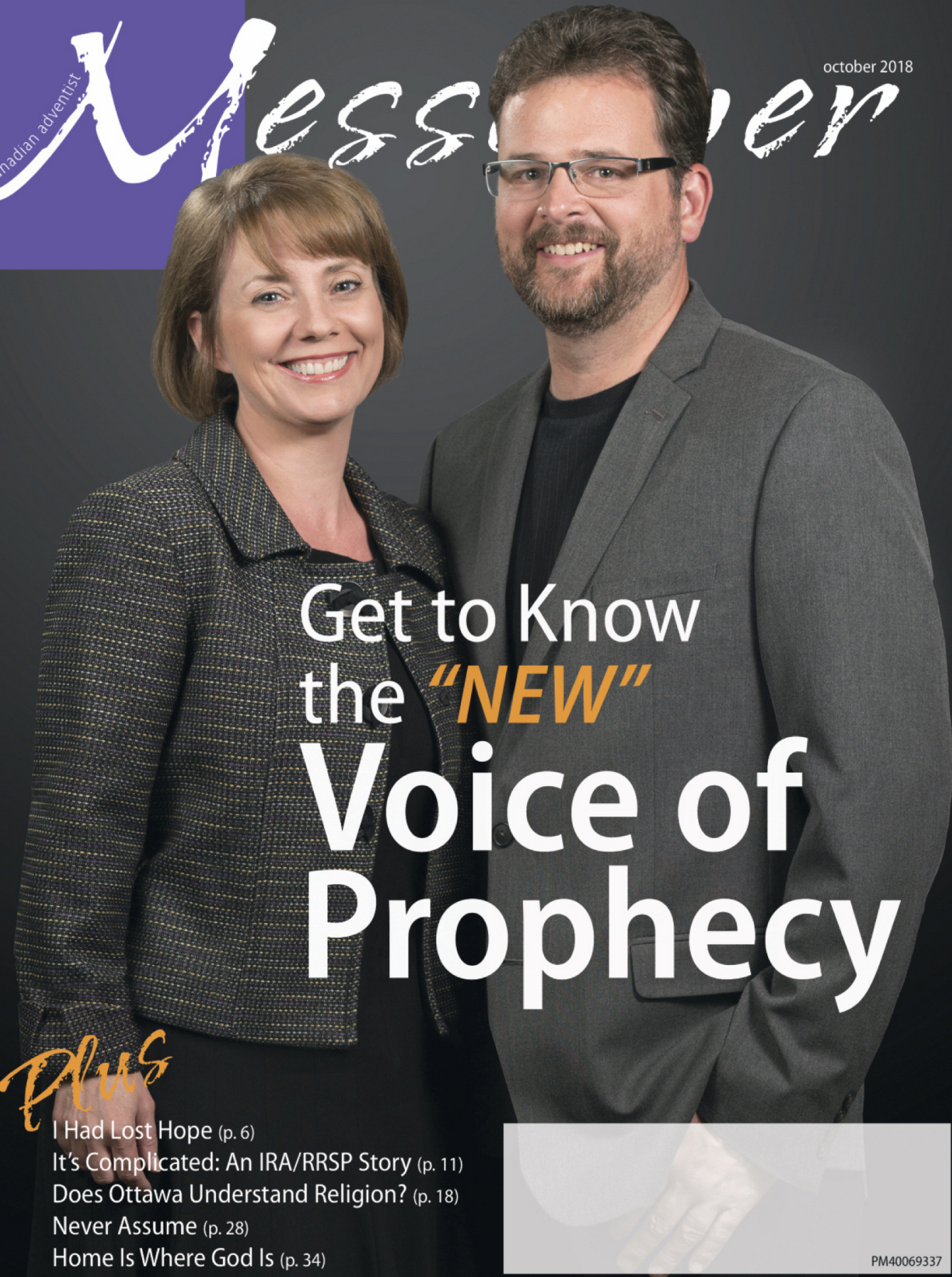


canadian adventist **Messenger** october 2018



Get to Know
the **"NEW"**
Voice of
Prophecy

Plus

- I Had Lost Hope (p. 6)
- It's Complicated: An IRA/RRSP Story (p. 11)
- Does Ottawa Understand Religion? (p. 18)
- Never Assume (p. 28)
- Home Is Where God Is (p. 34)



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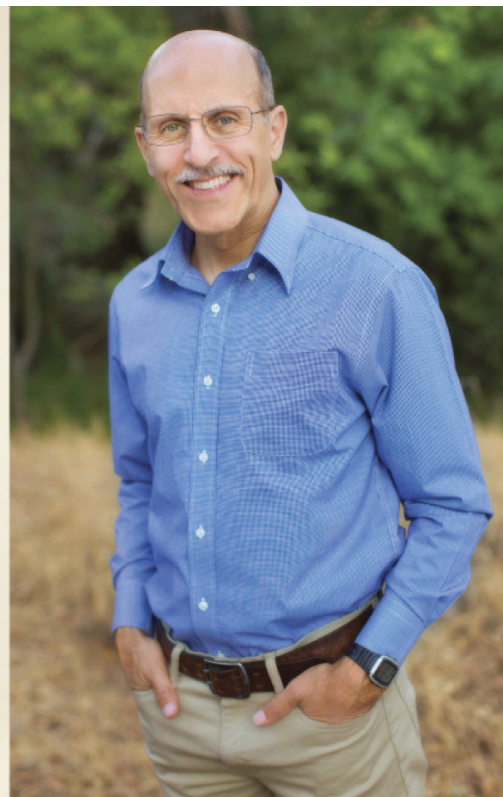
As the son of a millionaire father and a show-business mother, I had everything money could buy—everything, that is, except happiness.

I literally travelled the globe looking for that “something” that would fill the emptiness that I couldn’t even identify. Unfortunately, my various paths led to me doing drugs, getting into fights at school, and even going so far as to entertain suicidal fantasies.

My aimless pursuits ultimately led me to a cave in the wilderness that became my home. It was there, out in the tranquility of that place, that I discovered true meaning and purpose in life and from that point on, my life radically changed for the better.

Friends, are you experiencing a feeling that life is somehow shorting you? That trials, trouble, and tribulation are more pronounced on your résumé than happiness, contentment, and peace of mind? Then I would love to invite you to join me at a 9-day series of exciting, Bible-based presentations, November 9-17, at “Church in the Valley” in Langley, British Columbia.

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heart to heart

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

—Ecclesiastes 3:1, ESV

Kids, Songs, and Time

It was laundry time. Becky and I had been in staying in hotels on a journey that took us from one city to the next, and now we needed to wash clothes. We looked up laundromats and found one with good ratings and headed out to find it. Many other people were there too. People without washing machines. Folks without families. People with children.

One of those children, a preschool-aged girl, caught my attention. She was sitting on a table while her mom was folding the laundry. An electronic gadget was playing a song, and she was singing along. The song was one that most of us know, a song that Becky or I used to sing with our kids riding in the car, or when we'd sit together on the couch, or when sleep wouldn't come.

I've been thinking about the little girl and the recording. Perhaps she has a parent who sings songs with her. That would be good, because that's as it should be. But then again, maybe she doesn't, and that makes me sad. And unfortunately, that wouldn't be terribly unusual these days.

Few folks have time for each other, it seems. Surrounded by people, many of us live in isolation. When was the last time you planned just to spend time with someone else? Not because of something on your agenda but because you just wanted to be with them? Have you visited a neighbour lately? Do you make time for your kids, your family, in your day?

Most of the time, people thrive around people. We need the interaction, the nurture that comes from others. That's how God designed us.

Recently, I've learned of intermittent fasting as it relates to food and diet. I'm wondering if we need to expand that a bit more so that we plan times when the TV will be off, we won't be on the computer, and we have time to do the things that are on someone else's agenda.

I wonder how that would change the world around us. What would it be like for me to try digital fasting once in a while? How would family and neighbours feel if I were more present with them?

Interesting thought, isn't it? ■

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





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“I HAD LOST HOPE.”

BANDIRA'S LIFE WAS HARD. She didn't have any money, and there was not enough food in her home to feed her seven children. Sometimes they went without food for two days in a row. Her children were malnourished.

It is estimated that over three million Kenyans have been affected by the severe multiyear drought persisting in the Horn of Africa. In the sub-county of Mandera, where Bandira lives in the village of Takaba, acute malnutrition rates for children have topped 30 percent. Rates over 15 percent are considered critical.

In partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ADRA began distributing emergency food supplies of rice, beans, vegetable oil, and salt early in the drought. The mixture of these foods is designed to meet a person's nutritional needs. These rations are monotonous, but they save lives.

“As a parent, I had lost hope. I couldn't feed my children, and the entire community generally felt neglected and abandoned. Poverty was extreme, and the entire village looked dry ... ADRA ... fed our families and we were extremely happy.”

Emergency food distributions are only a temporary solution. ADRA began to teach the community ways to prepare for and cope with the effects of droughts.

Takaba is in an arid area, and it was hard for Bandira to believe that things could change.

Our area has been perceived as dry, and we have always believed that nothing good could come from this area. Soils are poor, with no vegetation. ADRA introduced vegetable farming, which was something we had never heard or

thought of before; ... gave us seeds to plant, which we are benefitting from even up to today.

I had little knowledge about these water-saving vegetable-gardening skills. My family couldn't appreciate the need of vegetables in a balanced diet.

The project did a lot for me, my family, and the entire community. Today we are growing tomatoes, sukuma wiki (collard greens), spinach, and other vegetables from our farm ... Despite the long droughts, we can still get vegetables ... Life is still a bit hard, but it is much better than it was.

On average, I earn about Kshs 600 [\$7.70] every week from the sale of vegetable from my small garden. This helps me to supplement my family needs. Today my children are all healthy and in school, thanks to ADRA and our donors.

ADRA ... gave us hope and renewed our lives. The life had lost meaning, but today I smile [because of the] farm and get something for my children and to the market. ADRA taught us that we have many opportunities and opened our eyes. Indeed, this is a transformation.

In 2017 the partnership between ADRA and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank provided \$2.5 million of food assistance in eight countries, benefiting over 97,000 people.

Thank you for your prayers and your generous support. Your compassion is helping families like Bandira's to overcome adversity and find new hope. ■

Sharmilla Reid is Supporter Relations
Director for ADRA Canada.



Talk Less Pray More

“But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” —*Revelation 3:17, NIV*

Most of us are very familiar with the message from the True Witness to the church in Laodicea (see Rev. 3:14–22), since we tend to hear it so often, but how many of us actually make this a matter of deep thought and apply it in our own lives? We know this church in Laodicea is neither hot nor cold but, instead, lukewarm. We know they think they are rich and self-sufficient and need no help, but the most striking issue is that instead of being rich, they turn out to be wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Not many of us want to admit that this is the spiritual state we currently find ourselves in—and perhaps our whole church finds itself in.

I remember sitting on the ski dock at Camp Frenida one night way back in 1987 as a few of us were looking at the stars. My friends were pointing out to me the constellations, and for the life of me, I could not see what they were pointing at, until one of them gave me his glasses. All of a sudden, the sky was illuminated and I could see the stars everyone was pointing at.

A few weeks later, I found myself wearing a new pair of glasses that helped me see better, especially while driving. You see, one of the glaring facts about those of us who find ourselves in the Laodicean condition is that we are blind, and thus our hearts and minds are not in a good enough condition to self-reflect and to evaluate or understand what we might be going through. Every time Laodiceans try to look at something or comprehend something, even spiritual things, they look at it through the lenses of a Laodicean, all the while pretending they have it all together.

I believe wholeheartedly that the only way for Jesus to remedy this condition is to allow us to go through some difficulties to shake us out of it. It is only then that we realize that we are naked and in need of His righteousness, that we are lacking the gold of His faith and love and—let's not forget—that all-important eye salve so we can really see Jesus and see our true condition. It is only then that we hear Jesus knocking at our heart's door.

This whole Laodicean message is about Jesus once again becoming the focal point of our lives. It about us fully letting go of our trust in ourselves as we hold on to Jesus, whom we can fully trust. It's about coming to Jesus in prayer (hearing the knock) and spending good time with Him as He works on my eyesight and “heart sight” and as He puts on His robe over my filthiness; it's about letting His faith and love overtake the wretchedness of my heart.

It's about a church spending more time in prayer than in talk. You see when I talk, it is me again talking with a Laodicean heart and mind, but when I pray, it is me turning it over to the only one who can make me see clearly again.

What would happen if everyone spoke less and prayed more? What if we allowed God to be God and put our trust in His leadership and in His will? What if we trusted more and fretted less? My fellow Laodiceans, let's start praying more. ■

Paul Llewellyn is president of the Maritime Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church.



teen talk

Q: Do you tithe just when you're working, or should you tithe any increase like school grants, gifts that people may give, etc.?

A: You tithe everything, but not necessarily using coins and bills.

Of course, you could painstakingly calculate the actual monetary value of your gifts as small or big as they come and then proceed to return the appropriate tithe. Legalistically¹ minded Pharisees used to do that, and Jesus gave them a run for their money (pun intended). But such a fastidious process, which at times is practically impossible to follow,² defeats the purpose of tithing.

Jesus uses a fluid currency. I call it GLADitude.

God gifts you life, which is like winning the Lotto, because you don't deserve it. Upon cashing your lottery ticket, you go on and celebrate life. How? That's up to you to figure out. The party starter kit includes the traditional tithing of your actual salary. From there, you get to be creative, like using the skills learned with your grant-funded degree to support faith-based projects, and so on.

Within that economy, you don't give expecting something in return, like God-given prosperity (aka claiming promises), or even spiritual rewards—you give out of abundANCE. And rather than being a calculated chore (hey, look, another pun!), tithing becomes an enjoyable act of love. ■

¹ We are having fun with caps today. © See if you catch the meaning!

² Let's say you have \$500 in your bank account and you receive a \$40K school grant. You don't have enough cash!



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

Creation Corner for Kids

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? ... Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ... how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?—Luke 11:11-13

Scorpion

Scorpions have eight legs, pincers, and a poisonous tail tip that they use to strike at prey or to defend themselves against predators. Not strictly desert creatures, scorpions live all around the world in different types of habitats. The most northerly species is the northern scorpion, found around Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Babies, called scorplings, hatch from eggs and lack the hard shell that adults have. After hatching, the delicate scorplings crawl up onto their mother's back and stay there for several weeks until after the first moult.

Think about it.

Even if you find scorpions interesting, you'd be unhappy if your parent gave you one instead of breakfast. Our heavenly Father is much more caring than even the very best human father and provides for "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). More than that, He blesses us that we may bless others because He wants us to join Him in His work of bringing souls into His kingdom of love.

Do it!

Start a prayer list. Starting with Sunday on the first page, label seven notebook pages with the days of the week. Divide the names of all the people you want to pray for among the seven pages. Each day, you'll have a different list to pray for, but you'll pray for everyone each week.

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. Visit Creation Corner at www.facebook.com/CreationCornerforKids. Based on *Christ's Object Lessons*.



aguilars in uganda

I thankful He's got this!



Living in Africa has its obvious challenges, being situated in a different culture, different language, and different environment. It's been two years since we moved, and proudly, we are learning the language, getting around town more confidently, and finding ways to engage in the local activities and events. But the stark difference in how this part of the world operates broadens and transforms my worldview.

So, what do I do? What do I do when I hear girls as young as my daughters getting married or selling their bodies to be able to have the supplies for their next menstrual cycle? What do I do when the 15th parent in a week asks for money in tears so their six children can continue school and break the cycle of poverty? What do I do when the frustrated Pathfinder director shares the lack of support for the youth who feel the church doesn't care for them? What do I do when hundreds of jerry cans line up, and only half will be filled with water, while the rest remain empty until another day? What do I do when I see the rich having unjustified opportunities because they are rich? What do I do when I see people in influential positions abuse their power and oppress the ones most vulnerable and in need?

It's so unfair, it's so heavy, and the need is so great. Overwhelmed and helpless, I retreat and whisper, *Lord, come quickly.*

But I have peace in my heart as my God speaks to me. He says, "I've got this." These are My children (see 1 John 3:1). All He has asked us is, *Love Me first* (Matt. 22:37, 38); *ground yourself every day in spending time with Me* (Heb. 4:12); *hear My voice* (Jer. 33:3); and, *When the opportunity arises, be the advocate of hope and change for those who have no voice* (Prov. 31:8, 9).

Many have expressed admiration for the sacrifices our family has made to move overseas to serve. We are humbled. However, it has taken being removed from all we've known—our routines, our comforts—and changes in roles and careers to learn these lessons. Otherwise, it would have been just another job, just another ministry, just another day in the life of the Aguilars. We can spend our days continuing to do good and yet miss out on God's best.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve overseas and realize how God works in our lives to gets our attention to mould and refine our characters. The greatest adventure continues to be in seeing God's mighty hand at work—in my personal life, in my family's lives, and in the communities we live in and advocate for. But when we first love Him, we don't miss out on His best. This is what I am most thankful for. He's got this. ■

Elizabeth Calaguian Aguilar is technical assistant for health at Ugandan Union/ADRA.



It's Complicated: An **IRA/RRSP** Story



IN RECENT YEARS, my wife and I have become close friends with Joseph and Jody, a couple who moved to Victoria from the United States after retiring not long ago. Joseph, born in a small prairie town in Saskatchewan, is Canadian, and Jody is a born-and-raised American. Joseph attended university in the States, where he also met and married Jody and later built a successful medical practice. Both Joseph and Jody love Victoria and decided to make it their retirement home.

Joseph and I share a love of sports. He and I often hang out watching baseball, hockey, or football while sharing a meal and conversation. We don't always cheer for the same team, but we always get along famously.

One time, after a game, Joseph mentioned that his American financial advisor was retiring. Thus, it would be convenient if he could move his American Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to Canada. He wondered how he could do that. "Hmm," I responded, "it's possible, but honestly, it's complicated and not always worthwhile."

Here's why.

Joseph's hope was, of course, to move his IRA tax free to a Canadian RRSP. First, he would need to set up an RRSP.¹ Next, he would have to sell his IRA in the United States, which, in his case, would be subject to 30 percent withholding tax²—meaning that for every \$100,000 in Joseph's IRA, he would have a withholding tax of \$30,000.

Next, Joseph would have to come up with another \$30,000 to replace the withholding tax in order to make a full contribution of \$100,000 to his RRSP. Then, on his Canadian tax return, he would declare \$100,000 as foreign pension income, and he would have an offsetting \$100,000 deduction for his RRSP contribution. So far, so good!

However, the bigger issue for Joseph was whether or not he could use \$30,000 foreign tax credits against his other income in the year of transfer. If his income was sufficiently high, there would be no problem and he could move his IRA to his RRSP on a tax-deferred basis.

But unfortunately for Joseph, the numbers did not work in his favour: he had already retired and had too low an income against which to use the full

foreign tax credit. The unused portion of the tax credit would be permanently lost, as it cannot be carried forward. If he went ahead and did it anyway, he would be taxed twice—once when he closed his IRA and again when he withdrew his funds from his RRSP.

If Joseph had worked some years in Canada and had a high income the year he decided to switch his IRA to a RRSP, the transfer would have worked beautifully, allowing him to apply the entire foreign tax credit against his income and reduce his tax payable. For Joseph, however, it was best to continue filing US taxes and continue taking his US IRA withdrawals.

"Oh wow," Joseph exclaimed, "am I ever glad I asked you for advice!"

Timing and the size of the foreign tax credit compared to your income at the time of the transfer matter greatly. Sometimes, when it comes to money crossing borders, it is more worthwhile and far less complicated to leave things as they are. ■

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

¹ If Joseph already had an RRSP, there is a special rule allowing one to contribute IRA funds without needing unused RRSP contribution room.
² Or 40 percent withholding tax if he were under 59.5 years of age.

where are they now

Where Are They Now

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

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



Vera and Ken Wiebe

Messenger: *Tell me where you were born, about your childhood family, and a special childhood memory.*

Ken Wiebe: I was born near Brandon, Man., and spent the first 17 years on my parents' farm(s). Initially, we lived on a treeless farm near Hayfield, 20 miles (32 kilometres) southwest of Brandon. When I was 14, we bought a different farm near Forrest, four miles (6.5 kilometres) north of Brandon: a farm with fertile land, a treed yard, and a creek flowing past the yard site. That was heavenly!

I had loving parents, and my sister and I could count on their support and affirmation. Despite financial constraints, we always had proper clothing and three meals a day. Dad was neither harsh nor rough but insisted we learn the value of honest work, even if disagreeable. Mom exhibited the gentler side and always had a listening ear.

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

K: The first eight years of my education were in a one-room country school that taught Grades 1–8. When I started, there were only eight students, four of us in Grade 1, but in time we reached 21 students in total. My dream was to attend an Adventist school in Winnipeg. My aunt and uncle living there offered to open their home to me, but Dad overruled. When starting Grade 9, I begged to attend high school at Canadian Union College (CUC). After all, what social life was available for the only Adventist kid in a public high school? But Dad could not be swayed. Evidently, God had other plans.

I met Vern Teichroeb in Grade 9.¹ We became buddies, spending Sundays together, cycling, target practice, and, of course, doing homework.

In Grade 10, while preparing for the British history

¹ Vern would wind up working at Burman University for 24 years in the maintenance department with responsibility for heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration.

exam, I quizzed Vern, “What year did King James order a translation of the Bible?”

In turn, he countered with a serious question, “What does a Bible look like, and what’s in it?”

With that, British history faded while, for the next six hours, we explored the Bible. That summer Vern completed the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) correspondence course and was baptized. Almost immediately, Dad proposed that both Vern and I attend CUC for Grade 12. We did. I continued there through college, graduating with the Bachelor of Theology degree, then went directly to Andrews University to receive my Master of Divinity degree.

M: *How would you describe your call to the ministry?*

K: That’s hard to describe. I didn’t hear an audible voice. It just seemed like a draw in that direction. I faintly became aware of it at about age 10. Mom had joined the Adventist Church before I was born, but in 1959 our family attended the Louis Shipowick/Elmer Koronko evangelistic series in Brandon, and Dad and I were baptized together. Though only 11, I enjoyed the meetings. I also enjoyed listening to HMS Richards on the VOP radio broadcast. I was intrigued by our local pastors’ preaching styles, even preparing my own sermon (which I still have but obviously never preached) trying to imitate the pastor at that time.

I loved events that took us to the pastor’s home and relished his pastoral visits to our place. At 16 he invited me to accompany him to a home Bible study series, and I was fascinated by how skillfully he handled the Word. That said, there were temptations to deviate from the calling. Through Dad’s careful management, farming had become more viable, and he offered me a partnership in the farm. Furthermore, I was enthralled with airplanes, so he offered to sponsor me to flight school—which was really tempting. But God kept me on a steady course.

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

K: When I finished CUC (Vera and I married during my third year of college), the Ontario-Quebec Conference sponsored us to Andrews University. Upon finishing in 1972, I interned at the Kingsview Village Church under Pastor Dan Handysides. When he transferred to Oshawa, I went with him. Our first solo district was in the Gray-Bruce Peninsula with two churches.

Three years later we were assigned to the three-church district in the Niagara Peninsula. The Alberta Conference called me in 1979 to pastor in Sherwood Park and serve as nursing home chaplain. From there British Columbia Conference invited us to pastor the Abbotsford and Aldergrove churches and afterward assigned me to start a Family Life Ministries department and assume the conference’s communications responsibilities.

In 1992 Alberta called us to serve as pastor couple in Calgary Central. Then it was back to BC as executive

secretary. But in 2001 I was privileged to serve my “home conference,” Manitoba-Saskatchewan, as president for 10 years before coming to the Alberta Conference as president and completing my working career here.

M: *Out of all the areas in which you were privileged to serve, is there one event that stands out wherein God led in a definite way?*

K: We have memories of God’s leading in every place, and the four-church city-wide Leo Schreven meetings in Calgary is one of those. Over 1,000 people filled the Red and White Centre each evening, and Schreven’s power-packed preaching captivated young and old. About 80 people were baptized or joined by profession of faith, about half of whom joined Calgary Central.

This event is special in that when we visit Calgary Central, we find so many of those who had joined there are still active Seventh-day Adventists and in church leadership positions. Some have moved elsewhere but are still faithful. The credit obviously goes to the Holy Spirit, but the church members rallied around those new members during a crucial time in their spiritual walk.

M: *Pastoral ministry requires a united team. Please comment.*

K: No question—a united team is paramount to pastoral ministry. First, my wife, Vera, has been my greatest team partner. She ministered in her own right, serving as a church musician, organizing and conducting cooking classes, participating in VBS programs, serving as women’s ministries leader, being a listening ear to all who wanted to talk, etc. Vera is my greatest spiritual supporter, encourager, and prayer warrior.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

K: Vera and I met at CUC and were married in the summer of 1968. Both our sons were born in Ontario. Brad is currently a family physician in Chilliwack, B.C. He has two children, Meagan, who will be attending Burman University this fall, and Brandon (Grade 10) continues at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy. Randy lives in St. Albert, Alta., and manages the Quikrete products plant in Morinville, Alta. He also has two children, Jasmine (Grade 9) and Joshua (Grade 6), both attending a French immersion school in St. Albert.

M: *Where are you now, and what are you involved in during retirement?*

K: Vera and I live in Lacombe, Alta., enjoying our children and grandchildren. Vera continues to serve on the conference women’s ministries committee, and I have accepted two responsibilities: Sabbath school coordinator for the College Heights Church and serving as board chair for the conference mission school, Mamawi Atosketan Native School. ■



Adventures in the Amazon for Health-Care Volunteers



Dr. Rozemin Kizuk of Lethbridge, Alta., crosses a river with a Bolivian volunteer to get to a remote village.



ABW sponsored a local dentist to do extractions.

Deep in the Amazon rainforest, an adventure awaited A Better World Canada health-care volunteers. Here in Bolivia, they found nasty bugs, extreme heat, and some of the world's poorest people with no health services. It's a rewarding experience that's "not for the faint of heart," says Dr. Ray Comeau of Sylvan Lake, Alta.

Dr. Comeau and his wife, Deryl, a retired registered nurse, led their first medical trip to South America's poorest country in 2017. The Comeaus returned in late April to lead a small team to remote villages located along the Amazon River. They carted their supplies, a physically laborious job, deep into the rainforest. Very little English was spoken—one of the differences the Comeaus have found from volunteering in East Africa.

One time they slept in pup tents because they were in such an isolated area. In the night, Ray heard some chomping, only to discover leaf-cutting ants were chewing through the fabric.

"You are really out there," said Comeau. "To me, it's more exciting, more adventurous."

Most days, the team returned to their home base of Rurrenabaque. The town is safe and secure, and accommodations are described as excellent. There are many restaurants and tourism-oriented activities to do in the area.

Despite many challenges, these volunteers are making positive changes for inhabitants of the Amazon. "They're kind of the forgotten people," said Comeau.

The team diagnosed various conditions, including bowel parasites and respiratory infections. About 60 to 80 patients received free treatment each day. ABW hosted seven clinics during the two-week trip. A portable ultrasound was used to screen pregnant women for at-risk complications. Volunteers also gave injections to those suffering from pain-related osteoarthritis.

Deryl and her sister Dr. Charlotte Foulston, a pediatrician from Medicine Hat, Alta., and family physician Dr. Rozemin Kizuk of Lethbridge, focused on women's health. Part of that involved teaching women about reproductive health and menstruation through

the international Days for Girls program. The volunteers also delivered reusable feminine hygiene kits made by a Red Deer group. Recipients are always so happy to receive them, and health education is also discussed, Deryl added.

"They're getting good information, and they're also gaining self-respect—that menstruation is normal and healthy," Deryl said.

Helping Babies Breathe, a global program designed to reduce newborn mortality, was taught in front of hospital staff in Rurrenabaque. Training facilitators is so important for both programs because they can bring continual education and supportive care, Deryl added.

ABW has partnered with Rio Beni Health Project, the only organization providing medical and dental services to remote indigenous communities. Joselo Balderama, clinic co-ordinator, came on the trip along with a local dentist and four interpreters. The Rio Beni project has seen funding cuts, so the hope is that ABW will sponsor it regularly. ABW has helped out in several ways already, paying for dental services for 120 people during the 2018 trip.

Many more volunteers are invited to come to Bolivia. For information on volunteering or sponsorship, email info@abwcanada.ca or call 403/782-0325. ■

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

FORECASTING THE CHURCH

FUTURE (PT. 2 OF 3)

GREY MATTER

In the past two issues, I have focused on some of the leading trends influencing our society. In order to better serve our communities, the church must forecast changes that are taking place so we are in a position of offence instead of trying to catch up. This month I am examining the emerging culture of what I call "grey matter." Our society is gradually moving from a Newtonian (everything is black and white) to a more nuanced postmodern "acceptance of everything."

A few years ago, I was surprised to find a lottery ticket under the church pew. I knew exactly who normally sat in that spot during church. How could one of my faithful members be gambling? Do you have friends who seem to partake in certain behaviours that are not in line with the church? Do they have a cavalier attitude toward these vices? Our society is drifting toward varying degrees of acceptance in matters that were once considered "off limits." As a result, Christians have been influenced by these cultural norms, eventually proclaiming that their own Christianity reflects an acceptance of these certain behaviours.

In 2005, Ron Sider wrote about this emerging trend in his book *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience: Why Are Christians Living Just Like the Rest of the World?*¹ The book title alone reflects the changing attitudes we now see in the Christian world. Sider cites that Christian "practices" such as divorce, gambling, and alcohol consumption have now become normative, if not even more prevalent than within our secular counterparts.

In his groundbreaking book, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church ... and Rethinking Faith*,² author and researcher David Kinnaman reported that people often feel judged and unloved because of lifestyle decisions that are deemed to contradict the teachings of traditional Christianity.

How, then, can the local church still be faithful to the teachings of Scripture, while accepting individuals in our community who don't share the church's standards? How can church leaders better understand the shifting culture and ideologies that differ from our traditional beliefs? Is there space for people to discover and learn within the confines of the church? ■

Kumar Dixit is the creative principal of Dixit Media Group, an organization that rebrands religious and nonprofit organizations.

¹ Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005.

² Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016.

a new adventist asks

If you're a new member and have a question you would like answered, please email newmember@adventist.ca. We would love to hear from you.

A New Adventist Asks

Who or what is the General Conference? How is the Seventh-day Adventist Church organized?

This is a wonderful question. Many people are often confused about the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* will serve as my main source of information for this article. If you don't own one, I would encourage you to obtain a copy of the latest church manual. The church manual is updated every five years.

First, it is important to note that throughout history, God's people have been organized. Whether it be tribes, divisions of number, or by churches and synagogues, God has always seen fit for His people to be organized. Even heaven is organized with different types of angels and those various types having different roles and functions.

Today, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized on the basis of representative governance. That means that the greatest authority rests in the membership as they elect various individuals to represent them at the various levels of church governance.

There are five levels of governance in the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

- The local church
- The local conference
- The local union
- The Divisions of the General Conference
- The General Conference

The individual member as a part of the local church is the most important basis for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As the apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:20–26:

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are

necessary. And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour; and our unrepresentable *parts* have greater modesty, but our representable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honour to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. (NKJV)

Then the local conference helps coordinate and provide resources for a group (the sisterhood) of churches in an assigned geographical territory.

The union helps organize the work of the gospel in the context of a group of churches or conferences.

The General Conference then represents the worldwide expression of the church and its mission. A division is a regional office of the General Conference for a given territory. The General Conference operates through an executive committee, which meets twice a year. Then every five years (this is when the church manual is updated), the General Conference holds its quinquennial business session. At this "General Conference Session," delegates from around the world come together to oversee the various business needs of the church.

Each of these levels of governance helps the church to be more effective in a given region with its churches, schools, health institutions, and other organizations.

I have had the privilege of working with each level of the church, and all of them have a unique contribution to the mission of taking "this gospel of the kingdom" to the ends of the earth. ■

Chris Holland is the speaker/director for It Is Written Canada.

¹ *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* is also available as a free download under the Information tab on the www.adventist.org website, at <https://bit.ly/2oHJhEx>. It can also be obtained in hardcover at your local Adventist Book Centre or at www.AdventistBookCenter.com.

Thirsty?

Do you ever pray for Jesus to come soon? Do you ever pray for the latter rain?

All my years growing up, I would hear people pray for the latter rain. It was the sought-after evidence that Jesus's coming was imminent—and who doesn't want to live in heaven?

Here's how it would go: someone would be stirred by a preacher or world events or by their personal study and begin to talk to others about it. A small group would decide to get together and pray. The group would grow, and they would be enthusiastic about it with the anticipation that it wouldn't be long until Jesus would come. However, time would pass, other things would press in, and eventually people would stop praying as a group, and the group would dissolve, still with no latter rain. Is this pattern familiar to you?

A number of years ago, the Adventist Church was studying a lesson quarterly on the Holy Spirit. Our pastor was receiving some amazing insights as we were coming to the end of the quarter, and presented to us, one Sabbath afternoon, that we know almost nothing about the Holy Spirit, and His work or purpose. We decided to get together as a church to study and pray. It was amazing: almost the whole church came out week after week to study and pray, and the interest and earnestness was building. Then different things happened, and attendance started to dwindle until there was a core group left who continued on for over two years every Sabbath afternoon.

I remember how much I loved those "Holy Spirit meetings." I would miss anything but those meetings. Knowing that all the other small groups with similar purpose in times past had fizzled out, I was determined that this one wouldn't. But, eventually, it did ... with no latter rain—why?

I read, "So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (Luke 11:13, NLT).

Hmm ... what has prevented the gift from being poured out?

Listen to this: "I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD, that He may come and shower righteousness upon you'" (Hosea 10:12, NLT).

Gardeners will understand this: If a heavy rain pours down on hard soil, it just runs off. If the hard soil is cultivated and the rain comes gently at first, even a downpour will be absorbed into the dry depths. Tilled ground is thirsty, and only thirsty ground can receive water!

Perhaps the "missing ingredient" in the past has been that we haven't been looking at our hearts and praying that God will show us our blind spots, as well as the faults our spouses and children can clearly see in us. Then praying for a willingness to surrender those things to Him so our heart-soil is able to receive all He is so eager to give.

The love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that the Holy Spirit brings with Him is the gentle rain that prepares the people of God for the pouring latter rain, which readies us for translation to the gates of heaven and brings heaven into our hearts, even here! I'm getting thirsty ... aren't you? ■

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



barry's blog

Does Ottawa Understand Religion?

The ongoing uproar over the Canada Summer Jobs program (which refuses to cool down even after months of controversy) has exposed a government blind spot. Although it is very responsive to certain perspectives, Ottawa does not seem to recognize or understand the concerns of religious communities. So, we have watched with dismay as the government has demanded that religious groups accept their party's position on Charter "values" in order to receive grants for hiring summer students.

We have pointed out that the government has been overbroad in their interpretation of "other rights," such as abortion, yet under-inclusive in their recognition of religious freedoms. Apparently, support for diversity extends only to those who share the government's vision.

As if that were not enough, it appears that the government is withholding a long-completed Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) document that contains guidelines for charitable registration under the legal head "Advancement of Religion." Given that 33,114 (or 38.4 percent) of the 86,191 registered charities in Canada are religious charities, this policy clearly concerns a substantial number of Canadians. Yet, despite being used internally for nearly five years, the guidance still has not been officially released.

Last fall, lawyer Mark Blumberg made an Access to Information Request for a copy of this document, and once received, published it on his charity law website. According to Blumberg, on or around July 21, 2016, a copy was given to Diane Lebouhillier, Minister of National Revenue. The CRA memo to Lebouhillier stated that the guidance was "in the final stage of the policy development process" and was "scheduled to be published on the CRA Charities and Giving website in September 2016." That did not happen. Why?

That is a very important question. Is there something in the document to which the minister or the government objects? If

so, what? Conversely, if the government has no problem with the guidance, why has it not been released?

In light of the Canada Summer Jobs controversy, I have taken another, more critical look at this unreleased guidance. I believe the government's reluctance to publish the document illustrates their dismissive attitude toward religious communities.

First, as mentioned, the CRA has been making decisions since 2013 using various unpublished drafts of the guidance. This is problematic, since up until Blumberg's release, charities with an adverse CRA ruling had no way of fully understanding the CRA's rationale. Now we have some answers—but why did it take an access-to-information request to end the secrecy?

Second, the guidance is neither provocative nor revolutionary. It simply summarizes the current state of charity law as it relates to the advancement of religion and tells us how the CRA applies the law to specific situations. Indeed, the quality of the guidance suggests that the CRA understands religious charity law and has listened to religious communities.

Ay—there's the rub! Perhaps (admittedly, this is mere speculation, but that is all we have to go on for now), the government has not released the guidance because it is uncomfortable with it and doesn't understand the current status of religious organizations. They may be keeping their options open to change policy for political ends. Who knows?

We don't, and that is precisely the problem. We *should* know: as taxpayers and as charities, we deserve to know what the government stance on religious charities is. Given the conflict over the Canada Summer Jobs program, I, for one, am getting nervous about what we will hear next. ■

Barry W. Bussey is director of Legal Affairs at Canadian Council of Christian Charities. He blogs at lawandreligion.org.

¹ Mark Blumberg, "CRA's Draft Guidance 'Advancement of Religion and Charitable Registration' Is Released Through ATIP," *globalphilanthropy.ca*, October 24, 2017, www.globalphilanthropy.ca/images/uploads/CRA's_Draft_Guidance_Advancement_of_religion_and_charitable_registration_is_released_through_ATIP.pdf.

Growing Up Millennial



"It just shows me how God can love each one of us, even though we're all so different and we've all made different mistakes."

Nine Things My Summer Job Taught Me

This past summer I worked at a day care. It was a great deal of work, but I loved it. I spent a lot of time with the two- and three-year-olds, and even though they were so little and absolutely adorable, they never failed to present me with new challenges, whether that be in a messy Pull-Ups change, or a melt-down, or a hilarious comment. The following are things that these little humans taught me:

1. Raccoons, to quote one kid, may look like "a kitty cat," but things aren't always what they seem. We have to be careful about things we aren't sure about.
2. Naps are very important. Sometimes the thing that you look forward to most in the day is a nap, and that's OK.
3. Don't eat cupcakes before 11 o'clock in the morning.
4. Sometimes you just need "time away," or—as one child who often spent a bit of time-out on a chair called it—"thinking time." It can allow for readjustment to the surroundings and some time to just be alone. As an introvert, I sometimes find myself wishing I had some time away.
5. Nothing warms a heart more than a little child running up to me and screaming, "Miss Jordyn!" out of pure joy. As adults, we need to try and find excitement in little things, because it's so beautiful.
6. Kids are brutally honest. One kid told me I needed a haircut, out of the blue. Good to know.
7. Forgiveness is something that must get harder to do as we age, because those little kids were always having to forgive one another, but they always did so gladly. I think we could learn from that.

8. Anything can be exciting if you think about it positively. For example, lemonade with coloured ice cubes makes for unicorn juice rather than just a regular drink. And outside time makes for games of pretending to be dinosaurs or bike rides or Paw Patrol. Kids taught me that thinking about something that isn't so exciting in a fun way can make a big difference in how it's viewed.

9. God really did create all children different. Yes, they liked the same things sometimes, like certain videos or songs (if you've ever watched the *Pete the Cat* or the "Duck Song" videos and seen how repetitive they are, just know I've watched them about 100 more times), but they all had different preferences and temperaments.

And I learned to love each of them for who they were, regardless of whether they were getting on my nerves, were fighting me in everything, or weren't listening. Because at the end of the day, those kids still loved me right back. In fact, sometimes the ones who behaved the worst were the ones who would come up to me and say, "Miss Jordyn, I love you so much." It would make my day, even if the child and I had been having a bit of a rough go. It just shows me how God can love each one of us, even though we're all so different and we've all made different mistakes.

Weirdly enough, though, those little children, with their occasional runny nose and their gleeful screaming, were the ones who had to teach me that. And I'm so glad they did. ■

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



Garden Scramble

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium onion, chopped (about a cup)
- 1 medium red pepper, chopped (about a cup)
- 1 carrot, grated (about a cup)
- ¼ cup (60 ml) pumpkin seeds (raw, unsalted)
- 350 g package of organic extra firm tofu, rinsed
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped kale or spinach
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) Italian seasoning
- 2 tsp (10 ml) mock-chicken seasoning
- ½ tsp (2 ml) turmeric
- ½ tsp (2 ml) cinnamon
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) nutritional yeast flakes
- ½ tsp (2 ml) chili pepper flakes
- Salt, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

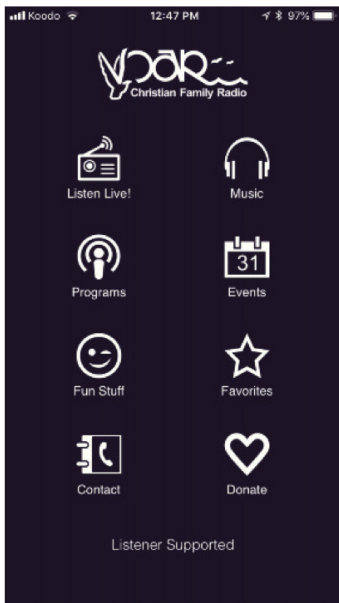
- Add olive oil to heated pan, then add onion, red pepper, carrot, pumpkin seeds, garlic, and kale.
- Season with Italian seasoning and salt, and sauté for a few minutes until slightly tender.
- Crumble the tofu into the pan and stir.
- Stir in mock-chicken seasoning, turmeric, cinnamon, and nutritional yeast.
- Allow mixture to heat through.

NOTE: I sometimes add a few dashes of curry powder and paprika for enhanced flavour. Also, you can use half extra firm tofu and half firm tofu for a more “scrambled egg” type of texture.

You may have heard conflicting ideas about tofu, but some of the best information I’ve found about this interesting bean curd comes from Physicians’ Committee for Responsible Medicine (pcrm.org). I encourage you to study what they have to say about eating this highly nutritious protein food. Working with tofu is so easy because it absorbs the flavours of the spices or sauces you use in your recipe. One way I love to prepare tofu is in a deliciously nutritious Garden Scramble. I like kicking it up a notch by adding various veggies and seeds. I hope you enjoy this recipe in good health! ■

Beverley Edwards-Haines is a registered dietitian, an associate raw cuisine chef, and a Food for Life instructor.





Listener Finds VOAR at Blind Camp

... VOAR does have an app."

John lives in Langley, B.C., about 60 kilometres east of Vancouver. He is 69 years old. John wrote to ask us to put him on our e-newsletter list. He told us that he first found Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) this summer while attending a camp for the blind at Mountain View Camp, in Hope, B.C. John has been blind since birth. He has a portable machine that is a GPS, a talking book reader, and Internet radio all in one. John was interested in finding out whether VOAR had an app.

Well, John will be happy to know that VOAR does have an app. It is designed to offer three different styles of music, along with various podcasts of favourite

shows. You can decide to hear VOAR as it goes live or choose between your favourite music genre of either all traditional, all Country/Southern Gospel, or all contemporary/inspirational.

John said, "I really want to thank the Lord for your radio station. Have a great day, and God bless!"

We are thrilled that John was introduced to VOAR at Mountain View Camp. Please keep him and VOAR lifted in prayer! ■

Sherry Griffin is the station manager for VOAR.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE NATIVE MINISTRY MEETINGS HELD AT THE SIX NATIONS RESERVE IN ONTARIO.

"With God's help, I can and I will ..."

Gina Guiboche: "With God's help, I can and I will persevere and continue to grow with His character and emulate it."

Cheryl Elliott: "With God's help, I can and I will patiently love the children I work with; tell them how much Jesus loves them and how special they are!"

Vicky Ford: "With God's help, I can and I will continue to do what I can to create awareness and make a difference in Native Ministries."

Gail Wilton: "With God's help, I can and I will follow his lead and trust that He will show me what He wants for my life and how I can best serve where he has placed me."

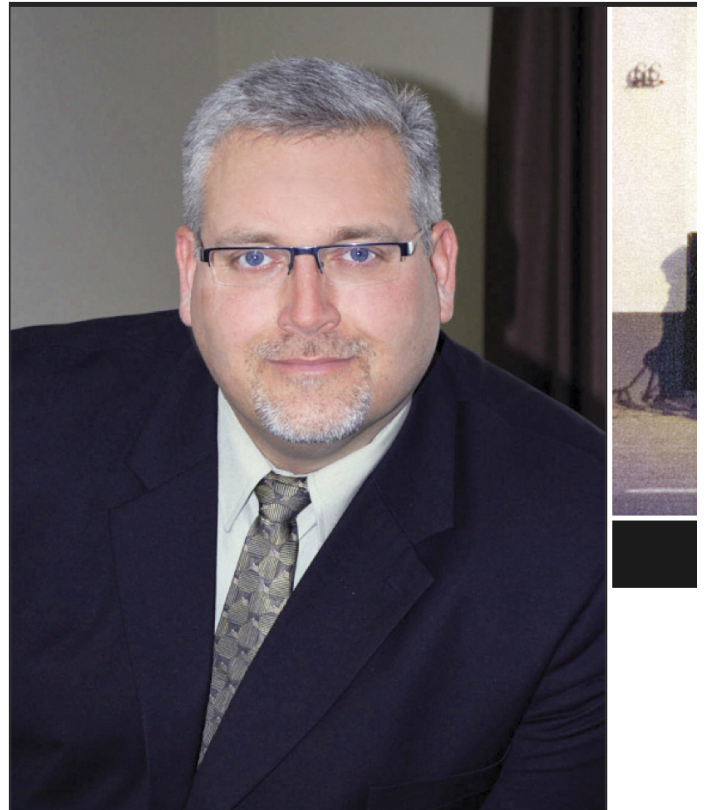
Dawn Martin: "With God's help, I can and I will fly. Why does man make airplanes? I don't like flying, But with God's help, I will learn to like it."



the making of a president

The Making of a President

Paul Llewellyn



I had just marched down the aisle to receive my diploma from Crawford Adventist Academy (CAA) in June 1984. I was standing outside with my friends, taking pictures and talking about our future plans, as some were laying out their plans for med school, some were going to be working on degrees in education and business, and others were still in the undecided category. I had been sensing



Paul and his older brother, Robert.

the Holy Spirit working on my heart to become a pastor, and there and then I told the Lord that I would follow Him and do just that.

Now, telling the Lord that you plan to be a pastor and actually following through with it is where my story takes a turn. After graduating Grade 13 at Kingsway College, I headed off to Union College to pursue a degree in biology to become a medical doctor. That did not last more than one semester, and I ended up dropping out for two and a half years while I worked at Branson Hospital. One night, while doing rounds in security, I prayed as I usually did while walking to each punch station for my time clock. That night I was telling the Lord that I felt as if He wanted me back in school, and I could sense His voice prodding me to attend Andrews University.

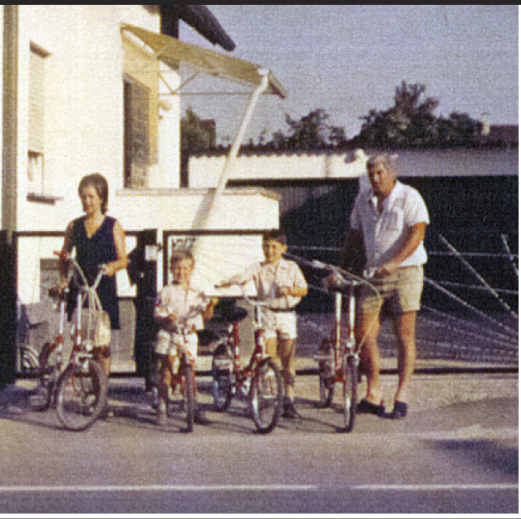
When I enrolled at Andrews University, I began taking classes to become a teacher. Knowing that the Lord had other plans, I nevertheless headed in the direction of education. God always has an incredible way to move us in the direction He would have us go, even when we make other plans.

I completed my degree and knew the



Paul Llewellyn, Kingsway College, 1984/85.

Lord wanted me teaching in our school system. My first posting was at College Park Elementary School in Oshawa under the wonderful leadership of Ruth Satelmajer. I found that God will always put people in your life to help guide and direct you toward the path He has for you to go (if you will let Him). Ruth and her husband, Nick, were just the people I needed to challenge me to follow God's calling.



In Lahr, Germany while stationed there by the Canadian military.
L-R: Ester (mother), Paul, Robert (brother), and David (father).



The Llewellyn family: Paul, Daniel, Jessica, and Sonya.

After three years I took a call to become the religion teacher at Crawford Adventist Academy, which started the process of moving me into ministry on a different level. It was at CAA that I fell in love with sharing Jesus with the students who were in my religion class.

While teaching at Crawford, I was called to fill in at the Toronto Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church (TKSDA) while they looked for a full-time youth pastor. I taught on the weekdays and lead out with the youth at TKSDA. My time at TKSDA included some of my most memorable experiences in ministry. The youth and young adults who attended TKSDA were wonderful to work with, and I was given a taste of what God was moving me towards.

If there is one major lesson I have learned in life, it is that God will put mentors in your path to give you guidance and direction toward God's will. I know this now, but it was not something I readily accepted then. God would bring gifted, wise, discerning people into my life to mentor me, and I would instinctively give them a hard time instead of gently listening to their wise advice. As I get older and take on greater responsibility, there is one thing I have been intentionally doing in my life; I am learning to listen to God more through those He appoints as advisors and mentors in my life.

I was called to work at the Ontario Conference in my more rambunctious

days as the camp director and also as the associate youth director. God had placed Pastor Cyril Millett in my path as one of those mentors who would help guide and mentor me. When I look back on those days, I wish I had taken more time to listen to and learn from Pastor Millet rather than being a person who thinks he knows everything.

We tend to tell God what should be done, when instead we should be speaking less, praying more, and letting God do what He does best in leading us if we would only be willing to listen. This has been one of the greatest obstacles in my personal life—listening to those God has sent to guide and mentor me. At times, I have a hard time listening to God, so He will bring people into my life to make His plans known to me. This is part of our growth in Christ. I just wish I had learned this earlier in my life. Seeking God's guidance first and listening to Him will allow His plan to be accomplished with less drama in our lives. Also, listening to those God brings into your life to help guide you is also part of God's guidance in your own personal journey.

As I look back on how God has led in the past, I can see that He brought into my life spiritually gifted men and women who have helped mould and shape me into what God wants me to be. My praying mother was one of those people; as well as Ruth and Nick Satelmajer in my early days of working for the church as a teacher;

Vernon Langdon, who saw in me something that I did not see in myself at that time in becoming a religion teacher; Elder Derick Nichols, who gave me fatherly advice when I needed it most and gave me countless opportunities to serve God; Cyril Millett, who is one of the wisest and gentlest men I could ever know; Ken Corkum and John Fournier, who mentored me in my current position; and I could mention so many others whom God has put in my path to mentor and guide me in my leadership journey.

I have come to appreciate, on a very deep level, the leaders God has placed throughout Canada who mentor me today. Every president and officer who serves throughout the SDACC has the gifts and godly discernment I need and can apply to my own leadership role. I was once very skeptical of leadership in my younger days, until God placed me in the same situation, and now I am much more gentle and appreciative of those who carry very heavy responsibilities.

It is my prayer for our church in Canada that we will support, in word and prayer, those whom He has placed in leadership in our local churches, conferences, and throughout all of Canada and that we will be a people who speak less, pray more, and let God be God. ■

Paul Llewellyn is president of the Maritime Conference.



It may sound surprising to refer to an 89-year-old ministry as a but that’s exactly how Voice of Prophecy speaker/director Shawn sees it. “The way the Lord has led this ministry astounds me,” said Canadian-born pastor, “and I can hardly contain my excitement about what lies ahead. The opportunities for outreach are mind

Shawn and his wife, Jean Boonstra (associate speaker), came to Voice of Prophecy five years ago. Since then, the Loveland, Colorado ministry has expanded across Canada and the United States through broadcasts, live evangelistic events, church-empowering and humanitarian projects. Here’s just a taste of what’s been happening including how you can become the Voice of Prophecy in your community.

Get to Know the “New” Voice of Prophecy

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CHRIST-CENTRED PROGRAMMING

Hundreds of thousands of people can trace their spiritual birth back to the *Voice of Prophecy*, and the ministry's growing broadcasts are reaching into homes worldwide every week.

Disclosure is the ministry's new weekly flagship program: talk radio rooted in current events and Scripture. From tackling questions like "Are Aliens Mentioned in the Bible?" to dealing with issues such as anxiety and grief, *Disclosure's* content runs the gamut, and special guests are often brought in to lend their expert opinions. The program is available on radio stations across North America, as well as on most major podcast platforms and the Voice of Prophecy's website.

In 2017, the ministry debuted *Discovery Mountain*, an all-new adventure audio series for children aged 5 to 12 (though all ages are invited to enjoy it). One thing you might not know about the series is that it has deep Canadian roots! In addition to being created by Canadian-born Jean Boonstra, *Discovery Mountain's* director and sound engineer, Doug Bruce and Danny Colomby, are also Canadian, and each episode is post-produced in Ontario.

The show is set in a small town and summer camp in the mountains, and it's filled with fun and engaging characters. Through this program, kids from all backgrounds can get to know Jesus as their personal Saviour. Children worldwide are loving the program, which is available to stream from discoverymountain.com, or to download free of charge from most major podcast platforms, with new content each week. The seventh season will debut in November, and additional complementary resources—such as workbooks—are being developed for the home, church, and classroom.

The coming years will see the debut of additional Voice of Prophecy programs. These will include *The Bullpen*, a faith-based talk radio aimed specifically at men, and a short weekly biography program called *Believers*, which will highlight the lives and accomplishments of great men and women of faith.

LIVE EVANGELISTIC EVENTS IN NORTH AMERICA

The Voice of Prophecy exists to bring lost and searching people into a saving relationship with Jesus. Evangelism has always been at the heart of the ministry, and in recent years, Boonstra has conducted *Revelation Speaks Peace* meetings in major metropolitan areas with incredible results. The last few years have included Denver, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Indianapolis, with Raleigh coming up in Spring 2019.

THE DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL

One key component of the Voice of Prophecy's programs and live events is the *Discover Bible School*, which is the largest Bible study school in the Adventist Church. This outreach has proven to be one of the best ways to connect Bible study interests with local churches.

Discover Bible Schools can be found in 140 countries, with 2,000 churches participating in North America alone. New *Discover* lessons and discussion guides are now available. Each Christ-centred lesson has been redesigned and updated to be

as effective and accessible as possible—perfect for one-on-one Bible study, small groups, and church-based Bible schools. More than 12 million students have enrolled in the *Discover Bible School* since its inception, and it's poised to reach even more people with the gospel. In addition, the ministry's websites—bibleinfo.com, biblestudies.com, and kidsbibleinfo.com—are receiving more than one million visitors per month!

DISCOVERY CENTRES

The brand-new Discovery Centres program has grown out of the Voice of Prophecy's deep conviction that its primary responsibility as an organization is to support the evangelistic success of local churches. "We've enjoyed decades of evangelistic success, and we'd like to share our very best strategies and proven outreach tools with the local church," said Boonstra. "Every day we hear from people all over the continent, and we'd like to connect them with a church in their area."

By empowering local churches to become Discovery Centres, they will essentially become franchises of the Voice of Prophecy in their communities. This will be accomplished through a number of programs too vast to mention in their full scope here, but in addition to including *Discovery Mountain* resources for children and the full *Discover Bible School* suite, they will have access to exclusive content not available anywhere else, including the following:

Discover Seminars

Discover Seminars are short three- to five-day events that make it easy to invite the community to the local church and make them aware of what the church has to offer. In 2016, the Voice of Prophecy launched *Shadow Empire*, a four-part series on the rise of the Roman emperor Constantine and his considerable effect on mainstream European Christianity. Boonstra, the series presenter, travelled to places like Turkey, Italy, and Serbia to make Bible history come alive.

The series deliberately tapped into modern angst about organized religion and affirmed the public's right to feel concerned. Boonstra then presented another way, demonstrating that in every age, there have been Christians more concerned about following the teachings of Christ than power and politics. The response was stunning: churches were full, and visitors expressed keen interest.

In 2017, the ministry repeated the success of *Shadow Empire* with *A Pale Horse Rides*, an award-winning three-part documentary on the prophetic church of the wilderness, introducing audiences to some of the themes presented in Revelation 12. The series shared fascinating stories that few people have heard, such as the mysterious rise of Celtic Christianity, which originally developed in isolation from the church-state machinations taking place in mainland Europe. Audiences were able to see what Christianity would look like were it based simply on the words of the Bible. Finally, Boonstra invited them to ask important questions about what the church *should* look like today. As with other *Discover* seminars, most churches that participated were surprised by the interest shown by their communities.

This year, the Voice of Prophecy has shifted its focus toward Bible prophecy and last-day events with *The Appearing*, a completely new approach to an original series developed by Boonstra a number of years ago. This highly engaging five-part series, featuring new content and a newly revised companion book, has been designed to help people understand this moment in time, and what to expect next. (Learn more about this October 11–15 event and find the host location near you at appearing.org.)

Discovering Revelation—Full-Message Evangelism

Over the last 25 years, Boonstra has carefully honed his public evangelistic meetings to appeal to a broad demographic. “The Voice of Prophecy team has enjoyed extraordinary success in some of the largest urban centres in North America and around the world,” said Boonstra, “but it is our conviction that we should not be the only ones who should have access to the very best multimedia tools.”

In keeping with that belief, the Voice of Prophecy is going to license its very own full-message evangelistic outreach program to all Discovery Centres, so local churches will be able to conduct evangelistic meetings the same way the Voice of Prophecy does—with the very best tools available.

Built specifically on experience and inspired counsel, the *Discovering Revelation* series is designed to make it easy for local churches to learn the strategies behind presenting our message to a modern audience. It will include first-rate graphics, easy-to-follow speakers’ notes, and the training necessary to make the most of the material. *Discovering Revelation* will also be editable, which means each pastor or speaker will be able to tailor it to his or her audience’s needs, as well as to his or her personality and style.

Currently, the Voice of Prophecy is planning to launch 1,000 simultaneous *Discovering Revelation* evangelistic meetings across North America in March 2020—one of the largest evangelistic initiatives in the history of the church.

A WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM FEATURING YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

One of the most powerful tools that the Voice of Prophecy’s evangelistic team has enjoyed over the years is the power of radio and podcasts to reach a broad audience. As listeners hear the Christ-centred material each week, trust develops as they consistently see that the Bible is the reliable basis for the broadcast.

And right now the Voice of Prophecy is working on a new program called *The Voice of Prophecy Presents*, which will feature local pastors across North America. Yes, you read that correctly: the Voice of Prophecy wants to put your pastor on the radio in your community! The whole purpose of the ministry’s broadcasts is to encourage people to walk through the doors of your church, and there’s no better way to do that than to introduce your pastor to the community directly. Each week, both the Voice of Prophecy and local pastors will deliver the same message—with the same quality branding, high standards, and invitation for Bible study—across Canada and the United States.

HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

Arctic Canadian North

The *Discover* Bible lessons and *New Beginnings* DVDs are currently being translated into Inuktitut to serve the more than 40,000 Inuit living in Nunavut. The Voice of Prophecy has already helped to secure a supply of Bibles in Inuktitut, and in partnership with the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, It Is Written Canada, and a number of other partners, the ministry is planning to construct a community centre that will also serve as a house of worship.

India

The Voice of Prophecy has teamed up with Child Impact International’s Operation Child Rescue for a project that is dramatically changing lives. Young girls from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal who are victims of human trafficking are being rescued from captivity and given a new life. The Voice of Prophecy has opened a new rehabilitation home where the rescued girls can heal from the trauma they’ve experienced, gain vocational training, and learn about Jesus.

Myanmar

A door of opportunity has opened in Myanmar, and the Voice of Prophecy is meeting an urgent need for Bibles, providing basic comforts for children, sponsoring seminary training for pastors, starting a Burmese radio program, and creating a new Bible school after a fire destroyed their old lessons.

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY (VOP) IN CANADA



Christine Wollmann

In recent years, the Voice of Prophecy has taken steps to expand further across Canada. As part of this initiative, in January 2018, Christine D. M. Wollmann accepted an invitation to represent the Voice of Prophecy Canada in the position of field representative and donor relations coordinator.

Christine enjoyed meeting people during camp meetings and is looking forward to sharing VOP information by visiting churches and individuals over the next year. She may be reached at christine@vopcanada.ca.

As the Voice of Prophecy programs spread across the country—including Discovery Centres and broadcast initiatives—more opportunities will be available to partner with VOP. Learn about the Voice of Prophecy’s international ministry at www.vop.com.

Please continue to keep the Voice of Prophecy in your prayers!

Michele Stotz is the public relations director for Voice of Prophecy.



Veronica Lopez

Never Assume

“For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Veronica Lopez, a student with Canada Youth Challenge (CYC), approached an old, decrepit house. From outside she heard the loud, vibrating beat of rock music. She went up to the door, knocked, then waited. Soon, a young woman in her late 20s answered.

Veronica explained who she was and why she had come, but already, her heart wasn't in what she was doing. As she looked at the woman and thought about the music, she was sure the woman would reject her. She felt she was bothering her and that the woman was more interested in listening to her music than in listening to her. So she did her presentation half-heartedly, explaining only one of the books she had brought.

But the woman didn't reject her. She listened, looked interested, and then pointed to one of Veronica's other books. "What is that one about?" she asked. Veronica explained it to her, and the woman said she was interested in that book. "How much is it?" the woman asked. Veronica told her the amount, and the woman went into her house, came back, and gave Veronica an amount that was a little over the amount Veronica had asked for.

Humbled and encouraged, Veronica reached into her bag and pulled out the book *The Great Controversy*. "This is a spiritual book," Veronica said, "and I would like to leave it with you." Veronica feared the woman would reject it. In the past, when she had shared *The Great Controversy* with others, they had rejected it immediately because it dealt with spiritual matters. But to Veronica's joy, the woman not only accepted it, but accepted it with great gladness.

As Veronica thought about her experience, she felt extremely joyful but, at the same time, very guilty. She knew she had lost many opportunities to share *The Great Controversy* with the people she met on a day-to-day basis because of her own thoughts and assumptions. She had often felt that people would be too busy or would not be interested, so she didn't share as often as she could have. Now she realized that some of those people would have taken the book, if only she had offered it.

In 1 Samuel 16:7 God warns of the dangers of judging from outward appearance, because things are not always what they seem. "Do not look at his appearance," God said, "for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." This lesson became real for Veronica the day she met that young woman at the door.

As humans, we tend to judge from what we see. But God is calling us to look beyond our own vision, our own judgment, our own assumptions, to see the needs that are before us. God invites us to see as He sees and to boldly reach out and share His love with those around us. If we are willing, God will give us the opportunity to look beyond our vision to see what is in the hearts of people. ■

Veronica Lopez shared her story with Lifestyle Canada, Canada's literature evangelism ministry that operates Canada Youth Challenge.

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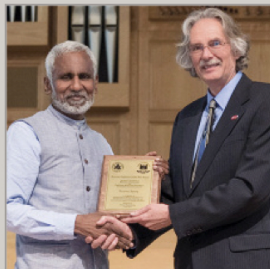
Don Ross Sahly (left)
Loren Agrey (right)



Adam Deibert (left)
Ron Sydenham (right)



Lalitha (Ramalingam) Taylor (left)
Angie Ward (right)



Tennyson Samraj (left)
John McDowell (right)



Millie Snow (left)
Eric Rajah (right)

DURING ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Weekend 2018, the alumni council presented awards to deserving alumni of Burman University and Parkview Adventist Academy.

This year's Don F. Neufeld Medallion of Excellence was awarded to Don Ross Sahly, Class of 1963. At the age of nine, Don moved with his parents to the campus of Burman University. He attended the campus school from Grade 4 through academy, followed by three years of college. During the 47 years of Don's career, he and his wife, Weslynn, served in elementary schools for 12 years. He also held the positions of assistant to the vice-president for development at Andrews University; principal of the Ekamai International High School in Bangkok, Thailand; president of the Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore; president of Southern Adventist University; associate director for education at the General Conference; president of Southwestern Adventist University; and president of Griggs University. Don and Weslynn are retired and living in Raleigh, N.C.

The Burman Alumnus of the Year award was awarded to Ron Sydenham, Class of 1983. After graduating in 1983, Ron and his wife, Nicole, accepted a call to the Weyburn-Estevan District in Saskatchewan. From there, they moved to Andrews University, where Ron enrolled in the Master of Divinity program. When Ron graduated from the program, he and his family moved back to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference to pastor in the Rosthern, Prince Albert, and Shellbrook District until 1988, when he was ordained. That same year they accepted a call to the Sherbrooke and Waterville churches in the Quebec Conference. In 1992, they transferred to the Henderson Highway Church in Winnipeg. In 1998, fifteen years after he graduated, they accepted a call to pastor the College Heights Church and blessed the campus with 18 years of friendship, mentorship, and love.

The PAA Alumnus of the Year was awarded to Lalitha (Ramalingam) Taylor.

Lalitha spent her childhood and teen years growing up on the Burman hilltop and attended College Heights Christian School (CHCS), Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA), and Burman University. After she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at 19, Lalitha's desire to help prevent and manage her disease as well as provide individuals with a greater quality of health and life prompted her to become a registered dietitian. In 2005, Lalitha completed her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science along with an accredited dietetic internship through the University of Alberta. She is a senior dietitian with Edmonton Southside Primary Care Network and also offers private nutrition services through her own company.

The Honorary Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Tennyson Samraj. He has taught at Burman University for 28 years in the philosophy, religion, and general studies departments. The subjects he teaches include philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, and philosophy of law. He started his studies in India, where he earned a BA in religion from Spicer University, and an MA in history and, a PhD in philosophy from Pune University.

The Exceptional Volunteer Service Award was given to Millie Snow. For many years, Millie Snow has freely given of herself in loving service for those in need. Apart from establishing a home, raising three energetic boys, assisting her husband in evangelism throughout North America and overseas, she has dedicated her life in loving ministry for others. In 2016, the City of Lacombe recognized her years of dedication, kindness, and community mindedness by honouring her with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Congratulations to all of our awardees! Your lives serve as a beautiful example for us all. ■

Kryzia Wisdom is the communications coordinator of marketing and enrolment services for Burman University.

Listening as Jesus Did

Bob Spratt Reflects on his Career in Maskwacis



Bob Spratt was one of the first principals of the Seventh-day Adventist school in Maskwacis. Bob and his wife, Jeannie, who left her career as a staff artist at *The Review* ("A.J. McCoy") to work alongside Bob with First Nations people more than 30 years ago, plan to stay active in the Maskwacis-MANS reserve church beyond Bob's official 2018 retirement.

Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) and the Maskwacis community are a home-mission field with unique challenges and opportunities to serve God through His children. Nobody knows this better than Bob and Jeannie Spratt. Bob's official retirement this summer provided a brief pause to reflect on his involvement with MANS and First Nations people.

Raised in Washington state, Bob heard of the feisty Jeannie McCoy from a mutual friend during his military service in Korea. Jeannie, who had grown up in Ohio, was a nurse but was then working as the first female illustrator at *The Review*. Bob's time overseas ignited a desire to serve in the mission field, but it was Jeannie who asked, "What do you think of working with First Nations people?" Coincidentally, Bob had seen an ad for teachers in Heart Butte, Mont., and the couple soon found themselves working on the Blackfoot reservation, Bob as biology teacher and Jeannie as the primary health-care provider. It was a time of challenge and adventure—from jimmying through the window of the health-care clinic at 2 a.m., to trail rides on their Arabians in Glacier National Park.

Bob and Jeannie chose not to have biological children so they could provide a home for a child in need. Two life-changing opportunities soon arose: Crystal, the daughter of a former student, became their adopted child, and the family moved to Alberta where Bob became principal and, later, biology teacher at the Adventist school.

When Bob asked about the challenges of being principal 24 years ago, he laughs. "Almost every recess there was a big brawl!" His master's degree in guidance and counselling proved especially helpful, as his job involved negotiating with families and social

services; after retiring from teaching, he has acted as a liaison between school and community.

Bob and Jeannie remain a central part of the community in Maskwacis, where they attend church each week and Jeannie maintains an art table. Unruly children are calmed as she draws animals for them to colour or shows them how to sculpt with modelling clay. But it's not just children who flock to her: from visiting Burman students to community adults, everyone knows Jeannie will genuinely listen.

So much of what the Spratts have been able to accomplish is thanks to their attentive listening. Bob accompanied survivors of residential-school abuse to court as they told their stories, and the couple recognizes that generations of pain ingrained at Christian residential schools and by government policies cannot be erased, and progress toward healing can only be measured through eyes of patient love.

Bob and Jeannie recognize the trust placed in them is a demonstration of grace. One Maskwacis man wrote a book that was extremely negative toward Adventists. Jeannie offered to discuss it with him. After that, his whole attitude changed: "I'd like to call you 'Mom,'" he said. Bob and Jeannie are *Kohkom* and *Mosom*—Grandmother and Grandfather—to various people on the reserve.

"For both Jeannie and me," Bob says, "our primary interest is in serving First Nations people."

The Spratts are an inspiring example of how God uses those whose willingness to serve starts with listening to others! ■

Sarah Wallace recently graduated from Burman University's English and Scholars programs.



You can follow school life and activities at MANS on Facebook.



October 2018

31



NAD Teachers' Convention 2018: Enc

On August 6–9, 2018, nearly 6,000 educators in the Seventh-day Adventist school system across North America gathered in Chicago for the North American Division (NAD) 2018 Teachers' Convention. This convention is held only once every six years and is an opportunity for educators to connect, grow, be inspired, and recommit once again to the important ministry of Adventist education.

This year, approximately 250 of our 330 educators across Canada participated in the NAD convention. It was good to bond as a Canadian education team, to wear red and white, wave flags, and join in the singing of *O Canada* as we prepared for a group photo. It was good to see that we are not alone, good to share our passion for Adventist education in Canada, good also to recognize that we are part of a division-wide education team focused on a common goal.

The convention theme, "Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence," was evident from beginning to end. We were inspired

by Elizabeth Talbot's opening keynote address that challenged us to share Jesus, and by Sam Leonor's daily morning worships that reminded us of the "inexhaustible love of Jesus." We were blessed by the music of Michael English, Angela Bryant-Brown, Steven Curtis Chapman, Jaime Jorge, and Wintley Phipps, as well as several other musicians within the K–12 system.

More than 400 breakout sessions on topics such as curriculum, classroom management, robotics, special education, brain science, and so much more, provided opportunities to grow professionally. More than 200 exhibits featured classroom supplies, Adventist ministries and universities, curriculum services, and a variety of educational resources. Our own Dan Jackson led us in a closing recommitment service, reminding us of our God-given calling.

A highlight of the convention is the opportunity to reconnect with students and colleagues. What a treat it is for old teachers like me to see former students, now teachers and principals, who are

making a difference across North America! How wonderful to hear their stories of how God has led them and of how they are striving to make a difference in the lives of His children.

During the convention, special recognition was given to Larry Blackmer, NAD Vice-President of Education, for his years of service and for the impact he has made on Adventist education across the division. In his remarks, Larry, who plans to retire later this year, acknowledged classroom teachers as the true heroes of the church. "You're the ones who stand in front of children and make a difference in their lives," he said. "You're the ones who pray with them, care about them, and their parents. They come to know Jesus because of you."

"Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence." The theme captures the core of Adventist education. The convention booklet summarized it well: "Consider a learning environment where the Bible is the main textbook, curriculum ignites curiosity, engages students, and connects



ounter Jesus, Experience Excellence

them meaningfully with the Father; a context that is creative and inspirational to both teachers and learners; a faith-community where joy is integral. Adventist education draws the whole student on a journey to our Creator God and provides an environment to help build a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Thank you, North American Division, for your tireless efforts in hosting a division-wide convention for our educators. And thank you, teachers, administrators, and all who serve in our Adventist schools, for your dedication to work that Ellen G. White called “the nicest, the most difficult, ever committed to human beings.”¹ During this new school year, may we partner together as a church family to create opportunities for our children to encounter Jesus and experience excellence. ■

Betty Bayer is the director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹ *Education*, 292.

NAD Convention 2018— Comments From Our Teachers:

“Teachers’ convention was awesome! Very inspiring to be a part of the whole North American team and make new connections. I thoroughly enjoyed, and learned a lot. The biggest challenge for me was choosing from all the interesting breakout sessions, and that’s a good thing.”—*Kroy Christison, Shuswap Adventist School, B.C.*

“I do appreciate all the hard work that went into planning and organizing the convention, and I appreciate you providing this PD opportunity for your teachers. I think it was a real top-notch event. The speakers were great. I found Samuel Leonor’s talks captivating and right on for teachers encouraging kids spiritually, and Manny Scott encouraged us about relationships, too, and how God is working with and through all kinds of people, and we really ought to have our eyes open to that. I see that’s what the gospel is really about, and that’s what teaching in an Adventist school is about, too. Everything right up to the end of Dan Jackson’s service supported the theme, Encounter Jesus. . . . Overall the event was a very encouraging experience. I value Larry Blackmer’s leadership and the direction and support NAD has devoted to education.”—*Lana Landry, Red River Valley Junior Academy, Man.*

“Music, worship, sharing times — everything was excellent. If something did not go right, it did not matter; there were too many good things!”—*Luz Ahumada, Sartigan Adventist Academy, Que.*

“It was a great week!”—*Melanie Kartik, West Coast Adventist School, B.C.*

“Thank you for treating us to this wonderful convention. It was a fabulous experience!”—*Lisa Brucks, Cariboo Adventist Academy, B.C.*



HOME IS WHERE GOD IS

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LEFT OUR HOMELAND

at some point know that the transition to a new country can be exhilarating and challenging. Changing countries means adjusting to different sounds, smells, tastes, and customs; letting go of certain aspects of your old life; and seeking to integrate the old into the new.

This year's African Campmeeting, held on June 30 at 51 High Meadow Place, North York, was themed "How Far From Home." It touched on the undertaking of leaving one home for another, as well as journeying to our heavenly home—an apt theme for visitors from across Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, and more.

From the start, the day was a celebration of diverse African cultures, bringing a touch of "home" to the mostly African immigrant audience. For instance, the well-attended Sabbath school segment featured French and English moderators and teachers; and the divine-hour scripture was read in Igbo, French, Shona, Kinyarwanda, and other languages. Attendees were also blessed by engaging multilingual praise and worship segments and special music presentations.

Attendee Belinda Oteng enthused, "What stood out to me was that regardless of the language, everyone was able to enjoy the songs sung. It was a foretaste of the joy and fellowship we'll experience in heaven!"

Added visitor Joan Nyangena, "The intersection of all the different cultures at the altar of the cross is a testament to the power of the gospel to unite all kindred, tongues, and people."

In the divine hour, guest speaker Ndubusi Nwade, pastor from Bethel Adventist Church in Akron, Ohio, tackled the question—How far from home?—with the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream in Genesis 44:15, 16. Nwade made a familiar passage relevant with African references such as the Nigerian Gospel song "Double Double" ("My God is Good"), which he sang animatedly.

The young pastor masterfully challenged attendees to think of home not just as a geographical location but as a relationship with God. Joseph maintained a sense of home in a strange land and eventually reached great heights by holding onto his faith. Nwade noted, "Your success, wherever you are, is predicated upon your proximity to God. If you are close to God, you're closer to home than you think."

The divine service ended in an emotional appeal, as Nwade lifted his melodic voice in singing "Softly and Tenderly." He urged attendees to come home to their merciful God if they'd strayed and to remember that "relocated people are people on a mission." Whatever our situation or environment, God's purpose is for us to save others as Joseph did Pharaoh.

Watching Nwade passionately pour himself out in ministry, one would never know that his wife was coping with a recent tumour diagnosis following the birth of their baby girl. Damson Oppong, the conference ministerial director, called all ordained pastors present to encircle the young pastor and lift him up in prayer right before he spoke, a highly touching moment.

Reflecting on African Campmeeting, organizers expressed pleasure at the end result, from the powerful messages shared to the music to the delicious foods from different African countries. But more importantly, they viewed the day as planting a seed for reaching souls in the African diaspora, a sentiment echoed by Virene Meikle, Ontario Conference treasurer, in her greetings.

Organizer Kwaku Gyetuah concluded, "It was a blessing to have Christ use such an occasion as a melting pot for the cultural diversities in Africa in one faith. Our ultimate goal is uniting African Adventists in Christ in the form of collective worship to serve as a spring board for evangelism." ■

Christelle Agboka is the communication director of the Ontario Conference.

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British Columbia

Partnership With God

What a picture!

2016/2017: one teacher

2017/2018: two teachers

2018/2019: three teachers

God isn't good. He's great! He's amazing!

And it all started with a mustard seed of faith from the constituents of the Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church to continue their support of Pleasant Valley Christian Academy (PVCA).

Now, it hasn't been a ride without its bumps. Actually, we have had several bumps—and big ones! But we, the staff and constituents of PVCA, have clung to our Saviour and continue to do so. We recognize our own human weaknesses and depend on God for His strength and wisdom.

We recognize this school does not belong to us or to the church. It belongs to God. We truly believe He has a purpose for our little school. And we just want to be a part of it. We feel honoured to be a part of it.

And we don't pray for numbers of students! Because God can supply the needs of His school no matter the number of students we have.

No, we pray for this: that God sends us students whom we can help and who will be a blessing to our little community. If we feel challenged by a student's needs, we pray about it and ask God to help us find ways to work with that student. We have been able to keep every single one of our students this year! We are so happy for that, and so are our students and families!

God is amazing!

What is the best part about our



Pleasant Valley Christian Academy students enjoying a visit with a couple of canine visitors.



Students getting a little sunshine, fresh air, and exercise on a winter school outing.

partnership with God, you might ask?

We are not the only school being blessed!

It is so easy to get caught up in our own little world. But God has shown us other Seventh-day Adventist school communities that are also enjoying participating in God's amazing plans.

Jesus is coming soon! Together we are

working to prepare our children to have that essential and ultimate relationship with God!

Join us in our prayers for all of our schools! ■

— Rosemary Fischer,
principal, Pleasant Valley
Christian Academy

n e w s

Committees: *Wisdom in the Multitude of Counsellors*

"Where there is no counsel, the people fall. But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Prov. 11:15, NKJV).

This is one of the guiding principles for how the Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized throughout the world.

One of the ways we put that principle into practice is by holding the BC Conference General Meeting. (It used to be called the Conference Constituency Meeting, or the Quadrennial Session). The last one, held at Camp Hope last August, voted representatives from across the province to sit on the BC Conference Board of Directors, which is the highest human authority for the BC Conference between General Meetings.

The Board of Directors meets seven times per year and makes 120 to 130 decisions throughout the year. Each of these decisions will contribute to the

overall mission of the BC Conference, to REACH British Columbia and the Yukon with the Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness. One of the most important decisions made by the Board of Directors was a vote on the top priorities for this quinquennium (five-year period): spirituality, mission, youth, and equipping.

The decisions made by the Board of Directors guide the BC Conference family, which has 11,493 members in 101 churches, companies, and church plants served by 55 full- and part-time pastors, and over 1,100 students in 14 schools taught by 96 full- and part-time principals and teachers.

Other groups of "counsellors" that bring reports and/or recommendations, either directly or indirectly, to the Board of Directors include, but are not limited

to, the following departments, ministries, and committees: Executive Committee, Administration Committee, Education, Camp Hope, ABC, Treasury, Communications, Ministerial, Planned Giving, Youth, Children's Ministries, Health Ministries, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Prayer Ministries, Building Committee, Church Planting Committee, Evangelism Committee, Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Ordination Committee, Search Committee, Strategy Committee, and others as needed. Some of these will have their own subcommittees.

Please pray for this body of "counsellors" to make decisions that give glory to God for this quinquennium. ■

— *Ern Brake, vice-president, administration*

Alberta

Edmonton Filipino Youth Lead Out in Week of Spiritual Emphasis

On March 18–24, 2018, the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Youth (EdFil Youth) took courage to lead a week of empowerment, which they entitled "ME-llennials: Levelling Up to Christ."

The youth explored the problems that the Me-llennials (Me, representing oneself as a millennial) are facing in today's society. The seven main issues that the EdFil youth talked about were the millennials' battles or challenges with relationships, money, church, success, time, self, and God. Each night, one of the youth/young adults from the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church tackled a specific issue and discussed it in depth. The speakers explained not only what each problem meant but also its roots and resolutions. It was indeed a week full of blessings as the young people preached and shared their knowledge and discoveries with

the audience.

The EdFil youth decided to delve into these topics because they can relate to them. As millennials, they thought that it would be a great opportunity to study the major issues that they encounter or will likely encounter as well as to find solutions and to bring forth change. Their goal was to lead the millennials to "level up" to Christ. The EdFil youth had a busy month as they prepared, planned, and practised songs and presentations, which they shared in the nightly meanings. During the week of prayer, the church discovered many hidden talents of the young people.

Despite the people's busy schedules, church members and friends consistently attended the week of empowerment, hungry to learn more. One of the attendees claimed, "I am always excited to come

because I am curious about what the next speaker is going to say." Whether it be the participants or the audience, everyone involved in the event felt equally blessed. Many of the young speakers felt challenged as they spoke in front of people for the first time. The Holy Spirit has inspired our youth to serve our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. They took the opportunity to learn and grow mentally, physically and spiritually.

The youth prepared, participated, and led out in the programs for prayer meeting, Sabbath school, and worship service for the entire month of March, as well as preached sermons for two of the Sabbaths. Our youth also participated in the Global Youth Day Weekend held at Red Willow Community Church in St. Albert. During this Global Youth weekend, our youth also participated in



Edmonton Filipino Youth Week of Spiritual Emphasis.

community outreach activities, including Hope Mission and Urban Ministry in downtown Edmonton and Street Feeding. Thank you to Pastor Kingsley Moyo for

guiding and mentoring our youth to live closer to Christ. And that was the focus of the Youth Empowerment month: to be closer to Christ our Saviour. ■

—Yumi Samson and
Bernardo Lacanilao,
members, Edmonton
Filipino church

Ontario

Journey in the Park Worship



Members of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church meet under a tree in Allan Garden Park for Sabbath worship. Cabbagetown community members, visitors to the park, dog walkers, and tourists were all welcome to participate.

On July 28, 2018, the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church congregation on 353 Sherbourne Street in downtown Toronto met in the Allan Garden Park to worship for the fourth time. The goal of this event was to mobilize the Berea congregants to serve the Cabbagetown neighbourhood and make the church visible in the community. The event was meaningful and relevant in the light of increased gun violence in the city. This annual event saw the congregation, Cabbagetown community members, visitors to the park, dog walkers, and tourists from various parts of the city all coming together to worship under a tree.

The praise and worship team got the session underway, setting the tone and invigorating the worshippers. The congregation lifted up their voices proclaiming God's power to set the captives free.

news

According to Françoise, a resident of Cabbagetown, “If it were not for God and prayer, where would we be? The church is doing a great work in the community.” We are happy and excited that God has placed the church in this community to minister to so many hearts.

There were also tables set up by four ministries: Berea Beacons Pathfinders (who provided brochures/flyers to children in the neighbourhood as a means of recruitment); Prayer Ministry (who offered prayers for/with those who came forward); the Health and Temperance ministry, which conducted free blood-pressure tests; and, lastly, Community Services, who distributed items of clothing, socks, and well-needed footwear. Rannie, a passerby, commented, “God is good to people that call upon His name. These clothes will help me and my children.”

The speaker of the day, Andrew Barrett, delivered the message titled “Rooted and Grounded,” which highlighted Ephesians 3:16–21 and focused on the root of our faith. The message of faith invigorated the listeners.

“We recognized that most people don’t come looking for a church. We are going to be where people already are and try to be the church where they are,” according to Hazel Henry, Personal Ministries leader.

According to the Berea Beacons Pathfinders director, Lula Bestman-Mombo, “The journey in the park is a church without walls.” The interaction with those in the park saw Mr. Kelvin, an alumnus of Toronto Junior Academy now Crawford Adventist Academy and also once an active pathfinder, share his experience of walking away from the fellowship of the church and assured his listeners of his desire to return one day.

Further development: On Aug. 4, 2018, the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomed their new pastor, David James, and his family. Allan Chichester of the Ontario Conference installed James and, in the process, encouraged the Bereans to work together in order to make the church vital in the downtown area. In his message titled “Behold, He comes” our newly installed pastor, highlighted Revelation 1:4–7.

Worship in the Park has become an annual event for Berea. The invitation is wide open for you to come and join in this wonderful experience of worship. Stay tuned for information regarding the date for next year’s worship in the park, where we will continue to tell the people that God loves them. ■

—Navarius Mombo,
communications director,
Berea Adventist church

Quebec

GLOW Montreal Mission

I’m really glad I did this, because when I was young, someone shared about God with me and about the hope of life, so this is something important to me I was able to meet many people.”

—GLOW Montreal Mission Participant



Some of the 180 GLOW missionaries from Ontario and Quebec during the GLOW Montreal Mission

What better way to spend a hot summer day than in sharing smiles, making friends, offering prayers, and distributing God’s word with others. In fact, 180 GLOW missionaries from Ontario and Quebec did exactly that. Armed with French and English material and a willing spirit, they braved the hot July 1 weekend in Montreal to mingle with the crowds gathered for the Canada Day Parade and other festivities. Altogether, these faithful (and in some cases shy) missionaries gave out over 50,000 GLOW tracts, 1,000 copies of *Steps to Christ* and 1,000 copies of *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*.

Sabbath afternoon, participants were trained on practical ways of reaching the

secular mind. On Sunday morning, all took to the streets after an inspiring devotional by *Il Est Écrit* speaker/director, Remy Ballais, and a charge by Quebec Conference president, Kwasi Ansah-Adu. Following the afternoon distribution, all were glad for the delicious lunch. A testimony service came next with the inspiring closing charge by Daniel Saugh. This GLOW outreach initiative was made possible by the partnership of local churches, the Quebec Conference, *Il Est Écrit*, and the Lifestyle Canada ministry.

Praise the Lord that souls who received tracts and books on Canada Day have already written our office to request for Bible Studies and more literature. Our hearts are gladdened by the immediate results of this mission endeavours. However, we are even more encouraged by the fact that “a much larger number who read [tracts and books] will not take their position until they see the very events taking place

that are foretold.”¹

The most beautiful impression of the weekend was how average church members were able to connect with people on difference levels, impacting the community in a spiritual way. Our church members-turned-missionaries were also impacted as they were used by God in touching lives for His kingdom. A youth group was able to help an elderly man find his way back home. One father and his children were able to reach out to a lady who had attended an Adventist VBS many years ago. They prayed together, and she gladly received a spiritual book. And then, there’s the missionary sister who had a chance to sit and talk with a lady who had strayed from the faith. After a heart-to-heart talk, she was so happy to receive a book and expressed gratitude for the prayer. They exchanged contact information to visit each other at a later date. There were many more stories of

God’s intervention like the time 30+ participants got free bus rides to and from their assigned location. And then, there’s the neighbour across the street from the church who ran after a missionary for another copy of *The Great Controversy* for his friend!

Please continue to pray for those who were reached that weekend. Pray that God’s love will permeate their hearts as they read and experience the freedom that comes from knowing Jesus. Pray that God will use each of us in seeking to impact more people through literature and the personal touch. Now is the time to sow, for we are told that “more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.”² ■

—Jonathan Zita,
director, Lifestyle
Canada Education Service

1 Ellen G. White, Manuscript 31, 1890.

2 Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1885.



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2018 OFFERING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

Local Church Budget	October 06
Voice of Prophecy Canada*	October 13
Local Church Budget	October 20
Local Conference Advance	October 27

NOVEMBER

Local Church Budget	November 03
Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)*	November 10
Local Church Budget	November 17
Local Conference Advance	November 24

*Special materials provided.



n e w s

Manitoba-Saskatchewan

New Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rosthern



The Rosthern Christian School Bell Choir performing for the grand opening.



The new sanctuary was filled to capacity.

May 26, 2018 proved to be a very bright and happy Sabbath at Rosthern, Sask. That was the day our new church building was officially opened.

Local members, former Rosthern members and pastors, community friends, and friends from every direction came

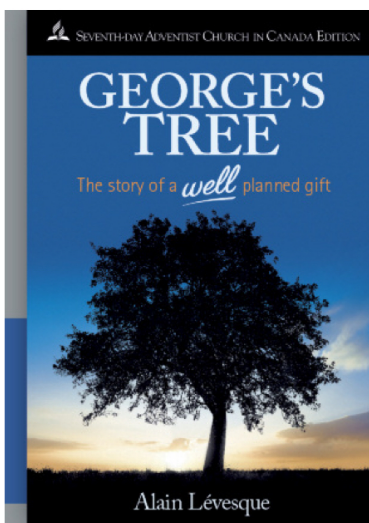
to fill the new building to capacity.

The Rosthern mayor and various pastors from other Rosthern congregations paid tribute to us and recognized our church as a light in the community.

Pastor Jeff Potts' vibrant address reinforced the importance of our Christian walk.

We hope that many more who read this will come on any other Sabbath and worship with us in our new Rosthern Seventh-day Adventist Church at 1400-4th Avenue in Rosthern. ■

—Elsie M. Lehmann



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- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- 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.

Announcements

The Richmond church in British Columbia is having a 40th anniversary celebration. All current and former members are invited to come and participate! When: Oct. 12-13, 2018. Pastor Sima will be the main speaker! 8711 Cambie Rd, Richmond, B.C. V6X 1K2; 778/751-7263; info@richmondsda.org.

Obituaries

Marie-Andrée (née Villarseau) Colas was born on Jan. 18, 1952, in Petit Goave, Haiti, and died on May 12, 2018, in Montreal, Que. Marie-

Andrée was a great supporter of local church programs and of her husband's ministry. Marie-Andrée is predeceased by her brother, Jean-Marie Villarseau. Surviving: husband, Yves E. Colas; sons, Samuel and Alex Colas; stepdaughter, Yvelaine Colas; half-brother, Emmanuel Villarseau; sisters, Carolle, Myrlande, and Marie-Denise Villarseau; and two grandchildren.

Remedios Coloma was born on July 4, 1922, in Pasay City, Philippines, and died on April 15, 2018, in Toronto, Ont. Remedios was a faithful member of the Glendale Filipino Church in California for many years, and the First Filipino-Canadian Church in Toronto. Remedios held many offices as head deacon and head of hospitality and started the Filipino Program at the First Filipino-Canadian Church. Remedios is predeceased by her husband, Clemente Coloma. Surviving: daughters, Clere Jean Delaroca, Carmelita Stewart, Clevelinda Correces, and Caroline Deleon; sons, Clemente Coloma Jr. and Conrado Coloma; 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Evelyn "Anna" (née Thiessen) Hawes was born on May 30, 1928, in Shamrock, Sask., and died on June 4, 2018, in Enderby, B.C. Evelyn spent many happy years canvassing in the Prairie provinces and teaching church school there, as well as in British Columbia in the Fraser Valley, Grandview Flats, and Kelowna, and being involved in various children's, health, and church ministries and Bible studies. Evelyn was predeceased by parents, Jacob and Anna Thiessen; brother, Audie Thiessen; sisters, Bernice Nahorney and Donnetta Thiessen. Surviving: husband, Douglas Hawes of Falkland, B.C.; son, Lynden (Liisa) Hawes of Calgary, Alta.; daughter, Clarissa (Dave) Fielder of Falkland; sisters, Myrtle Davis, Elvina Stearns, Marian MacKenzie, and Fran Van Bemmell; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Frances "Fran" (née Henry) How was born on May 15, 1912, in Kipp,

Alta., and died on May 13, 2018, in Ponoka, Alta. Fran supported her husband Norman in church leadership in Alberta, Newfoundland, British Colombia, and the Canadian Union from the early 1950s to 1980. When they retired, Fran and Norm worked in Egypt for 14 months and at BC Camp Hope for two years. Frances is predeceased by her husband, Norman A. How. Surviving: sons, David (Vivienne) How of Campbell River, B.C., and Fred (Beverly) How; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Lois "Doreen" (née Bailey) Kantor was born on Jan. 12, 1924, in St. Thomas, Ont., and died on June 15, 2018, in St. Thomas. Lois is predeceased by her husband, Paul Kantor; parents, Harold and Gertrude (née Young) Bailey; brother, Don Bailey; and sister, Jean (née Bailey) Pindor. Surviving: sons, David and Darryl Kantor; daughters, Joy Kantor-Clarke and Jan Moore; foster child, Ryan Moore; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Adventist World Radio seeks IT Project Manager. Key roles include development and support of CRM resources for AWR's Center for Digital Evangelism. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send resume to Kent Sharpe, sharpek@gc.adventist.org. (10/18)



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from the editor



GROWING UP AS A YOUNG BOY IN RURAL ALBERTA, I had certain expectations for my life. Little did I know that so many things I *wasn't* expecting to happen would end up bringing me so much joy.

I never expected to become an Adventist thanks to the ministry of the Alberta Book and Bible House (now the Alberta ABC) and conversations with then-manager Earl Coupland.

I never expected to eventually become the manager of that and various other Adventist Book Centre locations, including the Eastern ABC in Oshawa, Ont., for eight wonderful years.

I never expected to move back to Oshawa as the editor of a magazine that I had always enjoyed reading and looked forward to each month.

I never expected to work for our national headquarters, an organization that rarely sees staff conflict within its walls.

I never expected to travel all over the world visiting charitable organizations' projects, in countries I had only dreamed about as a child.

I never expected to become the director of a charitable donation called Free African Children Thru Education (FACE),¹ which provides orphans in Africa with an Adventist education.

I never expected to meet Bing Crosby's oldest grandchild, Gregory, on the week he was chosen to write the pilot of a TV series called *Medal of Honor* and begin a long journey to the Academy Award-winning film, *Hacksaw Ridge*.

I never expected my daughter, Alisha; son-in-law, Sergio; and granddaughters Chloe and Emma to move across the country from British Columbia to Oshawa, where I can enjoy them every day.

I never expected all of the trials I experienced to be good for me.

I never expected, at this age, to fear that people will realize I'm not worthy of any of the above.

I never expected God to be so real in my life. For that I give thanks. I thank God for the doors that He opened, and even the people He sometimes had to send my way to push me through those doors. ■

¹ www.facecharity.ca

from the editor

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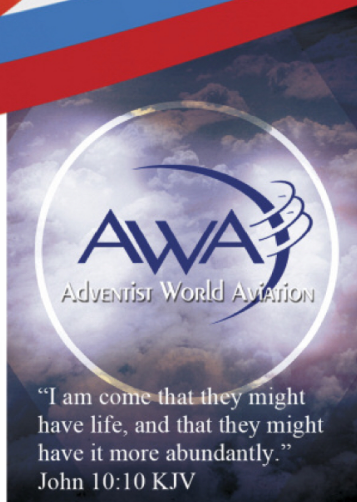
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ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION provides aviation support worldwide where desperate needs may only be met with air transportation. AWA is now honoured to partner in delivering outreach and humanitarian programs to indigenous communities right here in Canada. Watch for more stories in upcoming Messenger issues!

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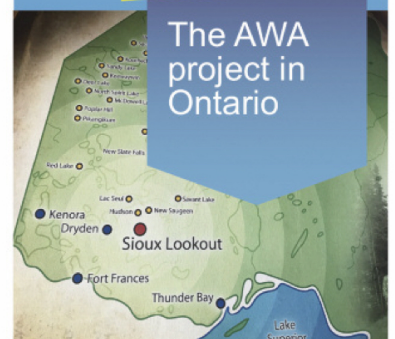
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