

canadian adventist *Messenger* march 2019

Meeting Science with Science

Plus

- What Have We Been Doing? (p. 3)
- His Creation, Ours to Care For! (p. 26)
- My Comeback at Burman University* (p. 32)
- The Gods Must Not Sleep (p. 36)

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Help Global Mission reach the cities!

Millions of people around the world still don't know Jesus, many of them in cities. Global Mission sponsors Urban Centers of Influence (UCI) to start new groups of believers. People in cities are busy; they often feel they have need of nothing. Using Christ's method of ministry, these urban centers are connecting people with Adventist believers who are sharing with them a better way of life and bidding them to follow Jesus.



Taiwan

When the Nightmares Stopped

The dreams scared Helen Yen (right). She dreamed of going somewhere and then realizing that she couldn't find her way back home. The feeling of being lost frightened her each night.

But things changed once she started volunteering at an Urban Center of Influence (UCI) in Taiwan. Organized by the nearby Adventist church, the UCI offered classes on coping with Alzheimer's disease. As Helen began volunteering, she soon started attending Bible classes and learned about the Sabbath for the first time.

Helen resolved to start worshipping at the Adventist church every Sabbath. Recently, she decided to be baptized! Now, her nightmares have been laid to rest, and she has found her way back home to Jesus.

Thank you for supporting UCIs like this that win people for Christ's kingdom!



Germany

The Kulturlounge

Many of the people who come here never knew that the Adventist Church even exists," shares Pastor Simret. When he founded Presence Kulturlounge, a unique Urban Center of Influence (UCI) in Frankfurt, he dreamt of the city's largely secular population learning about Adventists.

Presence Kulturlounge builds bridges between the church and the local people who may not be readily open to religion. Offering everything from cooking classes to art exhibitions and poetry readings, this UCI creates a welcoming space to ask questions and build community.

Simret and his team are slowly connecting with local people and sharing the gospel with them. This work takes time and patience. Please pray that through Presence Kulturlounge, souls may be won for God's kingdom.

We need your help to start more Urban Centers of Influence and send more Global Mission pioneers. If you want to help share Jesus with unreached people, please send your check marked "Where Needed Most" to: **Global Mission, SDA Church in Canada, 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8** or call **800-263-7868 ext. 2097**.



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heart to heart

“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

—Genesis 1:28, ESV

What Have We Been Doing?

The inspired record of earth's creation places us, humans, as caretakers of the environment around us. Why don't Adventists say more about this?

As Christians, don't we have an obligation to use carefully what is at our disposal? What about energy and earth's resources? Are there practices we ought to adopt or refine as part of our global citizenship? I think there are.

Watch what you use. Our object ought to be to let the gas or electric meter spin as slowly as possible. Switch lightbulbs. Becky and I switched from the older traditional ones to CFLs and on to LEDs a while back and watched the bill decline. You can do the same.

On that subject, here in Canada higher heating bills come in winter—unless you bundle up with layers of clothes and keep moving around the house. You'll get extra health benefits for doing that as well.

What you save, don't touch. We live in uncertain times that will benefit from your savings. Many of us here in Canada have gotten accustomed to hypermobility. It has become too easy for us to hop in the car and travel a long distance to shop, play, or go to church. Let's stop that. Find something to do at home. Invite friends over. Life is too short to spend it cooped up in a car or plane.

And attend a congregation in your own neighbourhood! How else are you likely to encourage a friend to attend with you?

Here at the SDACC, I have asked my fellow leaders to join me in trimming the travel so we can spend better-quality time joining groups electronically to talk of vision, methods, and empowerment and ensure that donations to the church are used to share the gospel.

How about it? ■

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





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WHAT'S INSIDE

March 2019



FEATURES

- 24 COVER STORY** Meeting Science With Science
- 26 EARTH DAY FEATURE** His Creation, Ours to Care for
- 36 OUTREACH** The Gods Must Not Sleep

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 HEART TO HEART**
- 6 THE BURMAN EFFECT**
- 7 PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 8 TEEN TALK**
- 9 CREATION CORNER**
- 11 PLANNED GIVING & TRUST SERVICES**
- 12 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 14 A BETTER WORLD**
- 15 CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 16 LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZON**
- 17 PRAYER LIFE**
- 18 BARRY'S BLOG**
- 19 GROWING UP MILLENNIAL—TBH**
- 20 FARM TO TABLE**
- 21 VOAR/ON THE ROAD**
- 22 RAINMAKERS**
- 28 ADRA CANADA**
- 30 LITERATURE EVANGELISM**
- 31 EDUCATION**
- 32 BURMAN UNIVERSITY**
- 33 MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL**
- 34 ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION**
- 38 NEWS**
- 41 ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADS**
- 46 FROM THE EDITOR**

the burman effect

Left: Brucks Family
Right: Falk Family



BURMAN UNIVERSITY: Incubator for Lives of Service in Terrace, B.C.

WHEN VINCENT DROUIN marched down the College Heights Church centre aisle in 2005, he knew where he was going. He would take his new degree in biology, build on it for a DDS from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, and return home to Terrace, B.C. And he would invite his friends to go with him. So he did.

After graduating from Loma Linda, Vincent and his wife, Melinda, a dental hygienist, purchased an older existing dental practice in Terrace. Since then they expanded Cedar Coast Dental Clinic to six dentist and six hygienists—all there at Vincent and Melinda's invitation.

In addition, Melinda and Vincent recruited three physicians, a speech pathologist, and other medical professionals to establish their practices in Terrace. Most are graduates of Burman University. Yes, Terrace is home to the Drouins, but what would attract so many other Burman graduates to this tiny northern city in British Columbia's rugged Coast Mountains? The answer, in one word, is service.

Nearly 700 "as-the-crow-flies" kilometres northwest of Vancouver, Terrace is the service, educational, medical, and transportation hub of the region. Itself a city of 12,000, Terrace serves the more than 100,000 people living in Nass villages, Hazelton, Prince Rupert, Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek, Kitimat, Smithers, Haida Gwaii, and other smaller communities throughout the area.

Limited access to medical and dental care is the norm here.

Vincent says, "We provide care for a very large, diverse demographic. Many of our patients travel six to eight hours for dental care at our clinic."

Vincent's brother, Olivier, and sister-in-law, Leah, a nutritionist, moved to Terrace a few years later with the same goals. Dr. Olivier Drouin practises internal medicine. He explains that he sees a wide variety of interesting cases, often presenting in advanced stages because of the difficulties in access to health care.

Other recruits include Matt and Jen Brucks. Some of Matt's ophthalmology patients travel for days to his office. Jen is a speech pathologist with the Terrace Child Development Centre. She also volunteers at the community garden project and helps with the town's soup kitchen.

Yet another family is the Falk family. Kris and Amanda take the family's ocean boat out regularly to remote, underserved communities to provide dental care. Kris's own past experiences have taught him the compassion needed to work with vulnerable, fearful patients.

Also recruits, Kenny and Michelle Basit write, "It is rare to go out in public and not encounter at least a few of our patients. This speaks to the closeness of the community and allows us to get to know our patients just a little bit better." Kenny has one patient, an ocean fishing guide, who does not have dental insurance. So Kenny goes fishing on the ocean with him in exchange for dental work.

Currently, the Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church has a large presence in the health-care community that serves the Terrace area. The local church has five physicians, five dentists, six nurses, one speech pathologist, one nutritionist, one paramedic, one dental assistant, one dental hygienist, and several health-care aides. They all have the vision to continue serving and expanding their presence in the area. They make a strong contribution to their church and also to the city's extensive efforts to reach the many underserved in British Columbia's Pacific Northwest. ■

Renate Krause is the editor for
Burman University Magazine.



Left: Basit Family
Right: Drouin Family

It's all about asking the

Right Questions

The church leaders get together with their new pastor and decide to have a planning session for the future of disciple-making in the church. Many ideas are suggested. Many questions are asked.

“Why do we believe we exist?”

“What do we see as the most important things for the church members to be doing?”

“What role do we want the pastor to take in the future of the church?”

“What do we believe is the best area of our community for evangelism?”

“How much do we believe we can afford for our evangelistic budget?”

“What barriers do we believe will limit our success?”

“How much prayer do we believe is necessary to be successful?”

The church is excited as it determines the answers to these questions. The people agree to follow and support the pastor in the work of evangelism. Many days are set aside for prayer sessions asking God to bless our plans. A budget is set, and the church members give sacrificially to have the funds needed for their plan. All is launched and hopes are high.

A couple of years later, after their great planning and sacrifice, there are only meager results for all their hard work. What went wrong? The pastor moves on, they get a new pastor, and the sequence begins all over again.

I submit that we may not be asking the right questions. And we need to realize that there are no right answers to wrong questions. We train pastors to have what we think are the right answers, but we really should be training them to make sure *the church* asks the right questions.

As a local church pastor, I have been asked by the church something like this: “Pastor, what is your vision for the church?” My answer is “I do not know!” This may sound like bad leadership, but it is the right answer for Adventist pastors. “I do not know, but I know how we can ask God for His vision for the

church. After all, that is the vision God will bless! My vision may not match God's, so I dare not voice it. Let's ask the right questions and get God's answers!” So what might the right questions look like?

“Lord, will you show us why we exist in this community?”

“Lord, will you reveal to us what is important for your disciples to do?”

“Lord, will you show us the correct role of the pastor in our church?”

“Lord, will you reveal to us where in the community You desire us to work at this time?”

“Lord, will you supply the resources we need to for success in what You have asked us to do?”

“Lord, will you remove all the barriers that may be in our way?”

“Lord, will you accept our prayers as we seek to be in your will and vision for our church?”

Can you see the difference in the focus? The first list is all about us and what we think, whereas the second list is all about asking and listening to God for answers.

Through studying the Bible, spending time in prayer together, and seeking God to reveal His will to the church, great discoveries will be made, answers to the right questions will be found, and great success will be accomplished. God is eager to show us how to evangelize the community that He loves, and God's wisdom and power are available to his chosen people.

Great success in growing God's church and retention have come as the church asks the right questions. “As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.”¹ ■

David Ripley is president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.



¹ Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, 333.

teen talk

Q: Things in my life are not going very well in general, and I just don't have it in me to pray. What should I do? I try, but I cant!

A: I hear you, my friend! "When you don't feel like praying, pray," they say. Well, how in the world are you going to pray when praying itself seems to be the problem?

The Bible is right when it asks us to pray continuously. There is no question about that. However, prayer itself is much deeper than what we normally assume. It is way more than saying, asking, or thanking. It is more than a conversation with God—it is also an acknowledgement of God's presence.

Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, is always nearby. Paul even says that Christ is within us! Prayer starts the moment we acknowledge His presence. We may or may not formulate words, but the prayer has already started. If you can't go further, worry not, because you don't need to. He knows.

I'm not making this up. That's what the Bible says! Here it is:

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.¹ ■

¹ Romans 8:26, 27 *The Message*

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



Creation Corner for Kids

No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.—John 1:18

Light and Shadows

Tracey and Amanda are hiking in the mountains. The trail takes them through a sunny meadow. A Savannah Sparrow trills from the top of a shrub. Sunlight makes the snow on the peaks glisten and sparkles on the bright blue lakes below. The hikers hardly notice the weight of their heavy backpacks.

Eventually, the trail slopes downward and crosses the path of an ancient rock slide. Enormous, ragged rocks cast long shadows on the path. The trail winds through the grey jumble and continues into a gloomy forest. Tall trees block the light of the setting sun. A jay scolds. A squirrel sounds a warning. Nearby a twig snaps. Tracey and Amanda stop. What lurks in the dark shadows? Could it be a bear? a cougar? a murderer?

Think about it.

Light reveals things around us. Darkness hides things. Since he rebelled, Satan has been casting shadows over God's character. He wants people to fear God, so he makes them think that God is severe, harsh, and just waiting for people to mess up so He can punish them. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), and He came to shine warm sunbeams of truth upon the character of God. He healed the sick, raised the dead, forgave sinners, and loved those others thought were unlovable. Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation. Visit Creation Corner at www.facebook.com/CreationCornerforKids. Inspired by *Steps to Christ* by Ellen G. White.



Do it!

When you feel afraid of God, go to the Gospels and read your favourite story about Jesus. God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to show He is love. You need not fear.



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We tend to think about giving singularly: that to give, you must first have; and what you must have is money—and probably lots of it. This is not necessarily true. There are countless ways to give, and you don't have to be anyone special to make good happen.

There's an old proverb that says, "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. . . . If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody." These are tales of happiness created with few resources except compassion coupled with ingenuity and dedication.

Albert Lexie, a man with learning disabilities and an eighth-grade education, donated over \$200,000 to a children's hospital—on a salary of about \$10,000 per year.¹ What seems impossible became possible through Albert's simple, steady determination, powered by his big, loving heart.

Between 1982 and 2013, Albert got up two days a week and rode the 5:50 a.m. bus to the UPMC Children's Hospital,² where he set up his shoeshine box. Any tips Albert earned from his patrons went straight to the hospital's Free Care Fund, or "my kids,"³ as Albert would say. Albert did this simply because he "wanted to see the kids get well" and it made him "happy."⁴ Albert is proof that you do not have to be highly educated, well-established, or wealthy to be a philanthropist and an inspiration.

Sophia was barely two when she was diagnosed with leukemia. Now she is a cancer-free, thriving eight-year-old. After her battle and with the help of her family, she developed the Super Sophia Project, whose aim is to give happiness to children who find themselves in the hospital for lengthy stays. Now classrooms and communities all over Canada hold drives to fill "Love Boxes" with art supplies, books, toys, and other things that bring hospitalized children joy.

For example, the kindergarteners of Frenchman's Bay Public School in Pickering, Ont., set a goal earlier this year of filling 20 Love Boxes.⁵ In the end, these four- and five-year-old children filled 47 boxes.⁶ "It was fun, because we're helping people," says Ryan Mitchell, 5.⁷ The warmth of a child's heart is contagious. You don't have to be a grown-up to make a difference.

Ten-year-old **Easton McCready** wanted to do something to ease the sadness he felt when he saw homeless people struggling to stay warm as winter approached. So Easton took action and launched the Warm the Streets of Durham campaign, gathering new sleeping bags and blankets to donate to local shelters.⁸ He says, "I want to help . . . I really like helping people."⁹

Easton belongs to the ME to WE student charity group at his school, whose members helped to make his idea a reality. The project was advertised on social media, and Easton's father's employer, as well as another business, promoted the campaign and acted as collection sites.¹⁰ Easton proves that all it takes to give back is a 10-year-old's compassion and little help from friends.

As Anne Frank once wrote, "No one has ever become poor by giving." These stories prove that you don't need to have a lot, or anything at all, to give. When we give, we gain spiritual and emotional health and well-being. Giving can be quite simple: you just need a will and a way. ■

Leah Keys writes from Newcastle, Ont.

1 Bill Wade, "Shoe-shiner Donated \$200K to Hospital," *National Post*, Oct. 18, 2018, A2.

2 University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre.

3,4 Wade, A2.

5 Jillian Follert, "Pickering Kindergarteners Open Their Hearts to Fill Stacks of Love Boxes," *Oshawa This Week*, Nov. 14, 2018, 10.

6,7 Follert, 10.

8 Jennifer O'Meara, "Courtice Kid Wants to Warm the Streets of Durham," *Oshawa This Week*, Nov. 22, 2018, 6.

9, 10 O'Meara, 6.

A Will and a Way



by Leah Keys



March 2019

11

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 Darlene Reimche.

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



Darlene Reimche

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

Darlene Reimche: I was born number seven of eight children to Albert and Emma Reimche at Otter Lake Road near Armstrong in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. The family lived on a farm and were very blessed to be part of the Grandview Flats Adventist Church and School. All of the family worked hard on our farm. Work was a major characteristic of our family, and we all learned it well.

Our mother was a hard-working, farming mother, and our father was a farmer and a carpenter. When I was in Grade 9, we moved to a house that dad built about two miles closer to Grandview Flats from our Otter Lake home. It sat below a railway track, and this allowed me to use my counting skills, as I would run and look out the window to count the number of train cars as the train passed by. It truly trained and prepared me for my retirement years, because the house I am now living in has a train track behind it, and now I know that I am gifted to carry out the same counting task.

Our family was a very musical family as were many of those in our Grandview Flats church. My father played two or three instruments, and several of my brothers and sisters did also. We had a sisters' trio, and several others sang. My most used gift was singing, and I still continue singing to this day.

M: *Where did you go to school, and what course of study did you pursue?*

D: For the first nine years of school, I attended the Grandview Flats Adventist School, which today is the longest continuously operating parochial school in the

province of British Columbia. It was a real blessing to our family, and today we can still meet up with several of the teachers who taught us at Grandview. When I completed the grades at Grandview Flats, I attended high school in Armstrong and graduated from Grade 12, then completed the first two years of my bachelor of science at Canadian Union College in 1971. I graduated with a bachelor of science at Andrews University in 1975.

M: *In what capacity, and where, did you serve the church?*

D: In 1973 I had an interruption in my university schooling when I received a call to teach school in Corner Brook, N.L. I taught Grades 1–4 for one school year and then returned to Andrews University to complete my degree. After graduating with a bachelor of science in physical education and a minor in health at Andrews in 1975, I returned to Newfoundland and taught Grades 1 and 2 at the Adventist church school in St. John's for three years. Then I returned to British Columbia, where I taught school in McBride and Williams Lake.

In Williams Lake we had a director from the British Columbia Conference present a Week of Prayer. Pastor Larry Engel then returned to the conference office, and the conference called me to come and be a secretary for the Sabbath School, Children's, and Personal Ministries department. In 1989 I become director of Sabbath School and Children's Ministries. Other departments that I directed over the years were Adventist Single Adult Ministries, Family Ministries, Regeneration Ministries, Men's Ministries, and SAGE. This continued until 2009, when I received a call to the Alberta Conference and worked as a departmental director of Sabbath School, Children's Ministries, Single Adult Ministries, and SAGE for seven years and retired in January 2016. It was a real privilege to be used by God to support and help carry out His work on the conference level. He truly blessed!

M: *Tell me about SAGE—what it stands for—and what your involvement has been in this volunteer organization?*

D: The acronym SAGE stands for Seniors in Action for God with Excellence, and Robert Grady started it in the Washington Adventist Conference in 1994. In 2005 Washington SAGE began to come to Camp Hope in B.C. for their convention, and, while working at the BC Conference office, I heard some exciting information about this ministry. So I went to Camp Hope one Sabbath to observe it and was so excited about all that they were doing. It was truly inspiring, so I spoke to our conference president at the time, who said, "This is what we need," and he encouraged me to start the ministry in our conference.

Our first SAGE presidents in 2005 were Athol and Kathy Piper, who lived in Victoria and, to come to a SAGE meeting in Abbotsford, had to come across on

the ferry, which made it very difficult for them. So they suggested we appoint someone else, and I was able to get Ray and Gwen Smith from Abbotsford to serve in that position. They also did an excellent job.

In 2011 SAGE came to the Alberta Conference. I was able to put a committee together and asked Victor Fitch to serve as president, though he [retired] at the end of 2018, and Don Corkum will become president. SAGE is a ministry for those 50 years of age and older who can participate in service projects. Who has more work experience in many areas than SAGErs? They are very capable and valuable in many ways, and we look forward to having God use and bless this ministry in the coming years. SAGE helps schools, churches, and camps with cleanup, and even renovations to new structures. For more information about the ministry, you can visit the conference websites.

M: *In your years of service, what has brought the greatest joy and satisfaction to you?*

D: In the summer of 1971, after graduating from Canadian Union College, I spent the summer doing one of my most significant and memorable activities. I spent the summer with two other young ladies working along the coast of B.C. helping dentists with the Dental Clinic on the *Northern Light* mission boat. Dr. Wendell Danielson was the director of this program, and we spent the summer travelling on the *Northern Light* working in the dental clinic, and presenting Vacation Bible Schools in several First Nations villages along the coast.

After attending one year of school at Andrews University, I again spent another summer with the dental clinic. Living in the First Nations villages and getting to know the people was so special and God-inspired. These summers were very significant in my life and will always be remembered and valued.

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

D: I am now living in a house that sits on an acre and a half of property that I bought from my sister, Alberta, and my brother-in-law, John Blake in Clive, Alta.

I am very active as director of the Clive Adventist Community Services Centre, which had its grand opening on March 12, 2016. It is a small hall that the Revitalization Committee of Clive had used, but they completed their work and were unable to sell it. They offered to give it to a group in the community based on a proposal on how it would be used. The Adventists living in Clive got together, submitted their proposal, and it was accepted. The hall was given to us free of charge. Among its uses include workshops on health and well-being. God truly blessed us and continues to do so as we work for our community. ■

A Better World Canada Board Members Inspire Beyond Their Homes to the

Doorsteps of East Africa's Less Fortunate



Ray Loxdale and his wife, Kelly, visit with children at Kadesh Baby Home during a recent trip to Kenya.



Ray Loxdale (second from right) inspects buildings during A Better World Canada's recent Journeys of Inspiration trip to Kenya and Rwanda.

There's no boredom with A Better World Canada's leadership board—especially when it involves changing people's lives and seeing Africa's "Big Five" animals in between. Board members are passionate to produce results in education, health care, agriculture, and other important sectors within East Africa and beyond.

A Better World (ABW) board members often take turns travelling to visit projects, meet with local community leaders, and evaluate the success and challenges the organization faces in implementing projects. Members of the board work hard to ensure ABW's continued success while seeing how it can expand, including developing more young humanitarians into the fold. Last November, several members of the board travelled on a Journeys of Inspiration trip with ABW co-founder Eric Rajah to Kenya and Rwanda.

It was a trip filled with big purpose and some sightseeing, too. The board typically has project management experience, so they have travelled extensively to the regions they look after.

On this journey they visited numerous project sites, some of which they had never seen before because the projects were relatively new. The ABW leaders stopped by one well, and they learned the initial water test results were not favourable. So, testing was done again at two independent labs. This time the water results came back to nearly acceptable levels. By the end of the trip, the ABW leadership was able to tell the community good news: the pump would be installed so that clean, potable water would be available.

"It was great as a board member to see that [even though] sometimes our projects don't work well, ... if we're persistent,

there may be a way to still achieve the end goal we wanted," says Ray Loxdale of Halifax, N.S. "This was the case here. We just needed some more water testing Our last two labs were consistent in their reporting."

Apart from visiting a new feeding centre for children and schools, the group also took a boat ride on Lake Naivasha to see hippos up close. They also enjoyed several game drives to view any of the Big Five (leopard, lion, rhinoceros, elephant, and Cape buffalo).

Going to Africa was not on Loxdale's bucket list of places to travel. He remembers that back in 2003, he, his wife, and two children kept quiet about their first trip for months, because going to Kenya "didn't seem real at the time."

Since then, he has visited 20 to 30 times. That kind of dedication is no small thing. The board meets several times a year in Lacombe, even if it is far from home. Loxdale credits Rajah for building teamwork within A Better World.

"He has put people alongside him who have helped him along the way," Loxdale said. "A Better World is what it is today because of a lot of teamwork, and definitely Eric has spearheaded that."

It is a partnership that expects results, too. For example, the ABW board now looks for whether a school project has included toilets and safe drinking water in its building plans. And by doing so, A Better World is helping communities to achieve self-sustainability for years to come. ■

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

BECOMING A LOCAL

MISSIONARY

(PT. 2 OF 2)

Last month we discussed American missionary John Allen Chau's failed attempt to reach the indigenous people of North Sentinel Island. Chau's death raised criticism from numerous organizations, including some Christian groups who believed he did not approach the unreached people with careful thought or planning.

The Sentinel people live on a remote Island that is a territory of India. They have made their wishes clear that they do not want to be contacted by the outside world. In fact, they have been protected by Indian law that allows them to experience life on their own terms, undisturbed.

How does one reconcile these people's desire to be left alone with Jesus's Great Commission to reach all of the world? Even though Chau's intentions may have been pure, they were not accepted.

The majority of Canadians are not interested in religion either. In many of the big cities, such as Vancouver, people disclose their atheistic views openly and prefer not to be approached about topics related to God. How do we make in-roads with the community who holds hostile feelings toward religion?

Ellen G. White gave the church great counsel when she said, "We must live a twofold life—a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work."¹ The work (action) must also be accompanied by prayer. I will make three suggestions your church can implement immediately as you consider reaching your community.

1) Remember that most people today do not even know the basic elements of the Christian faith. Many Adventist are trying to "convert" people to the Sabbath. However, most people do not know the God of the Sabbath. You may be surprised to learn how little the average person knows about Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, or even the life of Jesus. Determine what you are going to emphasize as you share the good news of Jesus.

2) What are the felt needs of your community? One hundred years ago, missionaries brought "gifts" to indigenous people. For example, they introduced salt to the diet or shared fishing nets with villagers. Some missionaries created schools and hospitals to serve as an induction to the community needs. What are some specific things your church can support the local community with? How will this build in-roads with the community?

3) What is your plan? How will you react when your audience responds with hostility? What if they are receptive to your message? What is your ultimate goal?

The efforts of John Allen Chau should not go down in history as futile. However, we should also use history as our teacher. There are numerous ways we must build goodwill with neighbours who don't know Jesus before we start preaching to them. ■

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

¹ *The Ministry of Healing*, 512.



Beginning a Journey in Truth and Reconciliation

What do you know of Indigenous Peoples in Canada? What do you think you know? Many of us in Canada know very little but the usual negative stereotypes. We have certainly heard such sentiments as “They just need to act like us,” “They need to start paying taxes,” or “They need to stop abusing substances.” The Imaginary Indian,² that familiar “noble savage” of movies and books, adorns our sports gear, gas stations, and motorcycles—seen but not heard. There is also the “invisible Indian” whom the Canadian government sought to eradicate through residential schools, the Sixties Scoop,³ the Indian Act, and the present foster care system. These were, and are, calculated and “legalized” attempts made to deprive First Nations, Inuit, and Métis of their faith, family, culture, and community, all for the sake of making them more “Canadian” (some of these laws are still active today).

Most of Christianity was a willing or silent partner in these efforts, willfully complicit in the “Kill the Indian, save the child”⁴ mantra or silent out of either ignorance or passive endorsement.

Today times are changing. Canadians and Canadian churches like ours are starting to see Indigenous Peoples in significantly different ways. We are beginning to accept the truth of our silent and often incriminating history and the reconciliation needed today and in the future. The gospel is working on our hearts as we seek restoration and growth, but if we do not engage with Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous issues, that gospel-directed growth will not take place.

As a Métis with Red River roots and as the Indigenous Relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), a vision is growing in me. Through *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, face-to-face encounters, and through a new website launching early this year, let us begin a conversation. Are we willing to listen as Jesus did? Are we willing to hear what the experiences and hearts of Indigenous people are saying to us as a church, as individuals, as we seek hope and wholeness? I invite you to join me in this conversation. I encourage you to ask us questions (page.campbell@adventist.ca) and visit our new website, which we hope will be a communications and resource hub for Indigenous ministries across the country.

The Indigenous First Peoples of Canada are a diverse, remarkable, and resilient people. The Indigenous Peoples of Canada have asked the rest of Canada to join them in a process of reconciliation. The Indigenous Ministries Office of the SDACC will continue to respond to this request positively. We will seek to commit resources, raise awareness, and provide education to accomplish this goal. It may not be a painless journey, but hope and wholeness will be the message—a message that may restore the relationships between our Christian faith and our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Together may we observe and enter the truth of history and make a better future for us all. ■

A young Indigenous woman, in a moving and confronting poem, writes:

A student complains of one singular presentation slide that shows

The perspective of an indigenous man

Since it is “too much” to have to hear about again

Poor child, it is almost as if it is your own country’s first people

A people that have been mistreated

A people that deserve to be listened to

A people with a history that should be acknowledged

Heritage and culture does not only lie in clothing and tradition

It lays in history

History that is not made of the stereotyped medicine men

History of a mistreated people!

Campbell Page is the Indigenous Relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

1 JoLeah Baptiste, “Crucible,” *Indigenous Arts and Stories*, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2SeF6QN>

2 Daniel Francis, *The Imaginary Indian: The Image of the Indian in Canadian Culture* (Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 1992).

3 See: Tara Williamson, “Just What Was the Sixties Scoop?” *TVO*, Feb. 17, 2017, <https://bit.ly/2BeR6bn>. See also: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, 2015, pp. 71, 72, 185–187, <https://bit.ly/1OHGnsC>.

4 A quote often attributed to Duncan Campbell Scott, Canada’s most ardent supporter of residential schools. It does, in fact, trace back to the equivalent industrial school system in the United States and General Richard Henry Pratt. Although, Scott embraced the idea whole-heartedly.

Let the Spirit Pray for You

"He always has compassion on those who came to Him in great need and distress."

We often read about the best practices in prayer and how not to pray. We read about the benefits of prayer and the blessings that we receive when we pray. But many times we feel as if we don't know how to pray and that our prayers are not heard by God. Often it's because we feel so sinful that we conclude that God will not hear or answer our prayers.

I want you to know, my dear friend, that there is a prayer that only God can hear, only He can understand. It's that prayer that comes straight from a heart of pain and desperation. When you have tried everything you know to come to God in prayer, you have followed the steps, you have been obedient but are still getting no answer, it may seem as if it's all going for the worst.

What do we do then?

We go to God and just let His Spirit do the talking.

Romans 8:26, 27 says,

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God (NKJV).

The apostle Paul says, in this text, that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness." In case you have not noticed, it is when we are weak that we are strong before God. Jesus was always helping the needy, the poor, the blind. As a matter of fact, He said, "Blessed are the poor in Spirit ... " When we are self-sufficient, we cannot reach the heart of God. He always had compassion on those who came to Him in great need and distress.

Another sentence we find in the text is that "the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The Spirit of God intercedes for us when we do not know what to say, when we don't feel like praying because our faith is almost gone.

This is a moment to go before God and just

let Him know you are there. Just let the Spirit of God—"He who searches the heart"—speak for you. Let Him talk to the Father on your behalf. Moses said to the children of Israel, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today" (Exod. 14:13, NKJV).

There are times in our Christian walk when we pray and see no answer, or we reach a point of weakness where we do not feel like even praying. Sometimes the trials of life are just so overwhelming that we do not have the physical or spiritual strength to pray. Just go to God with your heart wide open. No need for words. Just stand still before Him. The Spirit will do the talking.

The Bible tells us the story of Hannah, who had been barren and had prayed for God to give her a son for many years. But this one time that she went to the Lord in prayer, the Bible says that she "prayed in her heart." This was not just another prayer; this was a prayer out of pain and suffering.

Notice what the Bible says: "I am a woman of sorrowful spirit ... but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ... For out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now" (1 Sam. 1:15, 16, NKJV).

Hannah had reached a breaking point in her life. She had prayed for the same thing over many years, to no avail, but she did not give up, and in her weakest moment she was the strongest. Her weakness made her acceptable before the throne of God.

So what do you do when you don't know how to pray?

You pray!

What do you do when you don't know what to say?

Stand still!

What do you do when you're too weak to pray?

Let the Spirit intercede.

For He searches the deepest secrets of the heart. He knows your every thought and need. ■

Sethres Dixon is pastor at Henderson Highway Adventist Church in Winnipeg, Man.



barry's blog

“This Is About Projects and Activities”

“What we heard from faith-based groups,” explained Labour Minister Patty Hajdu, as reported by *Macleans* on Dec. 6, 2018, “is that they want to be very clear that this isn’t a judgment about what they believe.”¹ She continued by saying, “I think we’ve managed to do that. The application is very clear that this is about projects and activities; it’s not about faiths and beliefs.”

Good.

I am happy to see that the government finally listened and responded to the concerns of the faith communities across Canada who revolted against the government’s attestation requirement in the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) application. That’s the program that grants funding to charities and small businesses to hire students in the summer months. Last year the wording on the application demanded fealty to the government’s worldview in exchange for funding.

The concept of government seeking compliance with its ideology on such moral issues as abortion struck a deep democratic nerve in religious and non-religious citizens alike. It was gratifying to see, for once, the secular and religious press converge in agreement that the government had gone a step too far. Identity politics had reached the bulwark of freedom of conscience and religion.

As a result, the government has now announced modifications to remove its problematic values test. This is a positive development. Still, the 2019 attestation is not without some ambiguous and potentially problematic aspects. In particular, the CSJ will not fund projects that “advocate intolerance, discrimination, and/or prejudice” nor “undermine or restrict the exercise of rights legally protected in Canada.” As of yet, we do not know what those terms mean, particularly in the context of religious groups whose teachings or practices may diverge from the secular majority. More clarity is needed.

Some time ago former Chief Justice Brian Dickson, of the Supreme Court of Canada, stated, “Religious belief and practice are historically prototypical.” This great expositor of the law understood that religious freedom is the touchstone for other human rights. The ability to think, speak, and act in keeping with our beliefs about what makes life meaningful is a precious and fundamental right that has made free and democratic societies the envy of the world.

Therefore, when governments, no matter their intention, step on the fundamental right of conscience, they step on the very essence of who we are. To stay silent in the face of such challenges is to deny our identity and our very being. For this reason, the people of Canada said, “Enough!” To some, the issue over Canada Summer Jobs seemed like a minor tempest in a teapot—or, as the PM said, “a kerfuffle.”

Key moments in history, though, sometimes emerge from the most unexpected and unassuming turning points. After all, it was a bus seat in the Southern United States that commenced the Civil Rights tsunami that flooded every court and legislative hall of that nation.

Perhaps the CSJ issue is the high-water mark for this government’s inappropriate intrusion into the beliefs of citizens. Maybe it’s not. But one thing is for sure: the CSJ issue has made it very clear that we can no longer passively take our freedoms for granted. As the Irish politician John Philpot Curran said in a speech in Dublin on July 10, 1790, “The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance.” We’ve been reminded of that anew. And we’ll be watching. ■

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

¹ John Geddes, “Liberals Move to Defuse Canada Summer Jobs Controversy,” *Macleans*, Dec. 6, 2018, www.macleans.ca/politics/ottawa/liberals-move-to-defuse-canada-summer-jobs-controversy/.

Growing Up Millennial



*"I thought that after I hit age 20,
everything would just kind of fall into place."*

Life Lessons

When I was little, I had an idealized version of what I thought life would be. I thought that after I hit age 20, everything would just kind of fall into place: I would have lots of friends, a job, a boyfriend, and would be easily cruising through a college education. But as I have found out over time, nothing is as stress-free as I had expected. Sometimes I have to remind myself that this is simply the case, and so here are 10 things I tell myself to emphasize that everything will be OK and that life is never (and never will be!) easy:

1. Friends come and go. And it may be hard to think about this, but some friendships will not last, and that's OK. Keep the good memories, and if you do want a friendship to last, you're going to have to work at it.
2. This is the time in your life to go out on dates. You don't need to have settled down at 20 or 22, or even 24. Don't force a relationship because you think that you need one.
3. Just because you have a degree doesn't mean that everything will be perfect. You might not even enjoy your first entry-level job all that much. And that's all right. It takes time to build to what you want to do.
4. Family is super important. Don't forget to call your parents or siblings. They'll always be there to support you.
5. Life feels less stressful when you get enough sleep. There have been times when I have slept no more than

six hours nightly for weeks. It didn't make me happy, and I certainly wasn't very focused.

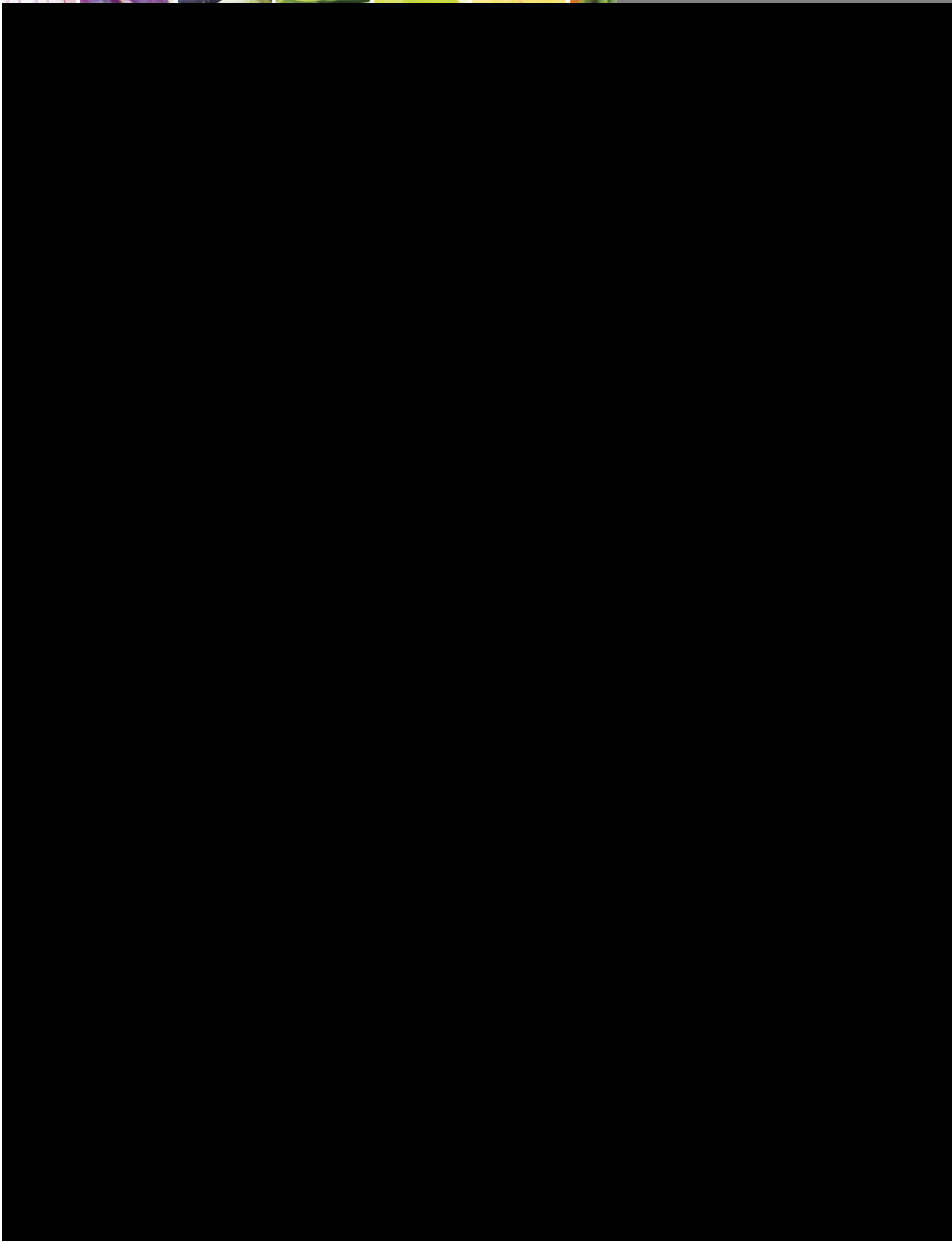
6. You don't have to be perfect, and you don't have to be the best at everything. Sure, strive toward that 100 percent on your final, but if you don't get it, that's all right. There's always going to be someone better, smarter, prettier—and that's OK.

7. Embrace who you are. Don't change for anyone—not for a significant other, not for a job, and not for a friendship. Changing for someone else is a guaranteed trap to make you unhappy.

8. Sometimes you have to take risks and sometimes your heart will break. But that's how you learn and how you move on.

9. And, finally, the most important thing of all: don't try to stick to an idealized sort of "plan." I'm like that for sure; in my head I have a timeline to stick to, and, honestly, that causes more useless stress than anything else. Instead, trust that you are where you are for a reason. Joshua 1:9 says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (NIV). Even if you feel alone or confused or stressed, God is always going to be there. Life isn't perfect, but He is in your life and always will be. ■

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





A Ministry of Lighting a Candle in the Dark

"It's a way of bringing life and hope into a community."

Thanks in large part to a Christian business owner, a group of willing volunteers, and answered prayers, VOAR Christian Family Radio hit the airwaves from its hilltop tower in Big River, Sask., on Feb. 8, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.

Jack Rempel, a Shellbrook church member, set out to light candles in the dark by placing Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) towers in nearby centres such as Big River, where little or no Adventist influence is felt. It took time and prayerful perseverance to secure a location for the tower and equipment building. Then, a few years ago, Rempel had a breakthrough. "I noticed that there was always Christian music playing at the Kangaroo Cottage," a restaurant owned by Paul and Anita Turgeon. Rempel approached the Turgeons, who are not Seventh-day Adventists, about the possibility of erecting the radio

tower on land they own. They were immediately interested and offered an ideal spot: a hill overlooking the town of Big River.

Rempel sees the setup of a tower as being a first step in introducing the Seventh-day Adventist Church to a community through programs like *Voice of Prophecy* and *Faith Out Loud Canada*. VOAR can help to "counteract years of propaganda that has caused people to think of Seventh-day Adventists as being strange and cultish," he says. "It's a way of bringing life and hope into a community."

May God continue to bless the Shellbrook church as they continue to light candles in the dark. ■

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



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE SILVER HEIGHTS CHURCH IN MANITOBA, AND
CHURCHES IN MEDICINE HAT, ALTA., AND LONDON, ONT.

*If you could give God a nickname,
what would it be and why?*

Tami Braman: "The Bible is full of nicknames that have been given to God based on how people have experienced Him in their lives. How have I experienced God? Perhaps I would give Him the name 'Mentor,' as one who has been a friend, listened, guided, and just been there when I needed Him most."

David Forsey: "Daddy. My dad has been the biggest influence in my life [and] demonstrated who God is. It encompasses adoption—my dad adopted two more children after having nine of his own yet loved all of us! What great love does one receive than from a 'Daddy' in the truest sense of the word."

Ian Mighty: "'Mighty.' The nickname speaks for itself and it reminds me of me [because of my last name]."

Rosemary: "My first thought was that I can't give Him a nickname!"



rainmakers

RAINMAK

A Canadian Who “Desires A Bette

Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam is the motto for the Order of Canada—and it accurately describes Howard Gimbel, alumnus and recent appointee to this award. He is a Canadian who “desires a better country.”

ALBERTA ROOTS

Like Governor General Roland Michener, first inductee into the Order of Canada, Gimbel was born in the province of Alberta. He grew up in Beiseker, and, like both his parents, he travelled to Lacombe to attend school. He graduated in 1952 from the high school division of what was then Canadian Union College (now Burman University).

As the senior class president, Gimbel encouraged his fellow graduates to be committed to excellence and service. He wrote in the school newspaper:

We look to graduation, not as an end to preparation, but as the commencement: it is but a foundation upon which we must continue to build character and wisdom Let us use the wisdom we have acquired, as the wise use their watches—not for personal display, but rather that we may be more efficient as we serve others.

FURTHER EDUCATION

After graduation, Gimbel attended Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) in Washington, completing a degree in physics. Later he studied medicine and public health at Loma Linda University

in California and completed a residency in ophthalmology at the White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles.

“GADGET GIMBEL”

All the recipients of the Order of Canada have enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country. And Howard Gimbel certainly has done that in his four-decade career as an ophthalmologist and surgeon.

He was fascinated by new technologies and soon became known as “Gadget Gimbel.” Early in his career, this interest ensured that patients received the most sophisticated care available. In 1964 he founded the Gimbel Eye Centre in Calgary, and in 1974 he became the first Canadian surgeon to use an ultrasonic probe to remove cataracts. He developed new techniques that improved the safety and results of cataract surgery and became active in refractive surgery that allowed tens of thousands of patients to enjoy a world of clear vision without corrective lenses. His procedures became world standards, and more than 200,000 eye surgeries have been completed at the clinic.

GIMBEL EYE FOUNDATION

But that wasn’t enough for Howard Gimbel. Patients, enthusiastic about their care,

sometimes gave gifts that encouraged him to share his techniques. In 1984 Judy Gimbel, Howard’s wife, founded the Gimbel Eye Foundation that supports research and educational and service projects, some of which focus on preventing blindness. In the role of teacher and mentor, Howard has broadcast live surgery, co-authored textbooks, contributed to medical journals, and spoken at conferences. He holds academic appointments at the University of Calgary and at Loma Linda University.

Judy Gimbel not only serves as the president of the Gimbel Eye Foundation but also has personally contributed to eye care. Realizing that more skilled technicians were needed, Judy oversaw the development of an in-house training program and published it in the *Ophthalmic Assisting Guide*. The guide has been translated into three languages and has helped launch the careers of many ophthalmic technicians.

Judy inspires the team at the Gimbel Eye Centre as they create a caring environment of open, cooperative communication. Her interest in commitment to educate patients about the relationship of healthy diet and eye health resulted in the video *An Eye on*

ERS

r Country"

Wellness. The centre also offers health education classes, assessments, and materials.

THE GIMBELS AND BURMAN UNIVERSITY

Howard and Judy Gimbel have been involved with Burman University, contributing to the Chan Shun Science Centre and creating a student scholarship. Burman's mission statement pledges that it "will educate students to think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment, and to act with confidence, compassion, and competence." Howard and Judy Gimbel's lives exemplify this mission. As they researched and innovated, they were "thinking with discernment." As they advocated a healthy life and gave praise to God throughout their lives, they were "believing with insight and commitment." And as they shared their discoveries with others, providing patient-centred care, they were "acting with confidence, compassion, and competence." **Think. Believe. Act.**

In the words of the Order of Canada, Howard and Judy Gimbel have "desired a better country." Burman University knows that they are accomplishing this goal. ■



Judy and Howard Gimbel

Denise Dick Herr is professor emerita of English at Burman University. This article originally appeared in Burman University Magazine, Fall 2018.

cover story

It was an audacious idea! I was not sure if he realized just how bold it was at the time, but when Mansfield Day summit with me in fall 2017, it seemed as if it was just another good idea to him. Now, a year later in Ontario, if not in Canada, I wanted to find out just what people can expect on April 21, 2019—one day

> **Halsey Peat:** Pastor Edwards, when we hear of a summit we usually think of a meeting of government leaders. Please tell us what you mean by holding an Earth Day summit?

Mansfield Edwards: Yes, we usually think of that as the meaning of a summit, but it also refers to a gathering of the brightest minds to inspire others and to challenge commonly held beliefs that are not necessarily true. So, on April 21, 2019, we are bringing together some of the brightest scientific minds that we have in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario, Canada, and the United States to address the questions raised by evolution and to show how belief in God as creator can solidly rest on scientific evidence.

Peat: Many questions come to mind, but maybe an obvious one is *Why do this?* Surely, the theory of evolution is so commonly accepted that this could be seen as a waste of time?

Edwards: I am convinced that the theory

—and it is just a theory—is accepted because Christians have not readily met science with science. I am also concerned that since many of our young people—in the crucial stages of their intellectual development—attend public schools and universities, they are being bombarded with evolution by atheist teachers and professors. In the absence of opportunities of hearing or seeing contrary scientific evidence that speaks of a Creator God, the influence of those professors can often be profound. They are faced with a tension between science and their faith. Barna Research reveals that 50 percent of Adventist youth aged 18 to 29 interpret their church to be anti-science. This gives the church two responsibilities:

1. To help our youth with a clearer understanding of faith and science so they can reconcile the two worldviews; that is, science in the light of scripture.

2. To help our community grasp the basis for our faith.

Peat: So, is this event only for students?

Edwards: Not at all! In addition to our objective of strengthening the faith of Adventist students on non-Adventist tertiary campuses, we strongly believe that it can be evangelistic. We will use it to reach out to the general public with the Creationist message, because many have simply bought into the theory of evolution in the absence of a credible alternative. This is why we want every Seventh-day Adventist in the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding towns and cities to tell at least one person about the summit and do their very best to get them to attend.

Peat: For it to be evangelistic are you saying that even non-scientific minds will find it interesting and useful?

Edwards: I could not have said it any better myself! It will be very inclusive. I am not only pleased by the number of Adventist scientists we have in our province and our country but I am also so impressed by their ability to take

Meeting Science

eld Edwards, president of the Ontario Conference, first shared his idea of an Earth Day and just one month away from one of the largest creationist events ever held in before Earth Day is celebrated around the world. I decided to sit with him and ask him.

some seemingly difficult concepts and make them so simple that even young children can understand. Our goal is to make an impact on our influence in society and their understanding of God's Holy Word. The first angel's message of Revelation 14:7 actually is a call to the world to worship God as the maker of the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the fountains of water.

Peat: But why Earth Day?

Edwards: Earth Day is the perfect time because it's right on everyone's calendar. Every year on the civic calendar, God has provided us with an opportunity to emphasize the importance of the earth and of its origin. Since its early days in the 1970s, Earth Day has helped to raise people's awareness of environmental concern. In December we heard much about the United Nations' warning about global warming, so we expect Earth Day 2019 to spark even more interest than usual.

We will use the summit to also

consider stewardship strategies to include recycling and sensitivity to climate change. We plan to be relevant. I am convinced that Adventists should be among the leading promoters of Earth Day and stewardship of God's creation.

Peat: So, what is to be expected when we arrive at the International Centre?

Edwards: Among the various activities, there will also be many stations where experts in their fields will expose visitors to the marvels of God's creation from a scientific perspective. Adults and children alike will at one time or another experience wide-eyed or jaw-dropping moments as they visit stations relating to physics, archaeology, marine biology, immunology, toxicology, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), organic planting, urban planning, Creation Health, trees and forestry, neurology, Burman University, children, ornithology, epidemiology, recycling, zoology, audiology, gravity, the equator, Creation science, pesticides, the death of honey-

bees, and more.

Subject-matter experts will gladly provide scientifically based answers to questions, and some will even have hands-on activities.

Peat: It sounds like we should plan to spend the entire day because there will be so much to see, do, and learn.

Edwards: That would be a good idea. Let me say this. Even though I am part of the planning, my excitement is getting stronger as we get closer to April 21 because of all I am hearing from the scientists and what they plan to share.

Peat: Pastor Edwards, thank you for sharing this with me. ■

Make your plans today to attend Earth Day Summit 2019 on April 21, 2019, in the Orion Ballroom at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, Ont.

with Science

earth day feature

Applications of scientific research have permeated every aspect of our lives. Take gene sequencing, for example. We have all seen the ads offering genetic ancestry testing—a service for identifying which continent our ancestors are from—simply by analyzing the DNA in a sample of saliva that we send through the mail! Twelve million people have had their DNA tested, and it is estimated that 1 in 25 American adults now have access to personal genetic data.¹ DNA testing has become a commodity, but how many of its users appreciate the awesome science behind the technology?

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the unique blueprint or recipe in our cells that describes how to build each one of us. That information is stored in the form of a code that uses four molecular units, called nucleotides. This code instructs

the cell on which amino acids—the building blocks of proteins—to assemble into specific protein molecules. Proteins determine our body's structure and function. Our cells can quickly access, copy, and translate the information stored in DNA. There is even a built-in proofreader and spellchecker within our DNA that ensures precise copying when cells divide.

Codes do not appear spontaneously or randomly. Think of computer code or the Morse code. Behind every code is an intelligent entity that invented it and who determines what the elements of the code will represent. This reality has caused many who support current evolutionary theories to propose that DNA must have arrived here already formed on small dust particles from other planets that have intelligent life or by some ancient space traveller.²

The Bible writers did not have the same depth of scientific knowledge that we have today; nevertheless, they marvelled at God's design and creativity in the natural world. For example, in Psalm 139:13, 14, David wrote, "You

made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it!"³

Despite our much deeper understanding of visible nature and its complexity at the molecular and atomic levels, the commodification of science has resulted in a loss of the sense of awe toward nature that once pointed to God as the Creator. This has contributed to the blind acceptance of worldviews as to the origins of life that exclude God.

The irony of the popularization of genetic ancestry testing is that while more and more people want to discover their immediate ancestral origins, a deeper appreciation for the science behind the technology could lead them to the origin and Creator of all life, God.

On April 21, 2019, the Ontario Conference is sponsoring the first-ever Earth Day Summit, a major community event that will highlight scientific evidence for God's intricate design and creation in nature. This evidence will be presented in the context of our responsibility as guardians of the environment. Ontario Conference president, Dr. Mansfield Edwards, recognized that as members of the Seventh-day Adventist

His Creation, O

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Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I

Church, we must be at the forefront of promoting practical environmental stewardship and a biblical Creation account. After all, we observe the Sabbath because it reminds us that God created our world.⁴ He has also given us the responsibility for caring for it.⁵

At the Earth Day Summit, experts in various scientific disciplines, including geoscience, physics, neuroscience, physiology, zoology, and immunology, will show evidence for their belief in the biblical account of our origins.

Environmental experts and eco-friendly industry sponsors will highlight the current challenges to our planet posed by deforestation, climate change, plastics and pesticides, and how technology and practical lifestyle changes can help combat them.

This free event will be facilitated by Canadian and international scientists, including experts from the Geoscience Research Institute, Loma Linda University, Andrews University, and Burman University. Topics will be displayed in more than 50 booths in ways that will be fun, interactive, captivating, and informative to children, youth, and adults.

The Earth Day Summit will also encourage youth in the sciences by way

of two pre-summit competitions. The first will result in the award of scholarships to students studying earth/environment-related sciences at a college or university. Secondly, schools will be able to compete for prizes in an environmental poster competition.

The Earth Day Summit steering committee is chaired by Edwards and includes Seventh-day Adventist scientists, pastors, laypersons, and university students within Ontario.

Some presenters include:

- Dr. Pekka Määttä—Burman University
- Dr. William Hayes and Dr. Ranjan Fernando—Loma Linda University
- Dr. Martin Hannah and Dr. David A. Steen—Andrews University
- Dr. Tim Standish and team—Geoscience Research Institute
- Dr. Lincoln Edwards—Northern Caribbean University
- Daniel Lazich—Author, *How Science Discovered God*; retired aerospace engineer
- Richard Aguilera—Guide Magazine and One Mustard Seed

- Dr. Tomislav Terzin

Join us in supporting and promoting this unique event as we help to re-inspire in the community a sense of awe and wonder in God's creation and a commitment to take care of it.

Latest updates on the program, information on free registration, and how to enter the scholarship and poster competitions can be found at www.earthdaysummit.ca. Please visit to register and invite friends, family, and others from your community. ■

David Burt is a member of the Earth Day Summit steering committee.

1 Antonio Regalado, "2017 Was the Year Consumer DNA Testing Blew Up," MIT Technology Review, Feb. 12, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2Gbgf3>.

2 Francis Collins, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2007).

3 NLT

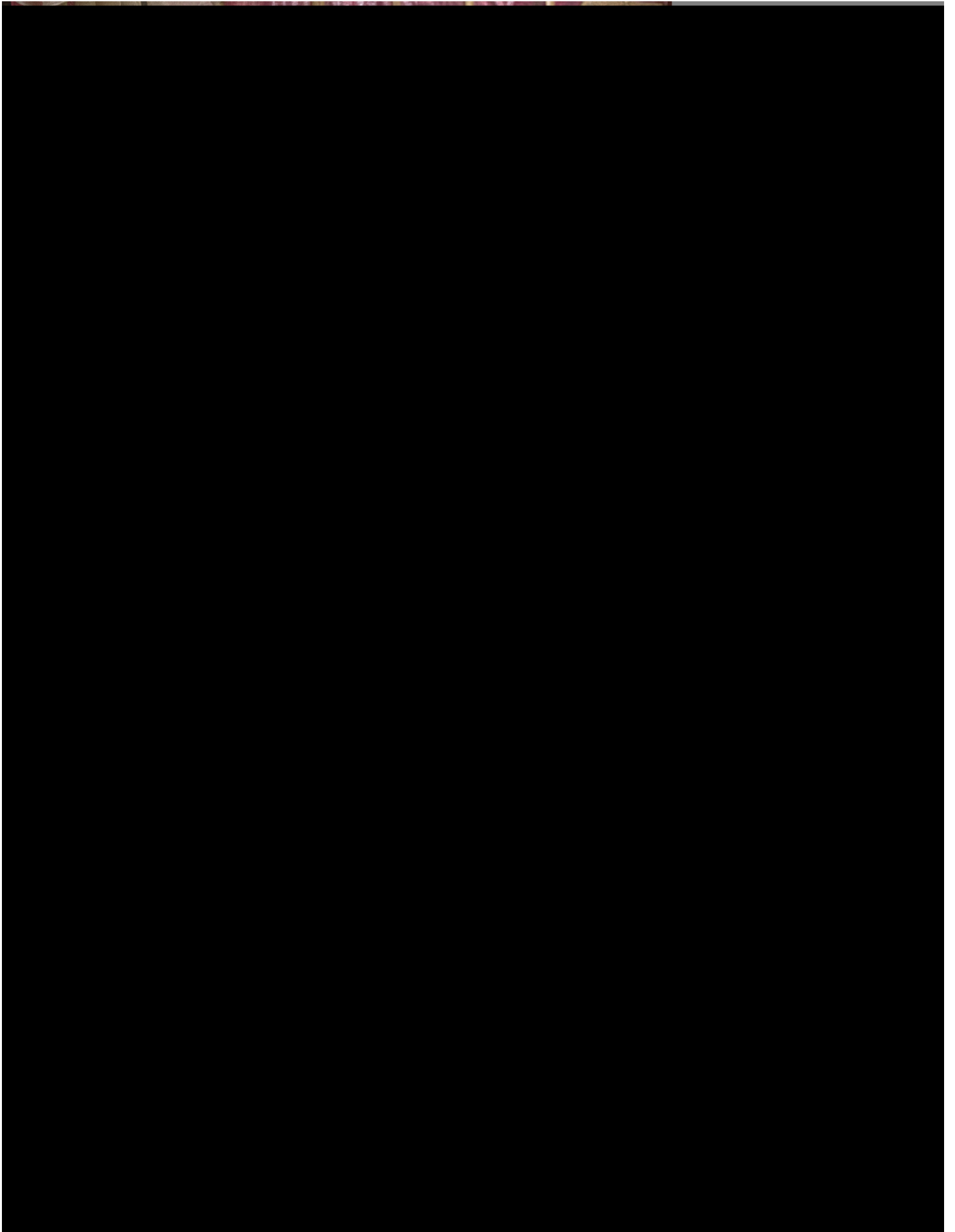
4 Exod. 20:11

5 Gen. 2:15

urs to Care For!

know it."





To get here we had to cross over a me living here in the camp. I miss my getting enough food to eat is sometimes

