

canadian adventist *Messenger*

november 2018



No More of
This Kind to a
Respectable

Jail

Plus

- Carabiners (p. 3)
- An Unexpected Gift (p. 6)
- Shifting Goal Posts (p. 18)
- Where the Road Ends (p. 32)



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\$50



\$100

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heart to heart

“Victorious faith means trusting God even when it looks like there’s no way out.”

Carabiners

A few weeks ago, I was sprinting through an airport somewhere attempting to catch my next flight, when I noticed a young fellow keeping pace with me. “Those are pretty authentic looking ‘biners,” he puffed. He was referring to some attachments on my book bag that I’d grabbed at a nearby MEC store. Now, I don’t climb mountains as he probably does, but I do like a better “biner,” and if you travel a lot, they often come in handy and remove quickly for a new purpose when needed.

I spent time on my next flight thinking about his words.

Does my faith seem that authentic to someone who notices it as life rushes along? It should. Often, though, faith seems like some sort of ethereal sleight-of-hand that we practise in front of the uninitiated or unaware. What’s needed is authentic faith usable in all sorts of circumstances. I like this thought from a professor of years past: “Victorious faith means trusting God even when it looks like there’s no way out.” That’s pretty authentic, isn’t it?

God, help us to have faith like that. Faith that is durable and usable. Faith that climbs mountains when needed but that also lasts when we wonder, What’s next? And please live that faith in me. Thanks. Amen. ■

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



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What's it Mean to You?

"I want to be the first one in my family to finish school. I want to see how far I can go."

Shaneek
MANS Class of 2020
Honor Student since 2013
Future PhD



Shaneek cut the ribbon at the high school opening on Sept. 28, 2018

"I love school!" says Shaneek. "Some people call me 'Strange' because I like math."

Not her teachers. In fact, her math and other teachers keep Shaneek supplied with textbooks a year or two beyond her grade, and Shaneek works on them after she finishes her class assignment—usually in no time flat.

Beyond having an aptitude for it, Shaneek loves math because it reminds her of her father, who was also good at math but passed away when Shaneek was 8. "It brings me closer to him and makes me happy," she says dreamily. And she's got lots to be happy about besides math: with near-perfect daily attendance, Shaneek's on top of her academics, an athlete, a competitive Shawl Fancy Dancer, and she's with people she considers "family" every day at school.

The family aspect of MANS—being safe, belonging, and valued in an often-harsh world—is so important that Shaneek left what many would consider a great opportunity to attend a big First Nations school in the city last year. On her own initiative, she got herself back "home" to MANS and hasn't regretted it one bit. "It's calm and organized, and very friendly—warm like a family."

"I want to go to university and study for a government job to help aboriginals," she says with anticipation. "There's a new high school being built," Shaneek beams at the thought of the new MANS high school campus, then adds, "but I'm going to have to wait until Grade 11."

But that's OK. For now, Shaneek's just happy to be home.

—By Lynn McDowell



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**
RR 2, Ponoka, AB T4J 1R2

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Front view of the building

An Unexpected Gift

"Infrastructure is a pillar of education to ensure a safe learning environment. It protects the students from rain, wind, and sunlight."

MR. K. C. BHOJURAM, the headmaster of the Kiranchowk Karkidanda school in the Dhading district of rural Nepal, knows the truth of his words.

On April 25, 2015, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake damaged the school badly. One building completely collapsed, and another was too damaged to be used. Had the earthquake not happened on a Saturday, many of the students would have lost their lives.

When the government inspectors came to see the damage, only three of the classrooms were cleared. The rest were declared unusable.

A one-and-a-half-hour drive from the nearest asphalt road, the school is located in a poor community. The earthquake had devastated much of Nepal, and it was unlikely that the government would be able to fix the school. Mr. Bhojoram knew that the chances of raising the money to rebuild the school on their own was non-existent.

Since the reopening of the school, many of the students have been housed in temporary sheet-metal classrooms.

In March 2017, ADRA Canada received an unexpected gift. The donation had come from a teacher, and she had asked that the funds be used to help in the rebuilding efforts taking place in Nepal. It was just enough to construct four classrooms for the school in Karkidanda.

Building the classrooms was not without challenges. It was difficult to find skilled labourers in so remote an area,

and the price of cement doubled during the construction. The remoteness of the school made bringing in materials difficult. There were delays, but with the blessing of God, the school was completed on budget.

ADRA firmly believes in the principle of "building back better." The new classrooms were constructed with techniques that make the building earthquake resilient.

Kripal is 15. She has been attending the Karkidanda school for the last 10 years. In two years she hopes to graduate high school, go to college, and then finish a master's degree. Her classroom was located in the destroyed building. When the school reopened, she and her classmates were placed into a temporary structure made of sheet metal and wooden poles. Kripal was not able to fully concentrate on her studies, because she could overhear the other classes, and the wind would blow leaves into her face.

Sushant is 14. His favourite subjects are math, science, and English. He likes math because he is fond of the calculations, science because he likes to learn about inventions, and also English because he enjoys learning another language. When he grows up, he would like to be an engineer.

Kripal and Sushant are two of the students who are grateful for the new classrooms that will enable them to learn in safety. ■

Sharmilla Reid is supporter relations director at ADRA Canada.



Be the Blessing

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” —*Matthew 28:19, NIV*

One of my favourite passages of Scripture is Matthew 28:19, 20, known as the Great Commission. Here Jesus sends His disciples into all the world.

I am pleased to be involved with an organization that plays a very significant role in fulfilling this charge. With a network of offices in over 140 countries, ADRA's work as the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a global reach and touches the lives of millions.

In 2003 I joined a worldwide movement called the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Since then I have had a keen interest in the work of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Over the years I have learned much about ADRA and its ministry to those living in poverty and distress. One of the highlights for me at campmeeting has been ADRA's presentations highlighting their work around the world. I never expected the privilege of serving as executive director for ADRA Canada, a role that has opened my eyes even further to how ADRA fulfills this call.

Considering the many suffering people around the world, reaching the multitudes in need may seem like an overwhelming task. Each one of us can make a difference, but we must view this challenge in a less daunting way.

When I think of Esther, a widow I met in northern Uganda, ADRA's work becomes very real to me. Esther, her husband, and their family were forced to flee their home in South Sudan, but during the process, her husband was killed. Esther and her children arrived in Uganda with almost nothing. Now she alone is responsible for caring for her five children.

Seeing their need, ADRA chose Esther's family to receive a latrine and bathing shelter. For only \$75, this

family has been given the privacy, safety, security, and increased health that come with having their own facilities. Without this help, they would be forced to travel through the night to less safe, shared facilities.

Esther shed tears of joy as she told me her story, grateful for the improvement ADRA had made in her family's life.

There are so many others like Esther.

As I visited our projects and witnessed how we help ease the burdens of many with the resources entrusted to us, my heart was touched. We work in some of the world's most poverty-stricken regions, providing assistance to help people lift themselves out of extreme poverty and gain economic independence.

Through blessing others, we also are blessed—blessed to know that we are doing the work that God has called us to do, blessed to share with our supporters the love and joy they are spreading in some of the darkest circumstances.

Whether it's a refugee in the midst of conflict or natural disasters, or someone born into extreme poverty in an underdeveloped part of the world, there are many in dire need today. We can provide food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, and clothing for the naked, saving precious lives through this work.

Christ has called us to take the gospel to the world. How are you impacting the lives of those you can help today? Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry. ■

Steve Matthews is executive director of ADRA Canada.



teen talk

Q: How do I maintain my prayer life and relationship with God while in university, one that is more than just going to church?

A: The end of your question holds the key to your dilemma.

Going to church, attending midweek gatherings at any Christian club on campus (public or private), are things that you can add to your calendar app with the “repeat weekly” option selected. That’s like going to class. It’s set in stone, and it dictates your day. When you’re a student, everything revolves around your university’s timetable: the time you set your alarm in the morning, when you eat, and even your bedtime. You must compartmentalize your day wisely in order to be successful in your studies.

The God–human connection is totally different, though. Such a relationship is fluid, not rigidly compartmentalized. God doesn’t fit in a calendar or spreadsheet cell, even if He’s been merged with other cells on the Sabbath column or on the bedtime row. He is not even the table border, whatever the thickness of it. He is Present, becoming like an invisible friend who is always with us. If we are willing to look outside the box, acknowledging such Presence becomes an ongoing prayer that outlasts a specific amount of scheduled time on your knees.

That comforting Presence will fuel your spiritual well-being whether you are busy or have time to spare. ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

And if it bears fruit, well. But if not,
after that you can cut it down.

—Luke 13:9, NKJV

Fig

Renee loves to garden, and although she lives in a place with long, cold winters, she's not afraid to take some chances with plants that need a warmer climate. So, she planted a fig tree in a big ceramic pot. Fig trees may take up to 10 years to produce fruit, but Renee is patient.

Renee's fig tree is only about one metre (three feet) tall. The trunk is barely thicker than her thumb. The gnarly branches sprawl at strange angles. To be honest, the plant is not much to look at. It's small and scraggly. But wonder of wonders, it makes the sweetest, juiciest figs you can imagine!

Do it!

Grow a fig! Remove the seeds from a ripe fig and soak for two days. Good seeds will sink. Skim off the floating seeds and discard them. Rinse the remaining seeds and press down in damp potting soil. Cover the pot with plastic wrap and leave it in a sunny window for up to three months.

Think about it.

Jesus told a story about a fig tree that didn't produce fruit. The gardener said he'd give it special care for one more year; then, if it didn't grow fruit, the owner could cut it down. Jesus has been giving special care to people on this earth for thousands of years, but time will soon run out. To produce the fruit of a Christlike character, we must be connected to Christ and allow His Spirit to work in us and change our lives. Then we may bless the world and draw others into God's kingdom.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy
studying and learning from God's creation.
Visit Creation Corner at [facebook.com/CreationCornerforKids](https://www.facebook.com/CreationCornerforKids).

—Based on *Christ's Object Lessons*—



November 2018

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aguilars in uganda

Differently Capable

Our Pathfinder club engages in many community outreach programs. One particular Sabbath we visited a local centre for “differently capable” individuals. Our director, Lydia, has a background in social work and taught us this much preferred phrase. This particular centre serves as a boarding school and home for children.

On our way to the centre, we handed out *Adventist World* magazines to invite the community to the upcoming Bible series. Along with the magazines, we handed out printed cards by Lars Justinen. They were donated to our club by his son Stephen during his year-long volunteer in the refugee settlement of Bidibidi. I paired myself with an Adventurer named Rogers, and together we targeted the shopkeepers. He spoke, and I smiled. It was fun, especially, to see the people immediately read the magazines and admire the cards.

We arrived at the centre ready to hold Sabbath school and connect with the kids, but not before taking a tour of the facility. It was important for the staff to educate our group. We were told many people are afraid to interact with those living at the centre and even walk on the opposite side of the street to avoid coming near the gates of the facility. So when visitors do come, they are welcomed warmly.

For me and my family, we had met many differently capable individuals through the many blended Filipino foster families in Vancouver.

A little boy immediately approached Onyx to shake his hand; then he saw me. He looked up at me, took my hand, and hung on for a long time. This gave courage to the other Pathfinders. Our group got larger and larger by the minute as we walked two by two from room to room. These interactions were important. It broke barriers, and the smiles the kids gave us in return were priceless.

Aside from the school curriculum, the centre teaches the children practical skills like sewing, embroidery, and weaving. Jaden was so excited to see the room full of foot powered sewing machines, weaving contraptions, and embroidery hoops. They sold small wallets and purses made by the children for 1,000 to 3,000 shillings (30¢ to \$1), depending on the size. They also taught



Director Jonah leading us to the gate of Kireka Home learning centre.



Jaden with the Pathfinders in the sewing room.

them language skills, and have a “kinetic machine” that helps those with physical challenges.

My mom, Lydia, and I baked a lot of banana bread the week before to give as a treat to the children. We also made banana bread muffins for the teachers as a thank-you for their commitment. For most, it was their first time tasting banana bread.

For many of our Pathfinders, it was the first time to have their hearts opened to our new friends. The little things made everyone happy, and those at the centre were so appreciative of our visit.

We look forward to spending more Sabbath afternoons with our new friends. May we always be kind and understanding to everyone, because in reality, we are all differently capable. Mukama Mulungi. God is good. ■

Jewel Aguilar is the eldest child of Charles and Elizabeth Aguilar, serving as missionaries in Uganda with ADRA.

Louissette's Surprise

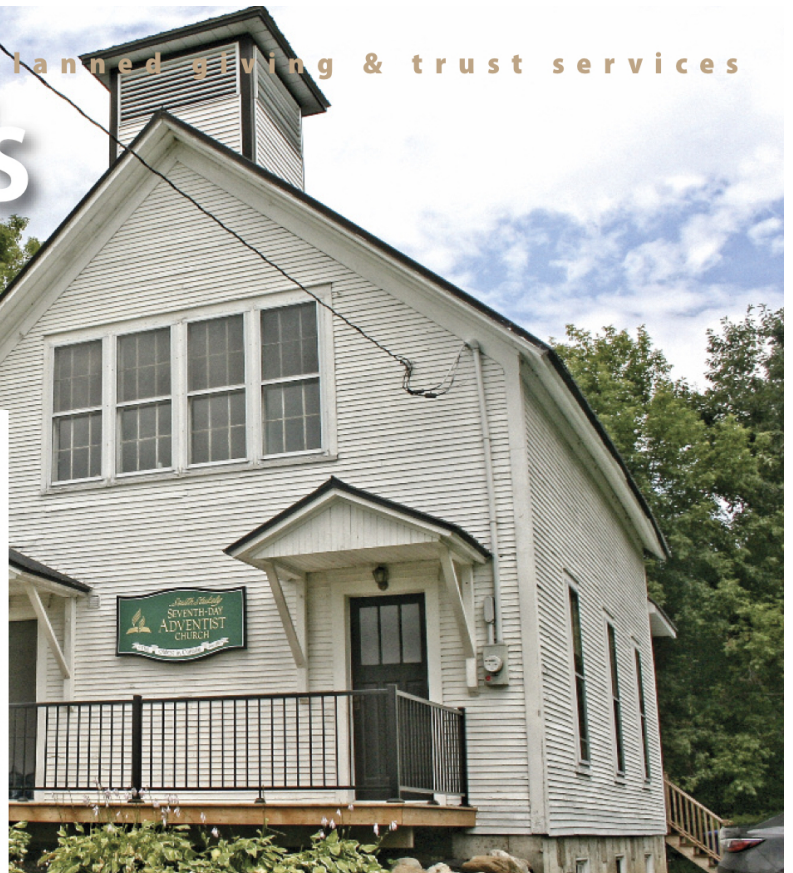


Photo of church by Jo-Anne Anderson.

One sunny afternoon in 2013, I received a call requesting that I represent the Adventist Church at the reading of a will. This came as a pleasant surprise. I had known Louissette well and felt honoured to assist in carrying out her final wishes.

Louissette was a quiet woman—shy in public but jovial among close friends. We, her church family, miss her endearing smile and humble way, and the sense of peace her presence created.

Born in Verdun and brought up in Pointe-Saint-Charles, Que., Louissette spent many of her working years in Montreal on an assembly line mounting telephones. After retirement, she lived with her widowed sister in a modest apartment in Richmond, sharing expenses, joys, and burdens. Louissette had never been married and had no children of her own. She was happily “Auntie Louissette” to her sister’s three daughters. After completing the Discover Bible Course, Louissette and her sister were baptized together and became faithful members of the South Stukely church, the oldest Adventist congregation in Canada.

We were all happy when Louissette was present at church and a little blue when she was absent. When she advanced in age and could no longer attend church, she enjoyed and appreciated the faithful visits of her church family.

In 2013, at the age of 79, she passed away as quietly as she had lived.

When I walked into the notary’s office, I was greeted by Louissette’s three nieces. We all sat to hear the reading of Louissette’s will—her first wish was to bequeath \$2,000 to the South Stukely Seventh-day Adventist Church. Even in her will, there was no question that Louissette’s church family had meant a great deal to her.

At the time, the South Stukely church, the oldest Adventist church building in Canada, was in desperate need of repairs and improvements. It needed a new foundation, and Louissette had wanted to participate in the project. In her death, she still found a way to do this. I was touched by the gesture and all were surprised by her generosity. Louissette didn’t have much, but what she had she gladly shared with those for whom she cared.

When the part of her will that concerned the church was read, I discreetly and politely left, grateful to have known Louissette. Her gift reminded me of the poor widow who put her two coins into the temple offering, a gesture that came from a heart filled with gratitude and love. I am sure that Louissette’s three nieces left that day knowing well that Auntie Louissette had loved them, because she had graciously included them in her will as well.

The South Stukely congregation was organized in 1877 and continues to worship in their original church building today. The congregation has grown considerably, so it faces new challenges. Its outreach programs, such as health lectures, cooking classes, Vacation Bible School, and annual campmeeting at Camp Eben Eden are well attended. With a new basement, kitchen, and sanitary facilities, the Stukely church is now better equipped to fulfill its mission. I am sure that Louissette would have been happy to see her church as it is today. This precious Adventist Heritage Site continues to play its part in proclaiming the good news of the soon coming of our Saviour.

Stefan Starenkyj is the Planned Giving and Trust Services coordinator for the Quebec Conference as well as an elder of the South Stukely Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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 Al Reimche.

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



Beth and Al Reimche

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

Al Reimche: I was born in Olds, Alta., where my dad (Harold) had just been transferred as a pastor. From there we moved to Wanham, Alta., where my brother, Donavon, was born. I am told I used to go visiting all the neighbours in that small town and ask for cookies. Evidently, that wasn't a good idea, as I ended up with free access to our backyard by way of an attachment to the clothes line. After that our family moved to Medicine Hat and Lethbridge for another pastoral assignment. My growing-up years were spent between Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia. While we were living in New Westminster, B.C., my two sisters, Jackie and DellaRose, joined our family.

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

A: I attended schools in Lethbridge, Alta.; Kingston, Ont.; Hamilton, Ont.; Vancouver, B.C.; and CUC, where I graduated from high school. After spending a couple of years in construction, I attended Walla Walla College, where I met and married Beth Blabey. After her graduation she was offered a job in St. John's, N.L., and so we moved there, with me intending to work on completing my degree.

Instead, a vacancy at the local Adventist school opened up, and I was hired as the Grades 3 and 4 teacher. It wasn't until later that I finished my religion degree at Atlantic Union College. While serving in the Alberta Conference, I began a master's in family life education through Loma Linda University, but it was cut short when I returned to pastoral ministry.

M: *Describe your decision in choosing the gospel ministry as your vocation.*

A: I was dedicated as a child to be a pastor, but during my teens and 20s, that direction was called into question. While at WWC, I began to pursue a degree in music, then theology, then psychology, then theology, then early childhood education. I struggled with whether God had called me to ministry or if that was just a thought my parents had instilled in me. So, following WWC, I taught school, did construction, and worked as assistant manager at the Western Canada ABC. I also ran a small electrical business.

Through it all I wrestled with whether God had called. It wasn't until I made a decision one spring and gave God a deadline that the answer became crystal clear. God answered that deadline right on the last day, and Beth who, never intended to marry a pastor, and I, who fought the idea most of my life, ended up in Creston, B.C., still "wet behind the ears," as one member so succinctly stated.

M: *Music has always been an integral part of your life. How has it blessed you personally, and how have you used music in your ministry?*

A: I remember early on listening to George Beverly Shea sing "I'd Rather Have Jesus," and that has been a special thought throughout my life. As a result of listening to his music as well as the King's Heralds, I developed an interest in singing bass. I enjoy acapella music as well. During academy and college, I was part of quartets and found that a great outlet for my ministry and travel. Singing with the Messengers from Walla Walla College and travelling with Dean Loewen and the quartet all over the Western United States and Canada made a lasting impression on me.

While serving in the Oregon Conference, I was blessed to lead the Friday night campmeeting vespers with a capella hymns. At our pastors' conferences, we held an evening with the pastors and wives singing together a capella. Those were all rich experiences.

M: *Where have you served the church and in what capacity?*

A: Beth and I spent our first year of marriage in Newfoundland, and I enjoyed teaching 30 Grade 3 and Grade 4 students, of whom two were Adventist. Our Bible classes were some of my fondest memories of that time. Both Beth and I volunteered at Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) and developed some announcements designed to introduce people to the Sabbath each Friday night.

We spent a year in Oshawa and got engaged with the young adults in the church community who were not part of Kingsway College. We spent a year in Hazelton, B.C., and during that time, I volunteered to plant a church in Smithers. It was during this year that I received my first call to pastoral ministry. I "knew" it wasn't a call from God because we had just accepted a call to operate the bookmobile for the ABC throughout Western Canada. I found out later that I was right. The pastor

who came to Smithers had a son who attended the local high school and made friends with another student by the name of Shawn Boonstra. That was the beginning of Shawn's connection to the Adventist Church.

Following the ABC work, I was called again to serve as a pastor, this time in the Creston/Cranbrook, B.C., district. Following that assignment, I was asked to be the youth pastor for the Rutland church in Kelowna, B.C., and then pastor in Medicine Hat, Alta. The Alberta Conference called me to serve as ministerial/family life director, which was a fulfilling time for me because of my interest in supporting pastors and families.

After eight years we accepted a call to pastor in Pendleton, Ore. Five years later I received a call from the Oregon Conference to again serve as ministerial director. That position led to more involvement with the conference, serving as both vice-president for administration and, finally, president of the Oregon Conference.

M: *If you were to choose just one of the highlights/ joys of your ministry, what would it be?*

A: It has been the opportunities to support the pastors through the ministerial department by providing resources and emotional support as they faced the challenges of working in their communities.

M: *Besides standing at your side in ministry, what was your wife's vocation?*

A: Beth earned a degree in speech pathology and has had the opportunity to pursue that career throughout our married life. Along with her support of my ministry through her set of gifts, and her ability to be a supermom, she has worked in the public school system and connected positively with colleagues and students through the years.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

A: We have two great kids with wonderful spouses with whom we love to spend time. And of course when we are with our son and his wife, that includes getting to spend time with the best grandkids in the world! Jonathan and his wife, Angela, live in Calgary, where he is a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Angela is a nurse at Alberta Children's Hospital. Jayne and her husband, Jason, live in Lincoln City, Ore., and are both engaged in law enforcement. Jayne is a detective for the Lincoln City Police Department, and Jason works as a security officer and code enforcement officer with TCB Security and the Toledo Police Department.

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

A: Since retirement Beth and I have lived in our fifth-wheel and travelled around Western United States and Canada. Our plans are to settle in Spokane Valley, Wash. My dream is to again support young adults who are not able to attend our Adventist universities by providing an opportunity for spiritual and emotional nurture. ■

Sprouts of Hope and Health:

ABW's Agriculture Program



Meriam helps garden at Gilgil Primary School near Nakuru, Kenya. She is a parent of one of the schoolchildren.



Tomatoes flourish at the Gilgil Primary School garden plot thanks to ABW's agricultural efforts toward self-sustainability.

gardens grow year-round. Drip irrigation is used to water the plots. It is placed in between rows and situated a little below the surface. "These are plastic pipes with holes in them, so they're being watered all the time," said Rajah. "It's like a sprinkler system."

There's hope growing from the ground up, outside of some schools in East Africa: hope to end hunger, hope to end dependency on wealthier partners.

A Better World Canada (ABW) is bringing that hope in a concrete way by improving the lives of students and their families through agriculture. As co-founder Eric Rajah sees it, connecting agriculture with education is so important. That's why he has set a goal to see every ABW-sponsored school with a feeding program by 2020—the 30th anniversary of the international development organization.

"We would be happy if every school that we build can be self-sufficient in feeding their own children," Rajah said.

According to the 2017 annual report, 6,085 people were sustained by home and school gardens supported by ABW. Since 1990, approximately 16,750 people have eaten meals from these gardens.

Six sponsored schools are growing gardens to feed the students and their families. These schools are within Kenya and Tanzania. Seeing more schools with feeding programs is the aim. That means creating gardens in other countries, including Afghanistan and Sudan, where ABW sponsors various projects.

For \$30 a month, a donor can sponsor a garden startup so that growers have enough seeds and water accessed from a well on-site. Beans, corn (maize), potatoes, and cabbage are the main vegetables grown.

Water wells are being placed at every school site. Plots are typically 30 metres by 15 metres (100 ft. by 50 ft.), and the

Just like on Canadian farms, there are pests to contend with. However, these pests aren't your tiny aphids or beetles. They're on a much bigger scale: baboons and elephants! Rajah said they have had problems with elephants in the Masai Mara region of southwestern Kenya. As they search for water, herds will come across these gardens, trampling down plants and eating whatever they like.

Baboons cause similar destruction, pulling out plants and feasting on them. Potatoes are one of their favourites. Usually, solar-powered fences may do the trick; otherwise, guards and night watchmen help combat these trespassers. "Sometimes you put a solar light nearby to dissuade the animals from coming," Rajah said.

Another challenge can be drought, causing wells to dry up. But all in all, no challenge is too hard for schools that are seeing achievements both in the classroom and out. Schools use the produce to make a daily healthy meal for their students.

"The biggest problem is that children can come to school hungry, and learning becomes very difficult," said Rajah. Children are being more productive in school thanks to these gardens.

Parents are also benefitting from helping to maintain the gardens. They can sell produce within the community and also keep some for their family. Sometimes, they'll use the income toward buying textbooks, Rajah said. It's a win-win for all involved. ■

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

FORECASTING THE CHURCH

FUTURE

(PT. 3 OF 3)

In the past three issues, I focused on some of the leading trends influencing our society. In this issue we will examine one final trend that is disrupting the church as we know it. Church attendance is at an all-time low, and yet the general public still considers themselves “spiritual.” You may have met people who identify as spiritual but not religious. What exactly does that mean?

Can a person be spiritual but not a church goer? I recently attended a reunion party where the former leaders of a church’s media ministry met for brunch. I was invited because I was the pastor who had recruited each of these individuals to their ministry positions many years ago. As we were catching up, I asked Sharon, a 30-something, if she was still active in a church. “No, I don’t attend church anymore,” she said, “but don’t worry, Kumar, I am still spiritual and believe in God.”

What are people looking for in order to fill their hearts with the love of God? For the last two millennia, we have assumed that the prescription included church attendance. However, the entire premise of church is worshipping our Creator. Let’s be honest. Does that really happen on Sabbath morning? If so, what percentage of the Sabbath experience is devoted to true worship? What are other ways we can facilitate the closeness of God outside of church attendance?

In a recent *Washington Post* article, the writer shares a growing trend in spirituality where people will pay upwards of \$325 an hour to experience a spiritual awakening at a local wellness spa.¹ The desire to seek God still pervades in the heart of humanity, but perhaps the approach has taken a different path. What are some ways your congregation can reach the spiritual needs of people in your community—before inviting them to your church? ■

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

¹ Lavanya Ramanathan, “Crystal Burning Sage: Scrubbing Away Bad Energy,” *Washington Post*, Oct. 7, 2018.

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 was Ellen White? Why is she so important?

Ellen White is a very important figure for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is considered to be one of the co-founders of the church along with her husband, James White, as well as Joseph Bates. Yet she is more than just an important historical figure; she represents a fulfillment of prophecy for God's last-day remnant people.

In Amos 3:7 the Bible states a clear principle for the church: "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets" (NKJV).

As we look at salvation history, this important principle helps us understand the importance of the prophetic voice for God's people. There are five epochs of that salvation history: the flood, the exodus, the exile from Babylon, the coming of the Messiah, and the judgment of the earth. In each case, we know that God would reveal His plan through His prophets.

Throughout history, God has revealed these things by first predicting—through a prophet—the event that will eventually happen, then raising up a prophet right before the fulfillment of that event. In the case of the flood, God first predicted the flood through Enoch, naming his son Methuselah. Methuselah literally means, "At his death, it will come." Methuselah died the year the flood came. However, prior to that fulfillment, God raised up Noah to warn the world just before the flood came.

For the exodus, God predicted through Abraham that His people would be in slavery for 400 years, and just before those 400 years expired, God raised up Moses to prepare and lead the people in their exodus out of Egypt.

In the exile from Babylon, God used Jeremiah to predict that God's people would be captured and in bondage to Babylon for 70 years. And just before those 70 years expired, God raised up Daniel to warn and prepare the people.

For the prediction of the Messiah, God used many prophets—but Daniel specifically—to predict the timing of the Messiah. Then, just before Jesus's first coming, He raised up John the Baptist to "make straight the way of the LORD."

That leaves us with the last-day judgment hour. God used Daniel to predict the timing of the judgment hour through the 2,300-day prophecy (see Dan. 8). It would then seem logical that God, working as He has worked in the past, would raise up a prophetic voice for His last-day church to be warned of the judgment hour in or around the year 1844. Ellen White received her first visions at that time and helped encourage a people who were greatly disappointed.

When analyzing the ministry of Ellen White, we find that she fulfills the biblical tests of a prophet, she is biblically faithful, she exalts Jesus Christ, she was a commandment keeper, and she passes the physical tests of a prophet. Her ministry was highlighted by receiving more than 2,000 visions, authoring over 50 books, helping the Adventist Church to organize the largest Protestant hospital system and the largest Protestant educational system, and leading many people into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

To be clear, the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in the Bible as the only source of every doctrine, and each of the church's teachings comes from the Bible alone.

Ellen White's role in the life of God's end-time people is an authoritative prophetic voice to help lead us in preparing for the soon return of Jesus in this judgment hour. I encourage you to read and see what God's gift to His church says. ■

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

Promises

"We don't need to demand or beg or try to manipulate Him ..."

Has anyone ever promised you something and then not come through with it? I dare say most of us who have lived past 40 have experienced both doing that and having it done to us.

Children can be rather persistent about holding us to what we've promised, so we soon learn to be very careful what we say we'll do, in order to avoid either being harassed to death or having to look at the disappointment in their honest eyes.

God is careful to promise only what He can and will do. He is wise enough to attach some boundaries to many of them (good lesson for us as parents), and one boundary applies to all:

"Whenever we ask anything *according to His will*, He hears us" (1 John 5:14, HCSB).¹

The wisdom in this is that He sees a much bigger picture than we could possibly even conceive of, and not being limited by time, He is already in the future, as well as the past, knowing what happens with each decision and choice we make. He knows what will happen if He says yes to me, more completely than I know what will happen to my little one if I let him grab the pot of boiling water off the stove. It may look fun to him, but the consequences will be anything but.

I encourage people to claim promises when they pray, but I don't encourage them to demand things because God promises them. Let us remember that promises are there to give us courage and encouragement, not tools to use to manipulate God or make Him do what seems right to us. It is when we surrender our perspective that He is able to work more powerfully and make things come out right.

I once was praying for a very difficult situation that was extremely close to me, claiming this very promise, along with the following one:

"And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for" (verse 15, HCSB).

I knew that God would not want the person I was interceding for to fail Him, so I claimed that promise with every ounce of my being, believing fully that He would keep them from falling. I prayed earnestly, and even fasted weekly, regarding this for almost six months. Then I received word that the person had fallen in exactly the way I had been praying against. The answer was no—but how could it be?

I felt as if God had slapped me in the face. I was shaken to my spiritual core. I couldn't read that promise for a couple of years; it seemed to mock me. When I could once again think and process clearly, I wondered what I had missed. How? Why? Oh, the questions I asked.

Gradually, a bigger picture emerged to inform my narrow view. God would love it if we never failed Him, but it is when we do that He is able to show us our need to depend on *Him* for victory, as well as our tremendous need for Him to cleanse us of the sin lurking in our hearts, tainting all we do in His name.

His love for us is sure. He *wants* to do what is right and good in *every* situation. We don't need to demand or beg or try to manipulate Him into it. Rather, we can thank Him and praise Him that He *will* ... even if that is the opposite of what we're expecting Him to do. ■

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

¹ Italics mine.



barry's blog

Shifting Goal Posts

So where does the goal stop? That was what we wanted to know when, as a child, I played hockey on Newfoundland's wind-swept frozen ponds. We used our old rubber boots as the goal posts, but the longer the game went on, the more we were guilty of moving the opposing team's posts further apart so that we could score much more easily. It seems the legal academics and advocates are playing the same game with Trinity Western University (TWU).

To avoid the legal harassment of professional accrediting bodies such as the law societies, TWU has been forced to remove the mandatory nature of its Community Covenant for students. During the long period of legal wrangling that culminated at the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), that mandatory requirement was the central sticking point for opponents of the school. However, if you listen to some law professors and legal advocates, TWU's concession is not enough—they are now wanting to move the goal posts by insisting on further changes. There is a call for an added dimension: remove the requirement for faculty and staff. All this despite the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, a prior SCC decision in TWU's favour in 2001, and exemption from human rights legislation.

It seems the concept of a private, religious school is foreign, even though such universities pre-date Confederation in 1867. And even if TWU were to follow through on these new demands, it is highly unlikely that would satisfy critics—at least not until TWU's religious identity is completely erased. So, what's the point of the charter protection of religious freedom? And can we really call ourselves a multicultural, plural society if we do not allow the diversity that Christian universities bring?

Indeed, the legal revolutionaries are insisting that any religious university that wishes to have a law school must pass the ultimate

test: is it in sync with the prevailing views of a legal community, which has come to accept the "rule of justice" rather than the "rule of law"? "Justice" in this new era is defined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the assumed popular opinions of the day. We should be under no illusions: current legal academics have the monopoly on legal education and they are loath to allow space for a Christian university. They want it all. And so far, they have it all. TWU represents a threat to their hegemony.

If ever we need a Christian law school, it is now. We have seen the extent to which the legal elites maligned the Christian community in the TWU law school case. The profession is clearly in need of more young lawyers who respect and understand religious diversity and civil debate. Should TWU, that irritating crack in the legal ice rink, file another application for their law school, we will see just how tolerant the legal community is. I hope TWU does file a new application (and, if they don't, we need another Christian university to take up the cause).

One way or another, it is time that the legal profession recognizes its responsibility in allowing for the full extent of the promise of religious freedom in the charter. That freedom can only be temporarily frustrated. I am hopeful that eventually Canada will join with other liberal democracies and allow Christians to have their law school. That will be a positive move that respects diversity and will encourage open, honest, and full debate within the academic context, as together we all participate in understanding what it means to be a free and democratic society—one that does not keep shifting the goal posts. ■

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

Growing Up Millennial



"...if we try and understand one another and work together rather than apart, we can unify each other."

An Introvert's Look

I don't know if this is a "millennial thing," or simply something that's a big deal in my friend group, but I find we're always talking about introversion versus extroversion. Me, I've always been an introvert. I need alone time, especially after a long day of work or school just to recuperate. My roommate, though, is extroverted. She gets her energy from being with people, and even though she needs alone time, too, sometimes (I mean, everyone does!), she loves to go out and be with friends.

One of the things people look at fairly often in deciphering whether they're extroverted or introverted is the Myers-Briggs personality test. If you haven't taken it, you can find a free version online. It analyzes four categories: introversion vs. extroversion, intuitive vs. sensing, thinking vs. feeling, and judging vs. perceiving. It shows that (for each category) we're all on a scale but indicates which trait in each category is more dominant. And the category people look at most frequently, in my opinion, is introvert vs. extrovert because it's pretty easy to understand.

One thing that kind of concerns me is this, though: we're always looking at the differences between introversion and extroversion, and those differences are definitely important to recognize—for example, introverts can feel overwhelmed by living in an extrovert world. And introverts and extroverts both deal with things differently in day-to-day life. But to me, this doesn't mean that we can just separate into our own two groups. Introverts and extroverts have to interact, and they have to work together to live a successful and happy life.

Obviously, I don't understand extroversion entirely. I can't quite grasp why my roommate likes to be around people all of the time, but the other side of that is that she probably doesn't get why I need so much time by myself to get stuff done (like studying, for example, or a project). But that doesn't mean we don't try to understand each other. When we learn about introversion and extroversion, we don't learn about it to separate ourselves but rather to try to understand how the other person thinks and feels. Personally, I think that's the point of knowing whether you're an introvert or extrovert: not to seclude people into groups, but to bring them together so that they can function more wholly.

Psalms 133:1 outlines it quite perfectly: "How good and perfect it is when God's people live together in unity!" (NIV). God doesn't want us to separate into two groups as introverts or extroverts. He doesn't want me, as an introvert, to state that I don't want to go out because I'm an introvert, and *so I just can't*. Being introverted means I deal with things in life differently than extroverts, but if we try and understand one another and work together rather than apart, we can unify each other.

Introversion and extroversion aren't meant to separate us; they're meant to show us how we can work together in the best way possible. ■

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



Brimming with fabulous nutrition and powerful antioxidants such as beta-carotene and betalains, respectively, carrots and beets are delicious root vegetables that are ideal for cold storage over the winter months. Pairing them with luscious zucchini and protein-packed chickpeas, then kicking it all up a notch with a spicy, ginger-splashed nut sauce makes this mostly-raw recipe a sure winner. You'll need a turning slicer (spiralizer) to produce these fresh, raw noodles. Pick one up at Superstore and have fun spiralizing! ■

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



➤ Visit our R & B Urban Farm blog at <https://rbufarm.blogspot.ca>. "Like" our R & B Urban Farm page on Facebook at facebook.com/rburbanfarm for all the latest on what we're growing and events we're holding!

Spiralized Vegetable Noodles with Spicy Nut Butter Sauce

INGREDIENTS — NOODLES:

- 1 medium zucchini, spiralized into noodles (about 2 cups)
- 2 medium carrots, spiralized into noodles (about 2 cups)
- 1 medium beet, spiralized into noodles (about 1 cup)
- 2 cups (500 ml) cooked chickpeas

INGREDIENTS — SAUCE:

- ¼ cup (60 ml) peanut butter (or any other nut butter)
- 1½ tsp (7 ml) finely grated ginger
- ½ tsp (2 ml) ginger powder
- 1 large clove garlic, finely minced
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) onion powder
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) reduced-sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup (60 ml) fresh lime juice
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) sesame oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) maple syrup
- a few pinches of cayenne powder

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Stir/whisk together all nut butter sauce ingredients.
- Place the zucchini and carrot noodles, and the chickpeas, in a large bowl. Drizzle some of the nut butter sauce over the mixture and toss until evenly coated.
- Place the beet noodles in a separate bowl. Drizzle with some of the nut butter sauce and toss until evenly coated.
- As the beets will stain the rest of the ingredients, I like to plate the beet noodles first, and then place the carrots/zucchini/chickpeas mixture on top.
- Optional: sprinkle with chopped green onions and sesame seeds.

Note: Serve this dish soon after making it, as the zucchini noodles will start to get watery if left too long.



Shine 'til Jesus Comes

"VOAR is helping to deliver His message even at times when the world is literally coming apart at the seams!"

A message of encouragement from halfway around the globe was made even more poignant by the fact that it was sent from the Philippines on the eve of Super Typhoon Mangkhut! Our listener left a message on our guestbook to let us know that he listens five days a week in his office on the island of Mindanao. He assured us that Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) was coming through loud and clear 24/7. You could just hear the winds that must have been howling outside his window and the rain pelting down as he wrote to us. Typhoon season in that area of the world reminds us of how fragile our lives really are.

The psalmist wrote, "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place

thereof shall know it no more" (Psalm 103:15, 16). But the exciting part is that God loves flowers! And He will always remember us!

He cares about every individual, and even when the winds are ripping apart buildings and shredding homes, He is already working for our brighter future. God's message of hope shines out from His Word and brings comfort and peace to His children around the world. VOAR is helping to deliver His message even at times when the world is literally coming apart at the seams! Please pray that VOAR will continue to "Shine for Him till Jesus Comes" and that it will be very soon! ■

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



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

How do you get ready for heaven?

AT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS, CALGARY PARKDALE, AND FORT SASKATCHEWAN ADVENTIST CHURCHES IN ALBERTA.

Liza Reandelar: "I believe that we are saved by His grace, so all we have to do is be involved in His service, spreading the gospel to others."

Darrell Beaudoin: "By accepting Christ's gift of forgiveness and receiving His Holy Spirit."

Lynda: "Be prepared each day to meet Jesus."

Kathy Huether: "By getting to know the one we are longing to meet there: our good friend and Saviour, Jesus."



the making of a president

The Making of a President

Steve Matthews



Born and raised in Port aux Basques, N.L., I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home with two loving parents and a brother.

There was no Seventh-day Adventist church in my hometown. In fact, I didn't hear of the Adventist Church until I was 25 years old, but certainly not for lack of opportunity.

In 1995, on my first day of classes at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton, I met a young lady named Amanda. At the time, neither of us made much of an impression on the other, but I'll get back to that later.

A key point in my spiritual journey began at UNB, where I completed a Bachelor of Science with a major in biology. Studying biology at a secular university proved challenging for someone with a Christian background. The church I had grown up in didn't talk much about Creation versus evolution. I wasn't prepared for what I would study during those four years at UNB. I left university very confused about my faith, as the picture that evolutionary science painted seemed quite convincing. I spent

the next few years wondering who God was. Thankfully, I have discovered the truth of our Creator God, a belief that has shaped my life for the past 16 years.

I believe God prepares our hearts and minds for when we are ready to listen to him. At UNB I wasn't ready to hear his voice. During my last year in Fredericton, I lived off-campus and walked through a church parking lot on my way to campus each day. Years later my family was in Fredericton on Sabbath and attended the local Adventist church. I couldn't believe the church was the property I used to cut through every day but had never noticed. My eyes had been closed for that entire year.

Upon completing my science degree in 1999, I attended Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S., where I studied environmental engineering. My apartment overlooked a church and food bank on Parker Street. Years later I attended church in Halifax and realized that this church was the Seventh-day Adventist church. Again, I had completely missed the Adventist church right under my nose. I still wasn't ready for God to call on me.

Following university in 2002, I moved to Mississauga, Ont., to start my engineering career. Shortly afterward, I was reintroduced to Amanda, the young lady I had met at UNB. This time she made a much better impression on me—it wasn't entirely reciprocated, though.

Amanda played volleyball with a group of Christians who kept the seventh-day Sabbath. Through volleyball she started attending Bible studies with some of the players. She invited me to join her. I declined multiple times, but God was waiting for that right moment. Amanda told me she was giving her final invite, so I finally accepted.

When I walked into the room, Pastor Nephtaly Dorzilme looked at me with surprise. I later found out people don't typically start their Bible studies with the topic "Who is the Antichrist?" but this happened to be the right topic for me. After that study I had to know more! That is when Shaun Donald, who has since become a friend and brother, started studying more basic topics with me. We spent many hours studying the Bible and growing in knowledge. I joined



**Back to school in 1988:
Paul (brother) and Steve.**

Steve and Amanda on their wedding day, in 2004.

Matthews family in 2009: Steve, Gord (father), Phyllis (mother), and Paul.

the Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church family in November 2003.

Amanda and I were married on Aug. 8, 2004. I also welcomed her son Ryan, who was seven, into my life. We were then blessed with Liam in 2005 and Madison in 2006. I also changed jobs in 2005; I continued with environmental work but also took on a construction focus.

We moved to Conception Bay South, N.L., in November 2008. This move was instrumental in our beginning to work for the church in different volunteer capacities.

I was asked to take on the head deacon position with the St. John’s church in 2009. Because I had never served as a deacon before, this was a shock to me, but a challenge I accepted. I also became involved in the evangelism committee and started an afternoon Bible study. We transferred to the Conception Bay South church in 2013 to be closer to home. While there I also took on personal ministries, audio booth technician, and Pathfinder leader.

In 2010, Amanda and I served as Family Ministries directors for the church in Newfoundland, a role we continued until our recent move to ADRA Canada. In addition to this conference role, I also served on the SDACC board of directors from 2014 to 2016 and the N.L. board of directors from 2016 to 2018. I believe God placed me in these roles as He prepared me for full-time work in the church.

Since joining the church, I’ve had a



Matthews family. Front row: Madison and Amanda. Back row: Steve, Ryan, and Liam.

keen interest in the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). During Newfoundland campmeeting in 2017, I spoke with ADRA’s representative Michael Kirkby about project management opportunities. He encouraged me to send in my resumé. I applied for a project management position but never heard back. After investigating, it looked like my resumé never made it to the reviewers. I guess God’s plan was still working out for something else.

In October 2017, Stan Jensen, communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, reached out inquiring if I would be willing to have my name put forward for the executive director position at ADRA Canada. After

discussion and prayer with Amanda, we decided to go ahead. As time passed, I assumed my name hadn’t been selected, but I was contacted by President Mark Johnson for an interview in December. After a couple of interviews and a presentation to the ADRA board, I was selected for the position on Dec. 28, 2017.

I joined ADRA Canada on March 1, 2018. Life has been full of blessings and challenges since then. I am grateful that the Lord has blessed me with the opportunity to lead such a wonderful organization, and I look forward to what the Lord has in store for the future. ■

Steve Matthews is the executive director of ADRA Canada.

cover story

"No More of This Kind



➔ Back row (L-R): James Wagner, Cecil Sharman, Floyd Jones, and Albert Calson. Front row (L-R): Alex Katanko and Brian Hamren.

To a Respectable Jail"

BY BARRY W. BUSSEY

"When [the soldiers] slipped the canvas bag over my head and carried me out of the tent, I did not resist them but only offered a silent prayer to the God whom I was serving."



It has been 100 years since the guns fell silent on the Western Front, bringing an end to the First World War. In its wake, 16 million people had died. In total, civilian and military casualties exceeded a devastating 37 million;¹ nearly one in three Canadian soldiers lost their lives or were wounded.² It was, by far, the most brutal human conflict ever to occur on the face of the earth up to that point.

That war continues to reverberate. Yet, while there are many stories of heroism on the battlefield, by comparison very little attention has been given to the struggle of conscience. One can only imagine the war of the soul that occurred around the kitchen tables as parents and sons debated the theological and practical implications of Christians going to war. In the early 20th century, appeals to duty and patriotism weighed heavily on young men who faced taunts of cowardice if they did not join their peers in the trenches.

Over the last 20 years or so, I have been collecting stories of this internal personal struggle. I often think to myself, *What would I have done if faced with the decision to pick up arms and fight?* In many ways, it would have been a relatively easy decision if everyone around me chose not to enlist. But, it would have been a more difficult choice if I were the only one among my cohort to refuse to fight.

Societal pressure in moments of crisis is worth watching. We are often expected to follow the crowd. Rarely do we have the necessary pluck to stand alone with our conscience. Therefore, when we see those who do resist the lure of conformity, we cannot help but admire them. One of the most compelling stories of conscience I have found from WWI is that of James Wagner.

Some years ago I met with Cleon Wagner, James's son, who shared with me a 14-page document his father had written. Interestingly, I later researched the Library and Archives Canada⁴ in Ottawa and obtained a copy of a letter written by J. H. Rivers, Warden of The Provincial Gaol, Lethbridge, Alberta. I am convinced, given the timeline and Wagner's own account, that Rivers's letter was an expression of his exasperation in dealing with Wagner. It also displays the bias against conscientious objectors in WWI. I will now let these documents speak for themselves.

James Bennett Wagner:

When World War I broke out in 1914, our church in Canada had had no previous experience with war. Our leaders were perplexed when the draft came in 1918 ... Prayer bands were formed by both faculty and students [at Burman University]. It was an anxious time. Having had no experience with the military, our young men did not know just how to relate to this call.

Prof. L. W. Cobb, our History and English teacher, took his out-of-doors exercise each day by hiking to Lacombe to get the mail for the school. One day he

brought me a registered letter from Military headquarters. My summons had come. The men at the dormitory were excited and worried. What was the use of studying when they might be called next? Our teachers were very patient and understanding. ...

The young men who were eligible for the draft went down to the lake for earnest seasons of prayer. They were never called. Clark Scharman went to Africa as a missionary, Benny Clark to China, Eric Saunders (my roommate) to India ...

The young women formed prayer bands and prayed for their brothers and schoolmates. Parents at home on the farms were praying for their sons.

On April 14th President E. D. Dick held a special chapel period that day. At its close, S. M. Ryan, our dean of men who owned a Model T Ford (the only car on the hilltop), drove Max Popow and me to the train. On the train we met Floyd Jones, who had also received his call. There is comfort in association of those of like faith.

We discussed our plight. We understood that we were the first Seventh-day Adventists to be drafted in Canada. Everything depended on us as to how others might be received. We must be true nor do anything that would misrepresent the Truth. We had been advised to join the Medical Corps, if possible.

At the Military barracks we approached the sergeant-major and informed him that we were Seventh-day Adventists and that we desired exemption from work on the Sabbath.

"Oh, that will be all arranged for," he said as he told us to step to the next officer who would receive our entrance and identification papers.

James went on to describe his request for Sabbath accommodation and the officer's response: "He fairly roared, 'You will do what you are told. ... You're in the army now.'" James refused to drill on Sabbath and was given seven days' detention.

While in detention we explained to the cook that we were vegetarians and that he need not put any meat on our plates. The result was that he added more vegetables to our plates, and then, to get our plates out of the way first, he called, "Vegetarians first." That was rather startling to us. ... We were assigned the task of cleaning the offices for the colonel and other men. They tested us. Money would be left in plain sight. The door was left open to the street and we could have escaped. These were no temptation to us.

For the refusal to bear arms, James was sentenced to two years of hard labour and sent to the Lethbridge jail, but he still refused to work on Sabbath.



1 "How Many People Died in WWI?" History on the Net, <https://bit.ly/2yt7eUk>.

2 "The Cost of Canada's War," Canadian War Museum, <https://bit.ly/1Fbrk1n>.

3 formerly National Archives of Canada.

For the first few weeks, I was not allowed to have my own Bible. I was locked in my cell from Sabbath until Wednesday. I sat and repeated Bible promises and prayed. That cell became very familiar to me. There were 1,400 bricks lining its walls. How did I know? Because I sat and counted them. It was lonely in there. No one knows how lonely until he has gone through it himself. But I was not alone. My Saviour was with me, and through Him I could go through whatever was in store for me. How happy I was when my Bible was returned to me. How I treasured it.

The following is a letter sent to the Deputy Minister, Department of Justice in Ottawa, July 6, 1918, by J. H. Rivers, Warden of The Provincial Gaol, Lethbridge, Alberta:⁴

Dear Sir,

The Military Authorities at Calgary have sentenced 11 men to this institution to serve two years less one day in each case, because as Conscientious Objectors they refused to obey some Military Command.

One of them is a Seventh-day Adventist who refuses to work on our Saturday, because of his religious belief. Another is a Christadelphian, who does not believe in war and will not don the Khaki because he does not want to kill anybody. Another belongs to the Associated Bible Students Association (Russellites) and his conscience will not let him do certain things.

Now, what I want to know is, what is the attitude of your department towards these men, and what treatment do you expect us to give them here? Do you desire us to pay attention to their various "conscientious whims"—for example, do you wish us to accede to the request of the Seventh-day Adventist that he be not required to work on Saturday?

In the past we have had only one rule—Everybody sentenced to hard labour worked every day in the week except Sunday—if he is physically fit. We said when and where they are to work—one rule for all and square deal for every man.

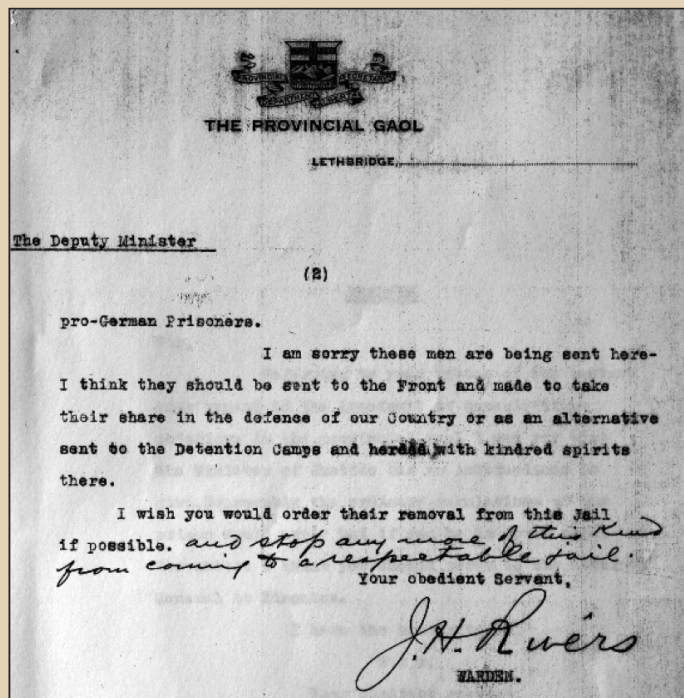
Do you wish us to continue this course, or shall we begin to accede to the conscientious whims of those apparently pro-German prisoners.

I am sorry these men are being sent here—I think they should be sent to the Front and made to take their share in the defence of our country or, as an alternative, sent to the Detention Camps and horded with kindred spirits there.

I wish you would order their removal from this jail if possible and stop any more of this kind from coming to a respectable jail.

Your obedient Servant.

Clearly, the warden was beside himself over James's obstinance. Eventually, James was taken to Sarcee Camp, just outside of Calgary, where his religious stand caused some considerable



Copy of J. H. Rivers's Letter to Ottawa (2nd page). Library and Archives Canada.

angst among the soldiers. His account continues:

When [the soldiers] slipped the canvas bag over my head and carried me out of the tent, I did not resist them but only offered a silent prayer to the God whom I was serving. Without any injury to me, after smearing my body with tar, they set me free.

After the tarring, I went to one of the sergeants of the hospital section for advice on how to remove the tar; for my entire front, the full length of my body, was plastered with tar. He suggested turpentine and ordered one of the privates to go with me to the shower room. As all know, turpentine is a very sharp, burning fluid, especially when applied to tender parts of the body. Here the Lord performed another miracle, for it never burnt in the least. God intervened again. A few days later, Floyd Jones and I were released from the army. Shortly afterward, the Armistice was signed. We both received honourable discharge papers.

Jesus was a personal Saviour to me through it all. By His grace I was made willing to give up my life for Him if necessary. May this experience be an encouragement to others.

James passed away in 1987 at 96 years. And although the War to End All Wars failed to produce the lasting peace that its survivors had hoped for, the legacy of courageous men of integrity like James Wagner continues to inspire. ■

Barry W. Bussey is a lawyer and long-time advocate of religious freedom.

⁴ Library and Archives Canada RG 13, Series A-2, File 1582 The Warden, July 15, 2008.



Are You a Christian?

*He didn't ask,
"Who are you?" or
"Why have you come?"
Instead he asked,
"Are you a Christian?"*

It was evening, and O'Shane Gordon, a student with Canada Youth Challenge (CYC), had been having a very difficult day. Door after door, people either weren't home or weren't interested, and his bag was filled with books he had not yet shared.

O'Shane approached another door and knocked. He saw the flickering light of a television and was concerned the person who came would not have time for him. But as the door opened and O'Shane looked at the man, he sensed something was different. The man opened his mouth, and the first words he spoke took O'Shane completely aback. He didn't ask, "Who are you?" or "Why have you come?" Instead he asked, "Are you a Christian?"

O'Shane stood there and wondered why the man had asked him that question. He was not sure how to respond. Should he just answer? Should he explain first that he was a student with CYC? Again the man asked, "Are you a Christian?" O'Shane hesitated, not sure how to proceed, and the man asked a third time, "Are you a Christian?"

Then O'Shane responded, "Yes. I am a Christian."

"Oh, good," the man said. "The Lord sent you here."

O'Shane froze, not knowing what to say. But the man continued. "I was just diagnosed with cancer, and I was right inside my house praying and asking the Lord to send someone to my door. But not just anyone, someone who will come and speak with me about natural ways of dealing with illnesses."

Stunned, O'Shane thought silently, *Lord, you are so amazing!* He pulled out the book *Foods That Heal* and showed it to the man, explaining the information the book contained. It was just the kind of information the man had been seeking, and he gladly purchased it. Then, before leaving, O'Shane prayed with him.

As O'Shane reflected on his experience, he felt it summed up how much God is involved in the work of literature evangelism and how God is leading and directing this work. "It is His work," O'Shane said, "and He is involved in this work not 95 percent, not 98, not 99, but 100 percent. He is giving His all to this work."

In Psalm 50:15 God says, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me" (NASB). The work of literature evangelism, whether accomplished through a CYC student or an ordinary church member who shares a GLOW tract, is precious to God. Through it He answers the prayers of those who call out to Him in times of trouble.

We are called to be God's hands and feet in a world that is desperate to hear from Him. This means it is important that we be physically present in the lives of people. Many people will not set foot in a church or come to an evangelistic meeting. Many people suffer alone, in silence, behind closed doors. Through the work of literature evangelism, we can go where they are, share what is necessary for their present needs, and plant seeds of hope for a future harvest. ■

O'Shane Gordon shared his story with Lifestyle Canada, Canada's literature evangelism ministry that operates Canada Youth Challenge.



Adventist School Accreditation

The first Seventh-day Adventist school was opened in Bucks Bridge, N.Y., in 1853 by Martha Byington, the daughter of John Byington, first president of the General Conference. Seventeen students enrolled that first year. Today, 165 years later, the Adventist education system has grown globally to nearly two million students, over 8,200 schools, and over 102,000 teachers.¹

God has led our educational system and called us to be faithful stewards of His institutions. Part of this responsibility is ensuring that our schools deliver high-quality, Christ-centred, and academically rigorous education. This is accomplished, in part, through the school accreditation process, which occurs on a six-year cycle and allows schools to identify and address strengths and weaknesses through self-study, school-wide improvement plans, on-site committee visits, and progress reports. All Adventist schools in North America must be accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association through the North American Division Commission on Accreditation.

The first and most important step in the accreditation process is a self-study completed by the school. The preparation of this report requires school administration, board, and staff to collaboratively

reflect on the school's performance and to gather data, including survey responses from parents and students, to identify areas of strength and areas in need of improvement. During the six to nine months preceding an on-site visit by an accreditation team, committees are created to study how the school meets these nine standards for the accreditation of Adventist schools: philosophy and vision, curriculum, instruction, assessment, sustainable leadership, school environment, professional learning, communication and collaboration, and school improvement. Specific indicators for each standard help school personnel to assess program quality and to create school-wide improvement plans for areas needing growth.

The second step is an independent external review and validation of the school's self-study report through an on-site visit. A team of visiting educators reviews the self-study report, school-wide improvement plans, survey results, and other documents, observes school operations, and conducts interviews to produce a report that includes recommendations and a recommended accreditation status. The focus of the visiting committee is to encourage continuous school improvement. The status they recommend determines the specifics of how and what the school will need to

do to document its progress during the upcoming cycle of accreditation.

The final step in the accreditation process is for the school to address the recommendations and implement the action steps in its continuous school improvement plan. Annual progress reports must be filed at the conference and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada offices, and an interim visit may be scheduled mid-cycle to provide opportunity for a smaller group to observe and document the progress that has been made. Again, the emphasis on continuous school improvement ensures that school personnel focus on growth and improvement throughout the accreditation cycle.

Adventist school accreditation is a vital process that assists schools in regularly gathering and reflecting on data, using this information to create plans for continuous school improvement. It is the process by which schools are held accountable for maintaining a quality educational program that supports the mission of Seventh-day Adventist Church, connecting students to Jesus and equipping them to serve Him. ■

Shad Lehmann is associate director of Education at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹ 2017 Annual Statistical Report, Seventh-day Adventist Church Department of Archives.

burman university

New Faculty and Staff at Burman University



Kevin Kiers



Elise Kruihof



Jeremy Purviance



Eduardo Sola



Dallas Weis

BURMAN UNIVERSITY IS EXCITED TO WELCOME a few new faces to our campus family. We know each one of them will make a unique contribution to our campus. We would like to formally welcome the following six individuals: Calin Gillespie, Kevin Kiers, Elise Kruihof, Jeremy Purviance, Eduardo Sola, and Dallas Weis.

Calin Gillespie graduated from Andrews University with his Master of Arts in clinical mental health counselling with an emphasis in adult counselling. During his time at Andrews, he worked at the Andrews Community Counselling Center as a mental health counsellor. He was able to work closely with a wide range of clients, applying what he learned in the classroom to real-life situations. Gillespie joins us on campus as a student counsellor at the Sakala Success Centre.

Elise Kruihof joins us with 14 years of experience in the post-secondary environment and 12 years of experience in counselling. She is a Canadian Certified Counsellor (CCC), approved by the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. She has a special connection to our campus because both of her children graduated from Parkview Adventist Academy. Kruihof serves our campus as director of the Sakala Success Centre.

Kevin Kiers previously served as the director and manager of Foothills Camp. Prior to that role, he served as the youth ministries departmental director. In spring 2015, he obtained his Master of Science in education with an emphasis in outdoor education from Southern Adventist University. His passion for outdoor education makes him the perfect addition to our Outward Pursuits program. Kiers is now an assistant professor in our Outward Pursuits program.

Jeremy Purviance is no stranger to our campus. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in adventure-based youth leadership from Burman University in 2013. During his team as a student, he served as student dean at Lakeview Hall for three years. His experience with the dorm has led him to accept the position of assistant dean at Lakeview Hall.

Eduardo Sola has extensive experience in teaching music. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts in musicology and music theory. He is currently working on completing his PhD of Education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction. Not only can he teach music, but he can also play the violin beautifully. He has joined our music program as a professor.

Dallas Weis previously served as director of admissions and information services, as well as international student advisor, at Walla Walla University for 23 years. He has extensive experience in education. His employment history includes seven years at Parkview Adventist Academy as a teacher for history, Bible, and psychology classes. He once again joins Parkview Adventist Academy as their principal.

We invite you to join us in praying for each of these individuals as they serve in their respective capacities. We pray that God will use them as they interact with our students, making a significant contribution to their education. ■

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

Footsteps

*If you follow others' footsteps,
you will never leave yours behind.*

In recognition of Eric Rajah's work, the Alberta government presented him with its highest honour, the Alberta Order of Excellence. Andrews University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree for living Andrews's motto.



Eric and Candi, married on "the hilltop," celebrated their 33rd anniversary this year.

Eric Rajah stared at the bank manager in amazement.

He had just been told that "computers will never come to Lacombe" as his loan application for \$5,000 was turned down. Another setback! But he had overcome obstacles before, and he would again.

When Eric had left Sri Lanka with his family in 1973 to begin life in Canada, his goal had been clear: he would complete high school, apply to a prestigious university, and become a wealthy businessman. Four and a half years later, Eric was ready to complete his third year at the University of British Columbia. Then some friends convinced him that God's will for him was to study for the ministry at Burman University (then CUC).

It seemed impossible, though. He had no money. It would take him at least one extra year to complete his degree. But the calling was strong, and Eric knew he had to respond. His mother gave him her savings of \$500 and told him, "This is all I have. Do what you can with it." He left Vancouver for Lacombe.

Three years later Eric was confused and disappointed. The diploma he received on Sunday gave him a degree in theology; the job he was starting Monday was Director of Student Finance at Burman. Although he held that position for a time, Eric's dream of owning his own business had only been deferred; it had not been killed.

The opportunity of opening a private computer training school sent him to the bank with his exciting, bold, new plan. Despite the manager's negative response, Advanced Systems was born. But Eric was no longer the same person. His years at Burman had changed him and given him a new set of values. He says, "I had learned that thinking and believing have no credibility if you are not doing something about it. No one cares about your thoughts or beliefs until they are put into action."

His conviction that the most valuable currency are the deposits we make in other people's lives led Eric to make an appointment with the College Heights church board. He asked permission to solicit the congregation for funding that would provide surgery and physiotherapy to help crippled children walk again. He had big plans; they set a limit: no more than \$5,000.

In 1990 Eric Rajah co-founded A Better World Canada with a handful of friends and \$5,000. Since then, more than \$30 million has been invested in projects in 15 countries and has helped thousands live better lives. Advanced Systems has employed 125 Burman students over the years; 200 have travelled overseas with Eric to work on education, health, water, agriculture, and income-generating projects.

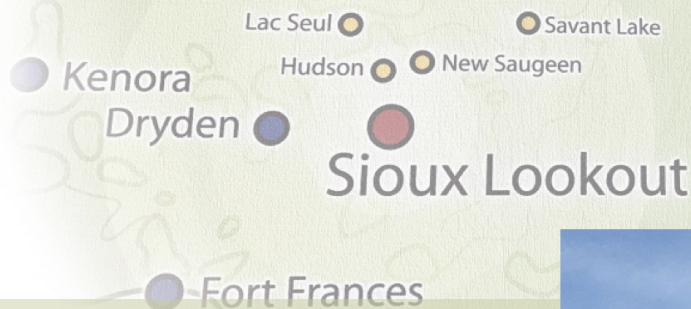
Did he face challenges? Yes! Did he find satisfaction? Absolutely! The newest challenge Eric has accepted is giving back to Burman, the university that brought his wife, Candi, and him together. He explains, "Burman taught me the true meaning of success. It gave our two sons, Brenden and Jaden, numerous opportunities and a true foundation for life. So I've returned to my alma mater as chair of advancement to do what I learned to do best: relying on God, letting Him lead, and inviting others to walk beside me in paths of service." ■



➔ For more information on Burman University, A Better World or on fundraising assistance, email Eric at erajah@abwcanada.ca



adventist world aviation



Where the Road Ends



Ryan and Janet Kennedy. Ryan is the Northern Ontario Project Pilot, and Janet will be supporting Ontario Conference, ADRA Canada, and Indigenous Ministries in humanitarian projects.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:16–20 calls us to take the gospel to people everywhere. It takes all kinds of transportation methods to reach those people: cars, trains, boats, and, of course, airplanes—more often than not, the really big ones that carry us thousands of miles. It is the most remote, isolated places “where the road ends” that Adventist World Aviation (AWA) completes the transportation grid. AWA was founded nearly 25 years ago by then GC president Robert S. Folkenberg as a supporting ministry to provide aircraft to the church worldwide.

For dozens of First Nations communities in northern Ontario, the road effectively ends in Sioux Lookout. Here Adventist church members and others have been building relationships in the communities through friendships, trust, and their common faith in the Creator. With the support and partnerships of the Ontario Conference, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada, AWA has responded to the transportation needs requested by the local congregation in Sioux Lookout.

Airplanes are an important tool that we use, but it is the people who respond to God’s call to action by making bold commitments for service. Ryan and Janet Kennedy are two of those people. Ryan dreamed of flying long before he was able to join the aviation program at Walla Walla University. Janet grew up in Montemorelos, Mexico. While in college, she developed a deep desire to serve in missions herself. After university Janet and Ryan met while serving as student missionaries on the tiny

Marshall Islands atoll of Majuro, where they both taught in the Adventist school.

One thing led to another, and a few years later, they were a young married couple in Kelowna, B.C., committed to serve with AWA. The challenge was that AWA only had postings in other countries, and as a new immigrant to Canada, Janet would be unable to travel outside of the country, leaving them in limbo for an uncertain length of time.

As AWA was asked to join the outreach in Sioux Lookout, it soon became clear that Ryan and Janet were the perfect fit, and they accepted the call for long-term service (six years) enthusiastically. As a part of their preparation, they have attended the three-week-long sessions with First Nations Adventist Training. This education and counselling course, led by Pastor Ed and Cheryl Dunn and others, helped them understand the history and circumstances that have led to much of the current crisis conditions in First Nations communities. As the Sioux Lookout Adventist group has demonstrated, it is through real personal relationships that they are invited to work alongside community leadership to engage in programs to bring positive change.

As Ryan and Janet settle into Sioux Lookout and flight operations begin this fall, all of us at AWA are excited to bring aviation support right here in Canada. To find out more about this or other Adventist World Aviation programs, visit our website at www.flyawa.org. We can also be reached at info@flyawa.org, or call 778-753-6564. ■

Jud Wickwire is the VP Operations for AWA Canada in Kelowna, B.C.

Building Hope

God's Leading in the Construction of the New High School Buildings



New main high school building



William Piersanti



Steven Van Rensburg



Zayda Steinke

The new Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) junior and senior high school and Leon Ingraham Career and Technology Studies (CTS) buildings were made possible only through generous contributors who listened to God's prompting. William Piersanti, the contractor for the project; Steven Van Rensburg, his right-hand man; and architectural designer Zayda Steinke are among them.

Like Abraham, who left his city "not knowing where he was going," William felt called to leave North Carolina, where his family had lived for 12 years. Unlike Abraham, William *did* know where he was going. God's direction was specific: Alberta—a place William had never been to in his life! "It was so clear," he says. "The only question was whether we were going to obey or not." Without jobs lined up or family in the area, William and his wife, Vivien, moved to Calgary.

Once in Calgary, William's construction opportunities expanded to museums and schools. In 2010 he retired, but in 2010 he heard about the need to expand MANS. He and Peter Ford drew plans for a high school building, and a committee was formed that critiqued the plans, but not much happened for several years until the Bridge Campaign got underway.

There were challenges, to be sure. William's friend Steven Van Rensburg, who worked with him throughout the project, recalls working in mud so thick that his boot got stuck and he fell over. Such memories make for laughter now, but also a sense of satisfaction. "It was worth it," Van Rensburg muses, remembering how the construction project provided a learning opportunity for MANS students who interviewed the workers and learned about the planning, skills, and flexibility that go into a long-term construction project.

Steven, too, has had an Abraham journey, bringing his family

from South Africa to Ontario, where he met and worked with William for three years. Steven retired in Alberta, but indolence was not an option; when the opportunity to work together on MANS arose, both he and William saw it as another unexpected blessing.

William and Steven are both infectiously enthusiastic when they talk about the new buildings. William explains, "When we first talked about the project, we didn't have any money!" However, the generosity of donors inside and outside the church, and even those working on the buildings for reduced pay soon transformed the possibilities. Architectural designer Zayda Steinke, whose recent design of the Spruce Grove campus of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) debuted to much professional acclaim, donated her time to design a building that North American Division personnel affirm is unrivalled by any other denominational school in North America.

"It's a beautiful school!" William exclaims, and Steven remembers the excited faces of the children who came to see the rooms in which they will be learning. Conference project development director, Llew Werner, explains the goal: to build with the best materials and build to last—a reflection of the school's educational program.

When William looks back at the schools he has built over the years, MANS stands out. With students from the old building coming to check on progress, there is a sense of student connection he hasn't experienced before. William's hope is that the new school will give students a hand up and the vision to follow God's leading wherever opportunity reveals itself. ■

Sarah Wallace is a graduate of the Burman University Scholars program and a graduate student at the University of New Brunswick.



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



November 2018

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Alberta

Epic Church Takes Off in Red Deer



Praise band at Epic Church Red Deer.

Just before summer 2015, a dozen young adults gathered in a 700-square-foot apartment to talk about their faith. Each recognized a need in their community and a desire to align their passion with Jesus's calling, and thus a small group was formed.

The core members wanted to develop their leadership potential, so as they dreamed of what church could be, they also planned a road trip to visit a thriving church company in Chicago: Epic Church.

In October 2015, thirteen intrepid travellers experienced miracle after miracle and received inspired instruction about the direction of their next steps. January 2016 saw this same group move their Friday night meetings into a new space, and on February 13, the doors opened on Sabbath to welcome more than 80 people to a new fellowship group in Red Deer.

An immediate emphasis on mentorship brought new preachers to the pulpit and trained worship leaders into their role

with an outreach activity scheduled every Saturday following a hospitality-hosted lunch. Small groups began to form right away to explore "The Story," as Epic became the place where our story meets God's story.

Volunteers grew in number, a children's program started up, and ministries began to refine their approach. A guest speaker in February provided a winter evangelistic series combined with community outreach events such as free tickets to the trampoline park, a movie, and a concert. In April 2017,

Epic Church Red Deer Company signed their charter and officially launched as a community of worship. Epic's 56 new members joined through transfer or baptism and immediately sought ways to get involved.

A season of events allowed people to invite their neighbours, friends, and family canoeing, picnicking, backpacking, and biking. New small groups formed to tackle a third and fourth book together. Families grew, friends moved away, and Epic organized a visioning session with the core group. This same group then attended Breakforth Leadership Training Conference to gain more ideas for tangible ministry.

In February 2018, on the weekend exactly two years from launch, the Epic community celebrated with a retreat to Foothills Camp. A new vision was cast as ministry leaders recommitted to serving. Epic went on to ordain its first elders and continues to actively engage young leaders.

April 7, 2018, marked the beginning of Epic Church's more permanent, involved impact in the city of Red Deer. The special church service commemorating Epic's church status was well attended, beginning when the Deputy Mayor of Red Deer,



Epic Church Red Deer, April 7, 2018.

Vesna Higham, encouraged Epic members by emphasizing the importance of service.

The Alberta conference president, Gary Hodder, delivered a message of acceptance and invitation to participate in God's work. Pastor Wayne Williams charged the new church nucleus to hold themselves to a high standard in serving the Epic community, and Pastor Olaf Clausen shared, along with Dr. Johan

Kritzinger, how the Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church will continue to stand side by side with Epic. The day was filled with testimonies of how Epic has changed hearts and shaped decisions for Jesus, celebrating the start of a new church sharing an old but important message in an inclusive, relational way. ■

— *Moises Ruiz, Epic Church, Red Deer Company*

Calgary Mountain View Church holds Second International Day of Celebration

The Calgary Mountain View Church has members of its church family who have emigrated from 22 countries. April 14 was the day we celebrated our diversity and that we are "One in Christ." Participants from most of the countries represented in our church carried national flags in a grand procession. People dressed in their national costumes. Music and Scripture readings were shared in various languages. And the fellowship meal that followed had delicious and beautiful foods from many countries to delight the palate. This is a day we will long remember. ■

— *Phyllis Corkum, Calgary Mountain View church*



Manitoba-Saskatchewan



A Dream Became Reality

When people come together, and the Lord blesses, beautiful things happen. Back in June, Camp Whitesand was blessed with this very thing. With the help of Maranatha Volunteers International, our conference's Committee 101, the conference administration, and many locals, we were able to see a dream unfold into reality in the form of a brand-new multipurpose building on the campus.

This dream began years before in the form of talks to replace the double-wide trailer on the campus. As discussions ensued, many people contributed to the plans and a layout was decided. Being an important building to campmeeting and the summer camp, there was need for a large team to come help with the construction. Maranatha Volunteers International stepped into this need and our "building raising" was set for June 2018.

On June 11 a team of about 35 people from across North America convened onto the camp ground, eager and ready to start building. Over the course of 10 days, the

once barren cement pad took shape and a new building stood tall upon it. What a blessing it was to see this building take shape before our eyes in a matter of days.

The Maranatha team consisted of people from our own Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference as well as people from Alberta, Idaho, New Mexico, Florida, and even Jamaica, to name a few. Our youngest team member was six years old, and our oldest was 89 years young! God brought together such a talented group that we were able to not only have a team work on the construction site, but also have a team working on small projects around the camp such as painting the cafeteria, cleaning buildings, landscaping, and more. The Maranatha team blessed us so abundantly!

By the end of the 10 days, we had a building up with plywood walls and roof. Once Maranatha left, our pastors and some other volunteers were able to step in, and when campmeeting came just two weeks later, our building had a finished roof and

one completed classroom covered in beautiful tongue and groove pine boards. Our Primary Division had a new home at campmeeting and what a beautiful one it is.

The new building has been dedicated in the memory of Gwen Bader, a former Man-Sask youth director and camp director. Gwen impacted Camp Whitesand in so many positive ways that carry on to this day. Her memory is now not only in the hearts of those who loved her but will also be in the laughter and joy of the children learning in this new building for years to come. The Gwen Bader Learning Centre would not be standing without all the help, work, prayers, and financial contributions of many people. For this, we at Camp Whitesand, thank you! When children of God come together, we can truly experience God's blessings. ■

— Sandra Wall, Youth Director, Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

Ontario

Reflections on WASA “Fresh Start”

Western Adventist Students Association (WASA) execs met over the summer to brainstorm outreach initiatives based on the idea of *sowing*, then *reaping* souls for God on Western University’s campus. “Fresh Start: A Student’s Survival Guide to Success” was our first significant reaping event for 2018.

Admittedly, our planning for this event was somewhat sporadic. We had been in contact with the speakers but only finalized details such as the budget, space, and food within weeks. Choosing the title was another issue, as the word *church* could affect funding from the University Students’ Council (USC). Nonetheless, we prayed daily for this event and fasted for the week immediately preceding it.

God opened doors. Unlike previous years where we were tucked away, we were placed in the UCC Atrium—the most central hub of a campus, notorious for its parties. We also received a great deal on catering and were able to fellowship at the Wave (our campus restaurant). To our surprise, when Wave staff discovered our event was religious, they offered to provide a playlist of Christian music as we dined.

We were blessed by four speakers who covered different aspects of health that would resonate with our fellow Mustangs and intertwine with Adventist beliefs. George Cho shared the benefits of physical exercise on cognition, Sarah Hitlal spoke on the riches of healthy relationships, Chantal Kayumba discussed mental health through her experience as a nurse, and Andrew Barrett shared his testimony on the importance of spiritual health. There were many passersby with varying degrees of interest. While we can’t quantify the effect of this day, we’re sure it made an impact.

Following the messages, we engaged in Intelligent Conversations, breaking into three groups for one hour to initiate dialogue with students around campus. As we reunited later to debrief, Jhona



It all starts with a prayer! Evangelist Andrew Barrett on growing closer to God and its life-changing impact.



WASA executive members, Zola Ncube and Eden Bdacy, charismatically introducing the campus outreach opportunity.

shared an experience that made the world feel a little smaller. She had met a random Western student who had graduated from the same high school as her. Then, our new friend, an international student from China, shared that he wasn’t an Adventist but had joined us because he’d heard the mention of Jesus while looking for a place to buy lunch. Interestingly, he was there—for the first time—on a whim. Lastly, we heard from Eden and Vivianne, who had spoken with a student in the Mustang Lounge. Through his study of various religious texts, he had many questions

about God. The two pulled out their Bibles, and amazingly, were able to answer all his questions. The allotted time wasn’t enough, so they left, telling the student not to give up. They also suggested he pray and ask God to reveal the answers to his questions before opening his Bible.

We don’t believe in coincidences. Along the way and throughout the day, we saw God at work. ■

—Virginia Polihronova,
member, Living Truth
Adventist Company

n e w s

New Life Church Celebrates Sixth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day



New Life church members honoured for volunteer service

New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its sixth annual “Appreciation Day” on April 7. The day highlights service to the community and honours all volunteers connected to the church and its food bank, New Life Neighbourhood Centre. The ultimate focus is on Jesus, our servant-leader, who bestowed love, concern, and dignity on all who came in contact with Him.

Mayor John Henry, who is a regular attendee of the celebrations, gave a warm welcome and thank-you to all the volunteers. MPP Jennifer French is also a regular but could not attend this year. Instead, she sent video greetings. The service also included Daniel Cullen, president of the HOPE Coalition, working to change the face of poverty and homelessness. Daniel was homeless for almost 20 years before encountering Jesus Christ, and his life was forever changed. He has a powerful ministry of sharing his testimony and facilitating dialogue to bring about grassroots change in Durham

Region. Pastor Frank Dell’Erba spoke on the story of Ruth and God’s call to love strangers into friends.

After the service, a luncheon was served in which the various volunteer groups were honoured, sponsored by the New Life Neighbourhood Centre. The centre served over 3,600 meals last year, distributed over 2,219 meal boxes (549 to children), distributed over 1,200 hygiene packages, and gave out 110 care packages to the homeless and shelters in Oshawa, among other services. By God’s grace, the church and its many volunteers will continue to serve and express the love of Christ to all.

Pastor Dell’Erba concluded, “Appreciation Day reminds us not only of the importance of service and our amazing volunteers but also that we are united in our need to follow and trust in Christ and His example.” ■

—Frank Dell’Erba, pastor, New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Sept. 30, 2018, there were 407 depositors with a total deposit of \$29,291,049. There were 85 loans with a value of \$25,651,766.

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

Children’s Stewardship Retreat

On Feb. 10, 2018, at Guelph Bible Centre, the First Filipino-Canadian Adventist Church’s children’s ministries, in partnership with the stewardship department, launched the first children’s stewardship program during its annual winter retreat. This new initiative of Ontario Conference’s Stewardship and Children’s Ministries aims to teach our children about holistic stewardship with language and actions they can easily comprehend.

Using the Stewardville Daily Times resource, with support from the conference’s Stewardship and Children’s Ministries directors, Gerry Pasikatan and Allan Chichester, the children had a great time learning about trusting God with their resources and being smart with their time. That day’s program comprised a morning and evening session. Each session ran for two hours and featured different stations for the various age groups. The sessions featured lively singing, brilliant skits and presentations, followed by arts and crafts.

The program has had a significant impact on the children of First Filipino Canadian Seventh-day Adventist Church. The children’s ministries department has now completed the rest of the program’s modules by integrating them into the children’s church sessions planned for 2018.



Participants of the kids’ stewardship retreat, First Filipino-Canadian Adventist Church.

Said Pasikatan, “The kids’ stewardship program at First Fil Can leading to graduation was successful. From full attendance and the kids’ enthusiastic participation to the support of the whole church family and many testimonies of transformational learning, the program had it all. Glory be to God!”

We pray that this story inspires other churches to journey with God in raising children to become faithful stewards of the Lord through the kids’ stewardship program. ■

—Ethelyn Pilapil Cerezo,
member, First Filipino
Canadian SDA Church

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The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Excellence in Education Awards

The Process for Nominators:

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

Nominee:

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

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

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

Deadline April 15

■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Rose Manigat (manigat.rose@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- 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, click "Writers' Guidelines" then click "announcements."

■ Announcements

Missing Members: The Chilliwack (B.C.) church is looking for the following members: David Gerlitz, Wayne Gerlitz, Daniel Hope, Levi Hope, Dee Manweiler, Annie Segveld, Lindon Spence, and Quinton Spence. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, email the information to murraymcleod77@gmail.com.

■ New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

James Sheldon Passmore was baptized in Cedar Creek, Wash., on Aug. 11, 2018, by Edward Nelson. He is now a member of the Whipple Creek church.

■ Births

Elia Hadassah Lulee Cordett-Angulo was born on July 9, 2018, to Timothy Kent Cordett and Liza Michelle Angulo of Loma Linda, Calif.

■ Anniversaries

Harvey and Norma Bechthold of Vernon, B.C., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 30, 2018.



Their anniversary was celebrated with a small family gathering held at their daughter's home in Chilliwack, B.C. The Bechtholds have two children, Cindy (Brian) Brucks, and Carmen (Brad) Brousson; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Rosella (née McCamman) Blessing was born on Feb. 7, 1938, in Portland, Ore., and died on June 8, 2018, in Casa Grande, Ariz. Rosella is predeceased by her parents, Charlie and Miriam (née Robins) McCamman; and brother, Cliff McCamman. Surviving: husband, David L. Blessing.

Gwendolyn Alice (née Uniat) Cooper was born on Dec. 23, 1933, in Beauvallon, Alta., and died on July 19, 2018, in Vernon, B.C. Gwendolyn is predeceased by her parents, Steven and Lena Uniat; brothers, Peter, Paul, Mike, and John Uniat; and sisters, Rose, Katie, Anne, and Nancy. Surviving: husband, Art Cooper; son, Murray (Kathy) Cooper of Orlando, Fla.; daughter, Carol (Scott) Schafer of Walla Walla, Wash.; brother, Joseph (Dorothy) Uniat of Rocklin, Calif.; sister, Mary Marian of Grand Forks, B.C.; and five grandchildren.

Isaac Dyck was born on Oct. 25, 1919, in Schoenwiese, Man., and died on July 29, 2018, in Minnedosa, Man. Isaac lived a gentle but exemplary Christian life, a true testament to all of his deep and steadfast faith. He served as elder, deacon, and Sabbath school superintendent at Brandon and Erickson churches in Manitoba. Isaac is predeceased by his brother Cornelius and sister Mary. Surviving: wife, Mary (née Thiessen) Dyck; sons, Larry (Kerrie) of Newdale, Man., and Lloyd (Barbara); brothers, Peter and Abe; sisters, Justina, Katherine, Anne, and Susan; one grandchild, two step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren.

Pauline (née Tataryn) Gallant was born on July 25, 1926, in Kitch, Sask., and died on June 26, 2018, in Ponoka, Alta. Pauline cooked for over 18 years in various camps (Saskatoon, Balckstrap, Rundle, Clear Lake, and Frennda). Pauline is predeceased by her husband, Stan Gallant; and parents, Mike and Francis Tataryn. Surviving: son, Matt (Evelyne); daughter, JoAnne; brothers, William, Steven, Peter, John, Aaron, and Joe; sisters, Helen, Mary, Ruth, Esther, Lillian, Gloria, Sylvia, Esther, and Barbara; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Beatrice Lillian (née White) Hamilton was born on Sept. 18, 1922, in Shellbrook, Sask., and died on July 10, 2018, in Abbotsford, B.C. Beatrice was a member of the Chilliwack and Abbotsford churches for over 75 years. She was a pianist, organist, church clerk, and held other offices for about 70 years. She was proud that she attended the BC campmeeting since the year of its beginning through 2017 without missing a year. Beatrice is predeceased by her husband, Wallace Hamilton; parents, Neilson and Ethel White; son, Mel (Gladys) Hamilton of Toronto, Ont.; and brothers, Bob, Clarence, Frank, Arnold, and Harry White. Surviving: son, Alan (Maricel) Hamilton of Langley, B.C.; daughter, Jeanne (Don) Vories of College Place, Wash.; brothers, Bill White of Victoria, B.C., and Dr. Wilson (Romana) White of Abbotsford; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Julie (née Grosso) Pfanmuller was born on April 27, 1921, in Graminia, Alta., and died on May 22, 2018, in Abbotsford, B.C. Julie faithfully served as head deaconess in two churches, a Community Service leader, a personal ministries secretary, and as Sabbath school teacher for young children for over 40 years. She also enjoyed being a member of the Prayer Chain. Julie was predeceased by her husband, William Pfanmuller; and son, Roy Pfanmuller. Surviving: sons, Barry (Dolores) and Dean Pfanmuller of Abbotsford; daughter, LeeAnn Chiakowsky of Abbotsford, and Gwen (Eugene) Skoretz of Langley, B.C.; brother, Clarence Grosso of Sherwood Park, Alta.; sister, Agnes Lyzanchuk of Collegedale, Tenn.; 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Wanda Rachul was born on Jan. 13, 1925, in Waladyslawow, Poland, and died on July 18, 2018, in Leduc, Alta. Wanda was a woman who lived up to God's teachings and to serve, a woman of faith, sacrifice, and kindness. Wanda is predeceased by her husband, Charles Rachul. Surviving: sons, Marvin (Gerri) Rachul of Kelowna,

B.C., and Glen (Pat) Rachul, of Blackfalds, Alta.; daughter, Darlene (Dave) Rachul of Leduc; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Betty (née Heinrichs) Sorensen was born on Feb. 18, 1937, in Borden, Sask., and died on Aug. 2, 2018, in Roseburg, Ore. Betty was a graduate of CUC (currently Burman University) in 1956. She served with her husband as the president's wife in B.C. from 1987 to 1991. Betty is survived by her husband, Clifford N. Sorensen; son, Melvin Sorensen; daughter, Laura L. Sterner; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Robert Lee Keith Toms was born on Feb. 16, 1921, in Smithsburg, Md., and died on Aug. 3, 2018, in Elkins, W.Va. Robert served as district church pastor for 20 years in Ontario and Quebec. Robert is predeceased by his first wife, Rose Catanese-Toms; second wife, Emma Virginia Kinzer Jack Toms; parents, Albertus and Sadie Pearl (née Huyett) Toms; brothers, Harold and Stephen; and sister, Ruth Toms-Gesler. Surviving: wife, Fely Deles Toms; sons, Robert Lee Toms (Gerri) of Chatham, Ont.; stepsons, Ray Jacko of Elkins, Don (Cheryl) Jacko of Elkins, and Kenneth Jo (Romhelyn) Deles of South Africa; stepdaughters, Luslyen Deles (Lemuel) Labalan of South Wales, UK, Constela Mae Catolico (Pablo) Mancilla of Toronto, Ont., and Racelle Deles of the Philippines; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

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from the editor



A FEW YEARS AGO, one of our pastors in a small African country was arrested. He was later vindicated after the General Conference (GC) intervened. My questions were these: Why are our members in that country not connected with people in authority? Why were the teachings of the Adventist Church not made clear?

This is the time of year when church board and business meetings often elect or re-elect those who are going to take on the responsibilities for the next year. When offices are being filled in your church, make sure you have leaders who will connect and network with people of influence. And this goes for not just church offices and departments but for ministry groups as well—groups that serve locally and abroad. I know of one humanitarian organization, for example, that receives significant funding because of their networking connection to members of the local Rotary club.

I personally joined a political party in Canada before I moved to the United States just so I could connect with people in authority, and I did. I am doing activities today with members of Parliament as well as the government organizations that have to do with media.

Be careful not to task the pastor with this, as pastors may come and go but members tend to be around long-term. We still believe that every member is a minister, and all of us are called to minister and connect with people. I well remember when Oprah said during the Waco, Tex., Davidian crisis in 1993, “I know Seventh-day Adventists, and they are not like that.” I am glad that people had connected with her and even brought her to one of our church services.

Please make sure your church has an active digital media group, as that needs to be in place at every church across our nation. The GC and the North American Division (NAD) have various educational seminars on how local churches can be more effective. Every church in Canada has a website paid for by the NAD. Training is provided free as well. The trainers have come to campmeetings at the request of the conference. If interested, contact your conference communication leader.

One easy and informative way is to follow the Facebook page from the North American Division here: www.facebook.com/DigiEvangelism/.

If you want to have the same results you have had during preceding years, just keep on doing the same thing. I encourage you to look for ways to make a positive change.

Please send me stories of what your church has done to fulfill its mission. Email jensen.stan@adventist.ca. ■

from the editor

Changing of the Guard

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Right to left: Doug Batchelor (Pres. of Amazing Facts USA), Dr. Bruce Prokopetz (Pres.) and Rudy Harnisch (V.P. of Admin. and Finance) leaders of Amazing Facts Ministries Inc. Canada.



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