-nuff prayah!”<sup>1</sup> So bowing our heads, we prayed together. At the end of our prayer, I gave him a card on which he could check off things he might be interested in, such as cooking classes and Bible studies. He chose “Bible Study,” and later that week, I gave the card to the pastor of the local church where we were staying.

Sometime later I heard a church member share a special testimony. He said that he once had a co-worker with whom he tried to talk about God, but this man would always jeer and make fun of him. Then the co-worker had a stroke that left one side of his body useless, and he wasn’t able to work. Hearing this, I thought it sounded awfully familiar.

Continuing, the church member said that the pastor had given him an interest card from someone who wanted to study the Bible. So he called the number on the card, and to his astonishment, it was his co-worker.

“When did you fill out this card to request Bible studies?” the church member had asked. His co-worker explained that a CYC student had come to his door and filled it out with him. The church member began to study the Bible with his co-worker, and at the end of each session, the co-worker insisted that the church member pray for him. The co-worker who had once jeered at the mention of God now felt a need to know Him and an urgency to pray at every opportunity.

I have been working as a student with CYC for six years, and it is moments like these that remind me why I love this work so much. There are people out there who are searching, people whom God has brought to a place where they are open to learn about Him. We just have to go and extend that invitation to them.

The harvest is plenty. It’s the *labourers* who are few. God is seeking labourers, willing men and women who will go out and invite His children to come home. Will you? ■

*Stacey Wheatley served as a Student Literature Evangelist with Lifestyle Canada.*

<sup>1</sup>To clarify, the word “nuff” is another way of saying “lots.” The man was asking for lots of prayer.



Daniel Diet participants from the grade 12 senior class. Left to right: Andrew Hodgins, Mana Martin, Matthew Mann, Allesandro Coronado, Zakiya Rolle, Felicite Ishimwe, Nicole Mendes-Souza, Kim Tosi, Kianna Mohns, (not pictured) and Brittany Williams

# DANIEL DIET

## LET ME START BY ASKING YOU A QUESTION:

Education is education, right? If that were true, our children could be educated in any setting. But that is not the counsel we have received. Ellen G. White, in the book *Education*, writes:

True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is .... It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.<sup>1</sup>

This is what sets Adventist Christian education apart. Where else will your child find an experience like the one shared by Gr. 12 student Alessandro Coronado below, unless the classroom is linked to Seventh-day Adventist values and teachings?

Our Grade 12 religion class has been studying about Daniel, and our teacher, Mr. Mohns, challenged us to do the 10-day Daniel food challenge, leaving out all processed foods. The following are testimonies from several students:

*"During the Daniel diet there were many struggles, especially the first few days. But I found that the diet brought us together and made our friendship stronger. It's truly amazing to see how God works!" —Kim T.*

*"Joining the Daniel challenge was an amazing experience! At first, I was reluctant to join because it looked like an impossible thing to do—eat for 10 days like Daniel? But through the days, even with the many temptations, it was possible with God's help. I can definitely say that the Daniel challenge made a difference in my life."—Nicole M.*

*"It made me realize the amount of unhealthy things I put into my body. It also made me appreciate the natural fruits and vegetables God placed on this earth for me to maintain the body He created just for me." —Zakiya*

*"This Daniel challenge was an incredible experience and has totally opened my eyes to all the processed foods I eat daily. The temptations over the 10 days were worth it in the end because I have seen a change in my diet even now that the challenge is over." —Kianna*

*"The Daniel challenge for me was a journey, possibly the longest 10 days I have experienced. Strangely enough, the Daniel diet caused me to seek God even more because I turned to him to overcome my pangs for junk food and for strength to stick with my diet. By Day 6, I was not only managing my diet, but fully enjoying it. Who knew healthy food would have brought me closer to God?" —Brittany W.*

*"I almost gave in for a muffin! It was Day 7, and all I wanted more than anything else in the whole world was to eat that muffin. It made me think how Jesus survived 40 days without eating at all. He even had the power to end it but still he didn't give in to the devil's temptations." —Matthew M.*

*"I did enjoy the Daniel Diet challenge despite its many difficulties. I slept better, performed better in classes, and refined my cooking skills. I believe that doing the Daniel Diet challenge would help all people as it helped me." —Andrew H.*

*"The Daniel diet was a long journey, but having to share with my classmates helped me to keep going. It made me realize how important what we put in our bodies is and how to appreciate how God provided all we need to survive." —Felicite I.*

In spite of the challenges, these students learned that with God's help, they could do it. We now pass on the challenge to you. #10DayDanielChallenge. ■

R. Lee Richards is president of Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ont.

<sup>1</sup>(Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1952), 13.

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

# Enter to Learn, and Depart to Serve



Davia Johnson

**O**n March 10, the Philharmonic Ensemble of Kingsway College, along with our sponsors, boarded a bus. The trip started off with an eight-hour drive to Montreal. We stopped and visited the underground city and later lodged at the Montreal Spanish Church. The church was very welcoming and provided each student with a token of remembrance. We not only enjoyed the church's hospitality but also got to meet Kingsway College alumni. Then the journey continued on Sunday morning to Fredericton, N.B.

Once we had reached the Fredericton church, they provided us supper. The next morning we embarked on a journey to see the Hopewell Rocks. What a sight to see! The whole church was in attendance for the concert, and all were more than kind to each student and staff member. Leaving New Brunswick, we made our way to the United States, all the way to Maine.

When in Maine, we encountered a massive snowstorm. After unloading the bus at Pine Tree Academy, we headed to the L.L. Bean Outlet Mall to do some shopping, but unfortunately, we discovered that the most stores were closed because of the weather. Defeated, cold, and tired, we decided to at least find a place to dine. We looked all over for a place to eat. Thank the Lord for answering prayers! An inn with a restaurant attached to it was open and was able to accommodate all 43 of us. Having put on a concert for the academy, we headed out the next morning, continuing our journey to Boston.

When the band arrived in Boston, some went shopping, while others went to go see Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. After "shopping till dropping," the band went to the Greater

Boston Academy for housing accommodations. The following morning we performed for the school and met a former president of Kingsway College, David Branum. Departing from this school, we headed to Vermont.

The band enjoyed the luxurious spa treatment at the Stowe Mountain Lodge's spa. The band spent the afternoon in the outdoor swimming pool and hot tub, enjoying the hot—cold treatments, or resting in the relaxing spa lounge. After feeling relaxed and pampered, we journeyed on to the Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church was very welcoming and is a proud supporter of Adventist Education, and especially Kingsway College. The following morning we made our way back to Canada and to the country's capital, Ottawa.

Upon reaching the Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist Church, we quickly set up our belongings, ate supper, and went to bed. The next day we worshipped with the church and played many songs for the service. Once church was over and they had all said amen, we had potluck and returned to the place most call home: Kingsway College.

The trip was fun-filled despite the bad weather. We were able to share God's love with others and spread the gospel through our music. The accommodations given by churches and schools were an example of God's love as well. The memories made on this trip will be what binds us. This trip will always be remembered, leaving all of the students not only closer to each other but also closer to God. ■

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*Davia Johnson is a Grade 11 student at Kingsway College.*

# Gone Fishing

## Outdoor after-school class, repeated by popular demand



"Snow Angels" Ramona Mackenzie, aboriginal studies teacher, and an adventurous student take to the air during a winter camping trip.

Fishing is a skill forever linked with the "fishers of men"—Jesus' first disciples. That story takes on new meaning for Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) students, who are clamouring to participate in MANS's outdoor education fishing trips. Thanks to a grant from Alberta church member Ken Hubbard, MANS's after-school Outdoor Activities Club is in its second year, and students are pursuing—and receiving—more outdoor skill-building activities.

"The after-school outdoor club started again this year with ice fishing, snowshoeing, and other winter activities," explains high school vice-principal Michael Willing, who heads the program. Last year's ice fishing trip to Chain Lakes and Gull Lake was the first time casting a line for many students—not to mention drilling into ice to do it. As part of a four-credit course in fishing and wildlife last spring, nine junior high and high school students enrolled in a class that culminated in a three-day camping trip through the Canadian Rockies. There students tried their luck spy casting and fly fishing at scenic Abraham Lake, Blackstone River, and Goldeneye Lake. The students were, in a word, hooked.

So this fall the club headed to the mountainous Nordegg area, a venture so successful that students who hadn't previously been interested began campaigning for a second trip. They were successful: A second trip was scheduled for near the end of school for Grades 9 and 10.

Willing is certified by the Alberta Hunters Education Instructors Association, which allows him to give students a rounded education shaped through outdoor experience. He

finds that student interest is high in these programs because of their participatory nature. Students range in outdoor experience from enthusiasts to first-time campers, but all get instruction in outdoor skills and environmental education so that students learn best practices in wilderness camping.

Learning from God's "second book" provides many positive benefits not duplicated in the classroom. Students "are surrounded by tactile and physical beauty," which, Willing observes, is particularly important to them, and the social fun of camping together also breaks down barriers and brings students closer together as friends. Some high school students are also taking a hunter education course and plan to earn their certificates from the Province of Alberta. A spiritual perspective shapes all outdoors lessons as teachers impart what it means to be a good steward of the environment and show students how to rely on the Creator for what they need.

As the new high school building allows curriculum to expand, hopes are high that there may be even more fishing and wildlife adventures available as part of the program at MANS High School. Until then, MANS students will continue with the blend of after-school outdoor club and environmental classes that get them out in God's nature, with a better understanding of Jesus' invitation for us to become fishers of people. ■

*Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference; Alison Bottomley is communications assistant for The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School.*



# Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

*"I love that teachers here don't mind me coming by and if we need to talk, we can just talk"*

When he marches this spring, Joshua Chokka will be the fifth sibling in his family to graduate from Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA), completing the perfect score for a generation of Adventist education. For the Red Deer family, there was never a question about what the best option was. Josh shares, "My dad sent us all because everything about PAA makes it a good school."

A good school grows good students, and since his shy start in Grade 10, Josh has emerged as a leader with passion for service and a heart for helping others fit in. "I was kind of quiet to start with, but it didn't take long for me to start making friends." Josh reflects on how many of the highlights of his high school experience revolve around his classmates and peers: "We do so many things together, like get food, and sit around talking. It really is all quality time, and it involves the whole class. We really got to know each other, and having fun together makes us more of a family."

Being part of a family means lifting each other up, something Josh does constantly. Though he never tried out for PAA's athletic teams, Josh was the first student to volunteer to dress up as the Panther mascot and spend evenings cheering on the games, all because building community is important to him. Josh says, "It's fun to help people get excited about what's going on. We're all in it together!"

Beyond school events, Josh has seen the value in working with his classmates to bring positive change to the world around him: "Every year of high school, I've gotten to help people in the community through PAA," he says. "I volunteered in Grades 10 and 11 to be part of The Neighbours Project with A Better World, and I joined Dauntless in Grade 12. I always think it's nice to make new friends and meet new people."

With new students joining the PAA family every year, Josh has found his niche in being part of the community that welcomes. "I look at younger students and feel like they could be my siblings, especially when they come to me and ask me for advice about relationships or their Christian life. I help them the best way I know how from my experience, like an elder almost." Because of his generous compassion and his intentional focus toward creating



Joshua Chokka

positive communities, Josh is PAA's winner of the 2017 Caring Heart Award.

For Josh, elders in his life have played an important role in modelling the good humour and connection he seeks to build with those around him. He speaks highly of his teachers at PAA and admits that "this has been the time in my life when I've needed God and people, like my teachers, the most." Not only is high school a challenging time for any young person, but only a few years have elapsed since Josh's dad passed away.

He shared his story in chapel, connecting the struggle to biblical Joshua's youthful and abrupt ascent to leadership. "I read the Bible story," Josh says, "and saw that the line 'Be strong and courageous' was his battle cry. I get it because this has been a time in my life when I needed courage."

Courage comes in many forms, and Josh sees the value of gleaning it from PAA's safe, structured learning environment: "I love that teachers here don't mind me coming by and if we need to talk, we can just talk," he says. "When it comes to looking for a Christian place to grow and study, there really isn't a better place than PAA," a school only made great by the faithful people who love it well. ■

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



# Practicing the Presence of Jesus Newfoundland Campmeeting

July 21-29, 2017 at Woody Acres Camp,  
Southwest Pond, Newfoundland



**Bruce Boyd**  
Teacher, Burman University,  
College Heights, Alta.



**Connie Gane**  
Assoc. Professor, Archaeology/  
Old Testament, Andrews  
University Seminary



**Roy Gane**  
Professor, Hebrew Bible/  
Ancient Near Eastern Languages,  
Andrews University Seminary



**Chris Holland**  
Speaker/Director,  
It Is Written Canada



**Mark Johnson**  
President, Seventh-day  
Adventist Church in Canada



**Ben Maxson**  
Pastor, Paradise Seventh-day  
Adventist Church, Paradise,  
California

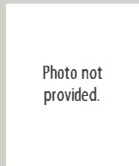


**Victor Reyes-Prieto**  
Pastor/Prayer Coordinator,  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
in Newfoundland and Labrador



# A Walk by Faith Maritime Campmeeting

July 21-29, 2017 at Camp Pugwash, Pugwash, N.S.



**Bob Cundiff**  
President, Northern New  
England Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Patrick Dupuis**  
Pastor, Quebec  
Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**José Élysée**  
Pastor, Quebec  
Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Pavel Goia**  
Pastor, Lexington Seventh-  
day Adventist Church,  
Lexington, Kentucky



**Peter Kulakov**  
Pastor, Ooltewah  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, Ooltewah, Tenn.



**Tarah-Liz Springer Rivera**  
Singer,  
Montreal, Quebec



# We Believe the Time is Near Alberta Campmeeting

July 14-22, 2017 at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alberta



**Ruby Adams**  
Settlement Practitioner,  
Central Alberta Refugee  
Effort



**Julian Archer**  
Author/Entrepreneur,  
Faith-vs-Finance



**Ricardo Bain**  
Pastor, Greater  
New York Conference



**Randy Barber**  
Evangelist, Alberta  
Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Ken Crawford**  
Retired Pastor/Conference  
President, College Place,  
Washington



**Sandra Deer**  
Personal Ministries Director,  
Alberta Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Gary Hodder**  
President, Alberta  
Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Pekka Määttä**  
Assistant Professor  
of Biology, Burman  
University



**Gordon Pifher**  
Vice-President for Media,  
North American Division of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Joan Rogers**  
Family and Women's Ministries  
Director, Ontario Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Floyd Spence**  
Pastor, Ontario Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists



**Samuel Telemague**  
Director, Sabbath School  
and Adventist Mission,  
Inter-America Division



**Brad Thorp**  
Field Secretary for President,  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Mike Tucker**  
Speaker/Director,  
Faith for Today



**Hyveth Williams**  
Professor/Director of  
Homiletics, Andrews  
University Seminary

# REACH Out British Columbia Campmeeting

July 28-August 5, 2017 at Camp Hope, Hope, British Columbia



**Manny Arteaga**  
Pastor, Kaleo SDA Church,  
Monrovia, Calif.



**David Asscherick**  
Pastor, Kingscliff Adventist  
Church, Chinderah, New  
South Wales, Australia



**Ern Brake**  
Vice-President for Administration,  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
in British Columbia



**Kameron DeVasher**  
Pastor, Michigan Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists



**Jonathan Duffy**  
President, ADRA  
International



**Jonathan Henderson**  
Campus Pastor/Chaplain,  
Pacific Union College



**David Jamieson**  
Lead Pastor, Church in  
the Valley SDA Church,  
Langley, British Columbia



**Jeff Klam**  
Vice-President for Finance,  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church in British Columbia



**Dwight Nelson**  
Senior Pastor, Pioneer  
Memorial Church,  
Andrews University



**Taj Paclab**  
Director, Revelation  
of Hope Ministries



**Derek Richter**  
Chaplain, Coralwood  
Adventist Academy,  
Edmonton, Alta.



**Garrett Speyer**  
Student, Redlands  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, Redlands, Calif.



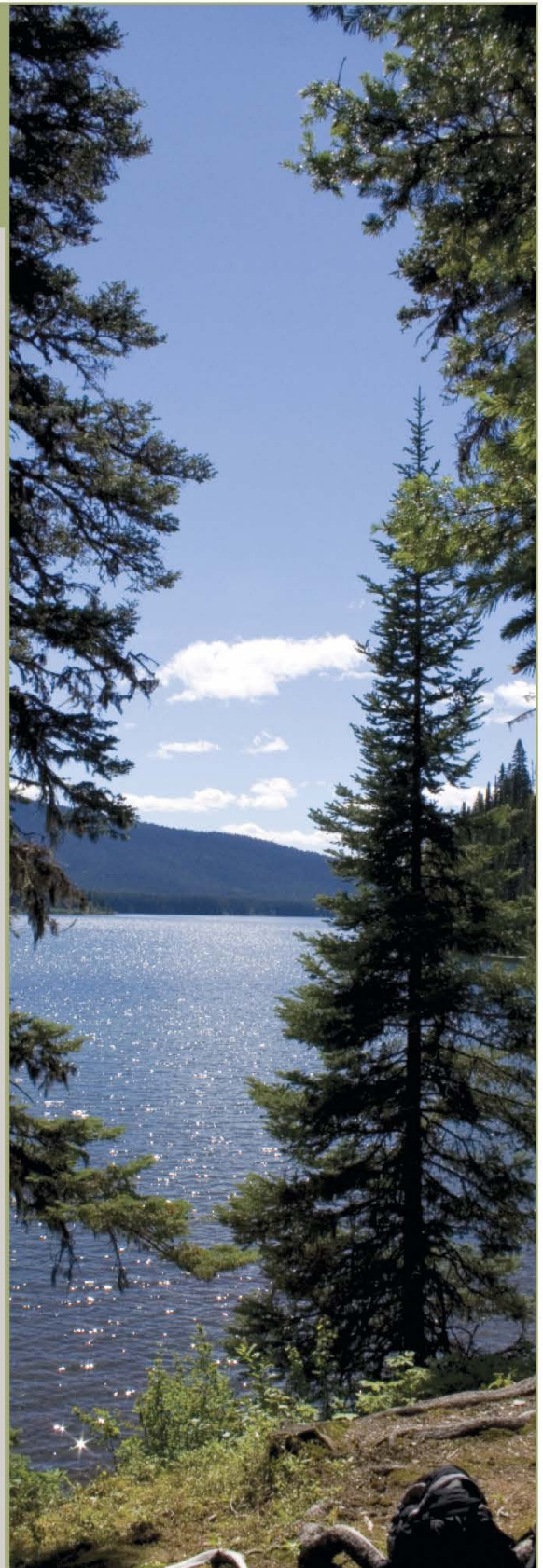
**Wesley Torres**  
President, Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
in British Columbia



**Kevin Wilfley**  
Director, Health and Prayer  
Ministries, Washington Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists

#### Seminar Speakers:

Sergio Alejandro, Rita Corbett,  
David DeRose, Ed Dunn,  
Rudy Harnisch, Stan Jensen,  
Lucas Jurek, Jeff Kapiniak,  
Trevino Naidoo, Jeff Potts,  
Justis St. Hilaire, and  
Conrad Vine



## Hope for Troubled Times Northeastern Ontario Campmeeting

September 1-3, 2017 at Camp Noronto, Monteville, Ontario



**Mathew Feeley**  
Pastor, Kanisa Fellowship,  
Ontario Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



## Hope in Troubled Times Bluewater Adventist Campmeeting

July 29, 2017 at Elmwood Community Center, 38 Queen St. W., Elmwood, Ontario



**Lars Muller**  
Lay Evangelist,  
Woodstock, Ont.

Come and join the Hanover, Harriston, and Owen Sound Seventh-day Adventist churches for the Bluewater District Campmeeting in the beautiful country setting of Elmwood, Ontario. Full-day program includes, Sabbath School for all ages, main worship service, potluck lunch, and afternoon sermon and presentations. For more information, contact 519/371-1722, or visit [www.owensoundadventist.ca](http://www.owensoundadventist.ca).



## Living With Renewed Faith Ontario Campmeeting

June 24, 2017 at International Centre,  
6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga, Ontario



**Mansfield Edwards**  
President, Ontario Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists



**Lyle Notice**  
Youth Director,  
Alberta Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists



**Chanda Nunes**  
Associate Pastor, Capitol  
City Adventist Church,  
Sacramento, Calif.



**Jordane Smith**  
Graduate,  
Burman University



**Mike Tucker**  
Speaker/Director,  
Faith for Today



**Ivan Williams**  
Ministerial Director,  
North American Division  
of Seventh-day Adventists

# Sharing the Blessed Hope Manitoba-Saskatchewan Campmeeting

July 7-15, 2017 at Camp Whitesand, Theodore, Saskatchewan



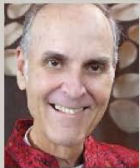
**Russell Burrill**  
Professor Emeritus,  
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**Chris Holland**  
Speaker/Director,  
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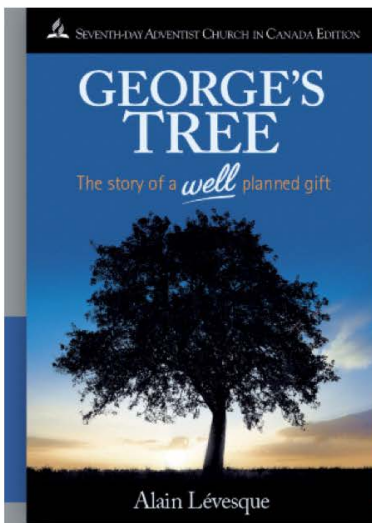
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>> **SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of Mar. 31, 2017, there were 429 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,559,8236. There were 85 loans with a value of \$26,741,869.

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

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## British Columbia

### Better Living Centre

God is a wonderful leader! If we just follow His lead, He can open hearts and doors everywhere, even beyond our imaginations. He has proven this over and over with our small group. The culmination of His leading brought us to March 11, 2017.

March 11, 2017, was a very special Sabbath day, one that the members of the newly formed Better Living Centre (BLC) (by Lillooet SDA Company/Church) will not soon forget. For one thing, we had the blessing of having four pastors in the building to celebrate and officiate the ordination of the new company. Wesley Torres and Ern Brake, from the conference, each spoke of God's blessings in bringing the growth of the congregation forward, and of the community outreach established in the past few years. Also in attendance were Karel Samek, our former district area pastor, and Thandazani Mhlanga, our current district area pastor.

Included in our congregation for the day were representatives from the district churches of Ashcroft and Merritt, as well as from the mother church, Lillooet Seventh-day Adventist Church at Fountainview Academy. We also welcomed home former attendees of the Branch Sabbath School, dear friends Dave and Carol Meservia.

The Sabbath service consisted of praise songs, a children's story, and a song debut by our newly formed a cappella group. Ern Brake presented a short synopsis of our beliefs, and then Wesley Torres started calling up those who were going to be the company leaders, as well as the charter



A dedicatory prayer at the ordination of the newly formed Better Living Centre.

members. We were all humbly thankful and emotional—resembling the feel of a baptism—and there were a number of resounding yesses when the question of “Do you wish to have your name moved forward to become a member of the new company?” was asked.

With many hugs and tears of happiness, the newly formed company members were surrounded by the representatives of the district area churches, the mother church, and the BC Conference pastors, showing their promise of continuing support for the group.

There was a beautiful Asian-themed feast prepared by the company members, and after the food had been blessed, all present enjoyed the lunch and the fellowship.

After lunch Karel Samek shared with us his knowledge and understanding of effective prayer. Our prayer warriors are meeting Monday evenings, and the

information presented by Samek will be implemented with thanksgiving by our prayer warriors leader. Thank you, Pastor Karel.

After vespers and a light dinner, Dave Meservia presented a history lesson of our BLC building and some anecdotal information about the former attendees. The Branch Sabbath School has been holding services in the Better Living Centre building for over several years, so there were plenty of stories for Dave to share.

As all days do, this one—even though it was so special—came to an end. However, it is only the beginning of our unified move forward as the Better Living Centre, Lillooet Seventh-day Adventist Company/Church. We are willing (though frail and weak) to follow our Lord in whatever tasks He leads us to serve our community. We are excited to see what tomorrow brings. Praise God! ■

## BC Elects New Communication Director



Joey Aguilar

The BC Conference welcomes Joey Aguilar as its new Communication Director, on temporary basis until August 31 while he concludes his services as a music and media teacher at Deer Lake School.

The vision is for him to eventually become the full-time communications director after this period. This was voted by the Board of Directors on March 16, 2017.

Joey is a talented, committed, and creative individual with extensive experience in the communication field (media, video graphics, audio/sound, live streaming, digital photography). He will bring the needed and desired skills to serve our conference.

Please keep Joey in your prayers! ■

## Manitoba - Saskatchewan

### A Rally for Youth by Youth



Attendees thoroughly enjoying the recent Youth Rally held in Winnipeg.



A colourful paper chain with the prayer requests of the Youth Rally attendees.

“You can’t help but be transformed when you spend time in the presence of God,” said Pastor Ray Valenzuela at the Man.-Sask. Youth Rally held in Winnipeg, March 10–11. Pastor Ray taught on the theme of “Connections,” stressing practical ways to daily stay connected to God. “As youth, spiritual growth is something that we need to do on a daily basis,” commented one of 150 young attendees.

It’s the second event where youth stepped up to lead. Winnipeg Youth Rally coordinator, Pastor Alex Portillo, said that after attending last year’s Saskatoon Youth Rally, multiple groups of Winnipeg youth “saw the creativity and energy that

the [Saskatoon youth] put out to actually put it on, they wanted to have that same experience, they wanted to inspire other people.” Ultimately, a group of youth who have formed a worship team called “Devoted” took the lead, planning the program, advertising, and music.

Many commented on enjoying the simple, heartfelt worship music, the Sabbath school with an interactive smartphone Bible trivia game—and the “food.” West Park Church “did really well with the food,” said one young male, “but I’m talking about spiritual food too. The pastor, he preached well, and it was very fun and inspiring.” “If you didn’t come,

you missed out on a lot of fun, and you missed getting a reconnection with God,” said another youth.

“I was extremely blessed by this youth rally,” said youth director Sandra Wall. “I would like to thank Pastor Alex and the Lighthouse of Hope Church for opening their doors and supporting our youth. I was really proud of the hard work the Devoted team put in. This is what youth ministry is all about, to see youth taking the lead to minister to other youth, their local church, and their community.”

The next youth rally will be in Regina, November 2017. ■

# Ontario



## MISSION NOW

On March 8, 2017, some 22 volunteers set out from Toronto and Calgary as part of the Mission NOW Canada Team to serve the people of Iloilo City, Philippines. The team's approach to service had at its core the belief that Christ's method alone would bring true success. Weeks of Prayer were delivered in five local schools and academies; two evangelistic series and a medical, dental, and optical clinic served nearly 4,000 people.

Simultaneously, Allan Heacock and his building team undertook the funding and building of the initial stage of what will be the first Seventh-day Adventist Church building in Barreo Obrero, a short distance from downtown Iloilo City. Brother Andrew Alivio and his team served 400 homeless and needy children a lunch and an afternoon of games. Dr. Jim Martins and his dental team saw over 650 patients in seven days, including 61 patients at the Iloilo District Jail. The optometry clinic distributed 1,000 pairs of reading glasses, 388 of which were made available to inmates at the Iloilo District Jail. Pastor Ishmael Ali conducted an evangelistic series on the rooftop of the Iloilo District Jail.

A few years ago, prison administration granted permission to the West Visayan Conference to build a Seventh-day Adventist Church on the roof of the jail. Today that church operates regularly and is run by the inmates, ministering to the 1,800 male and 110 female inmates. On the last Sunday in Iloilo, pastors and



Ishmael Ali (seated front row, second from right) conducted an evangelistic series on the rooftop of the Iloilo District Jail.



A baptism on the Iloilo District Jail rooftop.



Mission NOW's dental team saw over 650 patients in seven days.

elders came together to baptize 15 new members of the Iloilo District Jail Seventh-day Adventist Church. Seven more candidates made a decision for baptism at that ceremony. Pastor Bill Santos led out in the district-wide evangelistic series at the Iloilo Central Church. To date, 76 souls have been baptized. Vocalist Pam Lister provided the nightly music at the meetings.


Mission NOW Canada would like to thank all of the volunteers who joined us on this most exciting trip, to those who donated, and to the leadership of the West Visayan Conference for their coordination locally. Should you be interested in learning more about Mission NOW Canada and/or joining us on our next trip to Paraguay, Aug. 24 to Sept. 3, 2017, visit the website

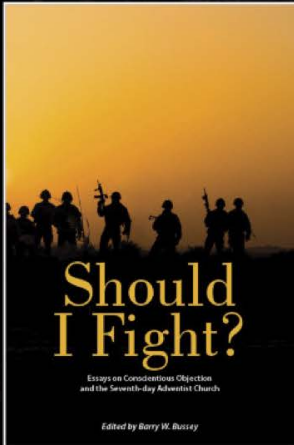
at [www.MissionNOWCanada.com](http://www.MissionNOWCanada.com) for more details and contact information.

A special thank you to *It Is Written Canada* that allowed Mission NOW Canada the use of the mobile dental equipment and portable X-ray unit. Ellen White reminds us:

*Everywhere there are hearts crying out for something which they have not. They long for a power that will give them mastery over sin, a power that will deliver them from the bondage of evil, a power that will give health and life and peace.... Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." ■*







**Should I Fight?**  
Essays on Conscientious Objection and the Seventh-day Adventist Church  
Edited by Barry W. Bussey

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

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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about Messenger announcement policies, go to [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger), click "Writers' Guidelines" then click "announcements."

■ Announcements

**2017 Practical Skills Campout—Madoc, Ont., July 18–23:** Planning a move to the country? Needing some practical skills? Our Skills Campout is for you. By God's grace we plan to cover property searches, managing a country home, growing and preserving food, bread-making, sprouting, natural remedies, bee-keeping, maple-syruping, cutting firewood, small engine maintenance, solar power, gardening, and hoop-house construction. Throughout is the important golden thread of character development and spiritual growth. Rest, Learn, Recharge with us. 2016 Campout was well attended with enthusiasm (See November 2016 Messenger). For the schedule and registration form, see Madoc Adventist.org or call Gabrielle at 613/484-9827.

■ New Members

ONTARIO

**Benjamin Chant** was baptized in Oshawa, Ont., on Nov. 12, 2016, by Victor Chant. He is now a member of the College Park church.

■ Legal Notice

**Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Notice:** Notice is hereby given that the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 Conference; (2) members of the Board of Directors; (3) Directors of departments and services."* Ontario Conference Bylaws, Article IX, 9:02, h, 1, 2, 3.

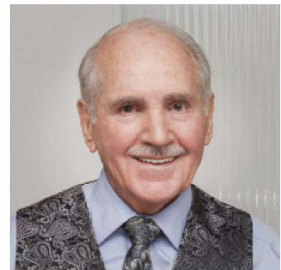
■ Birthdays

**Diana (née Kinakin) Hoodikoff** celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 21, 2017, at Peachtree Place



in Rutland, B.C., with her children, their spouses, and many friends. Diana has three children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**David James Lawson** celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 5, 2017, in Whitby, Ont. His family and



extended family held a dinner in his honour at a local dining establishment. Dave and Leora have five children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

**Lauretta Margaret "Peggy" (née Bell) Goertzen** was born on April 22, 1921, in Winnipeg, Man., and died on May 2, 2016, in Salmon Arm, B.C. She graduated from La Sierra University in 1969 and worked at San Pasqual Academy, White Memorial Hospital, a nursing home in Sydney, B.C., and Rest Haven Lodge. Lauretta is predeceased by her first husband, Graham Smith; sons, Tommy Smith and Ross Smith; daughter, Carrie Jewell; parents, Fred and Lauretta Bell; and brothers, Lloyd Bell, David Bell, and Earle Bell. Surviving: husband, John Goertzen; stepson, Leander

Goertzen of Ryley, Alta.; daughters, Edna Crombie of Salmon Arm and Peggy McBryan of Tappen, B.C.; stepdaughters, Donelda Jones of Yakima, Wash., Marilyn Pond of Creston, B.C., Bonnie Johnson of Vancouver Island, B.C., Jewell Lien of Ryley; five grandchildren, 11 step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Grant Klokeid** was born on June 14, 1930, in Calgary, Alta., and died on March 4, 2017, in Kelowna, B.C. He was an active and loyal member who gave generously of his time, talents, and resources to support church programs and Christian education, serving as a deacon, elder, Sabbath school superintendent, and teacher, school board chairman and fund raiser, B.C. Conference and union committee member. Grant is predeceased by his wife, Nettie (née Martens) Klokeid. Surviving: sons, Brian Klokeid and Lorne Klokeid; sister, Jean (née Klokeid) Garner; and two grandchildren.

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## from the editor

# Campmeeting

**HAVING JOINED THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH AS AN ADULT**, I quickly learned that Adventists love campmeeting. In my early interactions with the church, I met many people who spoke so fondly and passionately of campmeeting that I knew I had to experience it for myself.

I attended my first campmeeting before I was baptized and have never missed a year since. I love mingling with people who are attending for the first time, as well as those who are seeking more information on faith, hope, and healing. I look forward to hearing reports from around the conference and around the world, and the sermons are always riveting and practical.

Witnessing baptisms at campmeeting is an emotional and exciting event not to be missed. Hearing individual testimonies of how Christ has led people's lives strengthens my own faith in a powerful way.

As a grandparent, I am now experiencing campmeeting with renewed enthusiasm as I see their excitement for Bible stories, games, crafts, and making new friends. The quality time we spend together at camp provides memories that I will cherish for years to come.

Campmeeting is also a great opportunity to visit the book sales and find new releases. As a former Adventist Book Centre manager, I was always thrilled to see people purchasing books and gifts for their children, loved ones, and friends.

This issue is full of the dates, times, locations, and speakers for campmeetings taking place across Canada. Be sure to check out who will be presenting at your local campmeeting; there are many great speakers making the rounds this year. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Stan Jensen". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Stan Jensen, editor  
*Canadian Adventist Messenger*

*PS: If you enjoyed this month's cover story of how campmeeting changed one man's life, send me your stories and memories of campmeeting to be featured next year.*



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*Charles Spurgeon*

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### Winnipeg, Manitoba

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