

canadian adventist

# Messenger

december 2017

## THE Christmas PRAYER

plus

- The Meaning of the Manger (p. 3)
- Warmth to Kenyan Babies (p. 14)
- 'Tis the Season (p. 19)
- Spiderman Comes to Church (p. 28)
- You Gave Me Confidence (p. 36)

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20 Robert St W  
Newcastle, Ontario L1B 1C6



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

**Art Director** Joan Tanasychuk  
tanasychuk.joan@adventist.ca

**Ad Manager/Circulation** Rose-N. Manigat  
manigat.rose@adventist.ca;  
messenger@adventist.ca

**Copy Editor** Vesna Mirkovich  
messenger@adventist.ca

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## Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

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

**President** Mark Johnson  
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

**VP Administration** Daniel Stojanovic  
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

**VP Finance** Ulysses Guarin  
guarin.ulysses@adventist.ca

## Conferences

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

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

**Manitoba/Saskatchewan** 1004 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

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

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

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

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

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

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heart to heart

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”  
—Luke 2:7, ESV

## The Meaning of the Manger

We've come once again to the season of the year when, traditionally, the birth of Christ is celebrated. I've noticed that Christmas has drifted from its earlier focus. Historically, Adventists have used this season to recall, with friends and family, the story of Jesus and His life on this earth.

Artists and our own imaginations have created a warm and fuzzy picture of Jesus' infancy. It wasn't like that.

The manger in the narrative of Jesus' birth places Him out with the animals. True, it provided privacy for the birth as far as people go, and perhaps Joseph and Mary found a way to move the animals out of the room for a while. But it was, after all, the place of animals. Maybe you haven't spent much time in barns, but I have. They can be smelly, messy places. It was in this setting that Jesus came into the world.

Born into a family that had to pay taxes like the rest of us, with reservations in an overbooked hotel like some of us, and certainly a long way from heaven, Jesus came to be among us. The circumstances of His birth speak to us of both the urgency and the cost of our salvation.

It makes me think about my interest in salvation. It seems so easy to be distracted from the incredible need we have for Jesus. It seems so easy to blend in with everyone else around me and miss the opportunity to gently bring the conversation around to eternal issues. Sometimes the expected reaction frightens me, and I remain silent. And so I need to pray for strength to tell the story with sensitivity but also with conviction.

God, please make us witnesses to your grace and sacrifice through the birth of Jesus, especially at this time of the year. Amen.

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”—2 Corinthians 8:9, ESV ■*

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







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*"I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Years gifts to our friends... We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God, or that will increase our love for its precepts."* - E. G. White

<p><b>FOR BULK ORDERS :</b> Please contact <i>It Is Written Canada</i> <b>1-855-308-6510</b> <b>CanadianGreatControversy.ca</b> <b>information@iiw.ca</b> Minimum order of 1 case (60 books) \$120 per case • GST &amp; Shipping not included</p>	<p><b>FOR SMALLER QUANTITIES:</b> Please contact your local <b>Canadian Adventist Book Centre</b> BC: (604) 859-2566 AB: (403) 782-4416 Eastern Canada: (905) 579-2311</p>
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## “We Always Wanted a Toilet”

**HAVE YOU EVER NEEDED TO GO TO THE WASHROOM BUT BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ONE?** Perhaps you were in an unfamiliar place or on a road trip with no stop in sight. Whatever your situation was, it was fairly temporary. I'm sure, though, it was enough to renew your appreciation for a proper washroom!

“We have been going out into the field and bush,” shares Seng. “This has been very difficult for me and my family. Going out into the bush every time you need to go is not nice at all, especially when it is dark. You have to deal with mosquitoes, wild animals, and poisonous snakes. When it is rainy and slippery, it just makes it so much worse!”

Seng and her husband, Koung, live in a remote village in Cambodia where they are rice farmers. To make ends meet, they also hire themselves out as day labourers whenever an opportunity arises.

“We met when we were just 17 and 18 years old,” says Seng. “We got married, and now we have two children, one girl and one boy.”

“We didn't have the opportunity to go to school,” Seng explains. “When we were children, there was still an ongoing conflict between the government and the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge soldiers came into our village and burned down our school.”

Conflict, lack of education, and economic strains have placed many rural Cambodians in poverty. Poverty also affects their health, family dynamics, and future opportunities.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is working hard to tackle some of these issues alongside Seng and her community members. One of our projects is saving the lives of mothers and babies from preventable deaths. These avoidable tragedies arise from causes such as lack of access to proper health care, unsafe water, poor nutrition, and poor sanitation. Through building maternity wards, installing latrines, distributing water filters, and training on hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition, the project is improving the lives of community members.

“The ADRA Commune Supervisor came to visit us in our home,” recounts Seng. “She told us about all of the wonderful topics that the project group would be learning. She also told us about certain benefits that the project group members would be able to take advantage of.” Here, Seng's face lit up with excitement. “One of the things that really caught my attention was that as a project member, we would be eligible to have a toilet system built beside our house at a subsidized cost! We have always wanted a toilet, but we have just not been able to afford putting in a latrine and septic system. We had just enough to pay the difference. Now we will have a clean and sanitary system that is enclosed, safe, and private!”

“I am so grateful to ADRA Canada for bringing the program to our community,” Seng says sincerely. Her thanks flow from us to you, who make this work possible. Thank you! ■

*Heather Grbic is the engagement coordinator for ADRA Canada.*





# Revival in the Face of Faith

# Erosion

**T**he signs of the time announce the fast approaching of the second advent of Christ. Read what Christ says:

*“Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”—Revelation 16:15, NIV*

Unfortunately, instead of watching, many Christians are sleeping. In this article I will suggest five simple steps to waking up.

## **Understand your context or environment.**

In the Western nations of the world, Satan is on a faith-killing mission. He has subtly influenced many Christians to buy into the secular mindset. He appears to be gaining control. Today many Christians warm the pews every week yet lack any love or passion for the kingdom advance they profess.

In a vision Ellen G. White “saw that Satan bade his angels lay their snares especially for those who were looking for Christ’s second appearing and keeping all the commandments of God.” She saw Satan instructing his angels to ensnare the church and saying, “Make covetousness and love of earthly treasures the ruling traits of their character. If these traits rule, salvation and grace stand back. Crowd every attraction around them, and they will be surely ours. And not only are we sure of them, but their hateful influence will not be exercised to lead others to heaven.”<sup>1</sup>

Those who sense a calling have no option but to watch out! Christ is there to help you.

## **Do spiritual self-assessment.**

Every Christian who wishes to wake up from spiritual lethargy needs to periodically do spiritual self-assessment. Take time off your busy schedule to be alone with God. Humbly and honestly evaluate what drives your actions.

Check if it is the desire for riches, prestige, and position or the desire to share the gospel. See Psalm 139:23.

## **Focus on the core values of Christ.**

Set your heart on the core values of Christ—for example, humility, mercy, love for one another, forgiveness, passion to share the gospel, etc. You may include all the fruits of the spirit enumerated by Paul in Ephesians 5:22, 23 and Philippians 4:8. You may as well focus on the Sermon on the Mount, recorded in Matthew 5–7.

## **Seek the power of the Holy spirit.**

Remember that the Holy Spirit is already knocking (see Rev. 3:20). All you need to do is surrender. Confess your shortcomings, and pray as often as possible for His indwelling to transform your heart to do what you have chosen to focus on. Claim that He has heard you and move on to the next stage.

## **Render whole-hearted service.**

After receiving the power of the Holy spirit, participate in ministry according to your gifts. Serve in church as well as in the community. Let your light shine where you work. Share these simple revival tips with others. If you are a parent, teach your children to love Jesus by word and example at home before it is too late. Send your children to a church school as much as possible. Should you be a pastor or an elder, I wish to refer you to what Jesus told Peter: “Take care of my sheep” (see John 21). ■



*Kwasi Ansah-Adu is president of the Quebec Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

<sup>1</sup> *Early Writings* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1945), pp. 266, 267.



# teen talk

**Q:** I struggle being a Christian in everyday life, not just at church. Is that normal?

**A:** According to the dictionary, a Christian is “a person who has received Christian baptism or is a believer in Jesus Christ and his teachings.” It would surprise me if you decided not to believe in Jesus from Sunday to Friday and only believed in him during church hours on Saturday morning. What is happening, most likely, is that you find it challenging to consistently act in a Jesus-like manner or to feel spiritually high during the week, when you’re not surrounded by fellow Christians.

If that’s the case, I’ve got good news for you, my friend: you are not alone. Two reasons. First, even great Bible characters struggled. Take Paul, for example. He was very upset because even though he truly wanted to be like Jesus, he failed miserably every time. You can ask any Christian and they’ll tell you the same thing: we’ve all got our ups and downs.

The second reason you are not alone is that Jesus is with you at all times. The times you feel that you’re failing and the times when you’re on a spiritual high, he will never leave you or forsake you!

So yeah, it is normal. But don’t worry, because absolutely nothing can separate you from his love. ■



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



## Takhi

The short-legged, dun-coloured wild horse of Mongolia, the takhi, also known as Przewalski's horse, was almost extinct just 50 years ago. The only truly wild horse in the world, the takhi was pushed to the brink of extinction by harsh winters, wars, and hunting. The last herd was seen in the wild in 1966, but just two years later, only one takhi could be found. After 1969, expeditions in search of the takhi found none in their traditional range.

Happily, a remnant of these sturdy little horses lived in zoos and conservationists built up a herd from the 13 horses that remained. With careful planning to make the small herd genetically strong, there are now close to 2,000 takhis in total. More than 150 of these live in the wild once again on Mongolia's grassy plains.

### Think about it.

Like the takhi, the gospel of Jesus Christ was almost extinct in the world by the 1500s. Through persecution and deceit, true Christianity had been corrupted by rituals and ideas from idol-worshipping pagan religions. God raised up reformers like Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin and others, to preserve the gospel of salvation through faith in Christ alone. The brave reformers experienced true conversion first, and then, urged on by the Holy Spirit, they spread the truth about a loving Saviour who made salvation a gift to all who would accept it. When Jesus returns, there will only be a remnant of God's true church. Will you be part of it, strengthen it, and help it grow?

### Do it!

Let Jesus have complete control of your life. Then share the gospel with those you meet!  
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## Homelessness Awareness

## Tent City



Jayda Burton graduated as valedictorian of her Grade 12 class at Crawford Adventist Academy in Toronto, Ont., this past June.



Laura Kaye Reyes graduated as valedictorian of her Grade 12 class at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Aldergrove, B.C.

ON A COLD AUTUMN FRIDAY EVENING, students filed out of College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church and headed toward the dorm for warmth. However, a group of approximately 17 individuals gathered in front of the church with no intention of going home. They were dressed in plenty of layers: sweaters, jackets, hats, and gloves. They were ready for the weather; they were ready for Tent City.

Tent City is an overnight event to raise awareness about homelessness. “Some may think it’s not a big issue because, living in Lacombe, you don’t necessarily witness homelessness,” says Alexa Tanlu, Student Missions director. “But homelessness is a big issue.”

Tent City is organized by the Student Missions Team of Burman University’s Campus Ministries. Students sleep in cardboard boxes outside in the cold for one night to replicate the experience of the homeless. Although just for one night, students are given a small glimpse of homelessness. “I hope that students see how lucky and blessed they are to have a roof over their heads,” says Tanlu. “A roof that won’t collapse after rainfall hits. A roof that covers your entire body and gives you proper insulation to keep you warm during the cold winter days. A roof that provides you with so many opportunities to be better.”

In front of College Heights, boxes were set up with tarps placed on top of them. As the group did a final head count, they realized there were more people participating than boxes set up. To ensure everyone could participate, the group cut and organized more cardboard boxes. Participants chose a box and settled in for the night. They attempted to get comfortable in their boxes with their pillows and blankets. Everyone joined in singing one song, then drifted off to sleep. “That one night was an uncomfortable night by choice,” says Christina Lister, a staff member who joined students for the night. “We now have a tiny glimpse into what some people have to deal with on a daily basis, not just one night.”

Students stayed outside throughout the night: many were feeling the discomfort of sleeping on the ground in the cold weather. Members of the group woke up before the sun because of how uncomfortable they were. As they watched the sun rise, they warmed themselves up with some hot chocolate and tea. It was a short experience, but it made a lasting impact on each one of them.

As members of the church made their way to church that morning, they walked through the makeshift cardboard boxes. They were greeted by students who held cups out for change. The money would go toward the urban-missions trip that the Student Missions team is planning to do in the spring. “Student Missions wants to get students excited to serve,” says Tanlu. “We want to encourage them to use their talents in whatever way to serve their local or global community.” ■

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



Daphne, the second oldest of three sisters, lived just two blocks from her mother. For the last 10 years, it was Daphne who helped her mother, Eleanor, the most: driving her to doctor's appointments, running errands, and taking her grocery shopping. It was also Daphne who found her mom on the kitchen floor—nose bleeding from hitting it so hard, right eye swollen almost shut. When the ambulance arrived, everything happened very quickly. Eleanor had suffered a massive heart attack and barely made it to the hospital before being pronounced dead.

Anita, Daphne's youngest sister, arrived that afternoon with her husband, John, and the couple took the reins, promptly making the funeral arrangements. Vivien, the eldest sister, arrived at Daphne's home the next day. Within a few days, the funeral took place, and relatives had come and gone. Vivien stayed longer to help with whatever needed to be done at their mother's home.

The day after the funeral, Daphne went over to Eleanor's house. She thought no one had been there since the day the ambulance had come. Daphne put the key in the front door lock, but the key wouldn't turn the deadbolt. She tried it several more times, twisting the key this way and that and yanking on the knob, but still it didn't work. She went around to the back door, but it wouldn't open either.

Daphne raced back to her house and told Vivien what had happened, and the two called their mother's lawyer, Gordon Fraser. There were items in their mother's home to which the sisters felt they had claim and really needed. Eleanor had financially helped both Daphne, who was living with a physical disability, and Vivien, whose husband had left her destitute. The pair worried about what would happen to them without the money their mother had been sending them each month.

Later that morning Mr. Fraser returned Daphne's call, explaining to her that Anita had changed the locks at their mother's house. "But why?" Daphne asked.

Mr. Fraser responded, "Well, Anita is the executor on your mother's will, and as the executor she decided it was the best course of action."

Daphne let this sink in for a moment but was still puzzled. "But why? Why would she do that?" she asked again.

"I imagine Anita felt she should secure the house, as she is responsible for everything in it, along with eventually selling the house," explained Mr. Fraser. "She has to take an inventory and oversee fair distribution of the contents, and can't risk having you, your sister, or anyone else, for that matter, go into the house and take things out. I am sorry that this may sound unkind and that it upsets you, but it is quite a normal occurrence."

"But I thought that Mom's brother, Edward, was her executor?" Daphne questioned.

"He was, but your mother changed her will a couple of years ago," Mr. Fraser replied. He further explained that when Edward moved to the other side of the province, Eleanor needed to choose a new executor. Mr. Fraser assured Daphne and Vivien that their mother had made a wise choice naming Anita as her executor.

To Eleanor, it had made sense to choose her youngest daughter: Anita lived nearby and had a background in finance. Anita knew what needed to be done, and was willing and able to perform the necessary duties to ensure that Eleanor's estate would be dealt with fairly. Naming an executor may not be an easy decision, and it may upset some family members at first, but it should be made after careful thought—as it was in Eleanor's case. ■



## An Executor Decision

*Daphne put the key in the front door lock, but the key wouldn't turn the deadbolt.*

*Leah Keys writes from Newcastle, Ont.*



# Where Are They Now



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

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



Ruby and John Adams

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

**John Adams:** I was born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. While I was still a young boy, my mother immigrated to Trinidad and left my sister and me in the care of a great aunt, Charlotte Ambrose in Union Island, which is part of the island chain. She then travelled to England before coming to Canada, where she settled in Montreal. My aunt had a very comfortable life being married to a police officer. She was a very kind, gentle and generous person and taught those principles to me as a child. During my years being raised by her, she ensured that I attended school and church until I reached the age of maturity.

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

**J:** In Union Island, I attended the Anglican Church. On Sunday afternoons, a dear lady and stalwart of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by the name of Claudia Ambrose, fondly referred to as “Tan Tan,” conducted a Branch Sabbath school for the neighbourhood children on the large lawn of my aunt. I was assigned the task of rounding up as many children as I could. The materials she used to teach the children were ones I had never seen before—picture rolls, colourful Bible story books, etc. After the program ended, she would then give treats to all who were in attendance. We really looked forward to that every weekend.

As the years went by and I got older, I attended church less and eventually joined a music band and attended dances. One day I had an encounter with a cousin, Earlrick Ambrose, who was a Seventh-day Adventist and who challenged me about why I worshipped on Sunday. I gave him the answers that I thought made sense, but he



wasn't satisfied. He suggested that I find out from my church leaders who had changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. When I gave him the answer that it was the pope, as was stated in the Catechism book used by the Anglican Church, he asked me who had given the pope the authority to change it. I inquired again, and was told it was Peter. I later received invitation from both Tan Tan and Earlick to attend church on a 13th Sabbath.

Celebration of 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath is big in the islands. After the worship service, I was invited for lunch by Tan Tan and was amazed by how different the Adventists ate from the rest of the population. It was the first time I saw and ate whole wheat bread and macaroni pie, and I was very impressed. After that visit to the Seventh-day Adventist church, with the persistence and encouragement from these two individuals, I continued to worship on Saturdays until I eventually got baptized.

**M:** *What brought about your move to Canada?*

**J:** It was a desire to expand my horizons and seek more opportunities as to what life had to offer. In 1970, my mother, who was then living in Canada, gave me an invitation to join her in this fair country, and so I came and lived with her in Montreal until I moved and lived on my own. While there, I attended the Westmount Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**M:** *Where did you attend school including your postsecondary education?*

**J:** I attended elementary and junior high in St. Vincent and Union Island respectively, and high school and college in Canada. In 1977, I enrolled in the theology program at Canadian Union College (now Burman University) and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology Degree in 1981. Two years later, after completing my internship at the Toronto West church, I went to Andrews University, where I obtained my Master of Divinity Degree in 1985.

**M:** *Tell me about your call to the ministry.*

**J:** Ever since I became a Seventh-day Adventist, members of the Union Island church would say to me, "You should become a pastor." One specific lady by the name of May Mitchell was relentless in her encouragement to see that become a reality in my life. That awakened a desire in me to want to win souls for God's kingdom. As a lay person, I was involved in many evangelistic series both in Montreal and Toronto distributing tracts and participating in the meetings. Wherever I went that I knew I would encounter people, including on the bus, at the bus stop, or at my workplace, I took and distributed tracts, and I enjoyed doing it.

As time went by, I realized that I wasn't satisfied with the jobs I'd been doing. I felt there was more to life than just making money. It was then that I realized that ministry was really my passion; so with the conviction of

the Holy Spirit and encouragement from my brother-in-law, Edwin Richards, I applied and was accepted into the theology program at Canadian Union College.

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

**J:** First, I served as assistant and youth pastor at the Toronto West church (better known as "Harvie") in 1982 and 1983. Upon my return from Andrews University in 1985, I pastored the Kingston Road and Ephesus churches in Toronto (later became Shiloh). I was then called to pastor the Bridgeland and Forest Heights churches in Calgary in early 1989 by Don Corkum. These two churches were later amalgamated and became the Bridgeland church today. In 2000, I was called to serve as ministerial director and evangelism coordinator for the Alberta Conference. I held these positions for about six and a half years, then was later asked to be Sabbath school and personal ministries director. I served in this capacity until 2009.

**M:** *Unfortunately, you have serious health challenges. How has this affected your life and service?*

**J:** During my tenure as Sabbath school and personal ministries director, I began to experience some health challenges. This caused me to go on short-term/long-term disability, and I eventually had to retire from active ministry. My desire and goal had always been to plant churches, and I miss not being able to do that now.

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

**J:** I am very fortunate and blessed to have an amazing family—a hard-working, successful, and career-oriented wife, and two wonderful daughters. Shanelle has a bachelor's degree in communications from Southern Adventist University and works as an administrative assistant for a local computer company. She also does desktop publishing for A Better World, a very reputable nonprofit organization. Delicia has a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Loma Linda University and works as a therapist for a social service agency.

My wife, Ruby, has an associate in science degree from Andrews University and a bachelor of arts degree from Canadian University College (now Burman University) in Lacombe. She works as a settlement practitioner for an immigrant services agency. She also recently completed a one-year course toward obtaining a license as an immigration consultant.

**M:** *Where are you now, and are you able to still serve the Lord despite your affliction?*

**J:** We are residing in Lacombe, Alta., not far from Burman University. I am still actively serving the Lord by witnessing to doctors, nurses, neighbours, and as many people as I can by giving them our faith-based literature and using other ways to tell them about Jesus and His soon return. ■



## Sewing Seniors Give a Touch of Canadian Warmth to Kenyan Babies



A mother receives a homemade hat for her baby from Canada as an ABW team meets at Tulwap Primary School in Kericho, Kenya, in September.



(From left to right) Jean Yuros, Olga Matijew, and June Burton have been key volunteers of a toque project for A Better World.

Sending Canadian warmth to newborn babies in East Africa can come in very small packages. Just ask a group of seniors from Kelowna, B.C. Since 2008, a handful of women from Kelowna's Seventh-day Adventist Church have been part of A Better World (ABW) Canada's "toque project." They send off handmade knitted hats for little ones in rural areas, including the Maasai Mara region of southwestern Kenya. More than 1,150 toques have been sent to Kenya, plus medical clinics in Rwanda and Tanzania.

June Burton, 83, and Jean Yuros, 81, are involved with this popular effort supporting new moms and their babies more than 14,000 kilometres away. Both women started helping out after ABW co-founder Eric Rajah learned that 200 pregnant women were in refugee camps during a Kenyan political uprising in late 2007 to early 2008. Yuros, aunt to Rajah's wife, Candi, then learned the newborns were wearing small caps to keep warm. ABW began assembling baby kits, including a toque in each one.

From that point on, the toque project was born in Kelowna. Besides Yuros and Burton, Olga Matijew and Maria Teschinsky have played pivotal roles as well. Burton praised Matijew for all the work she has done, especially at her age. At 95, she now no longer knits, because of health issues.

"Olga would come to quilting (gathering on Wednesdays) and she would have maybe a dozen toques with her," said Burton. New mothers in the Maasai region receive a toque

when they have their babies vaccinated at an A Better World Canada-sponsored clinic.

Rajah said these toques are so great when conditions are cold. "It is handmade from Canada so it is a very special gift," he added.

Burton estimates it takes about three hours to knit one of these hats that come in various colours, designs and materials. Sometimes the yarn is donated. She's been a knitter "off and on" all her life. "I just knit when the TV is on," said Burton, who's married and a grandmother of three. Teschinsky is great at making pom-poms for the top of her toques, Burton added.

The toque project is a real labour of love for Burton. When she knits, she imagines how she's improving the baby's health. "The toque is given when the child is inoculated or vaccinated against disease." Yuros ensures all the toques are collected to send to Lacombe, and later with an ABW team travelling to Kenya.

"These women can pretty well knit in their sleep, and they don't need a pattern," said Yuros, who is married with two children. "I can knit, but I have to look at what I'm doing, count my rows ... I'm on the slow side. I have many other projects on the go, so the others can knit."

Occasionally, the toques are distributed within the Kelowna area. ■

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



*Do 10% of the members do 90% of the work?*

# Communicating with Volunteers

There is an old adage that says only 10 percent of the members do 90 percent of the work in the local church. Have you found that to be true? Some people have suggested that it is easier to get members who are already busy and serving, to do more, instead of convincing a new person to get involved in ministry.

Over the years I have discovered some basic principles for engaging members to serve in small and large organizations. Here are some ideas that may work in your church.

## **Appoint a volunteer coordinator.**

This person should chair the nominating committee year-round. Their purpose is to train, recruit, and retain volunteers throughout the church.

## **Share the leadership.**

Develop a plan that ensures your leaders commit to being out of their position within three years. Many churches keep the same officers for decades, without

giving others an opportunity to share the leadership baton. Following this plan, they will actively recruit, train, and mentor their potential replacements.

## **Share your need.**

Does your church have a “ministry opening” spot in the bulletin or website? You may be surprised to know how few people are aware of the ministry need. For example, if you need more youth leaders, what are five different ways to inform people in the church of this need?

## **Do not beg.**

If someone isn’t interested in serving in a particular position, don’t cajole them into it. It would be better to temporarily close the ministry until the right person comes along.

## **Give them a job description.**

Don’t assume your members know what is expected of them. Every volunteer position should have a job description

that outlines the expectations of the job.

## **Give volunteers an “opt out” option.**

Every person should feel free to quit their volunteer position if they realize it isn’t a good fit. Let your volunteers know that they can opt out after two months if the position doesn’t meet their expectation. At the same time, don’t give up on them. If a volunteer quits, ask them to share what worked and didn’t so you can help them find the right ministry position that fits their spiritual gifts.

## **Recognize your volunteers.**

Everybody appreciates recognition. Consider holding a yearly ministry team banquet. Make it fun and rewarding, where individuals are recognized for their special contribution to ministry. ■

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*Kumar Dixit is the creative principal of Dixit Media Group, an organization that rebrands religious and non-profits.*





# Peace, Harmony, and Hope



Elizabeth with Veronica Naburio of Biafra Atousufu from Kaabong, Uganda.



A mother doing her part as member of the Opolacen Primary School, Rwot Gwok Farmers Group

The natural beauty of Uganda's terrain and landscape is absolutely breathtaking. It's like jumping into the pages of the magazines that I fondly leafed through as a child, but now I can hear, touch, smell, and even taste the beauty of God's creation.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the Karamoja region in northeastern Uganda, which features towering, dark, rounded rock formations against the gold-coloured savannah. The dry, dusty roadside, flanked by rusty-coloured man-sized anthills, snakes along the fields of ripening sorghum and over dry creek beds. Cattle with long upright horns temporarily block our path as they are herded by men clad in vivid plaid blankets, knotted over one shoulder, with a long stick in hand. Similarly, clad boys guide the herds of goats to safety as they enthusiastically wave, shielding their eyes from the bright sun.

As we near the bend to the village, the sounds of a rhythmic beat, whistles, and singing welcome us to our destination. The band of women in brightly coloured dresses with multiple strings of beads around their necks surround us and encourage us to join in the dance. With our ill attempt to keep with the beat, big smiles of acceptance are shared with each misstep. We clap, wave our hands, jump, and smile. It is a joyous time. Later we learn the songs composed right on the spot are about our anticipated arrival, giving thanks to God and seeking God's blessings for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and our families.

In addition to being warmly received, the guests are honoured with a name. For women, the name bequeathed is indicative of the season or current weather. As for men, they are named after animals and the attire they are wearing. The day we arrived, the sorghum was ripe and ready for harvest; therefore, the name given to me was *NarlwengNamua*. My husband was wearing the ADRA vest and was, therefore, named *Apalopus*, meaning "grey bull."

As we interact with village members, testimonies and stories are shared. Although ADRA focuses on development and disaster relief, it has also served as an agent of change by empowering

groups to identify issues and develop solutions. Several crosscutting issues have been identified and addressed, resulting in transformed communities. In one of the subcounties, ADRA facilitated talks with government offices when mothers and grandmothers united against increased alcohol consumption. As a result of the discussions, laws now ban the sale of "waragi" in their sub-county. Imprisonment, confiscation, and fines are imposed on those caught selling alcohol. Domestic violence has decreased, children are able to return to school with school fees paid, and an overall sense of peace and harmony permeates the subcounty. Absolutely inspiring.

For decades the communities of the Karamajong region were living in constant fear because of a bloody tribal war. Villagers were unable to work in the fields or send their children to school for fear of being killed. NGO workers wore bulletproof vests and had to be escorted by armed military convoy when entering these areas. Weary from seeing their fathers and brothers killed, the warriors did not wish this kind of lifestyle for their children. Yearning for peace, the fierce warriors approached the only agency embedded in both warring communities and the only agency that remained in the region. ADRA served as the liaison to facilitate peace talks between warring tribes. The warriors took the first step in disarmament and today are the forerunners in advocating for the continued peace in Karamoja. God is good!

Listening to the testimonies and interacting with the individuals whose lives have been transformed inspires great hope. Regardless of tribe, status, or religion, meeting the basic needs for dignity, security, and peace as well as creating opportunities for the next generation to succeed are goals we hope to see fulfilled. As we celebrate with family and friend this Christmas season, may we anticipate the reunion with our Saviour when He will give us a new name and live forever in peace and harmony. ■

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



# Prayers of Faith

*"What is a prayer of faith?"*

**W**hat would happen if all of God's people began to pray? I mean if *you* and *I* began to truly pray—about things that are on God's heart rather than just on our own.

Remember when Israel left Egypt only to find themselves at the edge of the Red Sea with the Egyptian army closing in on them? I'm sure they prayed—we always pray when we are in dangerous situations. But what were they praying about? If they were anything like me, it would have been "Save us from the Egyptians!" "Keep us safe as we cross the sea!" "Give us strength to cross here in the dead of night!" "Don't let the water fall in on us!" Right?

But look at these prayers. They are all prayers of fear, not prayers of faith. Fear that the Egyptians will overpower God's protection. Fear that God will not hold back the water and we'll all drown. Fear that He'll leave us behind, somehow. Prayers focused on *me* and my perception: "driver's seat" prayers.

What *is* a prayer of faith?

Praying a prayer of faith is possible only when fear has been overcome by trust. How many times I have pleaded again and again with God to do what He has promised He *will* do, all because the fear in my heart is stronger than my trust. I have prayed fantastic driver's-seat prayers telling Him exactly what I want Him to do, as if my pin-prick view of the vast mural He sees gives me sufficient wisdom to advise Him!

Prayers of faith are humble. We may desperately need an answer, and there may be intensity in our asking, but we need to acknowledge His infinitely superior wisdom, ability, and love for us, as well as our absolute deficiency.

A prayer of faith trusts. Trusts in God's perfect understanding and knowledge of my situation, as well as His infinite resources, and His love and devotion to me. But it is hard to trust and wait.

Perhaps if we prayed more prayers surrendering our fears, lack of belief or trust, and actually asking Him to be in the driver's seat more often, we would see things happen that went beyond our ability to ask or think (see Eph. 2:20). Prayers about *His* will rather than our own. Prayers for a trusting heart, even in the storm. A heart that is so knit to His that we cannot be separated, no matter what might happen to us.

Perhaps if Israel had asked for deliverance from their fear, anxiety, and lack of faith back at the Red Sea, they would have trusted when they reached the border of Canaan and heard the spies' report. Perhaps they would have sided with Caleb and Joshua and gone into the Promised Land.

What are our prayers as we stand on the border of heavenly Canaan? Perhaps we need to ask what to pray for. We dare not rely on our own wisdom or perception in even this. What are God's goals? What does He want to do, and see happen? What would bring delight to His dear heart?

May He open our eyes of understanding and heal and cleanse our hearts so we can receive *all* His fullness and pray prayers of faith! ■

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*Erna McCann is the prayer coordinator liaison for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.*





## barry's blog

Is this the end? Or is this just the  
“end of the beginning of the end”?

# The Insanity of Our Age

**Does it not appear that the world is teetering on the edge of some cataclysmic event?** I am not one to get too riled up about the idea that the end of the world is at hand—even though as a Seventh-day Adventist, I am well aware of the stereotypical view that many have about Adventists being the archetypal doomsayers. My personality and my study of history have, however, given me a rather cheerful perspective toward crises—“Just hang in there; we will get through this.” Of course, as a Christian, I am a strong believer in the Lord’s second coming, but I am also aware that life can be over at any given moment, and therefore, we ought to make each day as if it were the last.

However, the events over the last 12 months gives me pause to wonder, *Is this the end?* Or is this just the “end of the beginning of the end”? Now, the reality is, we have been in many “end-of-the-world scenarios” before. My parents’ generation talk about the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of President Kennedy, the 1960s race riots, Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Oil Crisis of the 1970s, as a particularly melancholy timeframe. But any student of history will know of many more serious scenarios, including the First and Second World Wars. Then, in our living memory, 9/11 has been particularly etched into our minds as we watched, in real time, the slaughter of thousands in New York; Washington, D.C.; and Pennsylvania. The rise of North Korea and its growing threats to America have yet again brought forth the Cold War fears of nuclear war. But even that threat has paled in comparison to the horrific mass shootings this year. From the June 12, 2016, mass shooting in an Orlando night club to the Oct. 1, 2017, Las Vegas shooting, at least 585 people have been killed and 2,156 injured in mass shootings in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Canada is not immune, as we saw on Jan. 20, 2017, in Quebec City.<sup>2</sup>

What possesses a 64-year-old man, in Las Vegas, to open fire on innocent people at a country music concert? We have yet to understand the motivation that led him to kill at least 59 and

wound over 500 more. That is insanity.

I am no psychologist, no physician, but I am a lawyer who has seen people get accused of doing some crazy stuff. Early indications are that this man was not in poverty; in fact, some suggest he was wealthy. However, he did have a desire for privacy. In the end, this man was a kingdom in his own mind. But he was a ruthless dictator who sought to destroy the lives of others—just because he could.

How does one make sense of the insensible? You cannot. We must accept it for what it is. In time, we may hear of different theoretical explanations—perhaps he was bullied, perhaps he suffered from some mental illness, perhaps he was on the verge of bankruptcy, perhaps he hated people. Whatever the conjecture, the fact remains that nothing, absolutely nothing, justifies what he did. It is simply incomprehensible. The only explanation that has any semblance for me, at least, is that this man was possessed by very dark forces of evil.

The anecdote of Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire is apt:

*After one of my many presentations following my return from Rwanda, a Canadian Forces padre asked me how, after all I had seen and experienced, I could still believe in God. I answered that I know there is a God because in Rwanda I shook hands with the devil. I have seen him, I have smelled him, and I have touched him. I know the devil exists, and therefore I know there is a God.*

The general’s thoughts are no doubt being repeated by us all as we consider the dramatic events of 2017 just past. We can know that despite the apparent “successes” of the devil—the Lord has conquered the world in the sending of His Son giving us the opportunity to survive this insanity by maintaining our own personal walk with Him day by day. ■

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*Barry W. Bussey is director of Legal Affairs at Canadian Council of Christian Charities. His opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of his employer. He blogs at [lawandreligion.org](http://lawandreligion.org).*

<sup>1</sup>“477 Days, 521 Mass Shootings, Zero Action From Congress,” *New York Times*, Oct. 2, 2017, [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/02/opinion/editorials/mass-shootings-congress.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/02/opinion/editorials/mass-shootings-congress.html)

<sup>2</sup>“The Quebec City Mosque Attack: What We Know So Far,” *The Globe and Mail*, Jan. 30, 2017, <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/quebec-city-mosque-shooting-what-we-know-so-far/article33826078/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>



# Growing Up Millennial



*"I need to give myself  
a little bit of Christmas."*

## 'Tis the Season

**O**ver a course of less than two weeks while on vacation, I visited four Christmas stores. They were all filled with different (but vaguely the same) things. Decorations that sparkled, that twinkled, that twirled. Reindeer and gingerbread. Polar bears. Moose. Tinsel and garland and bows and ribbons. And, honestly, it was all really pretty.

My mom loves Christmas, and it has rubbed off on me. It's one of my favourite times of the year. Part of that is because of how festive everything looks. Part of that is because it's the time of year when it's 100 percent acceptable to drink caramel brûlée lattes, peppermint hot chocolate, and white chocolate mochas. But most of it is because of the break it puts in my life.

Christmas is one of the few times of the year when I don't have anything to do. I don't have exams to study for. I don't have to worry about anything for almost a month. I get to be with my family and sleep in and relax and eat Christmas food and decorate. I miss my university friends, of course, but I get to look forward to seeing them after Christmas.

I can picture everything about Christmas at my house: the decor. Family over and laughing. Gift giving and opening. The smells and the joy that oozes out of everything. The relaxed feeling everyone seems to have.

That's not a bad thing, in my world. Feeling content and unwinding is good for me. But I wish I could feel like that more. I wish I could take a step back sometimes from

my life—more often than I do—and just breathe.

In today's hectic world, it seems as if the only time I can do that is at Christmas. In some ways that's true. It's the only time when everything around me is festive, and it's the only time that I'm home from school while everyone else is home from school. It's the only time that the cold doesn't bother me.

But when I think about it, I guess I should look at certain aspects of Christmastime that I can find in my everyday life. It kind of feels impossible, with the holidays looming around me, but I know that's not true. Christmas gives me a chance to step back, and in my daily living, sometimes I need to take a step back, and stop wishing for Christmas to come. I need to give myself a little bit of Christmas.

One way I found I could do that was to unwind, sometimes with drawing. Sometimes with Netflix. Sometimes by just going out for coffee or tea or talking with friends. It brings the same sense of peace as Christmas does, just in smaller doses.

Christmastime is when I fully get to relax. I get to chill. I get to feel like nothing can stop me or get to me. I am totally at peace. I love that feeling. The hard part of it is finding that feeling in my typical life, but it's possible. Finding a little bit of Christmas is, in a strange way, always possible. ■

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





Photo: Keith Chant

# Almost vegan

**R**aw cashews are a very versatile ingredient in the vegan kitchen. If you have a high-speed blender (such as a Blendtec or Vitamix), you can process the raw cashews directly; however, if using a regular blender, soak the cashews overnight to soften them and then drain before using.

This recipe may seem complex at first glance, but it is a simple recipe to throw together. Hit blend and then heat for a few minutes before serving. This goes well with pasta or our roasted spaghetti squash from last month. ■

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

## Creamy Garlic Alfredo Sauce

### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups (750 ml) almond milk
- 1 can coconut milk
- ½ cup (125 ml) olive oil
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) lemon juice
- 4 tsp (20 ml) soy sauce
- ½ tsp (2.5 ml) prepared mustard
- 3 Tbsp (45 ml) peanut butter
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
- 4–6 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1½ cups (375 ml) raw cashews
- 3 Tbsp (45 ml) nutritional yeast
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 1½ tsp (7.5 ml) paprika
- dash of Tabasco sauce
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Set aside 1½ cups of almond milk.
- Add remaining almond milk and all other ingredients to blender in order listed. Blend until smooth and hot (if using a Blendtec, use the “Soups” setting).
- Transfer to medium pot, add the remaining almond milk, and bring to a simmer—stirring constantly, to prevent sticking and/or burning.



# Compelled to Give

Since I lived in central Newfoundland, it was a five-hour drive to St. John's. It was one of those rare occasions when I was in town. As I drove down Topsail Road, I saw the Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) sign, and the Holy Spirit impressed me—telling me to go in and give them \$5,000! At the time, I didn't know what VOAR was or even that they had been raising money to expand. I just knew that God had said "Go."

I located the VOAR office and made my way downstairs. First, I asked what was going on and what they were all about, and they told me. Then I told them about the gift that I had been instructed to give. It was a gift of faith, as I did not have the money at the time. I promised that I would have it in a month—and I did. God provided.

When I had found VOAR, they were a bit discouraged with the giving at the time, and they told me later that this gift was received as an encouragement to continue, and that encouragement was even more important than



the money. I continued to help, once I knew about the wonderful work VOAR was doing, to help set the radio station up in Gander.

My initial gift of obedience has opened God's blessing in my life and been an encouragement to give even more.

I have learned that you can't outgive God. ■

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*Warren Strong is a Christian businessman, and since this happened in 2002, he has faithfully supported VOAR.*

*VOAR appreciates Warren's willingness to obey God's voice and pray that his story will help support you as you respond to His calling on your life.*



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE  
ROAD WITH

Becky

*What does Jesus want for Christmas?*

AT COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH IN ALBERTA,  
BOWMANVILLE CHURCH IN ONTARIO, AND  
CORNERSTONE CHURCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

**Shannon Bechthold:** "Unity, acceptance, tolerance, forgiveness, love."

**Yvonne Novlesky:** "Our appreciation for all He has done for us."

**Rachel Cote:** "For people to be happy."





Brittany Brewer, age 17, from Lumby, British Columbia, participating in the Ultimate Workout in Panama.

# A Teen Mission to Panama

Maranatha Volunteers International

*"I've done a lot of things with the church, but the Ultimate Workout was probably the most spiritual thing I have ever been on."*

The Ultimate Workout, Maranatha Volunteers International's mission trip exclusively for teenagers, was an experience that Brittany Brewer had been wanting to try for years. She had heard about it through Maranatha's quarterly publication, and a teens-only project sounded interesting.

"I've been on a mission trip before, but I really wanted to do this project because it was with kids my own age," says Brittany, a member of the Mabel Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lumby, B.C., where she and her sister are the only two young people in the congregation. "I wanted to meet different people while

being on a mission trip."

But Ultimate Workout always seemed to conflict with the dates of Canada's campmeeting, and Brittany kept having to put off the mission trip. Then, in 2017, she saw an opening when campmeeting was moved. In the eleventh hour, Brittany, her sister, and a cousin registered and headed for David, Panama.

In Panama, Brittany joined 125 volunteers in constructing a school, church, and community services building, in addition to painting existing churches and organizing outreach. The teens also worked with medical professionals to operate a medical clinic in various communities. Volunteers apply for a position on the



medical team in advance, and the experience has been invaluable in offering teens a peek into a career in the health field.

Brittany was assigned to building a school in a neighbourhood called Algarobas. She and her fellow volunteers helped to pour the foundation for a large school building, which will be the first private and only school in the region. The crew also held children's ministry programs and conducted other outreach in the area.

Each day on the Ultimate Workout was bookended with worship. In the mornings and evenings, everyone gathered to in the morning and evenings for praise, worship, and sharing time. The project culminated in a communion and foot washing service for the volunteers.

"I've done a lot of things with the church, but the Ultimate Workout was probably the most spiritual thing I have ever been on," says Brittany. "My relationship with God is stronger now. I want to go on more mission trips and help people. I've learned to let God lead me, and I want to do what He wants for my life."

This year's volunteers came from all over the world, representing eight countries, including the United States, England, and Bermuda. Nine volunteers were from Canada, and it's a number that Brittany hopes will increase next summer, when Ultimate Workout heads to Bolivia.

Says Brittany, "This was the best experience I've ever had in my entire life. It was so much fun and a huge blessing. I definitely cannot wait until the next Ultimate Workout. I'm already planning it with my cousin, my other two cousins are thinking about it, and we've been telling our friends. Who knows how many people will come from Canada next year!"

She believes it's an experience not to be missed, no matter where you live.

"I think that every teenager should try it out because it's definitely life changing," says Brittany. "It's an eye-opener to see different cultures, to see how people live in different countries, and to be able to help them. You'll also be in a better relationship with God."

This is Maranatha's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Ultimate Workout. The experience invites teenagers in high school, aged 14 to 18, to join volunteers from around the world in building churches and schools. For 10 days, participants surrender electronics and the comforts of home to live in rustic conditions and focus solely on service and their connection with God. Typically, the projects take place outside of North America; next year the Ultimate Workout will be in two locations: Bolivia and the United States. To learn more about the Ultimate Workout, go to [www.ultimateworkout.org](http://www.ultimateworkout.org). ■

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*Julie Z. Lee is Vice President of Marketing at Maranatha Volunteers International.*



**Canadian volunteers from left to right: (back row) Braden Eguia, Justin Proulx, Joshua Milmine, Evelin Velinova, Ebony Morris; (front row) Elyssa Proulx, Kelsi Brewer, Brittney Brewer, Sierra McComb.**



**Ultimate Workout volunteers come from all over the world. This year eight countries were represented. Nine volunteers were from Canada. Here volunteers are seen pouring floors for the new building.**

Photo: Edward Jensen

Photo: Edward Jensen



BY BILL GERBER

# THE Christmas PRAYER

*I like Christmas.* I look forward to it every year. The music. The Nativity. Family. Memories. Even with all the commercialization, if you look hard enough, you can still find the narrative, in its purity, of Jesus coming as a babe to redeem us. And amidst all the chaos of this world, for a few weeks it seems that people are kinder, friendlier, and more likely to reach out to others with a helping hand.

As December rolls around, I have consciously tried to be that helping hand. Sometimes opportunity knocks; sometimes it takes searching and planning. Sometimes it comes unexpected.







## December 25, 2016.

We had our immediate-family Christmas on Christmas Eve. The plan for Christmas morning was to not rush. We would get up, enjoy the morning, pack the car, leave by 12 noon, and drive three and a half hours to see my mom and all the kinfolk at the big Christmas dinner at 3:30. That was the agreed-upon plan.

As the one who gets blamed most often for derailing the schedule, I was admonished in no uncertain terms to “not make us late” this time.

### II a.m.

At 11 a.m., I started the pretrip “dad” car-check routine. Wipers good? Washer fluid full? Oil good? Car interior clean? Tire pressures were ... down. Oh-oh. Four out of five ... not bad, so I poked my head in the door of the house and announced I was off to top up the tires. A chorus of “Hurry! Don’t be long!” followed me out the door. A short five-minute drive, and I was at the garage that had the only free air in town.

### II:20 a.m.

At 11:20, I arrived at the garage and saw a pickup truck parked right in the way of the air. It was a midsized extended-cab truck with the company name “Fortis” written on the door (Fortis is the power company here in British Columbia). There was a woman busy looking for something in the extended part of the cab. I assumed she was looking for her tire-pressure gauge. I waited patiently, glancing at my watch, watching.

After about five minutes with no change in the situation, I could wait no more. I approached the lady and asked her if she was looking for her tire-pressure gauge, at the same time offering her to use mine. She said no; it turned out she had a badly leaking tire. She had called around, but since it was Christmas Day, everything was closed. She lived just a half hour away but was on her way to Vernon (just over four hours’ drive) to surprise her daughter on Christmas. She had been looking for a tire repair kit in her borrowed company truck. She did not have a full-size spare.

I moved my car to within centimetres of her bumper, and it all made sense now as to how I was going to go about it—I was determined the air hose would reach if I navigated creatively and cautiously around her truck. But the thought that immediately popped into my head was that I had a tire repair kit in my car—my car at home. I glanced at my watch. It was 11:30.

Oh boy, what to do. I had had this patch kit in my car for years, ready to help, anyone, everyone. I had travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres. Years had passed. I had used it only once. I had four more

potential tire repairs hibernating in my trunk. As this lady kept searching through the tools and supplies in her truck, and as I kept inflating my tires, the possible logistics of helping her and still meeting my family’s departure deadline were racing through my head.

Should I help her? Should I not? Should I mention I have a tire repair kit? Should I not? If I did, how would it play out? Every scenario would take time—too much time. Yet, as I thought of her plans to surprise her daughter on Christmas Day as opposed to driving back home emotionally distraught, I knew I *had* to help. I rationalized ... I had helped fix one tire before; I was a seasoned pro now. We could fix her tire and have her back on the road in a matter of minutes.

So, as I was putting the air hose back, I told this lady that I had a tire repair kit and she could follow me home. She was quite happy to hear this, and after we exchanged names, Colleen followed me home.

### II:45 a.m.

At 11:45, we pulled into my driveway.

It was her front passenger-side tire. I got Colleen to pull in just far enough so the leak was on the top and then got her to turn her tires extremely to the left to expose the area. And there was the problem: a large screw was in the tire.

Now, with these repair kits, the concept is that you actually put a plug into the hole. You do not take the tire off the rim to patch it—because that would require tire shop equipment. But how it works is that you have this awl-type tool that has a very sharp point. The shaft is very rough, like a coarse file, and on the other end is a handle. You push this into the leaking area repeatedly and rapidly and actually first make the hole bigger. Then you take another tool, also with a handle but with two little pincers on the other end; load a sticky, goopy length of cord in to it; and push this into the enlarged hole, slowly, until half of the sticky, goopy cord is in the tire and half is on the outside of the tire. It acts as a plug, and it works quite well.

Colleen had never seen this done before, and in no time she was on YouTube looking up how it was done. I, of course, having done this before, didn’t feel I needed to be coached. I got my kit out and promptly set to work. I pulled the screw out with needle-nose pliers, then set to work rasping the hole out, making it bigger so the other pincer tool could fit in. All was going well, except that the pincer tool wouldn’t push in. I tried and tried, and no luck. Well, logic demanded that I make the hole bigger. So I rasped it out and made it bigger. Of course, each time I did this, the air in the tire was releasing faster, adding a little anxiousness to the moment.



## 12 p.m.

The time was now 12 noon. I could feel the eyes on us from inside the house.

Even with the enlarged hole, the pincer tool and cord wouldn't go in, so I went and got a hammer. Hammers can fix so many problems. I started to hit the pincer tool handle. No luck. I started to pound on the pincer tool handle. No luck. I was starting to get concerned. I hit harder, but all that happened was that the handle on the pincer tool broke. Oh-oh. I went to get some vise-grips to hold the tool so I could hammer on it. Then I went to get some gloves because my aim was dubious, and hitting my hand would be painful.

However, this was not going as planned. Between watching tire repair segments on YouTube, Colleen was looking for more tools in her truck, any tools—a “wonder” tool—that would help us accomplish our task. The tire was getting quite low now as the air was constantly escaping. I went into the garage and brought out my little compressor and an extension cord. I reasoned that the pincer tool wouldn't go in because the tire pressure was too low. But this did not help.

WD-40. Grease. Nothing was helping. The pincer tool simply wouldn't go in.

## 12:15 p.m.

At 12:15, I made the hole bigger yet. Colleen was bringing tools out of her truck. I was bringing tools out of my garage. Now we had quite the tool display. Hers were on the hood of her truck. Mine were lying around on the ground.

I tried. She tried. The pincer tool would not go in. Colleen had this nervous laugh, and it was becoming more and more frequent. I was getting worried. No matter what tool we tried or what method we tried, nothing was working.

## 12:30 p.m.

12:30. Half an hour past departure time. The family sent a scout out to check on me to see when I would be done.

I was kneeling beside the tire. Tools everywhere. I could not leave this lady in our driveway with a gale-force leak escaping her tire. I even tried calling a mechanic/tire guy who was my friend. No answer. Colleen continued to look for a tool that didn't exist, laughing even more nervously. I was alone by the tire. I felt totally defeated.

In despair, kneeling beside the tire, all options exhausted, I prayed. I said, “God, I have no clue what to do. I cannot do this myself. I cannot leave Colleen here in my driveway. We need to go. What am I to do? Please help me.”



The repair on Colleen's tire.

I don't recall the exact timing following my prayer, but I do remember that one of my next thoughts was to get a bigger hammer. I have always heard that the Lord uses us where we are at, and I guess with all the pounding on that pincer I had been doing, I was qualified to use a bigger hammer.

I walked into my garage, picked up my splitting maul, which is half sledgehammer, half wood-splitting tool. I came back out. And one, two, three taps—and the pincer tool went in so easily that it went too far. I pulled the tool out, reloaded another sticky, goopy cord in it, and in seconds had it installed perfectly in the tire.

I could not believe it. I just could not believe it. It had gone in *so* easily. I was *so* happy. Colleen was *so* happy. Her nervous laugh was now back to normal. I whispered a sincere, heartfelt prayer of thanks as we gathered up our array of tools and put them back.

## 12:40 p.m.

It was now 12:40. She offered me some cash, and I declined. I just said to pay it forward. We wished each other a merry Christmas. She gave me a hug of gratitude and then drove away.

My family left home about half an hour later. We were not late for dinner. Dinner was late. We passed Colleen along the way as we were travelling the same direction. Looked as if she would make it to dinner with her daughter. ■

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*Bill Gerber is camp director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia.*





# Spiderman Comes to Church

*As Nathan talked about his powers, she felt an overwhelming desire to leave.*

**M**arika Jackman, a student with Canada Youth Challenge (CYC), was sure the young man standing in front of her would be too busy to listen to what she had to say. He had a list in his hand, and it seemed he was about to run some errands. Still, she began her presentation and showed him the book *Foods That Heal*. The man, Nathan,\* changed topics right away. He started talking about the government, the state of our world, and the troubles we were experiencing. Then suddenly, he said, “You know, I have telepathic powers.” Marika was seized with fear. As Nathan talked about his powers, she felt an overwhelming desire to leave. But strangely, she felt a clear and distinct impression that said, simply, “Stay.”

Marika stayed and listened, and at some point in the conversation, she pulled out the book *The Great Controversy* and shared it with Nathan. He took the book, flipped it over, and read the summary on the back. Then, looking up at her, he said, “You may not believe this, but just a week ago I was thinking about some of the issues this book is talking about. Then you came to my door and you gave me this book. This was meant to be.”

Marika and Nathan exchanged contact information, and that very night, he started to read *The Great Controversy*. He read it every day that week, and throughout the week, the two talked together about the things he was learning. Then one day he asked, “What church are you from?”

“I’m Seventh-day Adventist,” Marika replied.

“Oh, I’ve heard about Seventh-day Adventists,” he said. “You guys are really healthy.”

They talked for a little while about the church. Then Marika asked, “Would you like to come to our church this Saturday?” Nathan wanted to come but explained he had a prior commitment. He performed on weekends as Spiderman for children’s birthday parties, and he had two parties that Saturday, one at 1 p.m. and one at 4 p.m. Marika suggested he come before the first party, but Nathan said that would work only if the church was close to where the birthday party was taking place. As it turned out, the party was just two blocks away from the church.

That Saturday Nathan came to church and sat with Marika. When the congregation sang, he opened the hymnal and sang too. When the pastor preached, Nathan opened the Bible and looked up the texts. He was interested and enthusiastic, and at one point, he said, “This church is what a church is supposed to be. The Catholic Church has a lot of idols, but you guys don’t have any, except one.” The “idol” he was referring to was a picture he had seen of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar. Marika explained that it came from the Bible and represented the rise and fall of nations. “That’s sort of like what *The Great Controversy* was talking about!” Nathan said.

Midway through the service, Nathan left the sanctuary and changed into his costume. As he headed for his party, some kids spotted him in the parking lot and cried, “Yay, Spiderman came to church!”

“Stay.” In that voice Marika heard the voice of the Holy Spirit as she had never heard it before. And though she felt uncomfortable, though everything in her told her to leave, she decided to obey. Because she did, God was able to plant a seed in Nathan’s heart. Because she did, she and Nathan may one day stand at the Tree of Life and joyfully remember the day Spiderman came to church. ■

*Marika Jackman shared her story with Lifestyle Canada, Canada’s literature evangelism ministry that operates Canada Youth Challenge.*

\*Not his real name.

To learn more about Lifestyle Canada and CYC, please visit [lifestylecanada.org](http://lifestylecanada.org), or contact us at [mail@lifestylecanada.org](mailto:mail@lifestylecanada.org).





*"The Bible program this year was awesome! The Encounter Bible curriculum is really good; it doesn't talk about abstract and complicated concepts in the Bible; rather, it dwells more on God's character and getting to know God as a friend and accepting Jesus as our Saviour. I really have learned a lot, and it has strengthened my faith in what I believe and why I believe it."*—Daniel, WCAS Grade 9 student

*"It is nice that I can work at my own pace, and yet, I am pushed to keep on top of things. It makes me have to be well organized, responsible, and independent."*—Heather, WCAS Grade 11 student

## Reducing the Gaps

*"Because of the distance learning system, I can keep up with this curriculum and be able to do school anywhere I am (as long as there is WiFi)."*—Jewel, WCAS Grade 9 student

*"The best thing about distance learning for me is that it is so flexible. I can go on a trip, and I can still be at my online classes when I am on the road, in another city, or in a learning centre."*—Nathan, WCAS Grade 9 student



Think back to when you were a student, sitting in your English, math, Bible, or science class. What comes to mind? Your teacher standing up front? Your classmates sitting around you? Textbooks and papers piled on your desk? Your best friend sneaking you a handwritten note when the teacher looks away? Students raising their hands eagerly for a chance to speak?

These are all classic images of a brick-and-mortar schoolroom, but what does learning in a 21<sup>st</sup> century online classroom look like at West Coast Adventist School (WCAS)? Students from all over British Columbia, as well as those who travel out of province, meet in a virtual online classroom. Just like in a real-world classroom,

students communicate with one another and their instructors, but they use chat boards and webcam microphones during live video streaming. A WCAS virtual classroom is accessible to anyone who has a computer, tablet, or smartphone, making education obtainable from anywhere at any time.

The distance-learning program at West Coast Adventist School has reduced the gaps in coverage of Seventh-day Adventist education. Where brick-and-mortar schools do not exist or can't be operated, we can reach students. WCAS provides current inquiry-based learning opportunities that prepare students to become better digital citizens. Online learning provides an effective learning experience through

interactive modules, narrated digital texts, and multimedia tools that help students experience and retain information while focusing on various curricular big ideas. In addition to the sharing of knowledge in mathematics, science, and language, West Coast Adventist School strives to educate students in both the physical and spiritual topics they will need to succeed in life.

An educational experience with WCAS prepares students to more fully serve Him, the source of all knowledge and wisdom. At WCAS this is our vision; this our mandate. ■

*Erin Sutherland and Sara Morrison are both teachers at West Coast Adventist School.*



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

# Influence



**“INFLUENCE,” THE THEME OF THIS YEAR’S YOUTH RALLY** at Kingsway College, left a profound impression on those of us who participated in the events over the course of the weekend. The weekend began Friday evening in the sanctuary of College Park Church. The praise team consisted of our community church’s youth, who led out in a few praise songs and the theme song, “Holiness.”

We then took part in an icebreaker activity run by the youth from Kendalwood youth group. Once we had warmed up to those who had come from near and far, Jorge Torres delivered a message that really held our attention. He touched on his personal faith journey from the world to the church. He spoke about things many of us had never experienced but were able to grasp. When he concluded his discussion, he made an appeal, and many, if not most, of the youth in the room answered the call and proceeded to the front.

The following day began bright and early on a beautiful yet brisk Sabbath morning. The flood of Kingsway students made a trek toward the Trinity Pentecostal Church as the local youth of the east Ontario Conference churches drove into the parking lot; we started the long day off to a good start: with worship. Breaking off into large groups, we discussed spiritual gifts and how they can be used to glorify God. Following the Sabbath school challenge, the service began with music, Scripture, and was briefly followed by Torres’s continuation of his story.

Following lunch, we made our procession to the streets of downtown Oshawa by bus. Every group formulated plans on how to reach the general public in positive

ways: e.g., leaving kind notes on cars, giving free hugs, and “Honk 4 Jesus” posters. At first, my group seemed like pure confusion, but as time passed, we were able to lessen the confusion. When we got back to our starting point, we met up with a couple other groups. We sang uplifting and energetic songs at the corner of the street, proudly exclaiming our love for Christ. As we waved our signs, we were able to attract people who possibly had the same beliefs as us, through just the honk of their cars.

Following all of the excitement, we opened the evening program with songs of praise and multiple special-music numbers. What caught my eye was a man off to the side of the group. His hair was a bit messy, and his clothes were worn out. He wasn’t anyone we recognized, but that didn’t stop him from worshipping with arms open wide and one knee bowed. Three boys walked in his direction, getting to know who he was and possibly why he was where he was at that particular time. The conversation seemed to go on for the course of the program.

As Matthew 25:23 says, “You have been faithful with few things; I will put you in charge of many things” (NIV). Service doesn’t need to be a large adventure; it can begin with picking up garbage in a park and eventually grow to mission work in Asia. What’s important is simply to make that first step by asking the Holy Spirit what He wants of you. ■

*Nyarock Gatluak is a Grade 12 student attending Kingsway College.*



# First-Grader Asks About Man “Hanging on That Wood”



**Suzann Self, 47, started her teaching career at MANS fresh out of university. She thought that everybody knew Jesus and would recognize a picture of Him hanging on the cross.**

Teacher Suzann Self finds that children in her Grade 1 class have never heard about Jesus. Below is the story of Slade, who, for family reasons, had been away from Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) for three years but returned this fall. His story shows the long-term impact MANS is making: Now in Grade 5, Slade is a kind, considerate, and academically strong preteen who asks deep spiritual questions and wants to know how he can teach others about Jesus.

Little Slade raised his hand in the middle of the Grade 1 math lesson.

“Teacher, who is that Man?” he said, pointing to a picture on the classroom wall. “Why is He hanging on that wood?”

The question surprised Suzann Self, 47, who teaches Grade 1 at MANS. She thought that everybody knew Jesus and would recognize a picture of Him hanging on the cross.

“That’s Jesus,” she said.

Slade looked confused. He had never heard of Jesus.

Suzann prayed silently. “Thank you, God, for this opportunity to teach this young boy about You,” she prayed. “This is the first time that Slade has heard about You, and he is curious. Give me the right words to say.”

She took a deep breath. She would have to stop the math lesson to explain why Jesus was hanging on the piece of wood. Suzann asked the children to close their books and pay attention.

“It started with Adam and Eve,” she said. “God created Adam and Eve in a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. But our first parents disobeyed God, and they had to leave the garden. Because they disobeyed, we have many problems in the world.”

Slade and the other children listened intently.

“But God loved Adam and Eve, and He loves us, and He wants us to be happy,” the teacher said. “We are His children, and He wants, more than anything, for us to be in heaven with Him one day.”

To make that possible, she said God had to send his Son, Jesus, to earth to die for our sins. Suzann told how Jesus was born and grew up.

“Then Jesus died on that wood because He wants us to be in heaven,” she said.

Slade asked many more questions about Jesus that school year. He came back to the school for Grade 2, but then he disappeared. Suzann didn’t know what had happened to him. But she said she was glad that she had been able to share the story of Jesus with him in Grade 1.

“Even though we seem to have churches on every corner in North America, this boy first learned about Jesus in our school,” she said. “I realized that time is really, really precious because we don’t know from day to day how long children will be here. Many children change homes throughout the year. They might study in the school for only three months, six months, or a year and then leave. I pray every day that God will bring children here who need to hear about Him.”

Slade is evidence that He does. ■

*Andrew McChesney is the editor of [adventmission.org](http://adventmission.org).*



# Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

*"The Hilltop Bakery has provided me with a broader understanding of business and all the hard work that is needed to make one work."*

For students like Fafali Mawutor, working at Parkview Adventist Academy's (PAA) Hilltop Bakery has provided not only an on-campus employment opportunity but also the chance to gain hands-on business experience. "At the Hilltop Bakery, I have learned the great value of having opinions and the virtue of hard work," says Mawutor who, along with her fellow employees, are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the bakery.

Since opening in the spring of 2017, the Hilltop Bakery has provided academy students with the opportunity to participate in all aspects of running the business while earning minimum wage (currently \$13.60 per hour). Principal Angie Ward explains, "The bakery was started to create a whole-person education opportunity.

"Since there was already a commercial bakery on campus that was not being utilized, and we had students who needed employment and had extra time on the weekends, it seemed like a positive venture," she said.

The bakery was already fully equipped, so the startup costs were very low. Burman University administration and cafeteria managers worked closely with PAA administration and the student bakers to ensure that a solid business plan was in place prior to startup. The business plan also included an educational component.

Students attend a special marketing-for-small-business class, earning three work-study credits, and participate in a practicum before joining the bakery staff. They learn about different marketing strategies and successful business planning, applying these principles to running the bakery. They are involved in every aspect of the business, from planning, to marketing, to product development, distribution, and packaging on an ongoing basis. Moreover, 100 percent of all monies raised help to fund student employment.

"Between the experience of our assistant dean in teaching Communications and Marketing for Small Business courses, an experienced baker with recipes willing to train, and the opportunity to provide education credits towards graduation,



**Darlinne Soto (Class of 2018), business manager for the Hilltop Bakery.**

it was ideal to start," added Ward. "Students love the idea of business and baking. Our customers are great too! It really has been a win-win for all involved."

Hilltop bakery products are sold at various locations on the Burman University campus, including the Gwen Bader Fitness Centre, Maple Hall, PAA, and at the ABC (Adventist Book Centre) store. Some items are also available for sale on the ABC truck. Students have also had the opportunity to cater for several special functions. Since the bakery is a not-for-profit venture, products are sold at cost. All baked goods are made without preservatives or additives, so the students continually adjust their distribution to ensure that items stay fresh for customers.

"Campus employment is a wonderful way for students to understand the value of their education and how time management creates success," says Ward. "Most students who take a full load of classes and work seem to actually get better grades than the students with lighter loads and no work.

"It doesn't make sense, but I believe campus employment creates a positive work ethic in students," she concludes. "They are working with supervisors who understand student experience and needs. It's a winning combination."

If you would like to know more about the bakery, visit the Hilltop Bakery Facebook page for a listing of current products or call Parkview Adventist Academy at 403-782-3381. ■

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*Patti Smedley is the assistant dean at Parkview Adventist Academy.*





# What Matters Most to You?



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*Charles Spurgeon*

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Anna and Allen Heinrichs

# Finding Truth

*"...I told him I would talk to my priest and ask him what the true Bible Sabbath was."*

**M**y story begins in 1981, when our first son was born. I was a practising Catholic. My husband, Allen, had not been a churchgoer but had been raised to believe in God and to search for truth. When Allen was a young boy, he had a difficult experience in the Catholic school he attended; they treated the Protestant students unkindly.

This experience had left a poor taste in his mouth, and he was distraught at the thought of his son being raised a Catholic.

Allen found a free Bible magazine called *The Plain*

*Truth*, and after reading the articles, he sent for the free Bible studies. He learned of the Sabbath, and it made sense to him. He started sharing with me, telling me I was attending church on the wrong day. I laughed at him and said, "How can so many people be wrong? Everyone goes to church on Sunday!" Week after week he drove me crazy to the point that I told him I would talk to my priest and ask him what the true Bible Sabbath was.

Allen said, "He'll never tell you the truth."

The next Sunday after mass, I asked our priest,



“What day is the true Bible Sabbath?”

The priest quickly replied, “Saturday is the Bible Sabbath.”

I asked him, “Why, then, do we attend church on Sunday?”

He said that the Catholic Church had the authority to change the day from Saturday to Sunday in honour of the resurrection. Instantly, I knew my husband had been right.

We searched for a Sabbath-keeping church and found none. We moved to the small community of McKenzie, B.C., where Allen flew for a small flying outfit. It was just a hole in the wall, and I hated it. It was a lumber mill community with dirty streets, and the only thing going for it was the local community centre.

To keep myself busy, I would go swimming at the recreation centre, where I met a young woman named Pat Ratzlaf. We became fast friends. Her husband was the butcher at the local grocery store, and she was the meat wrapper. Pat and I chatted at the meat counter and discussed our choices of meat. I was complaining that the cheapest meat was one we did not eat. I told her that the Bible stated that certain foods were unfit to eat. Any animal that didn't have a cloven hoof or didn't chew the cud was unclean for us. I told her also that we did not eat any seafood that did not have scales and fins. She asked me what church I belonged to, and I said none. Pat told me that she and her husband did not eat these unclean foods either and that she was a Seventh-day Adventist. I asked her, “What is a Seventh-day Adventist?” She said they worshipped on Saturday, the Bible Sabbath. I could not believe my ears. I had been searching for such a church, and here in this small community there were three Sabbath-keeping families but no church.

I was eager to know these people and what they believed. Pat and her husband, Doug, were new Christians—only in the church one year. Before meeting me, they could not understand why they had been put “in this God-forsaken place.” Now they knew! It had been because they needed to help me learn biblical truth. They contacted David Giles, pastor of the Chetwyn church at the time, approximately two hours east of McKenzie. He would drive four hours round-trip to meet with me each week for Bible studies. I was so impressed that he thought I was worth the time and effort! I started studying Daniel and Revelation and devoured it.

Even though Allen had introduced me to the Sabbath, he was not convinced that this Seventh-day church was right for us. He fought my excitement and wanted me to slow down. I could not; it was what I wanted.

After studying with Pastor Giles that summer, the pastor agreed that I was ready for baptism. Could I come to Chetwyn next Sabbath to be baptized? Wow, I was excited! I had never attended a Seventh-day Adventist church, and here I was going there for the first time to be baptized—cool!

I walked into the church and could not believe how plain everything looked. No statues, no candles, no pictures on the wall, just plain walls. I was not impressed. But everyone was so excited to meet this new believer, and they welcomed me with open arms. What the place lacked in decorations, the church family made up for in their love and acceptance of me. I went down into the water with a thankful heart and came up singing praises to God with a loud Hallelujah! We had baptism, communion service, and potluck all on my first Sabbath! I was only wishing my husband would have been there to share this amazing experience. I went home that day a new person.

We moved to Summerland, B.C., after Allen's McKenzie job ended, and I started attending the Penticton church. Allen realized that God was leading me and answering my prayers. Tithing was something we had learned during our Bible studies and were convinced that we should faithfully give a tithe. He started feeling strongly that he needed to send our tithe money to my church, even though he was not a member. I told my church family that my husband was a Seventh-day Adventist and that he just didn't know it yet! People would invite us for lunch, but Allen, being shy, refused to go, so I started inviting people home, and he began meeting them on his own turf, and he fell in love with them all.

An evangelist came and presented a 24-night series. I would go home every evening and tell Allen how amazing it was and all the great Bible stuff I was learning. Finally, on night 21 he came. He was not disappointed. The speaker was an old logger, and Allen enjoyed the presentations and wished he had started them from day one. When the pastor asked for people to take a stand for baptism, my husband stood up, and I was shocked. Fifteen months after my baptism, Allen entered the watery grave and dedicated his life along with mine to the Lord.

Life took us to Port Hardy on Vancouver Island for 27 years, where we raised our three sons, Aaron, Andrew, and Anthony. We are proud grandparents of three beautiful boys.

Today we work for the B.C. Conference at Camp Hope, where I am the housekeeping director and Allen works with the maintenance department. ■

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*Anna Heinrichs works for the British Columbia Conference as the housekeeping director for Camp Hope.*



# You Gave Me Confidence

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“THIS TRAINING  
WAS SO PRACTICAL,  
YOU COULD HIT THE  
GROUND RUNNING,  
AND THAT’S EXACTLY  
WHAT I DID.”

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*Melanie Kinch writes from northeastern Alberta, where she is surrounded by several First Nation communities. Elaine Roque writes from Lillooet, B.C., where she operates a “Better Living Centre” for the community, and Samuel Cadiz writes from Winnipeg, Man., where he is a Bible worker serving the First Nations living in city. What do they all have in common? They attended the First Nations Health Coach intensive training intended to prepare people to serve the indigenous peoples of Canada.*

**MELANIE:** “The First Nations Health Coach training was one of those events that will forever change the course of my life. Why? You see, I’ve lived near First Nations peoples for a good portion of my life but never had a real desire to get to know them, until this summer. After a shooting on a nearby reserve, a Facebook post said, ‘Something has to change,’ and this simple phrase deeply touched my heart. Then I met Ed and Cheryl Dunn at the Alberta Conference campmeeting, where they gave me a flyer and simply invited me to apply.

“I tried to put it out of my head, but God had other plans. The day before I left to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua, I saw an Aboriginal man asking for some

help. I thought, *I’m too busy to help*. Have you ever had God scold you? Well, that is what happened to me when He said, ‘Oh really? You can fly halfway around the world to help people, but you aren’t willing to help those right in front of you?’ Ouch! I couldn’t deny it and quickly repented, and that changed my heart. This experience prepared me to see the needs of indigenous people anywhere. I went to Nicaragua so excited to be doing God’s work, all the time knowing that I had a work to do in my own backyard when I returned.

“I answered the call and applied. Then I watched, amazed as the doors just flew open for me. God is so faithful! ... God healed and trained us for ‘a time such as this.’”

**ELAINE:** “This week of intense training was over the top for me in so many ways. It was exciting to be part of a group that seemed to melt into togetherness with an intensity of mission. It truly was a school without any walls of cultural division. Our days began immersed in a Spirit-filled relationship with Jesus by experiencing cooperation with our Creator, understanding the power of our identity, the power of conviction, and the power of living together with Him and one another.

“We had a class on Bible storytelling and ended each day gathered into a circle sharing the basics of the gospel through the art of storytelling and leading people to Jesus Christ. The beginning and ending of each day was like the bread of a sandwich,





The First Nations Health Coach training class and staff.

that made the filling even more desirable and meaningful.

“Our instructors taught the principles of lifestyle coaching, lifestyle diseases, ... treatments, life skills, spiritual well-being, and cultural competency. We were able to practise these skills in a very interactive environment, which has given me the confidence to connect with people using the principles of Healthy Lifestyle Coaching. A crowning moment for me was when our First Nation brothers and sisters were vulnerable enough to share some private, and painful, experiences from their lives. They were so open and accepting of us so we could better understand the difficulties that they face in healing and living day to day. The camaraderie of our week together culminated in an awesome graduation. As a result of this training experience, we have developed lasting relationships.”

**MELANIE:** “We learned how to do a wellness consultation, how to communicate in a respectful way with the First Nations people, we touched on the importance of mental health (with more to come in session 2), forgiveness, and using natural remedies to relieve pain and discomfort. We also learned how to use Bible storytelling to share the Creator’s good news. This is very important in reaching First Nations people, since they use stories in

their teaching.

“This training was so practical, we could hit the ground running, and that’s exactly what I did. I have already done a couple of wellness consultations and have seen many positive results in the participants, such as spending more time with God and eating healthier. One lady texts me almost daily telling me how much her life is improving! Praise God!

“I’ve also spent time at a reserve wellness centre helping out with a diabetes support group and building relationships. I was invited back for the next meeting and also agreed to help with a big event. I am so excited to see what God will do with this amazing opportunity. I feel much more equipped to reach out to First Nations, and I’m so grateful for the training that has given me the confidence to serve.

**SAM:** “I praise the Lord for the opportunity and privilege to attend the [training]. I am blessed. Our indigenous ministry here in Winnipeg is becoming more exciting. In our Bible study, we had two new students. The next week we started another study in a different home with four new students. They are all excited about the new truth of God’s Word. I enjoyed learning the culture and friendship of the First Nation people. By God’s

grace, this humble beginning will expand and become a church someday soon.

“I talked to a supervisor in the Manitoba Corrections today. She is an Ojibwe and responsible for recruiting Native programming to serve the inmates. She wants to use our Adventist DVD series called *Native New Health*. I’m grateful for the confidence and the tools to serve. Thanks, Pastor, for opening the door.

**ELAINE:** “I would encourage anyone who has an interest, to attend this well-organized, thought-provoking program. You’ll come away with something you never had before.”

**SAM:** “I praise the Lord for the opportunity and privilege given to Lloyd and I to attend the First Nations Health Coach training (Wellness Coach 1). Personally, I am blessed. Please give my sincere appreciation and thanks to those who sponsored our scholarship.”

**MELANIE:** “As I mentioned earlier, this training has forever changed my life. So, if God is calling you, maybe it’s time to answer! Yes, it’s scary and exhilarating all at the same time, but God is so faithful and ‘He will never leave you nor forsake you!’ —Hebrews 13:5.” ■



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

## British Columbia

### Reach My World Women's Ministries Retreat in Hope, B.C.



Attendees of the British Columbia Conference Women's Ministry Retreat at Camp Hope.

"Wow, we are actually on our way!"

"Yes, we don't have to cook for a whole weekend!"

"Do you think we can hike to the waterfall?"

This was the excited conversation with the ladies in my van as we travelled with anticipation to the 2017 Women's Ministries Retreat in Hope, B.C. Our anticipation was not disappointed, as we were welcomed with hospitality and delicious food at the Camp Hope Lodge.

This year's Women's Retreat theme, "Reach My World," drew 200-plus women from British Columbia, Alberta, and as far away as Costa Rica to a weekend at the camp with featured speaker Heather-Dawn Small, the director for Women's Ministries at the General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists. Heather-Dawn nurtured the women, reminding us that God is our El Roy—the God who sees us, Immanuel—our God with us, and El Shaddai—our God Almighty. She empowered us by giving multiple ideas along with how-to resources for reaching our world for Jesus. Finally, she challenged each woman present to select one personal method to reach out to her world. We appreciated that she also sent us home with suggestions for putting that plan into action.

Women's retreat is not all about meetings, though. Early-morning devotionals and quiet times by the fireplace bonded our hearts to our God. Mealtimes were packed with great food and provided a time to renew friendships;

a fashion show featuring costumes from many countries set us to tapping our toes and treasuring our diversity; and game night set our sides to hurting from laughter!

A group of ladies did hike to the Waterfall as well as to "Third Ledge" during the weekend, and this was a time to enjoy the crisp air and the beautiful fall colors. As we travelled home, we reflected on how grateful we were for the much-needed time away, for the leadership who had planned the weekend, and for those who "covered for us" while we were away! We welcome any woman, young or old, who has not experienced a women's retreat, to join us next fall at Camp Hope! ■

—Linda Glatts,  
Abbotsford, B.C.



## Alberta

# Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant to Apply for Company Status



Members of the Fort Saskatchewan Seventh-day Adventist Church Plant.

After four years of ongoing mission work, the church family in Fort Saskatchewan is happy to announce that they have reached the numerical point of applying for church company status. Including children, approximately 40 people are attending each Sabbath.

The Fort Saskatchewan church plant project was an ambitious endeavor by the Alberta Conference four years ago to

place a Bible worker and pastor in the area to begin the process of establishing a Seventh-day Adventist church presence.

The work began with door-to-door canvassing to generate Bible study interests, which developed into initiating a variety of felt-need community outreach programs. After the first year, a venue was established to begin holding church services, and the congregation has been growing ever since.

Darrell Beaudoin, local church pastor, says, “Through our ongoing outreach programs we have had 30 to 40 guests frequent our church services, and we look forward to the day when we can see more accessions as a result.” There have been several baptisms from their mission work in Fort Saskatchewan with more underway. ■

—Darrell Beaudoin, pastor

## Broken But Not Forgotten



Edmonton Central Adventist Church members sharing their Sabbath school programs at the Venta Care residence and Dickinsfield Care Centre.

The children of Edmonton Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, as well as 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 this particular Sabbath morning, the children, accompanied by their teachers

and some of the parents, had a visitation date at Venta Care Centre. The senior residents and their staffs at the Venta Care senior home were expecting our



visit by 9:35 a.m. sharp. I quickly looked at the time and realized that if the other children did not arrive soon, we were all going to be late for this special event. I was well aware that none of the children wanted to be left behind, as they had invested so much effort and time preparing for this day.

I took a moment to gather my thoughts and instructed the rest of the group to go ahead while I waited for the others to arrive. Unsure of whether or not they would be coming, I continued to wait and prayed that they would arrive soon. It wasn't long before the rest of the

children and their parents arrived. The expression on the faces of the children said it all when they realized that someone was waiting for them.

Upon our arrival at the centre, the seniors and their staffs were delighted to listen to the children as they sang and played a variety of musical instruments. Staffs cheered as the children repeated Bible verses from memory. At the end of the program, the seniors who were presently or had recently celebrated birthdays were presented with birthday cards and gifts.

This kind of gesture stirred the hearts of these dear souls. I recall one senior

describing how lonely and broken she had 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 (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, Edmonton  
Central Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

## Manitoba-Saskatchewan

### Settling in to New Positions

Our new executive secretary, David Baker, is settling into his new role. He and his family moved to Saskatoon in early September. His daughter, Shannah, is enjoying her new school, and Marie is busy making a new home. Pastor Dave has already travelled to several locations in Man-Sask and says, "My earliest impressions are that the people are very dedicated to God, warm, giving and genuine. The office staff have been very supportive. I see an excellent foundation for our growth as a conference."

Michael Collins preached his first sermon as the new senior pastor of the Pinehouse Drive Church in Saskatoon on September 30. Previously, he was the general vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa Union in Beirut, Lebanon. Collins said he and his wife, Evelyn, "enjoyed the people we met when we first visited Pinehouse, and we like that it's a multicultural church. We've had experience overseas with many different cultures and believe that there's something we can learn from them and maybe something they can learn from us too."

Joel Kim (Kim Duk Soo is his Korean name) started his pastoral positions at Lighthouse of Hope and the Korean Adventist church in Winnipeg in late August. He's been struck by the diversity of the city, saying, "I felt that it can be a city of world evangelism, since it represents so many countries of the world." The dual-church responsibility takes adjustment, but he remarked, "My joy has been doubled." ■

—Brian Bell, Manitoba-Saskatchewan  
Conference Communications Director  
and Lead Storyteller



Top: David, Shannah, and Marie Baker.

Middle: Chloe, Anna, Noah, and Joel Kim.

Right: Michael and Evelyn Collins.



>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Sept. 30, 2017, there were 419 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,015,973. There were 88 loans with a value of \$28,494,212.

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



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## The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Excellence in Education Awards

**The Process for Nominators:**

- Must be a stakeholder (superintendent, principal, school board member, teacher, pastor, school staff member, parent, student, or church member).
- Must not be immediate family members of the nominee.
- If the nominee is a teaching principal, the nominator must select either Teaching or Administrator Award. All letters of recommendation must support the appropriate award they are being nominated for.
- \*Important- please check with local conference or boarding academy to see if the teacher and/or administrator that you want to recommend fulfills the requirements for the Nominee noted below.
- Must complete the Nomination Form, Letter of Recommendation Form, and a Letter of Recommendation.
- Must find two other stakeholders (one from each of the two other categories), unrelated to the nominee, to complete the Letter of Recommendation Form and write Letters of Recommendation. For example, if the nominator is someone from the School Leadership category (Superintendent, Principal, or School Board Member), the remaining two letters of recommendation must be from each of the remaining categories, one from Colleagues (Teacher, Pastor, or School Staff Member) and one from School Community (Parent, Student, or Church Member).

**Nominee:**

- Must have a valid Standard, Professional, or Administrator denominational teaching certificate.
- Recipient of teacher award must have a minimum of one full year teaching experience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Recipient of the administrator award must have a minimum of two years of administrator experience at the current school to be eligible for the administrator award.
- Must be a teacher or administrator who is employed at least half time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must not have received an Excellence Award within the last five years.  
 (A list of teachers who have received awards are posted on CAT~net – <http://catnet.adventist.ca>.)

It is our hope that the SDACC Excellence in Education Award will inspire our teachers and school administrators to always strive for excellence in teaching and service, and that those who are presented with this prestigious award will truly appreciate it as a token of our thanks for having them as excellent teachers in our school system.

Please take the time to nominate your Adventist School teacher or principal today. Nomination forms can be found on CAT~net, <http://catnet.adventist.ca> under Resources- SDACC- Excellence in Education Award or you may call the SDACC Office of Education at 905.433.0011 x2072.

Deadline April 15



■ **Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

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

■ **Obituaries**

**Muriel (née Wournell) Atwood** was born on Oct. 3, 1939, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and died on July 9, 2017, in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. She was actively involved in the Oak Park SDA Church for over 40 years as treasurer, Sabbath School teacher and superintendent, pathfinder leader, and on the social committee. Muriel is predeceased by her parents, Donald and Eva Wournell; and her husband, Freeman Atwood. Surviving: son, David (Tracy) Atwood of Shelburn, Nova Scotia; daughters, Debbie (Russell) Goodwin of Argyle Sound, Nova Scotia, Sandra (Cory) Atwood of Oak Park, Nova Scotia, Rhoda (Murray) Fuller of Williams Lake, British Columbia, and Wanda Atwood of River Head, Nova Scotia; brothers, James (Betty) Wournell of Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, Donald Wournell of Darthmouth, Nova Scotia, and Doug (Carrie) of Darthmouth; sisters, Barbara Atwood of Oak Park, Noreen (Percy) Fleet of Darthmouth, and Nancy Hiscock of Timberlea, Nova Scotia; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Marion (née Soley) Case** was born on Dec. 30, 1930, in Dundas, Ont., and died on Sept. 4, 2017, in Hamilton, Ont. She attended the Hamilton

Mountain SDA Church for over 86 years and held many different positions including assistant treasurer. She was instrumental in recording the churches history for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She supported Christian education and enjoyed attending yearly local campmeetings. Marion is predeceased by her husband, William Case; and her parents, Leslie and Ruby Soley. Surviving: son, David Case of Caledonia, Ont.; daughter, Anne Case of Caledonia; brother, Roy Soley; and sister Ruth (John) Kneller.

**Emma (née Martin) Feyerabend**

was born on Aug. 4, 1923, in Bowness, Alta., and died on Sept. 13, 2017, in Toronto, Ont. She faithfully and totally supported her husband's pastoral and television evangelism ministries in North America and South America. Emma is predeceased by her husband, Henry Feyerabend; and her parents, Julius Martin and Regina Brond. Surviving: daughter, Judy Feyerabend of Elliot Lake, Ont.

**Waldemar (Wally) Kutzner**

was born on May 31, 1935 in Dabrowa, Poland, and died on January 25, 2016, in Ooltewah, Tennessee. Waldemar had a long and successful career as a physician, even serving as medical director of the Life Care Center of Collegedale. His greatest gift was his ability to unconditionally love and serve others. He always felt most fulfilled through interactions with patients, church members, community, and family. Waldemar is predeceased by his brother, Arno Kutzner; and his parents, Adolf and Martha Kutzner. Surviving: wife, Greta Kutzner; daughter, EYonne Kutzner Crook; sons, Mikey (DeAnn) Kutzner and Don (Maria) Kutzner; brother Eric (Donna) Kutzner; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Gladys Annett (née Seimens) Markin**

was born on Dec. 20, 1941, in Waldheim, Sask., and died on Aug. 15, 2017, in Kelowna, BC. Gladys had a beautiful voice and sang in two lady's group in Ruthland and Winfield churches. Gladys is predeceased by her husband, Joseph Markin; son, Justin Markin; stepdaughter, Jody Markin; brothers, Bill and Ed Seimens; and parents Jacob and Annie Seimens. Surviving: daughter, Leanne Jane (Mark) Bunnell of Calgary, Alta.; brother, Ron (Nora) Seimens of Kelowna; sisters, Mabel (Dave) Stubbs of Lumby, BC and Ella (Gordie) Martin of Abbotsford, BC; and two grandchildren.

**Edward (Jim) Wynman** was born on Aug. 30, 1928, in Portland, Oregon, and died on July 24, 2017, in Chilliwack, BC. Jim was a pastor and

a teacher for many years in the British Columbia Conference. Edward is predeceased by his parents, Edward and Geneva Wynman; and sister, Marjorie Wyman. Surviving: wife, Lois Wyman; son, David (RuthAnn) Wyman of Battleground, Washington; daughter, Kathy (Steve) Tatro of Walla Walla, Washington; brothers, Robert (Natalie) Wynman of Yuma, Arizona and Douglas Wynman of Mirrormont, Washington; and four grandchildren.

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## from the editor

# Keeping Christ in Christmas

**I FIND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS** is to practise acts of kindness toward those who are in need, especially those who are lonely or feel forgotten.

Looking at this issue’s cover story, we see a perfect example of someone making a difference by lending a helping hand during the Christmas season. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every believer in Christ had a similar story to share? Taking the opportunity to help others is something that delights the angels and makes them rejoice.

If we look around, I’m sure we can find someone who needs a friend. Perhaps that someone is new to the country and those close to his or her heart are on the other side of the world. Maybe that someone lives in a care facility and gets very few visits a year. Or even a neighbour who has an empty spot at the dinner table because of death, divorce, distance, disappointments, or discouragement. Most of us know at least one person who is alone or lonely this Christmas. Loneliness is a significant contributor to premature deaths. Even if they don’t show it, they may be struggling and it’s our duty to give them the same love our heavenly Father has given us.

We often get inundated by religionists during this time of year on how commercial and secular Christmas is. But if we take a closer look, we can see that it is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect people to Christ through acts of kindness.

This month, I challenge you to do three specific and planned acts of kindness for someone in need. There are three lines at the bottom of the page for you to write them down to remind yourself. We can’t all do everything, but everyone can do something.

If we want to keep Christ in Christmas, we need to do what Christ would do. It’s that simple. ■

Courage,  
Stan Jensen, editor, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*

### THIS SEASON I WILL:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
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