

canadian adventist

Messenger

august 2017

GLOW Ottawa

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Plus

Behaviour (p. 3)

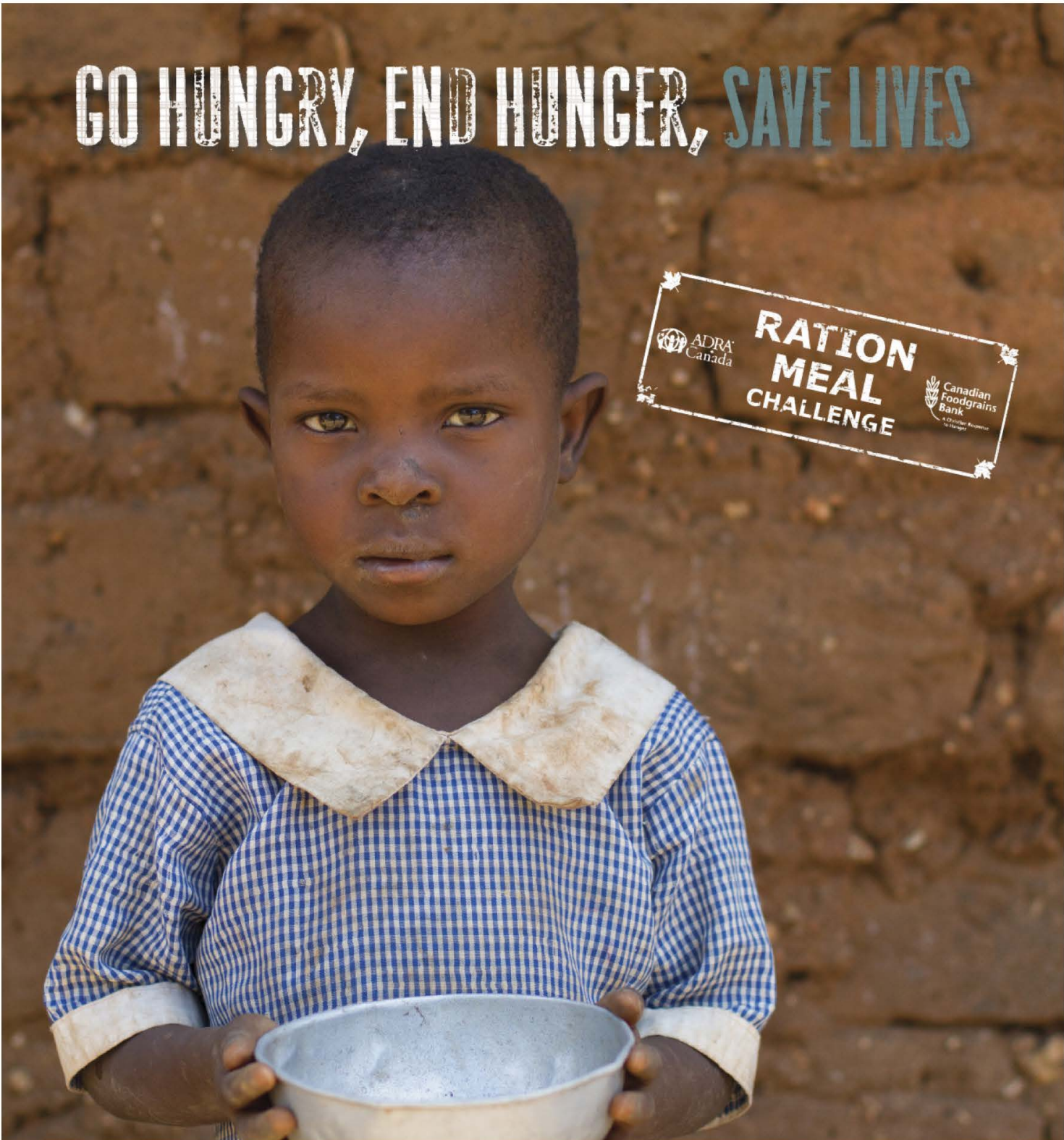
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Messenger

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heart to heart

“I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

—John 8:29, ESV

Behaviour

Have you noticed how much the Bible actually says about choice and behaviour? A lot.

We usually don't like it when others have much to say about what we do. That's the culture we live in today. But surrounded by those who have no restraint whatsoever, we shouldn't be surprised if some of that attitude rubbed off on us, too, right?

Our choices predict what we will do next. A really bad experience leads us to avoid doing it again. If it wasn't that bad, well maybe we're open to trying it another time.

Sometimes it is all about our surroundings. This is where things get tricky, because the question is, If I were in a different environment, would I choose differently? How would I change how I live?

And there is truth in that, isn't there? If you surround yourself with things that are lovely, good, and just, then you will more likely be lovely, good, and just yourself. The Bible says that in just about so many words.

We've thought about choice; now let's consider behaviour. We learn to do things mostly by repetition. How do you learn to ride a bicycle? Mostly by doing it again and again and again. And after a while, you become good at it. So we learn by doing, and doing reinforces what we've done before. Musicians do a lot of behaviour reinforcement. Practise the same piece over and over, and at some point, you will be able to do it without looking at the piece.

Fix the same dish time after time, do it well, and it becomes a hit with the potluck crowd. That's the secret of repetitive behaviour.

Salvation, which cannot be earned, is lived in the repetitive acts of all who understand what it is and who it is that gives it. And that leads me to two important statements from Scripture.

Jesus speaks: "I always do the things that are pleasing to Him" (John 8:29, ESV).

And then there's Paul, who finally figured it out: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13, ESV).

What would we add to that? ■

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



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Villagers returning with their allotment of sorghum, beans, oil, and salt, distributed by ADRA and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Famine and Hope

ADRA WORKERS SEE DESPAIR OFTEN. It is in the eyes of a mother who cannot feed her children. It is in the slumped shoulders of a man whose only means of supporting his family have been destroyed by a natural disaster. It is in the fearful response of a child who has fled war and destruction.

Often we struggle with the sheer scale of the crises that we face. The numbers are overwhelming. Some 800 million malnourished people, 663 million in need of clean water, 65.6 million refugees, an average of \$520 billion needed each year to recover from natural disasters.

The good news is that together we are making a difference.

Namana's father is dead, and her mother is old. She is the youngest of four children. Surviving in South Sudan was difficult. The dangers of war were always near. Her family raised cattle and grew sorghum. The cattle could be sold in the Kapoeta market, a three-day walk away. The sorghum, supplemented with wild vegetables and fruit, enabled them to eat twice a day.

Then life became more of a struggle. Three years ago her family's cattle were lost in a raid. Their only marketable assets were gone. They continued to grow sorghum until this year's drought blighted the crops.

To earn money, they now cut down trees to make charcoal, which they sell in the Kapoeta market. Sometimes they earn enough to have one meal of rice a day. Sometimes they have nothing to eat all day.

Famines can be anticipated. The signs are present long before an official declaration is made. Crop failures, mass migrations of small scale farmers, increasing prices, increasing inaccessibility to hard hit areas—ADRA and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank saw the signs and began to prepare. Arrangements were made to purchase, transport, and distribute food to the people in the villages surrounding Kapoeta for three months.

Namana walked for three days to collect her allotment of sorghum, beans, oil, and salt. It should be enough to feed her family for a month, but we were not able to help everyone, so Namana will share with her relatives. She hopes the food will last for more than a few days.

It may not seem like much, but to Namana's family, it is meaningful. Having food to replace what was lost to the drought and the war is enough to replace the despair in their eyes with hope.

Your donations to the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering, the government matched Famine Relief Fund, and our Ration Meal Challenge make it possible for us to save lives like Namana's. Never doubt that your support is making a true difference.

I invite you to contact us with any questions at stayintouch@adra.ca. ■

Sharmilla Reid is the supporter relations director at ADRA Canada.



Eating With Sinners

“The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence.”

In Luke 15 Jesus is accused of associating with sinful people, and the Pharisees go as far as to say that he was eating with them. I find a common theme in the New Testament that in order to reach the lost, one must learn how to eat with the lost. We see in Acts 2 that when the early church was experiencing daily growth, one of the common factors was that they were going from house to house eating with one another.

Taking a closer look at what took place in Acts 2, we can see four prominent ingredients to the growth of the church:

- They studied together.
- They fellowshiped together.
- They ate together.
- They prayed together.

Here we see four simple factors that led to exponential growth at that time, and I feel that this will take place again when God's people begin to engage in real, face-to-face evangelism.

As a result of these small groups of Christians meeting together, something started happening to the early church. It says that “a deep sense of awe came over all of them.” Everyone began to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and as a result, miracles and signs were associated with the early church. As the Holy Spirit worked on their hearts and minds, the people began to engage in sacrificial giving for the sake of the gospel. They shared with those need and with an attitude of joy and generosity. They saw needs and met those needs with what they had, even if it was as simple as sharing one's house and food.

Ellen G. White understood this when she wrote, “Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”¹

One of the hardest groups of people to reach for the gospel are the Millennials and Gen Xers. The great majority of these two groups shy away from the programs and the buildings that house our churches. They are searching for something greater than what our programs and buildings can give. They are looking for fellowship. Our technological advances have placed a barrier between us and the ability of getting to know others on a deeper level. We might be able to connect on a screen, but our technological generations are craving face-to-face relationships.

Our conference recently held a town hall discussion on how to reach people through our worship services. Many Millennials and Gen Xers expressed that they wanted fellowship and to be part of the church in fellowship. They repeatedly spoke up by saying that they were craving deep personal relationships with people within the church but that what they had found were people who were focused on a program.

I think Jesus had it right when He went out and met with sinners and even ate with them, and I think we will get it right too, when we open up our houses and feed our neighbours, friends, co-workers, etc. Bringing people into your homes and sitting around a table and eating together is one of the best ways to get to know someone. When they then feel able to call us friends, they will start to ask some of life's more difficult questions, and you will be then able to share with them your friendship with Jesus.

We just might see the scenes in Acts take place again when God's last-day church begins to share their homes and tables with others, and we might even hear those words again and get accused of “eating with sinners.” ■

Paul Llewellyn is president of the Maritime Conference.



¹The Ministry of Healing, p. 143.

teen talk

Q: Hi there, it's me again! A good friend of mine sent me a text with a huge question mark. "What do you mean being gay is not a sin?" After talking for a while, we realized that I needed to write you back with some more explanation, 'cos this is quite important.

A: So here we go. There is a difference between being *attracted* to someone of the same sex and, like our church officially states, "*sexual behaviour*." The first one involves a temptation. The second one is an act. There are gays that are open about their tendency, but clearly understand what the Bible says about same sex relationships, and they ask Jesus for strength to do the right thing and remain celibate. That's what I meant when I said being gay is not a sin.

What about our LGBT friends who don't agree with what the Bible says? Keep loving them, because as Jesus said, "whoever is without sin, throw the first rock." ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

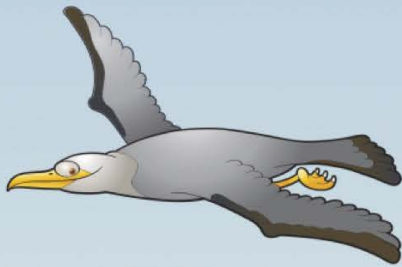
His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.—2 Peter 1:3, NKJV

The Sun



Have you ever thought about the importance of the sun? The sun gives us light, which plants use to make food. Animal life depends on plants. Without the sun, the plants would die, and eventually all the animals would too, even if the earth stayed warm. Of course, it wouldn't, though, because without the sun, our earth would be an icy rock.

If that weren't enough, the sun causes our weather and the Northern Lights, and affects the oceans' tides. The length of day affects when birds lay their eggs, when bears go into their dens, and when puffins migrate to the sea. The sun helps us feel happy, helps us feel sleepy at bedtime, and is necessary for our skin to make vitamin D.



Think about it.

The sun is our power source. Without it, life on earth would be impossible. Without Jesus life is impossible, too. He created us and keeps us alive. Only Jesus saves us from sin and death so that we can live forever. Jesus is our spiritual power source. The Reformers taught that eternal life is possible because of Jesus alone (*solus Christus*), and there is no other way for us to be saved but by Him. Only Jesus supplies everything we need to live forever.

Do it!

Colour a paper plate yellow and print the Bible verse on it. On strips of yellow paper, write the things that Jesus does for you. Glue the paper strips on the paper plate for rays.



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

Burman University Alumni Awards

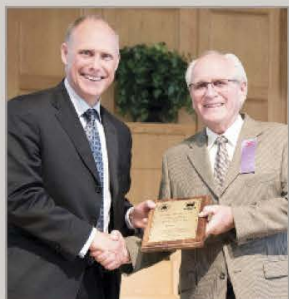


Denis Fortin (right) receives the Don F. Neufeld Medallion of Excellence from Jerrold Ritchey.

BURMAN UNIVERSITY IS PROUD OF ALL OF OUR ALUMNI who continue to make a significant contribution to their communities and to the world. We are also proud of our friends who have not only contributed to our campus but also make an impact on the world around them. To show our appreciation for their work and service, Burman University presents awards annually to select alumni and friends during Alumni Homecoming weekend.

The Don F. Neufeld Medallion of Excellence is special recognition of an alumnus of Burman University or Parkview Adventist Academy who has completed or is nearing completion of a lifetime of outstanding service. It was only fitting to award the medallion to Denis Fortin, of Class of '82. Denis's resumé is long, full of accomplishments and achievements that boast a life of service. He has served as a pastor, a professor, a scholar, and a writer. He is currently a professor of historical theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

The Burman University Alumnus of the Year is chosen based on university-related activities; professional activities or recognition; and religious and/or civic-related activities. For Homecoming 2017, Barry Bussey (Class of '87) was given the award. Barry is currently the Director of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. He has been involved with charity and religious freedom issues for over 23 years. He has used his knowledge of law to serve the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the UN NGO Committee, and other organizations rooted in the freedom of religion.



Barry Bussey (left) receives the Burman University Alumnus of the Year award from Lee Patterson.



Richard Campbell receives the Parkview Adventist Academy Alumnus of the Year award from Angie Bishop.

The Parkview Adventist Academy Alumnus of the Year award is given to a member of an honoured class that has demonstrated academic excellence through pursuit of professional goals, as well as excellence in innovation and success in non-academic areas. Richard Campbell (HS Class of '87) was presented with this award at this year's homecoming. Since 2000, Richard has been employed as a vascular surgeon. After graduating from Pacific Union College in 1991, he attended medical school from 1991 to 1995. He has since used his medical expertise as a means to serve others in whatever capacity available to him.

Monique Auguste received this year's Honorary Alumnus Award for her 30 years of service as the Chair of the Modern Languages Department at Burman University. "Working within the Seventh-day Adventist denomination for the past 35 years has been a real delight because from the very beginning, God has really poured out His blessings in every aspect of my life, and I give Him all praises for this. It has been a great honour to serve Him," she says.



Monique Auguste receives the Honorary Alumnus Award from Jerrold Ritchey.



Ray Loxdale (left) receives the Exceptional Volunteer Service Award from Dan Jackson.

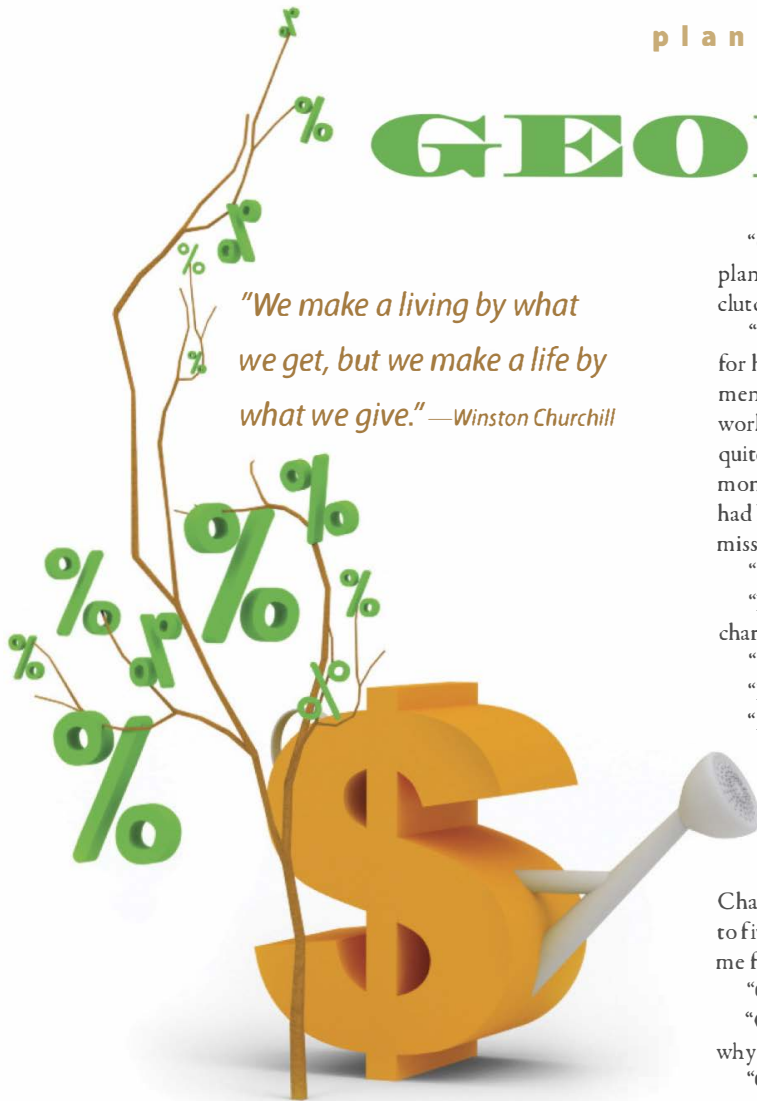
The Exceptional Volunteer Service Award was given to Ray Loxdale for his various volunteer efforts. He has served at different positions on the boards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (local, regional, and national), the provincial government, and community-based organizations. He has been involved in volunteerism in an extraordinary way, making him the best candidate for this year's Exceptional Volunteer Service Award.

We wish hearty congratulations to this year's recipients! ■

Kryzia Abacan is the communications coordinator for Burman University.

GEORGE

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." —Winston Churchill



SHORTLY AFTER THEIR FRIEND GEORGE'S FUNERAL,

two couples—old pals—are together for breakfast at a restaurant.

Charles and Lisa, both graduates of Canadian University College (CUC), recently retired from their respective careers in dentistry and physiotherapy. Lately, they have been devoting more time to their longstanding passions: gardening and travelling, including a volunteer trip overseas with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada. Over the past few months, their first grandson was born, adding a whole new dimension to their lives.

Childhood sweethearts Ann and James, also CUC graduates, have been married for 40 years now. Ann left her job as a teacher after the birth of her second child, while James pursued a successful career in accounting and management.

After the meal, the conversation turned to George, who had died three years after his wife, Nicole. George and Nicole, both professors at the University of Alberta, had been part of the couples' group of friends since their school days.

"George's fate took quite a different turn from what he had planned. So many things will now change," sighed Charles as he clutched Lisa's hand.

"I know what you mean!" added Ann. "He leaves a great void for his children and his brother Anthony, his old dog Pat, not to mention his health club buddies, his students, all his charitable work. We were members of the CUC Board of Trustees. He was quite dedicated and involved. He gave much of his time and money to the institution, as well as to other organizations. He had become more active after retiring. His support will be sorely missed," she said regretfully.

"What do you mean, Ann?" asked Charles.

"I was just thinking that all the money he gave to various charities won't be easily replaced."

"Don't you know?" asked Charles.

"Know what?" replied Ann.

"For the organizations that George was supporting, it's quite the contrary. Even if he has passed on, his support will continue," said Charles.

"What are you saying?" asked James. "Didn't you just say that much will change now that George is gone?"

"As a matter of fact, I was thinking of golf," answered Charles. "I've lost my best partner. Whom will I play with four to five times a week? I don't know who is willing to put up with me for that long."

"Quite true," added James, as they all chuckled.

"Charles, please forget about golf for a moment and explain why George's support won't change," Ann prompted.

"Quite simply, the donations that George was making every year will continue thanks to the endowment funds he created."

"What funds?" inquired James and Ann simultaneously.

"*En-dow-ment* funds," repeated Charles emphasizing each syllable, "money that will be received by organizations and charities chosen by George."

"But it must have cost him a fortune!" exclaimed Ann. "As far as I know, George wasn't a millionaire. If he gave that much money to charitable organizations, there can't be too much left for Francis and Natalie. Poor children, their mother died three years ago. Even if they both have careers, they won't appreciate that George gave their inheritance to charity."

"Sorry Ann, you just don't get it," interrupted Charles. "After Nicole's death, his needs changed and his expenses dropped. He was able to help various causes."

"That doesn't explain how he was able to give to so many organizations," interrupted Ann.

"I'm getting to that," said Charles. "The organizations will receive a lump sum thanks to a life insurance policy that George took out..."

Read more about George's good ideas by requesting a free copy of the book *George's Tree* by Alain Lévesque.¹ ■

¹ Go to willplan.ca

Where Are They Now

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

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



Wayne and Sylvia Culmore

Messenger: *Tell me about your family and a favourite childhood memory.*

Wayne Culmore: I was born in St. John's, Nfld. I have two older brothers, Dave and Don, and a younger sister, Sandra. Until I turned 13, we were members of the United Church of Canada. I remember one Sunday morning throwing a paper airplane from the balcony during the morning prayer and hitting Pastor Vipond right on his chest while he was having the morning prayer. My paper plane then fell onto his pulpit—surprise, surprise! I didn't think anyone saw me throw it. Was I mistaken! The choir director, who was also the music teacher at the school where I attended, saw what had happened (he should have had his eyes closed) and reported me to the school principal. Since the school was a parochial school (United Church of Canada), the principal decided my behaviour in church was inappropriate and that a good strapping was in order. It really hurt; but I have never thrown another paper airplane in church.

Forty years later when our family visited Newfoundland, I wanted my kids to visit the church I had attended and where I had thrown the airplane. After the church secretary gave us a tour of the church, I told her my story about the paper airplane. She laughed and said, "That story is still told to this day, but nobody remembers who threw the airplane!" They do now!

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

W: Both Sylvia and I attended Kingsway College for high school. I did my undergraduate studies at Canadian Union College (now Burman University). I did my graduate

studies at Andrews University, and post-graduate studies in Education Administration at Walden University.

M: *You served both in education and church ministry. Where did you serve and in what capacity?*

W: My ministry began as Dean of Men at Canadian Union College. Then Youth Pastor for the all the churches in Calgary, as well as Assistant Pastor at Calgary Central. Then we accepted an invitation to serve in the mission field. I was asked to be the Ministerial and Youth Director of the Zaire Union Mission in Zaire, Africa. After returning home, I served as Associate Pastor of the College Park Church in Oshawa as well as the Youth Pastor and Bible Teacher at Kingsway College. In 1985 we returned to Canadian Union College, where I served as Dean of Men and taught in the Theology Department. In 1988 we moved to the USA, where I was principal for two academies—Columbia Adventist Academy and Auburn Adventist Academy—both in Washington State.

In 1998 we took a break from denomination employment, and I worked as an administrator of an Alzheimer facility in Salem, Ore. Later we moved to Anacortes, Wash., where I worked as an executive for a startup company that developed an integrated financial and clinical software package for health care. In 2002 I returned to denomination employment as a Bible teacher at Portland Adventist Academy and the following year as pastor of the Vancouver Community Church, Wash. In 2008 we accepted a call from the British Columbia Conference to serve as the Ministerial Director. Several months later I was invited to serve as the Conference Secretary. In 2011, when Elder Gordon Pifher accepted a call to the North Pacific Union, the British Columbia Conference Committee invited me to serve as the President, which I did until Sylvia and I retired on March 1, 2016. During my ministry Sylvia served as a secretary, and often in an administrative role.

M: *Compare and contrast these service areas.*

W: I was blessed to have had the privilege to acquire a breadth of experience in the various arms of ministry within the church organization. It certainly provided me with a level of sensitivity regarding the need for our churches and schools to collaborate together for the salvation of our youth. When churches and schools work hand in hand, we see numerical and spiritual growth in our churches and schools. When they exist separate from each other the students are the ones who lose out on the blessings! I believe today, more than in any other time in the history of our church, local conferences should require joint workers' meetings—pastors and educators wrestling together to grow God's kingdom both in our schools and churches.

M: *Do you have a favourite conversion story in your ministry?*

W: There is one experience I will never forget. When I was a dean of men, I remember a student doing everything he could to get expelled from school. One day in my office I had him write down every reason why he should no longer be a student at CUC. Since he really had no desire to be in school, he had no problem accommodating me—he filled an entire page! When he was finished, I asked him to go and get his coat, as we were going to go for a walk. He had assumed it was to the president's home and that he would most certainly be expelled. However, on this very cold snowy winter evening, our walk took us behind the dormitory. It was there that I gave him the paper on which he had written the reasons why he should be expelled.

We talked about these reasons and, more importantly, the “why” behind the reasons. I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to focus on the “why” and not just the “what” that was on the paper. Eventually, I gave him a package of matches and told him to burn the paper. I then proceeded to share with him God's amazing grace and what He desires to do with our sins. I also told him that He is more concerned with the “why” of our behaviour and not just our behaviour. He is concerned with what makes us tick, and that no matter how great our sins, God's grace is greater. It was there in that parking lot he gave His heart to Jesus. It was the beginning of what was to be a very challenging journey for him!

M: *Church and school administration have many challenges. How did you handle the pressure?*

W: As far as dealing with pressure, like many other leaders throughout the church, I learned early on in my ministry to lean on the everlasting arms of my Saviour. Every day I go to the One who has promised to give us a peace that transcends our understanding.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

W: The Lord has blessed Sylvia and me with two wonderful children and now three grandchildren. Our son, James, and his wife, Mindy, and their two children live in Seattle, Wash.; and our daughter, Julie, and her husband, Rian, and their daughter live in New York City.

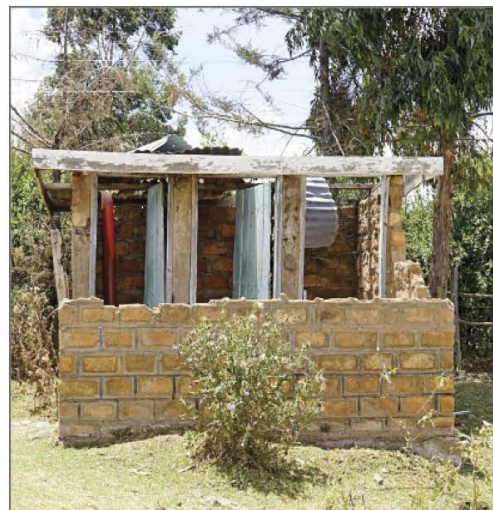
M: *Where are you now, and what things do you do in retirement?*

W: Presently, we live in Anacortes, Wash. We are blessed in retirement to serve as a part-time pastor for the Cedarhome Seventh-day Adventist Church in Stanwood, Wash. We are able to do some travelling, spend more time visiting with our family, reading, hiking, and, when the weather permits, boating in the San Juan Islands. ■

A Better World Canada Turns on the Taps in Rural East Africa



Children fill water containers at Rusoy Community water project in Kenya in February 2017. Nova Scotia's Wanda and Winston Jackson sponsored the project for the community of Londiani located in the Rift Valley province. Photo by Jacqui McCarty.



New toilets are being built to replace these dilapidated ones at Tulwap ECD School in Kenya.

Clean water and toilets are often hard to find in rural Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania. A Better World Canada (ABW) is taking steps to change that scenario. It has identified a priority project for 2017 that will install at least 100 new toilets, three deep water wells, and five water catchment systems. Canadians can finance a toilet for \$950 that will go a long way toward helping schoolchildren, while anywhere between \$25,000 and \$60,000 can fund a water well for an entire community.

"We don't face water problems, so we often aren't sensitive to what other people face in other countries," said co-founder Eric Rajah. "We're finding that [access to potable] water is the root cause of many problems. If we can deal with that, we're doing really well."

The World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program's 2015 update of its Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water report shows that Kenya has made "little or no progress" in meeting sanitation targets. However, it's made "good progress" regarding drinking water sources.

UNICEF reports that some 5.6 million out of nearly 47 million Kenyans have no toilet. It also reports that more than 17,000 Kenyans were hospitalized because of cholera between December 2014 and August 2016.

A Better World is helping to bridge those gaps in rural areas where open defecation is common, while clean, drinking water is often unattainable. Launched in May of 2016, this project has already completed 75 toilets and 12 water catchment systems. Another 32 toilets, five water catchment systems, and at least three deep wells were set to be done by June 2017.

Toilets are added to existing schools. Others are built as schools are constructed. The drilling wells, which run 61 to 91 metres deep, bring clean water to about 5,000 residents. Since A Better World began installing wells about seven years ago, about a dozen have been completed. Water catchment systems are installed on school property and are used for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. The cost is about \$1,200. A Better World sponsors about 40 schools in Kenya alone.

"I think by [May 2018] we will have had all our toilets caught up in our schools and clinics," said Rajah. "We think we'll be done on the water catchment systems by the end of this year. So all of our schools will have some form of water by the end of this year."

Timelines haven't been set on the water wells. "We can do 30 water wells over the next 10 years, easy" he added.

Rajah said they know they're helping children get healthier with clean, drinking water at school. Students can also take some water home.

He has seen a noticeable difference at the community of Talek within the Maasai Mara. "They were treating up to 40 percent of people for water-borne diseases, and now they're down to five per cent," said Rajah.

With improved sanitation and water conditions thanks to A Better World, thousands of East Africans are facing a much brighter future. ■

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

When Leaders Fail

Not every
new idea
is going
to be
a good
one.

Do you know of a pastor or church leader who hasn't lived up to your expectations? In June, the embattled CEO of Uber, Travis Kalanick, stepped down from his leadership position for an extended hiatus. The ride-sharing company has had astronomical growth around the globe. This company has disrupted the taxi cab and limousine service industry in such a radical way that it has forced cities and municipalities to rewrite its own laws to modernize the new age we live in. With the boom of this industry also come many failures and unwanted press regarding unfair and unethical business practices that has plagued Uber's reputation. In an open letter to his staff, Kalanick wrote, "If we are going to work on Uber 2.0, I also need to work on Travis 2.0 to become the leader that this company needs and that you deserve."



The skills and leadership abilities that a leader has in his or her toolbox often need to be updated in order for the person to move into the future.

The business sector seems to understand this concept better than the church. Leaders (Pastors) can become stagnant. They can easily lose their edge. How can the pastor take his or her church to level 2.0? Here are some suggestions to help grow the pastor into a stronger, able leader.

Foster an environment of experiments.

We are living in a culture that is moving and evolving quickly. What worked 18 months ago may no longer be relevant today. If you can allow for a culture of innovation in your congregation, where experiments are tried and new ideas are practiced, your pastors may feel like they can breathe a big sigh of relief.

Create an accepting culture for failure.

Not every new idea is going to be a good one. Rather than beating one another up on the church board about what went wrong, focus on what you learned from the experiment. It is hard to admit failure, because we are lack humility or we fear rejection. The Bible is replete with numerous examples of God-appointed leaders who failed.

Invest in your leaders. The church can be the greatest leadership training ground. Make a commitment to invest in your pastor and core leaders with good continuing education. Read a book or attend a seminar together that will grow each of you to build God's kingdom together. ■

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



Jaden, along with her mom and brother Onyx, helping the Kireka Primary Uganda Pathfinder Club and ADRA Canada in putting together dignity kits.

Pathfinders in Uganda

I am Jaden Aguilar. I am 12 years old. Along with 80 other classmates, I am working on completing the Companion Class during this Pathfinder year. My brother, Onyx, is in the Friend class with 120 students.

This is my first year as a member of the Kireka Primary Uganda Pathfinder Club. We meet every Thursday at 4 p.m., and our Pathfinder classes are held on the school grounds, sitting in the grass under the swaying palm trees.

Being a Pathfinder is very serious here. Once a person starts the Friend Class, they keep going until they become a Master Guide. Everyone strives to be a Master Guide and stay involved in Pathfinders throughout university and even after they graduate and have children. It's a lifestyle, and they uphold the Pledge and Law and service to God throughout their lives, not just in their growing-up years.

When Pathfinders go camping in Uganda, they take almost nothing! With minimal essentials like knives/machetes, rope, and matches, they have to build their own tent or shelter, cook their own food, wash their own clothes, and make their own bed with the materials and resources that they find at their campsite. There are many great areas here in Uganda to practise survival camping. Near the lakes and rivers, fish can be caught. Near the forests, bananas

and fruits can be collected. I'm sure that if one gets sick while camping, the person will use natural remedies from leaves and bark. It's an ultimate survival experience.

When a club is not camping or working on classes, they are involved in service. The Pathfinder presence is always evident, with the members sharply dressed in full uniform, whether at church, volunteering in the community, and even at university graduations where they carry the flags and serve as guards. The uniforms are worn with great pride and distinction, even though badges and patches are not complete. However, it's always amazing to see the army of youth dressed in green and white serving God.

I love the unique way the Ugandan Pathfinders march. There are many similarities to the Canadian/British way of marching I am used to, but they have added a unique flavour to their drill demonstrations that I can best describe as a groovy sway. It looks amazing when the whole squad is in sync. The hours of practice, commitment, and pride can be seen in their marching. I look forward to being a part of the drill squad and learn the groovy sway of marching.

I volunteer for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) with the Pathfinders. We helped put together dignity kits to distribute in the refugee

settlement in Bidibidi, where ADRA is working. We worked for over 12 hours sorting, assembling, and packing over 5,000 dignity kits in one day. We didn't understand the language as they laughed and teased each other while working, but just being part of the group was fun. The second time we made dignity kits we were able to pick up some of the familiar Lugandan words and laughed along with them. The second delivery was recently sent to the settlement, and this time several Pathfinder leaders went to distribute the kits. There is now a request to start Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs in the refugee settlement, where 86 percent of the refugees are children under the age of 18 and women. Pathfinders and ADRA are working together to make a difference in the lives of the children in the refugee settlement.

I am excited to be a Pathfinder here in Uganda. The different uniforms, the marching with a groovy sway, open-air classrooms, and different volunteer opportunities are all new to me, but the Pledge and Law remains the same. I can't wait to see what we will do next with the Pathfinders here in Uganda. ■

Jaden Zara Aguilar is the middle child of Charles and Elizabeth Aguilar, serving as missionaries in Uganda with ADRA.

Quantifying Prayer?

"Can prayer be studied and its results quantified?"

Many studies have been conducted on the efficacy of intercessory prayer. In 1873 Francis Galton, English Victorian statistician, was the first to publish his findings in an attempt to measure the effectiveness of prayer, concluding that there was no statistical evidence to support prayer had any effect on longevity or stillbirths. In 2006, the *American Heart Journal* published a new medical study on prayer. The report found that prayers offered by strangers had no effect on subjects undergoing heart surgery.¹ Most recently in 2014, Baylor University, a private Christian educational institution, reported that prayer does not have consistent results on those who engaged in this spiritual practice.²

Can prayer be studied and its results quantified? That is, can a spiritual discipline be expressed in numerical quantities to determine whether or not it works? If not, what do the Scriptures teach about prayer?

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He taught us to look out after the interests of His coming Kingdom. The command to make disciples is an essential part of the plan to prepare a people who will not only be ready to welcome Jesus at His second coming but also be the inheritors and citizens of this new kingdom. Our Lord taught us to have a kingdom mentality by directing our minds to daily seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and not to worry about the cares and needs of daily living.

Various studies report, however, that most North Americans spend more time sleeping, eating, working, doing household chores, watching TV, caring for the family, playing sports, browsing the Internet, and entertainment than anything else. In comparison, very little time is given to learning, caring for non-household members, socializing, or participating in community activities.³

The chief concern of those who have no hope or vision for His kingdom and who by choice are destitute of God's grace is to think about clothes, food, and drink. Yet, yielding to the temptation to place earthly concerns before the interests of God's soon coming kingdom consumes the time of most Christians today. They have little or no time to seek His kingdom, let alone build it.

In his book *Blind Faith: The Unholy Alliance of Religion and Medicine*, Dr. Richard P. Sloan revealed that "recognizing the effort to bring religion into clinical medicine as bad science, bad medicine, and bad religion is not a critique of religion at all. In fact, it's an effort to protect religion against the trivialization of being simply another part of the scientific enterprise." Quoting astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, Sloan writes: "The methods of science have little or nothing to contribute to ethics, inspiration, morals, beauty, love, hate, or aesthetics. These are vital elements of civilized life and are central to the concerns of nearly every religion."⁴

The essential domains of human existence are beyond the means of science to address. This is the domain of God as revealed in Matthew 6:25–34. Prayer cannot be quantified by numbering the improvements to our earthly concerns. The value of prayer is not in the number of times God answers our concerns but in learning to trust the Provider, our Father, with heart, soul, and mind while remaining actively involved in expanding the interests of God's kingdom that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus invites us today to seek His Presence for personal spiritual growth and to be empowered to assist others surrender their lives to Him in order to prepare a people who will reflect His character at His coming. ■

Victor M. Reyes-Prieto is the prayer coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.

¹ Mitchell W. Krucoff, Suzanne W. Crater, and Kerry L. Lee, "From Efficacy to Safety Concerns: A Step Forward or a Step Back for Clinical Research and Intercessory Prayer?" *American Heart Journal*, April 2006, accessed June 9, 2017, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jahj.2005.06.031>.

² Christopher G. Ellison, et al., "Prayer, Attachment to God, and Symptoms of Anxiety-Related Disorders Among US Adults," *Sociology of Religion*, February 25, 2014, accessed June 9, 2017, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srt079>.

³ See reports from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.retale.com/info/busy-states-of-america/; comScore Canada, www.torontosun.com/2015/03/27/canadians-spend-the-most-time-online-study; Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, www.cflri.ca/sites/default/files/node/151/files/pjp06.pdf

⁴ Richard P. Sloan, *Blind Faith: The Unholy Alliance of Religion and Medicine* (New York City: Martin Press, 2006), 264.



barry's blog

"Now is the time for us to take serious our commitment to follow Christ"

Living in the Age of Rage

Rage seems to be an appropriate term for our moment in time. Consider the shooting at the Alexandria, Va., baseball pitch. The team, made up of Republican Members of Congress, was practicing for the Congressional Baseball Game when the gunfire began. The shooter, James T. Hodgkinson, identified himself as a supporter of the Democratic Party and was disgruntled about the political reality of Republican President Trump and the Republicans' control in the US Congress. His anger led to his violent shooting of Congressman Steve Scalise and at least four others.

Rented vans and knives were the weapons used recently by terrorists in London, England. First, a van was used by Khuram Butt and his two accomplices to kill seven and injure 48. Most were tourists simply taking in the lights of the night in the ancient city but were mercilessly attacked as they walked across the iconic London Bridge. Butt and his partners were filled with rage against the West.

Only a few weeks later, as worshippers were leaving a London mosque after attending a Ramadan prayer meeting, another van driver, Darren Osborne, killed one and injured 11 others. Media report him as having said that he had done it in revenge for the London Bridge attack. I looked at the comment section of a news website on the London mosque attack and was disheartened to read the hate-filled comments against the Muslim community. "Eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," said one commenter, while another said that "civil [war] is coming, time to ethnic cleanse this country of all Muslims."¹

Democrats against Republicans; conservatives against liberals; Muslims against non-Muslims; non-Muslims against Muslims; and on and on the rage continues.

Some 23 years ago, one of my favourite authors, James Davison Hunter, wrote a book that was prescient: *Before the Shooting Begins: Searching for Democracy in America's Culture War*. He used the abortion issue as an example of the contentious issues that are dividing society. Civil institutions, such as universities and media, Hunter observed, that would normally help temper the rage have, instead, become part of the problem. Such institutions have become interest groups with their own agendas, taking sides in the debate rather than being facilitators for meaningful debate. Ordinary citizens, Hunter lamented, are incapable of carrying on a consistent, well-reasoned positions but allow their emotions to control.

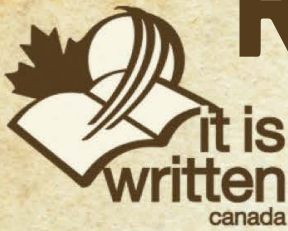
Hunter rejected people's use of political power to suppress the opposition and thus settle the deep-seated differences. Instead, he argued, we must become serious in our search for shared meanings, an understanding of the public good and civic obligations, knowing our mutual responsibility, and developing trust among citizens.² Hunter suggested that there must be more meaningful dialogue rather than name calling.

If rage is unimpeded, we can expect nothing but violence and destruction. Now is the time for us to take serious our commitment to follow Christ. We desperately need to take a quiet hour daily to commune with Him to protect our hearts from the rage of hate that currently surrounds us. Individually we need to hear His still small voice speak to our hearts. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). ■

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

¹ www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/finsbury-park-number-casualties-vehicle-hits-pedestrians-seven

² James Davison Hunter, *Before the Shooting Begins: Searching for Democracy in America's Culture War* (New York: Free Press, 2007), pp. 242, 243.



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Photo: Keith Chant

Almost vegan

Summer being here, we like to go on Sabbath-afternoon picnics in our local conservation areas. This is a quick, easy, one-bowl meal that can be put together in the morning, or after church, and taken on the go.

We have never been fond of traditional pasta salads, so when we came across this one, we adapted it to our tastes and declared that this was a pasta salad for people who don't like pasta salads. We usually use the Yves- or Gardein-brand chicken tenders for this recipe, but other chicken-style tenders would also work. ■

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

Sesame Pasta Salad

INGREDIENTS:

SALAD:

- 340g vermicelli pasta
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) sesame oil
- 2 cups (500 ml) vegan chicken tenders
- 2 cups (500 ml) cucumber, julienned
- 1½ (375 ml) cups carrot, julienned
- ½ cup (125 ml) sliced green onion

DRESSING:

- ½ cup (125 ml) hot water
- 1 tsp (5 ml) chicken style seasoning
- ¼ cup (60 ml) toasted sesame seeds
- ¼ cup (60 ml) soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) sugar
- ⅛ tsp (0.5 ml) black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Boil pasta in salted water until desired tenderness is reached.
- Drain, rinse with cold water, and toss with sesame oil.
- Cook chicken tenders according to package instructions.
- In a large bowl, combine all salad ingredients and toss together.
- In a separate bowl, combine all dressing ingredients and mix well.
- Pour dressing over salad and toss until everything is coated.

YOU didn't hear it from Me

The Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) received a call from a listener in British Columbia who was looking for information about a song she had heard earlier that morning. We get a number of requests from listeners who have music questions from time to time, and we are always happy to help. Alice¹ gave me some of the lyrics in hopes that I could track it down.

She said the song basically was about two women gossiping, and the lyrics were, "You didn't hear it from me." I instantly recognized it as an original tune from a local group called The Quintons, made up of four sisters. The album *Always There* won an East Coast Music Award for Best Gospel Album of the Year when it was released in 2006.

Alice laughed a little and "fessed up." She said, "Earlier this week I told a little white lie. When I heard the song this morning, the lyrics have been convicting me ever since!" She continued,



"I have to hear the song again. It was meant for me to hear. I know what I did was wrong."

The Quintons' song is based on Psalm 34:13: "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies." The Holy Spirit was clearly at work. I'm glad Alice softened her heart, and I pray that many more will turn to Christ today, while we can still call it today (see 2 Cor. 6:2).

We'd like to hear your VOAR testimony or praise report! Please email voar@voar.org, or call toll-free 888/740-8627. ■

Sherry Griffin is the station manager for VOAR..



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE GUELPH CHURCH IN ONTARIO.

Why does Jesus love you?

Nicole: "Jesus loves me because I'm worth it! He created me, and He says that I am the apple of His eye. I don't know where I would be without His love."

Opoku Adjei-Afriyie: "Apparently, I'm more significant than I think I am. ... I don't think much of myself."

Margaret K. Agyemang: "I am not loved because I did something great, like give all my money away to the poor. I am loved by Jesus because He created me and longs to spend eternity with me."

Kwabena Achireko: "Because of the gift He gave to me. Because I enjoy the gift He gave me. We all don't [know] why God brought us to this earth."

¹ Not her real name.

43 before 30

I was going to start this as 20 things I want to do before I turn 20. Then, realizing that I'll be 20 in less than a year, I decided that maybe I would try making a list of things that I would do before I turn 30. Ideally, I wanted a list of 30 things, but as I thought about it, there was so much I want to do before then. Here are some of the things that I want to accomplish or experience most in the next 11 years:

- 1 Go skydiving.
- 2 Swim with sharks.
- 3 Spend a summer working in Kenya at a school or orphanage.
- 4 Adopt a child.
- 5 Travel to Israel, Jordan, Afghanistan, and Egypt.
- 6 Go surfing.
- 7 Memorize "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T. S. Eliot.
- 8 Get down to the 10-item wardrobe (or at least the essentials wardrobe).
- 9 Learn how to make at least one nice dinner.
- 10 Get off the beaten trail. Literally. A hike would do that perfectly.
- 11 Stop being scared of public speaking.
- 12 Make art that protests shark finning.
- 13 Throw a surprise party for someone I love.
- 14 Plan someone's wedding or baby shower.
- 15 Live in my own house/apartment and decorate it.
- 16 Learn how to budget everything.
- 17 Get really, really good at thrift shopping.
- 18 Write a novel.
- 19 Build something, like a bookshelf, on my own.
- 20 Fill a room with books and read them all.
- 21 Host some sort of Bible study at my own apartment.
- 22 Keep a bullet journal.
- 23 Go back to The Louvre (and spend more than two hours there).

- 24 Love everyone with an open heart (no matter how hard it seems).
- 25 Learn how to do taxes.
- 26 Return to my Honours French days and relearn French (but, like, better this time).
- 27 Learn how to fix my computer when it breaks down.
- 28 Learn how to change a tire.
- 29 Design a dress that actually gets physically created.
- 30 Drive route 66.
- 31 Be part of the Big Sister/ Big Brother program or something equivalent.
- 32 Make art that I put in the apartment or house that I own.
- 33 Keep journals ... why not document my life?
- 34 Learn how to barbecue.
- 35 Keep a cactus "garden" (alive this time).
- 36 Learn how to drive stick shift.
- 37 Read the Bible cover to cover.
- 38 Drink warm lemon water in the morning.
- 39 Have a movie marathon (like, one where I don't fall asleep).
- 40 Have a party where everyone gets dressed up ... like a real dinner party.
- 41 Learn another instrument.
- 42 Buy a dog (and name it Pericles).
- 43 More than anything, though, I want to be myself, be happy, and love others. ■

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

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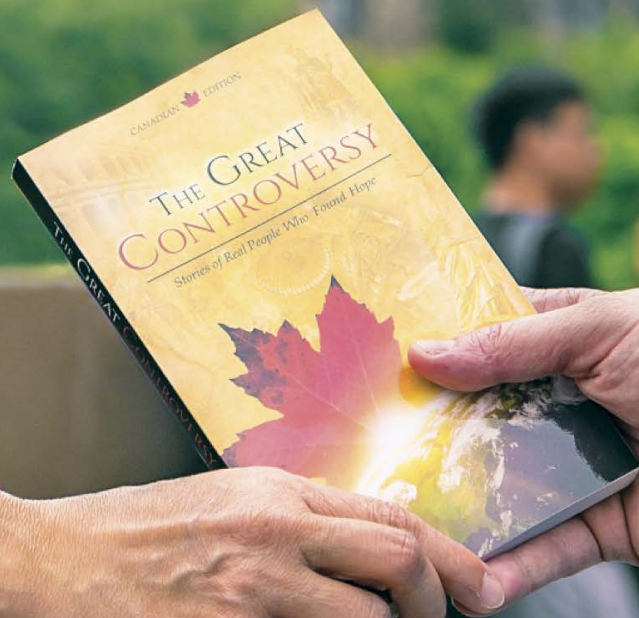
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GLOW Ottawa



Then, suddenly, a young man approached Daniel and asked, "Why are you doing this? Why do you believe what you believe? What makes you so sure about your faith?"



Daniel Yu

The room was still, and all eyes turned to the front of the church where a man sat on the platform steps, microphone in hand, tears streaming down his face. In choking sobs he cried, "I have been an atheist all my life! I am a homeless man, and sometimes I say to God, 'God, are you real? How come you made me homeless?'" The tears came fast, choking his words, and he buried his face in his hands and wept. Then, lifting his head, he cried, "I surrender my soul to God, and I say, 'God, I will give it to you.'" With that, he handed the microphone to a church member. The stillness was broken. We burst into applause.

July 1, 2017, will forever mark a tremendous day in history. On that day we as a nation celebrated 150 years of Canadian national identity. But it was also on that day that more than 200 church members descended on the streets of downtown Ottawa to share a message of hope. That message reached not only the homeless man but also many others besides.

The project was simple: a Canada Day mission trip to Ottawa planned by Giving Light to Our World (GLOW) Canada in partnership with *It Is Written Canada*, in which volunteers would help distribute a special Canada Day GLOW tract and a Canadian edition of *The Great Controversy*. And so we came: dressed in special GLOW Canada T-shirts and ready to share our faith.

But from the very beginning, we faced an obstacle. The forecast called for rain

the entire day, and as Sabbath morning broke, the rain came: first in drizzles, and then in torrents. We knew that nothing is too hard for God, but we were also willing to go, rain or no rain. So we gathered in the sanctuary of the Ottawa French Seventh-day Adventist Church to sing, to receive training, and to pray. We asked God for His Holy Spirit, for divine appointments, and for safety. We asked, too, that if it was His will, He would stop the rain. Soon, the last prayer was said and the last knee was lifted from the ground. In 10 minutes, as we sang a hymn of praise, the rain stopped, and the sun began to peep through the clouds. And this was only the beginning.

During the testimony time following the mass distribution, GLOW missionary Daniel Yu got up and said, "You know how before we went out, we prayed that God would help us to find that one person He wanted us to meet? Well, I found him!"

Daniel explained that he had been with his group sharing GLOW tracts with passersby. He noticed, though, that some people would take the tracts, read them, then, realizing they were about Christianity, would throw them away. Seeing this, Daniel began to feel discouraged.

Then, suddenly, a young man approached Daniel and asked, "Why are you doing this? Why do you believe what you believe? What makes you so sure about your faith?" Daniel was completely taken aback. He had seen

the young man, whose name was Tyler, in another Christian group holding up a sign that read, "God Is Love." Wasn't Tyler a Christian? Hadn't he been doing essentially the same thing Daniel was doing?

But there was clearly something Tyler was struggling with, and sensing the importance of the moment, Daniel answered, "The reason I believe that God is real and that my faith is true is because the Bible says so and because I have experienced it in my own life."

For a few moments, Daniel and Tyler spoke together about what it really means to be a Christian. Then, before they parted, Daniel shared a GLOW tract with Tyler. Later that afternoon, he found Tyler on Facebook and sent a friend request so that they could keep the conversation going. For Daniel, meeting Tyler was no accident. It was an answer to prayer and an opportunity for God to use him to encourage someone in the faith.

Margathe Dieujuste, another GLOW missionary, went out to an intersection with a group of other missionaries, including her friend Keith (Kate) Lazar. She was feeling tired and a little unwell, but she wanted to help somehow. So she approached Kate and said, "I know you are a people person and have more energy, so maybe while you are distributing tracts, I can stand by and pray." Kate agreed.



Margathe Dieujuste

Margathe began to pray. She asked God to take possession of the place where they were standing. She asked God to help her teammates who were distributing tracts. She asked God to open doors and open hearts. Within moments, something strange began to happen. From the bare trickle of people that had milled about before, they suddenly found themselves surrounded by a crowd. And the people kept coming. Again and again, Kate would run out of tracts and return quickly to Margathe to get more. And as Kate distributed, left and right, overwhelmed by the crowd, Margathe continued to pray, asking God to touch the hearts of the people who were taking the tracts. Through that experience, God demonstrated to Margathe that prayer is power and that He could use her in this way to give incredible effect to His work.

In yet another corner, GLOW missionary Michelle Lafleur was working side by side with an elderly GLOW missionary. This missionary handed out tracts with such energy and zeal that she left Michelle with little to do. "Wow," Michelle thought, "I want to be zealous like her." But far from zealous, Michelle was feeling out of her comfort zone. She was someone who always felt shy in a crowd, and this day was no exception.

Suddenly, she had an idea. Grabbing her friend Lamar McCormack, she went

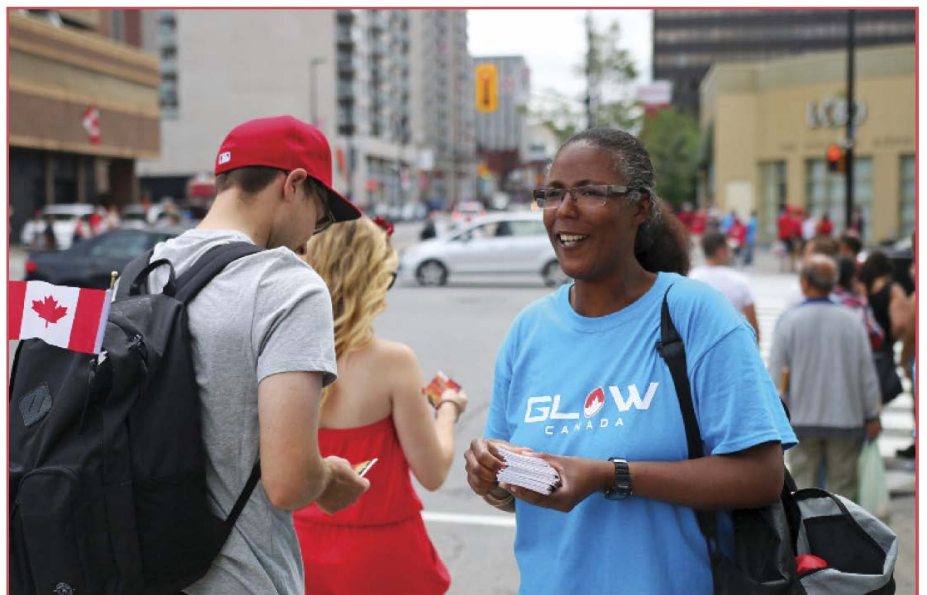
Margathe began to pray. She asked God to take possession of the place where they were standing. She asked God to help her teammates who were distributing tracts. She asked God to open doors and open hearts.

with him to a wide flat rock nearby. Stepping onto it, she turned to the crowd, opened her mouth, and began to sing. If there was one thing Michelle did feel comfortable doing, it was singing. She and Lamar sang, "O Canada," then "Amazing Grace," "This Little Light of Mine," "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," and more. People stopped and a group gathered, and as they listened, Michelle and her friends shared tracts with them. Michelle's discomfort vanished, and the zeal she had wished for came as she boldly shared tracts with those around her. God taught her that day that we can use our talents in creative ways and that

He will give courage to those who ask.

Stecy Chery, another GLOW missionary who is naturally timid and shy, had a very difficult time handling rejection. Indeed, she had once worked for a company that asked her to get people to sign petitions, and she had struggled so much with the rejections, that she would often fall into depression. Eventually, she quit the job. But here Stecy was, out in the streets where rejections were sure to come. Yet she stayed and shared, handing out tract after tract.

God taught Stecy something powerful that day. As tears streamed down her face,



A volunteer handing out GLOW tracts in downtown Ottawa.

Stecy explained, “I know I can do all things through Christ. That is true. And it is also true that God has the ability to change me. But what I understood today is that God can do things through me as *I am now*. I don’t have to become this other person to be able to work for Him. In the same way that He accepts me just as I am, He will use me just as I am. That’s what I learned today, and I thank God for that.”

Even Chris Holland, speaker at *It Is Written Canada*, had a special experience. He was passing out tracts when a gentleman approached him and said, “Would you mind giving me a pack of those pamphlets? I would like to pass them out too.” Gladly, Pastor Holland gave him a pack and, with it, a copy of *The Great Controversy*.

Then there were the children and youth. In corner after corner, they stood boldly and shared willingly. In one street corner a man approached a young GLOW

missionary named Olivier Balasingam and said, “One booklet isn’t going to change someone’s life.” Olivier thought about that, then turning to his mother he said, “But God gave us one book to change the world.” In that one phrase Olivier hit on something important. The power and effectiveness of this literature lies in its ability to turn people to God’s Word, a book that can and *does* change people.

So God used His youth to encourage, to share, and to spread the message of His love to those they met. And to the youth were added people of all ages and abilities, from the weak and the shy, to the strong and the bold. All were there, and God used them all, simply because they were willing to be used.

At the end of the day, we watched a homeless man give his heart to Jesus. Later that same day, GLOW Canada began receiving Bible study interests because of the tracts that were shared. We have seen

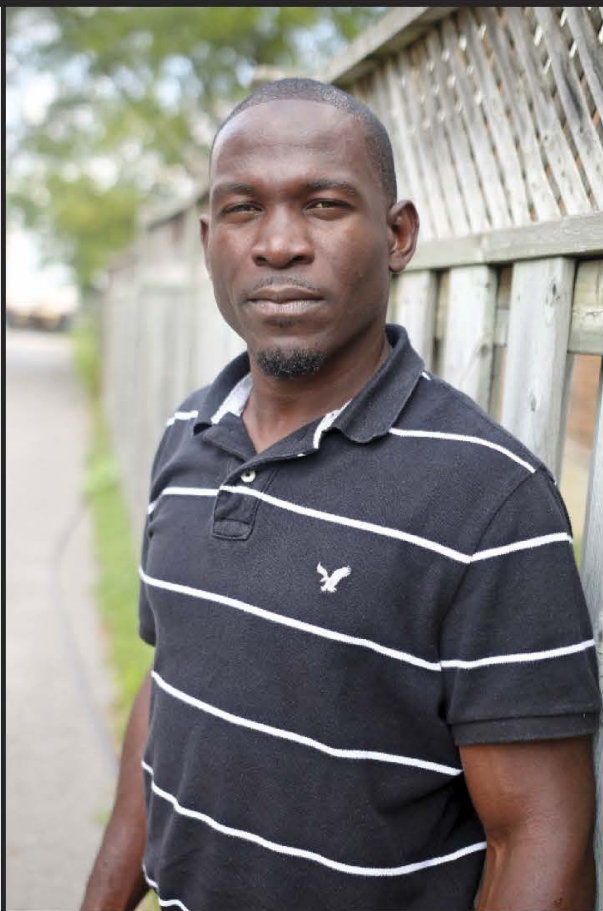
the hand of God moving in beautiful ways, and this is only the beginning.

We are promised that one day soon, “More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.” On July 1, 2017, in celebration of our nation’s birth, GLOW missionaries shared around 150,000 GLOW tracts and over 2,000 copies of *The Great Controversy*. Each tract, each book, represents a seed that was planted: an opportunity for a rebirth in the hearts of those who received them. Only in heaven will we understand the full impact of this mission, as we meet people who are there because we dared to descend on the streets of Ottawa and share God’s love. ■

Afia Donkor is a volunteer at GLOW Canada. To learn more about this ministry, please visit lifestylecanada.org, or contact us at mail@lifestylecanada.org.



Volunteers gathered at the Ottawa French Adventist Church to sing, receive training, and pray, before descending on the streets of Ottawa.



The Ministry of Wrestling

"...you can never tell the needs you might meet at each home."

It was lunchtime in Kelowna, B.C., and the leader of our Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) team wanted to take us somewhere to eat. I felt I wanted to continue knocking on doors, so after some convincing, he put me back on a street.

At the very first house I came to, I heard loud music. Clearly, there was a party happening at that house. I skipped it and went to a few others, but after a little while, I decided to return. As a policy, I didn't skip houses, because I feel that you can never tell the needs you might meet at each home.

When I returned to the house, a group of young people greeted me. They were drinking, smoking, and partying around a pool in the backyard. "Come on in! Come on in!" they said. So I went inside. One young man who was a little drunk approached me and shouted, "This is my new best friend!" To this I responded, "All right. Well, you are my new best friend as well!"

I wasn't really able to share with the group why I had come, because they didn't seem to want to listen. So I decided to hang out with them instead. I politely declined their offer of a drink, and when they tried to get me in the pool, even talking of throwing me in, I explained that I was working and could not. But I went from person to person, talking and spending time with them. After a while, they asked me if I knew what foot wrestling was.

"No," I responded.

I soon found myself on the ground foot wrestling with several of the guys. I won all the battles. The women laughed, saying it was the first time the guys had been beaten, and I became popular in a flash. We hugged, took lots of pictures, and just had a great time enjoying one another's company. When I noticed how the time had rolled by, I told them I needed to get going. Before I left, I said, "You have given me so much. I'm going to take these memories with me forever, but I'd like to leave something with you as well." I gave them each a GLOW tract, then said, "I want you to grant me one last favour. May I say a prayer with you? I am a Christian student, and I'd just like to pray before we part ways."

"Oh sure, go ahead!" they responded.

I prayed, and when I finished, one of the young men came to me, leaned on my shoulder, and began to cry. He told me that every night before he went to bed, he prayed but that not even his wife knew it. He said he believed God did hear him and answered his prayers.

I don't know what will happen to that group of young people, but in that small interaction was demonstrated the power of "Christ's method alone": *"The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"*¹

I left those young people with a feeling of joy in my heart. God showed me how to mingle, how to love, how to take genuine interest in them. I pray that in that interaction, seeds were planted and that hearts were won for Him. ■

Jermain Andrews served as a Literature Evangelist with Lifestyle Canada, a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

Christian Education

The Added Value

My children have had very different experiences in their short little walks of life. My eldest, Busi, has been privileged to enjoy Adventist education for all but one year (Grade 9). But that one year was all it took for me to understand the sweetness of Christian education.

For one, “No” had to be my answer to many of her requests regarding social events, because these teen gatherings would often involve alcohol. I could see how its use led to many regrets, hate, and misunderstandings. Busi was not into that lifestyle, but trying to fit in, she allowed for compromise and a blindness to what appeared to be normal behaviour but really was not.

The difference between Adventist education and public education that hurt me most was to witness profanity becoming everyday language, even among teachers. The adults would usually say, “Excuse my language” as if to make the profane words acceptable, but then they would repeat the offensive words again. Speaking this way seemed to have become acceptable, because everyone spoke that way, even in fun contexts. The phenomenon of becoming accustomed to trivializing sin in life got me to understand how children struggle to fit in and end up identifying wrong behaviours as right. As Busi’s parents, we sensed the start of a slow slipping away. It was so difficult for us to help our teenager unlearn that which was constantly influencing her.

We don’t regret the one year Busi spent at a non-Christian school, because we believe that she made an impression on the other children, and the faculty acknowledged her treasured influence. But when we think about how a child fits into this world, we consider how confident they would be in taking a position that is different from the rest and sets the child apart. Adventist education helped prepare Busi for that.



The Dzingirayi family from left to right: Sandile, Albert, Sibusiwe (Busi), Sindiso, and Sitabiso.

She tells me, “It got really lonely in public school. No one understood why I lived the way I did. Attending Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) brought back the life and freedom I felt in being a Christian; it reminded me I had nothing to lose and everything to gain in being a follower of Christ.” Busi’s three years at PAA have given her so many opportunities to build relationships and not have to choose between things like keeping the Sabbath and having fun.

More importantly, she has experienced the love of a church-school family who cares about her health and eternal well-being. She says, “My deans never treated me as anything less than their own children. They never failed to redirect me to the feet of Jesus when I felt all hope was lost. My teachers, too, care deeply, not only about my education but also about me as a person.” Proverbs 22:6 encourages us to “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it,” and it’s important to have Christian

teachers and mentors who aid in this important task.

Though there may be positives in a non-Christian school, there is really very little that has to do with God. Everyone wants a good neighbour and a good friend, and that cannot be achieved if character is not in sync with God. It is not only about the academics but also about that moral aspect that may look so small but, in reality, shapes and moulds a child’s character, making them admirable to both humans and God. In our home we will sacrifice more just to have the added value of that combination. To us, Christian education aligns with our desire for our children to be the best citizens of this world and the world to come. ■

Sitabiso and Albert Dzingirayi are raising their girls to love the Lord. This summer they are moving from Elk Point, Alta., to Lacombe, Alta., in order to better support and access the resources available through Adventist education.

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



Rollande and Raymond Giguere (centre), and family.



Ron and Jeanne Buchanan

Alumni Weekend 2017

Homecoming: It means different things to so many people. For some alumni, it is a time to see how your old pals are doing; for others, how the facilities have changed; and for some, it might just be the nostalgia of the time spent in the dormitory, the classrooms, and the old “hangout” locations. For most, it means all of the above. This year’s homecoming honoured classes were 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2007.

The weekend started off with vespers and registration in College Park Church, song service, followed by two beautiful special music pieces by Jackie Alleyne (Henry) and Devon Chartier (Connors), both of Class of ’77. A very engaging devotional thought was given by Wayne Culmore (Class of ’67). Following the service Kingsway’s current choir director, Sharon Foreman (Class of ’78), along with the Alumni Choir members, practised for special music Sabbath morning.

On Sabbath morning, if you were fortunate enough to participate in bird watching and Sabbath school, you would have been blessed. To start, song service was led by Kingsway’s very own praise team. There was a special music, Scripture reading, as well as a discussion of the week’s lesson study led by Adam Mohns (Class of ’92). As the choir practised one last time in the fellowship hall, the pews began to fill as past friends, classmates, and some former faculty hugged while recalling stories of yesteryear.

As the organ began to play and the congregation took to their seats, the pastors and platform party filed in to begin the service. With the service underway, formalities began with the welcoming of those who

have come “home”; it was now time for the traditional “roll call.” Lee Richards, Kingsway College president, and his wife, Cheryl, asked each class to stand beginning with classes from the 1940s and up to present students, followed by current and former faculty and staff. The roll call was concluded with Richards asking everyone who had previously been recognized to stand, and what a sight to see!

James Rooney (Class of ’87) gave a very inspiring message that was talked about at the potluck that followed at the College Park Elementary School gym. Following the potluck, the honoured classes met in assigned rooms in Leland Hall and, by all accounts, a great time of reminiscing was had.

The alumni banquet on Sabbath evening was filled with old friends talking about their time together at Kingsway College or Oshawa Missionary College and what has happened in their lives since. The evening was capped off with the presentation of the “Alumnus [Alumni] of the Year” award to Ron and Jeanne Buchanan, of ’51. Honorary Alumnus of the year was awarded to Raymond Giguere. This amazing weekend ended with alumni winning the Student vs. Alumni Basketball game on Sunday morning.

We are already planning for the May 25–27, 2018, Alumni Weekend, which will honour the following classes: 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2008. Thank you to all who attended Alumni Weekend 2017. ■

Chante Alleyne is development coordinator at Kingsway College.

Krista Abt and Carlee Neepee have much to think about—and much that they’re thankful for. On June 18, they graduated from Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) as part of the third high school graduating class.

For Krista, it’s the only school she knows. She started Grade 1 the year that MANS opened its doors and is the first graduate to have attended MANS exclusively. Carlee came to MANS later in her career, when her parents were looking for a school with high academic and personal standards. Here’s what these two students have to say:

Krista: “It feels good to be graduating but also a little weird.”

For 12 years her dad has taken her to school every day. Krista’s dad is one of the school bus drivers, and Krista has a near perfect attendance record. She missed one day for her own illness and one day when her sister, who had been seriously injured, really needed Krista’s supportive presence.

“I think my life would be very different if I’d gone to public school,” Krista reflects. She knows that many of her friends have had negative peer pressure in other schools, and many of them have dropped out. Krista knows she is fortunate and gives her teachers and father much credit for her success. “My dad has really pushed me to do my best,” she says. It was her dad who chose MANS after seeing how the school worked and cared about each child. That, he knew, was what he wanted for Krista.

Besides successfully completing high school, Krista has held down a job after school for the past one and a half years and is a supervisor at the Ponoka Pizza Hut. It has been a lot to juggle, but it is good preparation for her future goals in university. “I want to be a teacher or counsellor,” she says.

Carlee: “This is the best place for me. I like school. It’s fun learning new things every day.”

But as she looked forward to graduation day, Carlee was a little less exuberant. “It feels weird to be in my last year,” Carlee said just before graduation. Carlee knows that this fall will be different. She loves English, especially writing, and looks forward to finishing the novel she started two years ago, and she hopes to study at a university, perhaps in 2018.

Carlee will miss many things about MANS. “The teachers and students are nice—they’re very helpful and encouraging,” she says. What stands out as her greatest memory is the trip to First Nations Camp Meeting at Port Hardy, and distributing the blankets she and other collected through the Hope’s Mission project (see August 2016 *Messenger*, MANS page 29)—a wonderful time of giving, sharing, and exploring.

“My parents are really happy and excited for me,” says Carlee. Her father, Levi Neepee (July 2017 *Messenger*, page 4), sums it up this way: “I believe in this school.” ■

“I think my life would be very different if I’d gone to public school.”

—Krista Abt, MANS Class of 2017

Graduates Reflect on MANS and Their Futures



Lynn McDowell is Campaign Manager for The Bridge Campaign for completing the high school building at MANS.

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"No matter what we're doing as a school, there is still that sense of God being part of it all."

Jordan Bruins admits that he did not have much of a choice when it came to deciding where he would attend high school but that Parkview Adventist Academy has allowed him to do all the things that matter.

"I like my experience with Adventist education because I have had the opportunity to learn about God with people who share my belief and help other people as well. I don't think I would have been able to do all that in another school," he shares.

Jordan grew up in the Lacombe area, working on his family's dairy farm, and learning to love the Lord at an early age. "My family strongly supports Adventist education because my parents want to see us [Jordan and his three siblings] grow closer to God and see us put God as the centre of our lives. The best place to do that is in an Adventist school where you learn important things about the world but keep God as your focus. At PAA you're surrounded by people who share the foundation of your beliefs, and that makes a difference."

More than just a family commitment, the value of attending PAA is clear as Jordan speaks to his three years as a student: "From the bottom of my heart, I am very grateful for a school that cares about its students the way PAA does and has people who are willing to go out of their way for the students and make this a better place."

The relationships Jordan has built at PAA come from his dedicated involvement to service. "Every year, I've gotten to be involved, and I really like that," he says. In Grade 10, he joined the campus IMPACT Drama team and participated in their mission trip to rural Cochrane, Ont. In Grade 11 he joined a school-sponsored Maranatha mission trip to Central America. In Grade 12, Jordan served as one of the leaders for a campus-ministries project in Fort McMurray, Alta. Each of these experiences gave him new stories about how God is working in his life, making Jordan a great resource for other student speakers.

His frequent personal sharing has motivated his peers to take on leadership roles in PAA's spiritual programming. He describes his goal by saying, "As an older student, I have a lot more responsibility, and I like connecting with students



Jordan Bruins

individually, trying to get them to want to be involved. It wasn't easy for me to start, because I'm nervous every time I'm about to speak. But I found that the more time I spent helping others and researching Bible stories to use, the more patient and self-controlled I became. I definitely grew a lot more in doing stuff with and for God."

A personal connection to Jesus is at the heart of every fruit of the Spirit, and it is an incredible blessing to see young people choosing Him every day. For Jordan, every aspect of life is touched by his faith, including the social encounters he shares with his friends: "One of my favourite memories of this year is going to be the Grade 12 class trip. Even though we had lots of fun hanging out together, we made sure to have worship every night. No matter what we're doing as a school, there is still that sense of God being part of it all."

In looking to his future education in agriculture, Jordan says, "Even with all the blessings of being part of PAA, I'm absolutely positive God has more in store for me down the road." The mission and ministry of Adventist education is confirmed when graduates hang on to this lasting lesson: that God is going to love and direct them for life. ■

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

JUNE POLISHUK, wife of the late Donald C. Polishuk, and former editor of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, passed to her rest on May 29, 2017. Beloved by her entire family, June was the consummate grandmother, church worker, and writer of poetry to honour special events in the lives of family and friends.

Always feeling upbeat in spite of illness or pain, June never lost her love of the Lord, her church, her social events. Over the last few years, June suffered from joint discomfort that made walking difficult, if not impossible.

While younger, she enjoyed travelling with her many girlfriends to points far and near. Ever collecting new friends, she never forgot her old friends from school days at OMC (Oshawa Mission College, now Kingsway College). The trip of her life was with an Adventist cruise to Australia (the Great Barrier Reef being the highlight), Fiji, and Vanuatu observing the mission fields firsthand. Her face would light up when telling of her Hawaiian trip where local members generously fed the group from their store of pineapples and other tropical goodies.

June, born to Robert and Vera Russell in 1930, would soon be joined by brothers Donald and Bob Jr. Later in life, Janice Newman and Lynne (Ross) Girvan would call her mother. To Lindsay and Brett, she was known as "Gran." Four great-grandchildren, namely Reese, Emma, Seth, and Tessa, loved to be in her company also.

A lifelong member of College Park Church (CPC), she, as unofficial greeter, wanted to know people's names, visited in many homes and hospital rooms bringing her cheery smile. The mouth-watering foods on her table were often relished by students of Kingsway College. When one of the CPC members with her daughter first arrived in Oshawa, guess who was the first to welcome them. It was a social time for June to assist at the Community Service building, for years enjoying morning worship and sorting donated clothing.

She did not want to miss the weekly Friday evening vespers program at Kingsway Pioneer Home. Why? Because there would be musical treats, inspiring mission trips presented, travelogues, preaching, and the reciting of Bible verses or chapters. Every week was different.

For 24 years June worked on the *Messenger* at Maracle Press before the publication was brought in-house to the SDACC. She first served as proofreader, then associate editor, and eventually as editor of the *Messenger*, working without the convenience of cell phones, Internet, and computers. She retired in 1996. Although many of you did not know her personally, as editor she entered your home every month professionally through word and thought.

June, we loved you and hope to see you soon. ■

Bob Russell lives in Oshawa, Ont., and is the brother of June Polishuk.

A Tribute to June Polishuk



June Polishuk, 1930-2017

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Manitoba-Saskatchewan

Farewell to Sergie Ferrer—Hello to Marlon Hylton



Sergie and Mercy Ferrer



Marlon and Kryshna Hylton and family.

May 31 was the last day of work for Sergie B. Ferrer, the current treasurer of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. He will be entering retirement and moving to Lacombe, Alta., with his wife, Mercy, to be closer to their children, Myla (Ferrer) Trenchuk and JR Ferrer, who also live in Lacombe.

Our office has greatly benefitted from the 41 years of experience Sergie has accumulated in service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sergie joined us in 2015 after serving in Treasury in the Southern-Asia Pacific Division (SSD) in the Philippines since 2005. Before that he had served in Egypt, Cyprus, Pakistan, Eastern Africa, and in Canada with the British Columbia Conference.

It is unusual for a division-level employee to return to conference work, and it speaks to the humble manner in which Sergie has served. His wealth of experience has been a great advantage to our conference. He provided insight to financial policies and even awareness of available funds at higher administrative levels that we might have otherwise missed out on. He performed his work with great attention to detail and was compassionate in balancing mission and fiscal responsibility. Our office will greatly miss his wisdom and ever-present cheerfulness.

We asked Sergie to reflect on his time with us. Here are his thoughts:

Since I joined Man-Sask Conference, I have seen the faithfulness of God's children in returning their tithe, giving their generous offerings, and sharing their estate to the conference. The remittance that we get from churches month after month is

a miracle that only comes from a dedicated and faithful child of God. We can never out-give the Lord because of his generous sacrifice to save us and give us eternal life through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ; so we give because we love Him. Thank you for your generous support to the church. I know the Lord will not fail in his promise to "open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

I would like to personally thank the constituents of Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference for allowing my wife and me to serve here even for a short time. It's been a privilege serving this conference, and we will continue to pray for the Lord's guidance so His work will expand and prosper until His return.

While we will greatly miss Sergie, we are delighted to report that Marlon Hylton has accepted the Man-Sask Conference Board of Directors offer to become our next treasurer, effective June 1, 2017. Marlon has an MBA from Northern Caribbean University. Since January 2017 he has served ADRA Canada as an accountant. Prior to that he was the Associate VP for Finance for nine years at Northern Caribbean University after previously serving as general manager for their University Business Services department for eight years. Sergie will remotely assist Marlon during the transition and has expressed great faith in Marlon's experience and advanced skills to faithfully carry on the financial ministry for the Man-Sask Conference. Please pray for both the Ferrers and Hyltons during this time of transition in God's service. ■



Health retreat attendees with Jonathan Zita, (middle row, far left), and Glenda Nischuk, Health Ministries Director for Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, (back row, far left).

Love is the Key to Health

“People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” At the April 28–30 Health Ministries “Go Light Your World” Retreat in Regina with Jonathan Zita, this was a repeated, foundational concept he emphasized. True love must be our foundation of *any* ministry and especially health outreach.

“True love always hopes,” said Zita, the director of Lifestyle Canada. “We tend to think of hope as an emotion. Hope is a divine principle from God. It's a conscious decision about others that says, ‘God never gave up on me, so I will not give up on you.’”

Zita emphasized that we must first have a loving relationship with God before we reach out to others. Otherwise, we risk pushing people away by getting them to “behave” and follow all the health principles without first sharing His love through a genuine friendship first. Vegetarianism doesn't save people; Jesus does. We must seek to show God's love before we expect them to follow His health principles.

Other highlights of the weekend included a beautiful afternoon walk in the park in Regina, scrumptious food provided by Regina church members, hands on training in doing health surveys and learning more about simple personal ministry using GLOW tracts.

Dave Ogram from the Swan River, Man., church commented, “It was a real balance of spiritual teaching, of love, of evangelism, of health, it was a real balance; it felt like a revival weekend.”

“I think my biggest takeaway has been the sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit,” said Leora Schmidt of Maple Creek, Sask. “The preparation of the entire program has been so relevant, so helpful, and simple.”

Farah Wollmann from Brandon, Man., said, “The Lord really blessed me with the talks about revival in my life first; before I can reach others, have my light shining first.”

Health Ministry Director Glenda

Nischuk provided a plethora of health resources to choose from at the convention. If you would like to learn more about available health resources please contact her at health@mansaskadventist.ca ■

—Brian Bell, Communications Director, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference



As the retreat draws to a close, Health retreat attendees sing “Go Light Your World” as they hold candles.

British Columbia

Langley siblings see renovated home for first time

Victoria Newstead and her brother Jim got to see the results of this year's Extreme Home Repair (EHR) Monday afternoon.

As friends and neighbours cheered and chanted, "Move that bus," a church bus pulled away to reveal the changes made to the aging Brookwood manufactured home the two had grown up in. It was redone inside and out over a two-week period.

Newstead called the experience "surreal." "We knew that we just weren't going to get to this for years and years and years, and it was going to get worse and worse," she said. "It was on my mind 24/7."

The work on the house included bathroom renovations, new flooring, renovating the deck, fixing mould issues, and installing new windows.

It was the 14th year for EHR, a non-profit outreach organization run by Church in the Valley's "Acts of Kindness" team (AOK).

Established in 2004, the Extreme Home Repair project brings together over 200 volunteers, dozens of community-minded businesses, friends, family, and neighbours to renovate the home of a local individual or family, to give the selected recipients a fresh start in a safe and comfortable environment.

Both of the siblings' parents are gone. Their father died 15 years ago in a dirt-biking accident in the Baja Peninsula, and their mother passed away two years ago.

Newstead and her brother are grateful to their late mother's best friend, Madeleine Derappe, for nominating them for the 2017 EHR project.

"We still see her a couple times a week," Newstead said. "She keeps tabs on us pretty good."

When she found out they had been chosen, Newstead was shocked. "I literally read the message out loud on my phone, and I said, 'Madeleine has connected us

with the church and they want to repair the house!' And my brother said, 'No way.'"

On top of having a home makeover, Victoria was given a beauty makeover.

Local realtor Diane Sparks-Cassidy has once again joined forces with the Mark Anthony Academy of Cosmetology to continue a Langley tradition. Each year, Sparks-Cassidy funds a makeover for Acts of Kindness Extreme Home Repair recipient, who is pampered at the Langley cosmetology school.

This year, Victoria received the royal treatment at the school—at no charge. Newstead received a full-body massage, which she described as a "full hour of pure bliss," as well as facial, manicure, and a pedicure. ■

—Dan Ferguson, Langley Times reporter, with files from Troy Landreville



Extreme Home Repair volunteers in front of the manufactured home they renovated, inside and out, over a two-week period.

Kootenay Campmeeting A New Look at the Law of God



Steve Bauer, a professor at Southern Adventist University was the main speaker at Kootenay campmeeting.

With an attendance of over 130 people from all areas of the Kootenay region, the Kootenay Campmeeting set the tone for greater spiritual growth for all who attended.

From the choir, orchestra, and soloists at this year's campmeeting, music filled the hall with sweet sounds which I believe pleased even the angels. Starting off on Friday night, Pastor Josue Molina with his wife opened with the song service. This set the tone for the whole weekend.

Our platform speaker, Dr. Steve Bauer from Southern Adventist University, kept

everyone so rapt that you could hear a pin drop as he gave his four talks on "A new look at the Law of God." One must stop and think about how we have treated God and then reflect on the reasons we have hurt this special relationship.

We also had the privilege of also hearing Ern Brake as he spoke on the issues and activities of the British Columbia Conference.

Our outreach program for this year was the GLOW challenge. Later in the afternoon this was followed by a hike in the surrounding area. What a blessed day

as the weather was sunny and warm except during one of the talks when the heavens opened up and you could hear the rain on the hall roof.

Comments from some of the people during this year's program were all positive with the majority expressing gratitude to Professor Bauer for his fresh look at the Laws of God and how they apply today. ■

— Wayne Miller,
Communications Director,
Creston Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Alberta

Broken But Not Forgotten

The children of Edmonton Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, their teachers and parents, have been faithfully talking their Sabbath school programs to the Venta Care residence and Dickinsfield Care Centre for almost a year. On one particular Sabbath morning, the children accompanied by their teachers and some of the parents had a visitation date at Venta Care Centre.

Upon our arrival at the centre, the seniors and their staff were delighted to listen to the children as they sing and

play a variety of musical instruments. Staff cheered as the children repeated Bible verses from memory. At the end of the program, the seniors who are presently or recently celebrating birthdays were presented with a birthday cards and gifts. This kind of gesture stirred the hearts of these dear souls. I recalled one senior describing how lonely and broken she felt the day before we came to visit. Her gratitude and words of appreciation were of great encouragement to us. A broken life can be renewed when it is touched by

God's love. In the Old Testament, we read that the Prophet Jeremiah watched a Potter working. He noticed that if an object was marred, the potter would simply reshape it (see Jer. 18: 1–6). We are never too badly broken for God to reshape us. He loves us all, in spite of our imperfections. ■

— Ina Martin and
Stephen Bruce, Edmonton
Central Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Ontario

Staying on God's Side: Adventist Student Excels at Skills Canada Competition



Emmanuel Mathi-Amorim



Gold medal awarded at the Skills Canada Nationals in the category IT Networking at the secondary level

There is a fine line between boasting and sharing God's blessings with others, so I write this story in the spirit of sharing God's goodness and to give others encouragement as well.

I was homeschooled for most of my elementary education; however, in Grade 9, my parents decided to send me to the local public high school. Overall, this has been a positive experience for me, and I have been able to make friends with many people who don't share my faith or even my God, and I have also been able to share some of my beliefs as well.

One of the challenges I have faced being in public school is regarding extracurricular activities. Many events are held on Sabbath, and I am simply unable to participate. This has been positive in the sense that it has given me an opportunity to share my faith with others; however, it has also been negative because I cannot participate in activities that I am really interested in and have missed opportunities that could have been quite valuable. One example is our school's Robotics Team. I was asked to be head of the team; however, the rules of competition state that the head of the club must be present at all competitions, which are always held on Sabbath. For this reason, I declined, and a friend of mine was chosen as head. Although I had done much of the work to program the robot, my friend was present at the competition and was recognized for his achievements and selected as a finalist for a prestigious award. I was glad for him; however, I was a bit disappointed that I missed out on a very exciting opportunity for recognition in something that I love to do.

Not too long afterwards, one of my teachers approached me to participate in the Skills Canada competition for IT Networking, a competition that I had never heard about. The first level of

competition was held on a weekday, so I agreed, won the competition, and was invited to the provincial competition. This was also being held on a weekday, so I agreed again, won the provincial gold medal, and was invited to the national competition. The national competition was much more in-depth and required travel to Winnipeg and was being held from Wednesday to Saturday. Before agreeing to participate, we made some calls to Skills Canada and were very pleased to learn that the competition days were Thursday and Friday, and we were not required to be present at the closing ceremonies on Sabbath.

This was great news! I went to the Skills Canada Nationals, participated in the competition, and flew back home on Friday evening, without knowing the results. The following day my name was called as the gold medal winner for IT Networking at the secondary-school level, and while my teacher was receiving my gold medal on my behalf, I was at home, spending Sabbath with my family.

God is incredible! He opens and closes doors for you when you honor Him. Winning a gold medal was exciting, but I know that I must give all thanks and honour to God. It is not always easy to walk away from activities or opportunities that fall on the Sabbath. It can be tempting to try and justify your reasons for breaking the Sabbath, but I want to encourage all young people that it's good to look outside our church walls for ways to use your God-given talents, but to constantly honour God and let Him give you the victories that He wants you to have. They may not always come in the form of a gold medal, but staying on God's side will always be worth it. ■

— Emmanuel Mathi-Amorim, Grade 12 student, Northview Heights Secondary School, Toronto, Ont.

Reaching Out to Our Community



Community partner organizers (L to R.), Alyssa Kvaltín, Merry Ryan, Bonnie Sormin, Miranda Oppers, Frances James, and Darlene Blaney, the Weekend’s main speaker

A desire to share health principles with the community led the College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church to plan a Health Emphasis Weekend on May 5–7, 2017.

Dr. Darlene Blaney kicked off the weekend Friday night with

an educational talk on “How to boost the immune system.” Her humour, along with research facts, made her presentation practical and thought provoking.

Saturday morning she spoke about cravings and how to manage them better. She gave the children some interesting facts to think about. Her 11 o’clock message promoted wholistic healthful living.

Sunday morning Blaney taught a vegan cooking class with 40 in attendance. From 1 to 4 p.m., booths were set up representing NEWSTART, ADRA’s Maternal Health Program, and a local community health centre promoting diabetes education. Many enjoyed the practical stations such as hydrotherapy, massage, diabetes awareness, water, sunshine, temperance, and ADRA Canada.

Dr. David Sloan spoke to a group of 50 about hormonal imbalance in women and men as well as on weight gain/loss. It was heart-warming to see how people worked together with some in the community to make this a truly educational weekend. Future plans are being made for another cooking class and Health Emphasis Weekend. ■

— Helen Northcott,
College Park Church

Ontario Ordination

On Sabbath June 24, during Ontario Campmeeting, two pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry. Pastors Evaldo Vicente and Robert Zama were recommended by the Ontario Conference Board of Directors and their status as ordained ministers was granted by the vote of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

During the ceremony of ordination Ivan Williams, director of the NAD Ministerial department, delivered a powerful message from the word of God, and Mark Johnson, SDACC president, pronounced the ordination prayer. The charge and welcome to newly ordained ministers were presented by conference president, Mansfield Edwards, who eloquently reminded each and every one of the tremendous task of pastors in building the kingdom of God.

Evaldo Vicente has served as the pastor of the Belleville Adventist Church and Madoc Adventist Company since 2015. He is married to Sandra (née Melo), and they have two children, Lara and Vinicius.

Robert Zama is the assistant pastor at Willowdale Adventist Church for evangelism and ministries. He obtained his BA in Religious Studies from Canadian University College (now Burman University) in 2009 and completed his MDiv from Andrews Theological Seminary in 2016. Robert is married to



Robert and Alina Zama (left), Sandra and Evaldo Vicente (right)

Alina (née Nechita) and together they have a daughter, Sarah.

To Pastors Vicente and Zama, we present our wishes for a blessed ministry. May His grace guide them and inspire them in order to make a difference for the glory of God’s name. ■

— Daniel Stojanovic, Vice-President for Administration, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, with files from Aimee Perez, Messenger staff writer

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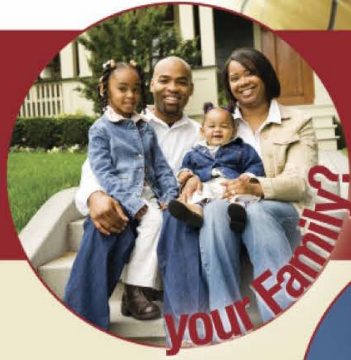
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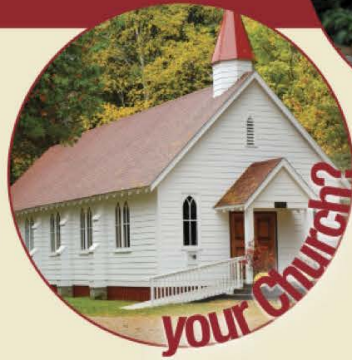
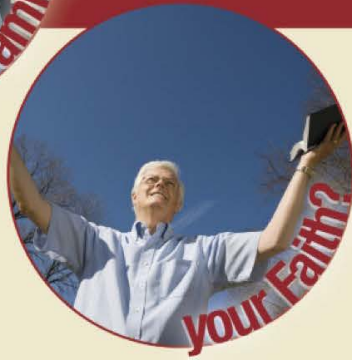
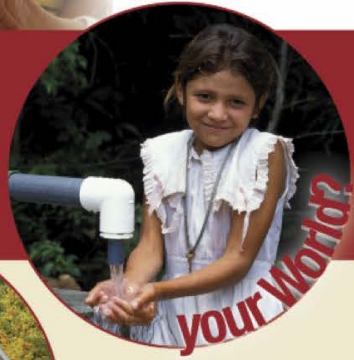
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■ **Announcements**

South River Mission Trip

Opportunity—Are you interested in a mission trip but reluctant to travel far or buy travel insurance? The South River Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for help in South River, Ont. to build a new church building. There are canoes to loan and a paddleboat on a private pond. There is lots of space for RVs, tents, and a number of guest bedrooms in various homes. Mikisev Provincial Park is close by. We are planning menus. Our building plans, God willing, are as follows: June and July—framing of building, roofing; July, August and September—interior work such as wiring, plumbing, drywall. Dust off your hard hats, your work tools, and work boots. If you need we have all the basics to loan. Looking forward to hearing from you. Dorothy Chamberlain, treasurer, email: dorothy@ontera.net; Oleg Zhigankov, pastor, tel. 705/471-4373, email: ozhigankov@adventistontario.org.

■ **Birthdays**



Victoria Blanche Covey of Halifax, N.S., celebrated her 100th birthday on June 3, 2017, with a party held in her honour.

■ **Obituaries**

Gladys Fern (née Kinney) Banks was born on Sept. 9, 1915, in Piercemont, N.B., and died on April 29, 2017, in Toronto, Ont. She was a member of College Park Church in Oshawa, Ont., for 60 years. Gladys is predeceased by her husband, Garnet MacIntosh Banks; parents, John Ezra and Elizabeth DeMerchant Kinney; brothers, Basil Kinney and Milford Kinney; and sister, Mary Kuntz. Surviving: son, Gary (Marilyn) Banks of Oshawa; daughters, Joan (Glen) Grierson of Thornhill, Ont., Linda Banks of El Granada, Calif., Corinne Banks of Parry Sound, Ont.; brother, Clifton (Lorraine) Kinney of Ottawa, Ont.; sister, Maxine Bushby of Bath, N.B.; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Robert Wayne Cotie was born on March 27, 1950, in Renfrew, Ont., and died on May 13, 2017, in Cortland, N.Y. As a surgeon, he changed the lives of members of the local community and prison through the generous ministry of his hands and heart. Surviving: wife, Carol Cotie; daughter, Jennifer (Jeff) Cotie-Pacuska of Jefferson, Mass.; brother, Michael Cotie of Kelowna, B.C.; sister, Elaine (Walter) Thurnhofer of Renton, Wash.; and one grandchild.

Alma (née Yetman) Ivany was born on May 14, 1926, in Jamestown, Nfld., and died on May 10, 2017, in Calgary, Alta. She was a long-time member and assistant treasurer for the Niagara Falls church and later a faithful member of the Calgary Central church. Alma is predeceased by her husband, B. Boyd Ivany. Surviving: sons, Larry (Deborah) Ivany of Calgary, Robert (Pat) Ivany of Winnipeg, Man.; daughters, Donna (Peter) Swierszcz of Calgary, Sharon

(David) Kopriva of Clementsvalle, N.S.; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Pohle was born on Sept. 1, 1934, in Stockton, Calif., and died on April 11, 2017, in Temple, Tex. He served in printing/publishing for nearly 50 years in various parts of the world, including Canada, Japan, Nebraska, Tennessee, Maryland, and California. His passion was to spread the word about Jesus. Bob is predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Bertha (née Bivens) Pohle; and sister, June (Cecil) Martin. Surviving: wife, Delores (née Schroeder) Pohle; sons, Victor (Valerie) Pohle of Ooltewah, Tenn., Robert Lee (Tami) Pohle of Yellow Spring, W.V.; daughters, Deborah (Robert) Brock of Harker Heights, Tex., Candace (Kendall) Harvey of Crowley, Tex.; sister, Carol (Clayton) Sahly of Abbottsford, B.C.; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

June (née Russell) Polishuk was born on Aug. 7, 2017, in Oshawa, Ont., and died on May 29, 2017, in Oshawa. She was a founding member of the College Park church, faithfully leading out in the children's divisions, serving on the Welcoming Committee, and volunteering at the Adventist Community Service Centre for many years. She enjoyed working as the editor of *Canadian Adventist Messenger* until her retirement in 1996. June is predeceased by her husband, Donald C. Polishuk; parents, Robert and Vera Russell. Surviving: daughters, Janice Newman of Oshawa, Lynne (Ross) Girvan of Lindsay, Ont.; brothers, Donald (Arlene) Russell of Laurel, Md., Bob Russell, Jr. of Oshawa; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

John Yuros was born on Dec. 9, 1927, in Bortiatyn, Ukraine, and died on April 12, 2017, in Lincoln City, Ore. He graduated from CUC in 1952 and pastored in Alberta, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia before moving to the United States. John is predeceased by his parents, Harry and Julia Yuros. Surviving: wife, I. Ruth (née Hoover) Yuros; daughter, Lorna (Darrell) Strait of Loma Linda, Calif.; brothers, Harry (Rita) Yuros of Lacombe, Alta., William (Jean) Yuros of Kelowna, B.C.; sister, Rose (George) Holdal of Calgary, Alta.

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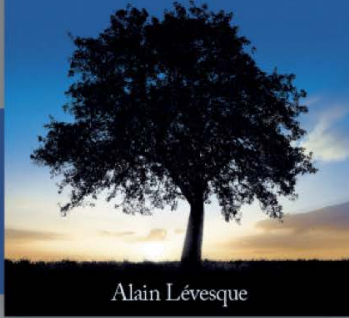
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from the editor

using social media to advance the work

TODAY I AM PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A PRESENTATION that I will be giving at a few campmeetings across Canada this summer. The topic of discussion is the importance of using social media to fill our churches.

In doing so, I reflected on a discussion that was commonplace back when postage stamps came into existence. At the time, the church was against it because of the fear that people would rely on mail rather than face-to-face contact and that the sense of community as well as physical activity would be lost. It seems we are facing similar fears today.

Should we fear using Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, and other social media sites? Sure, nefarious acts are perpetrated through these venues. Just as much as is committed through the printing industry. To me, it would seem silly not to use magazines, newspapers, and books to share the gospel or uplift society. Our church's evangelistic thrust has been greatly blessed by these same medium that can be used to destroy families and communities. So where does this leave us?

I have thoroughly enjoyed Pastor Kumar Dixit's Connected Church column in the *Messenger* throughout the years, as well as his YouTube videos. He often speaks on the importance of going where people are, and not expecting them to have the burden of seeking out our church. How innovative and yet logical.

Facebook now has two billion members worldwide, and approximately 77 percent of Canadians have a Facebook profile. Our primary use of social media for the church should not be to reach out to those thousands of kilometres away but those within our own local communities. We can tell our friends about *It Is Written Canada* and when they can watch. Invite neighbours to local church events. Build friendships by mingling, not preaching. A good guideline to keep in mind for your posts is 20 percent faith-based content and 80 percent general interest content.

As she is often quoted, Ellen White advises, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. *Then* He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"¹ Mingling, compassion, service, and trust all come before the proverbial altar call. Too often, this order is mixed up, and the preaching and unsolicited advice come before any trust is built.

Here's to the power of mingling in the 21st century. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

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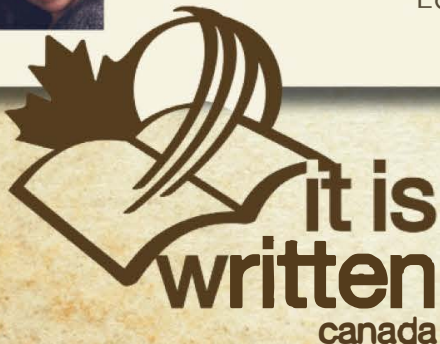


Christine Wollmann

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