

Planting and Harvesting (p. 3), My First Time in Church (p. 15)
Welcome to Canada, Asia! (p. 18), Are You Ready? (p. 34)

april 2019

Messenger

canadian adventist



Our Home is Gone, but God is Still There

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Help Send Global Mission Pioneers!

Millions of people around the world still don't know Jesus. Global Mission sends pioneers to unentered areas to start new groups of believers. Pioneers are often local people who already speak the language and understand the culture. Using Christ's method of ministry, they strive to meet people's needs and bid them to follow Jesus.



India

Your Church Won't Save You

Your church won't save you," threatened the men ready to beat Suleman. "You better leave now..."

A Global Mission pioneer, Suleman was trying to start an Adventist church in this New Delhi neighborhood. However, an angry group believed the property was theirs. Suleman stayed calm and suggested that he look after the property until the dispute was resolved. Miraculously, they agreed.

In the meantime, Suleman (second from left) and his wife (third from left) began sharing their faith. Today, the property is deeded to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in India, and about 25 believers worship there every Sabbath. Please pray for Suleman and for Global Mission pioneers like him who are slowly sharing Jesus throughout the 10/40 Window.



Lesotho

The Surprise Spouse

Lefa (second from left) had found his wife (third from left); he just didn't know it yet. As a Global Mission pioneer, he prayed and studied the Bible with people. Mmathato was one of those people. They studied the Bible, and she often went with Lefa to share God's word with others, too. As time went by, the two began to pray about the possibility of marriage. Before long, they were married.

Lefa and Mmathato now spread the gospel together, studying God's word with families in their homes. They hold health expos and even help with funeral preparations when a loved one dies. Together, they do all they can to show Jesus' love.

Thank you for your prayers and selfless gifts. Your support helps Global Mission pioneers like Lefa reach the unreached throughout southern Africa.

We need your help to 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. 2084**.



GLOBAL MISSION

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heart to heart

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

—Genesis 8:22, ESV

Planting and Harvesting

Gardening is big in places that are warmer than Canada! Not long ago, I joined people from ADRA Canada to review our partnership in some of the world's warmer countries. I looked at seaweed farming and market gardens and saw village elders sitting under a mango tree to work on community needs together.

Jesus was familiar with gardening, the cycle of planting and harvesting. He spoke of seed and of the results the gospel can have in various types of people—just as seeds grow differently depending on where they are planted. Jesus also had much to say about harvesting crops, and for Him, it was symbolic of the end of the world. At the time of harvest, the growing is done and it is time to check the results. There are plenty of faith-based lessons to be found in the garden and the cycle of planting and harvest.

I'm glad that ADRA Canada is interested in the harvest also. In some places in this world, food is very scarce. Personal survival depends on God's promises of seedtime and harvest. But it isn't only overseas that ADRA Canada makes a difference. It plays a role right here in Canada assuring people that they will have shelter and food at a time when they may need it. No question about it, we are blessed in Canada to have social programs that may help those who come up lacking. ADRA and other agencies minister both overseas and to those who might feel invisible here at home.

And while we're talking about the garden, I need to get out my seed catalogues and start working on what's going to be in my garden this summer. What about yours, here and hereafter? ■

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





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April 2019



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the burman effect

Lee Richards ('83, '85) with a group of international students



Miracle at Kingsway

CLOSING A FACTORY on an academy campus is never a happy event. Over the decades many students earned at least part of their tuition here at Kingsway College and learned important life skills such as dependability and strong work ethics. Yet what options are there when financial statements are in the red year after year?

When Kingsway College closed its factory, many wondered whether, in an era of declining enrolment, the school could survive. Now, three years later, it seems a miracle that despite the closure, Kingsway's student body has grown by 30 percent. A miracle? Burman University graduate Lee Richards, speaking from his own experience, says, "Absolutely!"

President Richards tells of being at a BC campmeeting years ago. He was concerned about enrolment at Cariboo Adventist Academy, when God told him to stop worrying. He told Lee that He would bring him 19 new students. It was just a dream, of course—the product of restlessness and worry—wasn't it? But 19? Why such an odd number?

The last day of registration told the story. When Richards checked with his administrative assistant to inquire about registration at the end of the day, he learned that a parent who was new to the school had just come in that morning to register her child. It was the 19th new student. And so God had given the school the promised 19 students.

When Richards discussed this unusual experience later with a pastor friend, the friend wondered why numbers were so important. From that day on he has prayed, and encourages his staff to pray, for three things: that God would send those who

need to be there, that God would send those who want to be there, and that God would send those whom He wants there.

Prayer became part of the fabric of each school where Richards served. At Kingsway, though, with its various academic, supervision, and extracurricular programs, finding a time for faculty to pray together presented a challenge. But Richards's faculty found a way that works for them.

"We started small group worship that would fit into the staff's schedules," he says. "Teachers don't teach each period, so they take time from their 'spares' to worship together in small groups. An administrator coordinates each group's prayer time, and other staff members are invited to join."

One way God is answering Kingsway's prayers is through Jeremy O'Dell, a graduate of Parkview Adventist Academy. Jeremy, vice-president for finance, decided to modify the "Family Financial Plan" and create a "Church Family Financial Plan." By using the principle of charging reduced tuition for the second child and each subsequent one from the same family, and applying it to church sponsorships, Jeremy has made it possible for churches to afford to sponsor more students than ever before.

Kingsway is also in partnership with an Adventist school in Brazil. Each semester about 12 students come to Kingsway for one semester. Richards explains, "Brazilian schools are working with schools in English-speaking countries so their students can learn English. They do the recruiting. We just have to have a place for them to stay, classes for them to participate in, and an ESL program to enhance their language acquisition. The courses they take here will go toward their credits for graduation back in Brazil."

God is using Kingsway's faculty, administrators, and staff (of whom more than one-third are graduates of Burman University) to work His miracles daily. ■

Renate Krause is the editor for Burman University Magazine.



Left: Sophia Parkes ('09) with Neshae Scott and Jovi-Ann Alexander. Using green screen/drone technology, Parkes's students create, record, and edit public service announcements, music videos and mock news political campaigns. **Right:** Sharon Foreman ('82) directing the Kingsway choir.

Who Says That Sin is Not Sweet?

Don't take my word for it; the Bible says there are some enjoyable moments when you sin. Look at the following three verses:

1. If you want to gain things in life, go for it, as ... "Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man" (Prov. 20:17).¹
2. If you want love—and lots of it—the Bible says, "For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey. And her mouth is smoother than oil" (Prov. 5:3).
3. Moses may have chosen to suffer affliction, but had he wanted pleasure, that option was open as well: "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the ... pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:24, 25).

Wow.

Some of you may be saying right now, *I didn't know the Bible said these things*. But looking at the first two Bible texts, you will notice that the appeal of sin is primarily in the *anticipation* and in the *moment* of experience. And in Moses's case, Moses said there were pleasures in sin, but he had a greater desire—and that was to identify with his own people.

Absent in the above three texts is an indication about "results." And should that not be important when we are considering our choices? What is the outcome for the person who gains by deceit?

Proverbs 20:17: "Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel."

What is gained by deceit may be sweet for the moment, but the Bible says "afterward" the person's mouth is filled with gravel. Not so sweet now! Anticipation does not play out. If you want a guilty conscience and an empty feeling from taking advantage of someone, then use deceit.

Proverbs 5:3–10:

For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,
And her mouth is smoother than oil;
But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.
Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of hell. ...
Remove your way far from her,
And do not go near the door of her house,
Lest you give your honor to others,
And your years to the cruel one;
Lest aliens be filled with your wealth,
And your labors go to the house of a foreigner;

What is felt to be an enjoyable moment of love ends up taking you down a path that will destroy your reputation, drain your wealth, and destroy your family. Not a happy ending.

Hebrews 11:24, 25: "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the *passing* pleasures of sin."²

For Moses, it was not only about identifying with his own people and accepting affliction; it was choosing to follow God—as the alternative was not the pleasures of sin but the *passing* pleasures of sin. Sin has an ending. It is not long-lived. And one is left with guilt, regret, hangover, broken relationships, disease, and the loss of eternal life.

Who says, "Sin is sweet"? Only those who are "passing through," not those who have lived life and know the consequence. The devil does not have a better way of life. Jesus says, If you want life I will give it to you abundantly, both in anticipation, during, and after—with contentment and a future of hope. ■

Ken Corkum is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.



¹ Scriptures in this article are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
² Emphasis added.

teen talk

Q: Some of my classmates and co-workers have very different and even opposite worldviews from mine. How can I get along with them?

A: Oh, you are so lucky! You have the opportunity to expand your knowledge and exercise genuine humanity! Let me explain.

Being among friends who believe exactly the same thing as you is nice, comfortable, and ... well, pretty safe. But it can also become a bubble—a tad foggy and stuffy inside, a bubble that will eventually pop.

Now, if your colleagues and classmates are different, you get to be exposed to God's colourful and exciting creativity. Every human being has something good to offer, some qualities to explore, some unique characteristics waiting to be shared and enjoyed by fellow humans. So go ahead, get to know them, learn their stories, share yours, and connect right to the core of your shared humanity.

You may have noticed that I didn't mention anything about sharing your beliefs or trying to accept theirs. That's because if you really want to be like Jesus, you'll first focus on loving them as they are and refrain from labelling them according to their beliefs. ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one.—Job 14:4

Tar Pits

A rabbit bounds across a meadow in a zigzag path. Its eyes are wide, its ears are flat against its head. The chasing hawk twists and turns, trying to keep up. The rabbit spots a low shrub ahead and dashes toward it. A shallow puddle lies in its path, and though the rabbit doesn't like to get its feet wet, now its only thought is the shelter of the shrub. The rabbit throws its whole weight into a long leap and lands in the muck. But the puddle is deeper than the rabbit thought, and as it thrusts with its back legs, the wet stuff won't let go. Quick as a flash, the hawk strikes and finds itself also trapped in tar.

Tar pits form where asphalt seeps up through cracks in the ground. The wind blows dust and leaves onto the surface, making the pools look almost like puddles. Animals sometimes fall into the tar pits and get trapped there.

Think about it.

An animal in a tar pit can't get out without help. Similarly, it's impossible for us to escape from the pit of sin that we've fallen into. And, unlike an animal trapped in tar, we actually like sin and enjoy wallowing in it. God understands that. He sees our hearts, darkened with sin, sees that there's no goodness inside of us and no power to live for Him. In His mercy, He gives us hatred for sin, repentance, and a desire to be holy. Through faith in Jesus, He gives us a clean, new heart and the power to live a new life.

Do it!

When the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin, claim God's promise to give you a new heart (see Ezek. 36:26). Believe it. Live it.



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.

aguilars in uganda

Life-giving Water

Adapting is crucial to living contently. We have endured weak to non-existent Wi-Fi, days without electricity, traffic jams, and other inconveniences. During power outages we have solar power and sunlight as alternatives. We also adapt by doing as much as we can during the day and sleep earlier or play board games by candlelight. We have a generator but usually just wait it out until the electricity returns. We practise patience and flexibility with traffic jams, and Jaden has outfitted our vehicle with a mattress, blanket, and stash of snacks.

However, the most difficult inconvenience to endure is water shortage. There is just no substitute for water. We had returned from a week of camping with the Pathfinders, and I was starting the eighth load of laundry when I realized the city water was not flowing. Knowing it may take days or weeks to be restored, I checked the rainwater reserve and found it empty. I stopped the laundry and implemented a change in habits. Luckily, we were still in water-conservation mode from camp.

Fetching water is a way of life for most Ugandans. Daily chores are accomplished with minimal water. Bathing is done several times a day to beat the heat but with only five litres of water. Dishes are washed using a multiple-bin dipping-rinsing system. We also adopted a practice learned on a mission trip in Arizona, where water conservation is also a top priority: if it's yellow, let it mellow; if it's brown, flush it down. These adjustments helped to stretch what we normally used in one day to three days.

It's difficult to clean using minimal water, but it's possible. We stand in a basin while bathing/showering. The water collected in the basin is then used to wash clothes. Next, the water is used to wipe walls and, finally, to mop the floor. Water used to wash our hands is used to presoak dishes and pots. Every single drop is rationed and reused.

We prayed for rain or for the water to be restored. Miraculously, water kept flowing even when it logically should have dried up. This experience was just a taste of what others face on a daily basis, especially in the drier areas of the country where a continuous water source is non-existent. This includes the West Nile region, where the

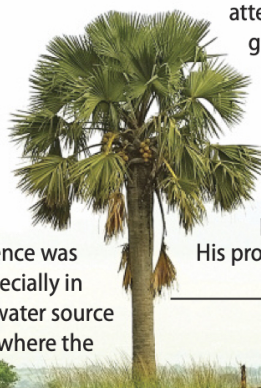


largest refugee settlement is located. The surge in population compounds the demand for water. It's first come, first served. So before sunrise refugees line up containers to be filled as they await the arrival of the water truck from the River Nile. Unfortunately, more containers remain empty than filled when the truck arrives. Refugees have two options: wait for the next truck despite the unpredictable schedule, or walk no less than five kilometres to the nearest bore hole. Usually, children make the journey to fetch water and consequently miss school. Water is essential; school is a luxury.

Through the donations of local churches and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) offices like Uganda and Canada, more bore holes have been drilled. Children no longer trek long distances to fetch water and are able to attend class regularly. Refugees can rear chickens and goats and maintain a garden. Water is life.

Despite the daily challenges, they continue to rely on Jesus to sustain them; He promised in Isaiah 44:3 that He "will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground" (NIV). The refugees live contently knowing their God will sustain and provide. May our faith be unwavering as we await for His promises to be fulfilled. ■

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





Click, Click, Give



KIDS ARE OUR FUTURE. They are tomorrow's leaders. They are tomorrow's philanthropists.

Kids easily grasp the idea of good and bad, right and wrong. So rather than simply telling a child we should be charitable because it is the "good" or "right" thing to do, we can give them real examples to which they can relate by using technology.

We can teach them about children in Africa and Asia who lack nutrition, health care, and education and explain that the money we give can help deliver the food and medicine these children need to get healthy, and provide the clothes, books, and transportation they need to go to school. Online giving provides an opportunity to have important conversations about the world, the people in it, and how the values of compassion and generosity can help to make the world a better place.

Once we teach the *why, the how* naturally comes next. Online giving

comes in many shapes and sizes. On ADRA Canada's website, for example, you can easily find the "Donate" tab, where you'll find the "Gift Catalogue." This catalogue lists a wide range of items—a water filter, a latrine, a goat or cow, to name just a few—with a corresponding dollar amount and a brief story and explanation of how the item would help. Choose an item, let friends and family know you'd like one or more of the items in lieu of a birthday or Christmas gift, and voilà! Click, click, give. Just like that.

Perhaps a different organization's mission is important to you, or you want to leave it up to that special child in your life where the charitable gift should go. No problem. You can visit CanadaHelps.org and purchase a Charity Gift Card in an amount of your choosing. Then, select one of the 86,000 charities in Canada to support.¹ Click, click, give. Easy-peasy.

For older children who are on social media, such as Facebook, giving can be even more personalized. Setting up a

mini fundraiser is as easy as posting a status update. My friend's daughter, for example, is an animal lover, and all of her family's pets have been rescues from shelters. Last year she set up a Facebook fundraiser² for the local SPCA³ chapter, wrote a brief message asking for donations to this cause in lieu of birthday gifts, posted it to her wall, and there it was in her friends' and family's newsfeeds, where they could click, click, give. Simple.

Online giving is on the rise, and understandably so, in today's world where saving time and convenience are very real factors in our busy lives. Beyond this, online giving allows us—as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and others—the opportunity to show and teach the youngsters in our lives important lessons about being kind, generous, and charitable. There is so much good we can do in this world through the power of technology. It is at our fingertips to click, click, give. ■

Leah Keys writes from Newcastle, Ont.

1 ADRA Canada is listed as one of the 86,000 charities on CanadaHelps.Org.

2 Choosing "Support Nonprofit" at the bottom of the drop-down menu that pops up when posting a status update, searching/selecting a charity, and following a few more prompts is all it takes to set up a Facebook fundraiser.

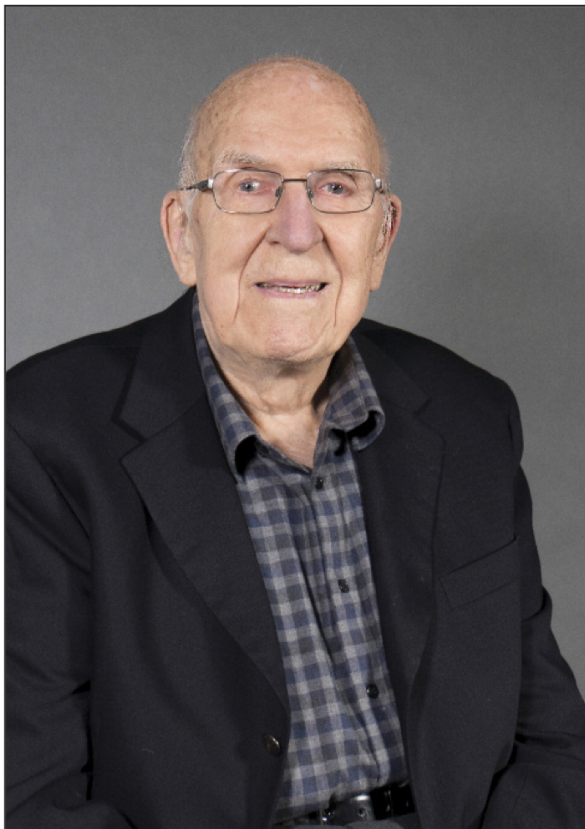
3 Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, part of the Humane Society.

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 Elmer Littman.

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



Elmer Littman

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

Elmer Littman: I was born on Nov. 4, 1929, in Edmonton, Alta. My parents, Dave and Mary (née Comm) Littman, were homesteading in Thorhild at the time. My sister, Rosella, was born about a year and a half later, and my brother, Buddy, about 11 years after that. Buddy was killed in a tractor accident when he was 17. Rosella died about six years ago.

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

E: I attended Grade 1 at the Alex Taylor School in Edmonton. Then we moved to the Peace River, Alta., area, and I attended the Belloy Adventist church school for Grades 2 to 7. That summer, our house burned down and we moved to Grande Prairie, Alta. I took Grade 8 at the Grande Prairie public school. By this time I figured I'd had enough of school and, at age 15, went to work in the sawmill dragging 200-pound logs around by hand.

After two years of this, I decided to finish my education. I took Grade 9 by correspondence and then attended CUC for Grades 10 to 12, graduating from high school in 1950. I had originally thought to be a teacher, but my experiences at CUC—the weeks of prayer, in particular—slowly changed my thinking, and I decided to go into the ministry. I took my first year of college at CUC, then took a two-year break to earn money for school. I returned to CUC for two more years and then, in the summer of 1955, married Marlene Graham. I worked two more years to earn money for school and took my final year at CUC, graduating in 1958 with a bachelor of theology degree.

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

E: There were 10 students who graduated from theology in 1958. Only five of them received calls. I was not one of them. I worked as a literature evangelist in B.C. for three years. I was asked to pastor a couple of churches, for which I received a stipend—not a full salary. In those years there were many times we didn't know where our next meal was coming from or how we would put gas in the car, but God always provided.

I worked as a full-time pastor in BC from 1961 to 1966 and was ordained at the BC campmeeting in 1963. The first two years were in the Kootenays—Salmo, Trail, Creston churches—and then three years in Terrace. In 1966 I was called to Alberta to be the assistant literature evangelist leader for the conference, a position that ended after only a year due to lack of funding. I then worked as a full-time pastor in Alberta from 1967 to 1975; five years in the Stetler district, which also included the Hanna, Loyalist, and Sedgewick churches, and three years at Edmonton Central. The churches at Boyle, Brule, Edson, and Ryley and a company in Onoway were included in this district.

In 1975 I was called to be assistant treasurer for the Alberta conference, and then in 1981 I went to work as the conference treasurer in New Brunswick. A year later I was asked to be the treasurer/administrator in Canada for the US *It is Written* (IIW) and *Voice of Prophecy* (VOP) programs. This was changed to the Canadian IIW/VOP when Henry Feyerabend became the speaker/director for IIW Canada.

M: *Please share one of your favourite memories of your service to the church.*

E: I was pastoring the Edmonton Central church at the time. We held an evangelistic series in March 1973. Carl Weiss was the guest speaker. The meetings were held in the Coralwood Academy gym. One day a woman by the name of Rita Gardner had taken out a loaf of bread to make herself a sandwich. She felt as if someone had grabbed her arm and flung the loaf of bread across the room, but no one was around.

This scared her, so she called her boyfriend and told him what had happened. He said she needed someone who was a Seventh-day Adventist. Rita was a member of another church denomination and didn't know any Adventists. Her boyfriend knew only one Adventist lady. So he called her, and she called me. I called my intern pastor, Pat Scott, and together we called on Rita. After we identified ourselves as Seventh-day Adventist ministers, she let us in.

She was very distressed, disheveled, shaking, and wild eyed. We took turns praying. While we were there, several supernatural events occurred. We kept praying. After some time I was surprised to hear myself say, "Rita, if you

pick up the bread now, you'll be OK." As soon as she touched the loaf of bread to pick it up, the shaking stopped and her eyes returned to normal.

Then we realized how close it was to the time for the evangelistic meeting. We invited Rita to the meeting and she came. The topic that evening happened to be on the Mark of the Beast. The topic was presented in a straightforward, factual manner in even and non-accusatory tones. After the meeting Rita came up and asked to be baptized—"tonight." With some misgivings, I baptized her that evening. A local church member, Lydia Kiehlbauch, took Rita under her wing—took her to church every Sabbath, explained the church's doctrines/beliefs to her, mentored her. Rita remained a strong Adventist Christian for the rest of her life.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

E: We had four children—two girls, Raelene and Sharna; and two boys, Darren and Brent. When the kids were young, they liked to sing songs around the piano. Sometimes I would tape them singing on an old reel-to-reel. They enjoyed listening to themselves singing.

As a family we also enjoyed spending time in nature. In the spring and summer a lot of Sabbath afternoons were spent driving out in the country birdwatching. I usually took my vacation the last half of August. We spent many summers camping with a tent trailer. One summer we went to Yellowstone and twice to Yosemite, but most summers were spent around Alberta: Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper. We hiked a lot of mountain trails. We usually spent the last few days at Marlene's parents' place near Salmon Arm, B.C., returning home Labour Day weekend loaded with boxes of peaches, pears, apricots, and prunes for canning. We would go back Thanksgiving weekend and return with boxes of apples.

In time the kids grew up and married. Our family was blessed with 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Sadly, Darren died in June 2013 of a heart attack, and Marlene died in September 2017. I am looking forward to seeing them again—soon.

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

E: In June 1994, I retired to Lacombe, Alta. For the next seven summers, Marlene and I travelled around Ontario, Alberta, and B.C. promoting and developing the IIW Partnership Program in Canada. In 1999 I was asked to be the church treasurer for the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. I held this position until the end of 2017. I have been fully retired for just over a year now. This gave me the opportunity to be able to visit Sharna and her family in Massachusetts for five weeks last spring—my first vacation in over 10 years—and again for three weeks this past Christmas/New Year's. ■

A Thirst for Fresh Water

Brings Many Rewards to Communities



In November 2018, a group of donors of A Better World Canada view a solar-based water project supplying water to thousands of people at Chepseon, Kenya.



Gardener John Mwambi oversees the Ndanai school garden in Kenya. ABW installed a deep well as well as rain catchment off the roofs of two schools, making way for a full-fledged garden and water supply for 5,000 people.

It's hard to imagine searching all day long for drinking water in Canada. But that's what happens regularly among children living in rural areas and villages of Kenya. They can spend up to six hours daily looking for water to drink, and when they do find some water, the source can be a filthy river full of parasites. They may also find dirty hand-dug wells that are not only full of parasites and bacteria but are also structurally dangerous.

Some families store their water in barrels where disease-carrying mosquitoes can breed.

None of this is good for their health.

According to water.org, 41 percent of 46 million Kenyans still rely on unimproved water sources such as ponds, shallow wells, and rivers, while 59 percent of Kenyans use unimproved sanitation solutions. These challenges are especially evident in rural areas and urban slums.

Only nine out of 55 public water service providers in Kenya provide continuous water supply, leaving people to find their own ways of searching for appropriate solutions to these basic needs.

One of A Better World Canada's (ABW) main priorities is to ensure every school and clinic it builds has access to clean drinking water. It also ensures communities have quality water supply. "Our goal every year is to provide new, clean water to about 75,000 people, whether it's through a deep or shallow well or catchment system," says ABW co-founder Eric Rajah.

Shallow wells are drilled manually and can reach 40 metres in depth. Deep wells are much more expensive; however, they can supply water for up to 5,000 people.

A crew arrives with a large truck carrying the drilling rig, and over a course of about five hours, the work is done. With the use of solar panels, the water is drawn from a pump into a tank, where it's channelled down to the communities.

"In most of the places we work, there is no electricity, so we install solar panels," Rajah said. "The depth is so deep, so you need to have lots of power to pull it. That's why there are so many solar panels."

The average depth of ABW wells are 300 metres—just shy of the world's deepest scuba diving record at 332 metres.

Thanks to our sponsors, ABW provided safe, clean drinking water for up to 15,000 Kenyans from October to December 2018. Rajah has witnessed the impact this has made across communities because of water improvements. He said that health problems such as diarrhea have been reduced. Children don't miss school anymore because they haven't been feeling well.

Community gardens flourish too. "People are able to grow their own food," Rajah said. Communities buy into the water project as well, so it's self-sustainable. A water committee is set up and then consumers pay a small amount (5 cents) for every 20 litres. That payment goes into a fund for repairs and maintenance.

As A Better World is well aware of, investing in water brings rewards in so many ways to families and communities overall. ■

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

MY FIRST TIME IN CHURCH

I received a strange text message in the middle of the day. It was from my 15-year old daughter. It said, “Dad, Julia wants to come to church with me this Sabbath. What should I say?”

My daughter had befriended another teenager from our neighbourhood. Even though Julia’s parents had never taken her to church or discussed religion in their home, she seemed to have a natural interest toward God. I texted my daughter, “Invite her to church.”

A few days later, we picked up Julia at her home. She said she was nervous but also excited to try something new. After church, while we were eating lunch, I asked her about her experience. Here is how she responded:*

What did your parents say when you asked them if you could go to church?

They were surprised and said, “What? Are you sure?” I told them yes, I was interested in checking it out. They didn’t seem too excited, but they didn’t stop me.

What was your favourite part of the church experience?

I actually liked the class [referring to the youth Sabbath school class]. I liked how it was informal, and relaxed, and how they taught about the Bible.

Have you ever seen a Bible before today?

No. I’ve never seen one. I was surprised by how big it was.

What are your thoughts about the church service?

I thought it was kind of cool. I didn’t understand anything that was happening. My only experience is from what I see on television or the movies. But I liked how down-to-earth people were.

Would you go back to church again?

Absolutely. I had a good experience and feel like I want to learn more.

That afternoon, as our family sat around the dinner table to eat Sabbath lunch, I said, “Who would like to offer prayer over the food?”

Julia piped up and said, “I would, but I don’t know how to pray.” She laughed shyly.

The experience of Julia attending church for the first time confirmed a couple of things for me. First, the Holy Spirit can still reach people and speak to them even when they don’t have a religious background. Second, people are in search of some kind of experience with a higher power. ■

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

* The responses by Julia are a paraphrase from our lunch conversation.

Pioneers and Innovators

giving their best

What makes a university great? For certain, pioneers that built a strong foundation with vision and fortitude. And innovation, too. Through the years, there have been others whose ideas, persistence and devotion to the original values and goals brought greatness into excellence. That's what we are celebrating this homecoming weekend. Come and share the stories of those whose dreams and effort made Burman the outstanding place for learning that it is today.

Weekend Events Include

- Great speakers
- Alumni Banquet
- Sabbath Potluck
- Sports Events
- Sunday Breakfast
- Family Fun Picnic



At Homecoming old friendships are renewed and new friendships have a chance to blossom.

Friday Evening Vespers • June 7



► **Kevin Welch** founded Integra in 1997, providing pharmacy solutions to the long-term care community. Since 2017, he has been the chief technology officer at JM Smith Corporation and a key player in creating technology standards throughout the years.

Sabbath School • June 8



► **Darwyn Bartsch** has focused his physical therapy career on pediatrics. He developed The EmBrace® to strengthen children's respiratory muscles. He is founder/president of Upper Core Technologies and Excel in Health Physical Therapy.



► **John Blake** and wife Alberta started a special ministry when their infant daughter lost her hearing as the result of a high fever. For many years Pastor Blake



Be inspired by the music and spoken word that are always highlights of this special weekend.

Featured Speakers

assisted the deaf community and is now the volunteer coordinator for Deaf Ministries in the Alberta Conference.



► **Stephanie Hall**, a Burman alumna, worked at Swingle Clinic in Vancouver, BC before completing a Master of Arts in counselling psychology at Trinity Western University. She uses neurobiological and trauma therapies in her counselling practice.

Church Service • June 8



► **Kenneth Crawford** was president of the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from 2004 to 2016. For many years he lived in the Arctic and wrote children's books about Arctic nature while serving the church.

Honour Classes		
2014	1989	1964
2009	1984	1959
2004	1979	1954
1999	1974	1949
1994	1969	1944
and all classes prior to 1944		



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Send email to alumni@burmanu.ca

Go, and Do Thou Likewise

"It is all about God, not us."

Have you ever been let down by someone close to you or felt betrayed? Or felt that God let you down or betrayed one of His promises? I suspect we could all answer yes to one or more of these questions. How do we handle it? How did Jesus handle it?

Matthew 26:21. The setting is the Last Supper. Jesus looks at His nearest and dearest and says, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."¹ He is eating with the one who will betray Him with a kiss. Jesus knows what is coming, and yet, in the midst of the pain of anticipating the betrayal, Jesus gives thanks (see verse 27).

Give thanks. "Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:17, 18). Look for and focus on that for which you can give thanks. No matter how bad things are, if you are still drawing breath, give thanks to God for each breath. Sin kills. We are born in sin. If God didn't intervene in grace, we would never have life. Every breath we draw is a gift of God's grace, so give thanks.

Be other-focused. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28). Amid the pain of betrayal, Jesus focuses on serving others. His mind was on forgiving others, making it possible for the very ones who would reject, ridicule, and renounce Him to have forgiveness and life. "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

Our attitude in prayer is submission to God. "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (Matt. 26:39). Jesus is living as fully human, recognizing the Father is God. We are told to ask for what we want. Jesus asks while recognizing He might not get what He asks for. God is God. We do not give orders to God on how to answer our prayers. We come to Him in an attitude of submission. We come to Him with "all kinds of prayer and requests" (Eph. 6:18), believing that He can do anything and recognizing He is God and that we are not.

If we do not come to God in submission, we open ourselves up to disappointment, confusion, or anger when our prayer is not answered the way we want. Please do not fall into the trap of self-focus—*If I have strong enough faith, then I get what I want*. In such a scenario, God is merely a delivery mechanism. We need to put God back on the throne.

It is all about God, not us. The focus for Jesus was salvation. During emotional turmoil, knowing what was coming, Jesus gave thanks, was other centred, and was submissive to God even when it meant going through excruciating pain physically and emotionally. Read the Bible account of what Jesus went through for you the last few days of His life. Be aware of how Jesus handles rejection, ridicule, and renunciation and determine to "go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37, KJV).

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" (Phil 1:9–11). Make time to spend a thoughtful hour each day contemplating what Jesus went through for you. Then, in love for Him, love others. ■

Honey Todd is the new prayer ministries director for the Alberta Conference.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references in this article are from the New International Version (NIV).



barry's blog

Welcome to Canada, Asia!

Now that the Pakistani Court has allowed Asia Bibi to leave Pakistan to be with her family in Canada, I say “Welcome! And may you find rest on these shores!”

Asia Bibi is a Pakistani Christian who was convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to hanging in 2010. She was accused as a result of an argument with a co-worker while they harvested fruit. Many groups advocated for her release, including the Voice of the Martyrs and Popes Benedict XVI and Francis. Several Pakistani politicians also dared to speak out in her favour, but their courage came at a cost.

One of those was Shahbaz Bhatti, whom I had met when I worked in Washington, D.C. Bhatti was Pakistan’s Minister for Minorities Affairs, and the only Christian in the federal cabinet. Because of his outspoken support of Bibi, he received numerous death threats. Anticipating that a tragic end was near, he made a video proclaiming, “I believe in Jesus Christ, who has given his own life for us, and I am ready to die for a cause. I’m living for my community ... and I will die to defend their rights.”

On March 2, 2011, as he returned from visiting his mother, he was ambushed by several gunmen who open fired on his vehicle. Leaflets left at the place of death declared Bhatti “an infidel Christian.” His assassination brought worldwide attention to the cause of persecuted Christians. Then prime minister Stephen Harper joined the international outcry, noting that “Canada stands against those who commit gutless acts of murderous violence and extremism, and calls for the Pakistani authorities to bring those responsible to justice.”

Although no one has yet been brought to justice in the case, it was Bhatti’s death that encouraged Harper to establish the Office of Religious Freedoms. That office raised the issue of international religious freedom to the forefront in this

country and around the world. Unfortunately, the office was ended with the change in government, despite the good that was accomplished in raising awareness. There were criticisms of the office: some said it did not have enough money to achieve much; others argued it had too much. In fact, the modest \$17 million budgeted over four years was not spent, since the program ended after only two years. What was lost was a government recognition of a very serious issue around the world: religious persecution, the majority of which targets Christians.

Bibi’s coming to Canada again raises the reality of religious persecution of Christians around the world. A few weeks ago, Open Doors released its World Watch List. It revealed that 245 million Christians around the world face “high persecution.” This is no trivial matter—some 4,136 Christians were murdered last year because of their faith. That represents over 11 Christians per day dying simply because they practise their faith. This is a serious assault against a very maligned group. In this global climate, Canada can be proud of welcoming persecuted Christians. Bibi’s coming to Canada to be with her family is a hopeful sign. There are many more who need our help.

It is understandable that Asia Bibi will need time to get her bearings in a liberal democratic society. As she finds healing and refuge from the horrors of religious persecution, we can expect her to become a voice of freedom. Here she can be part of a society that may disagree on matters of public policy or personal belief, but still live in peace. This is a priceless heritage that Canadians must continue for the next generation. May Canada always be such a refuge! ■

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

Growing Up Millennial



"I wish I was OK with the fact that I make lots of mistakes, but that's something I'm pretty sure I can only do with God's help."

Making Mistakes

Sometimes when I write, I feel as if I take on a certain facade. It's easy to guard myself from the world and not show who I really am; pretend that everything is good in my world and that I have it all figured out. Many people do this, I know. But for me, here's the thing: I am so far from having everything figured out. I am so far from being completely put together that I find it almost comical how much I try to present as if "it's all good."

So, why do most of us do this? When people ask us how we are doing, why do we tend to respond with "I'm great" or "I'm fine"? I mean, I get why we do this with strangers or acquaintances. But it's so easy for me to tell even my closest friends that I'm doing great, even when I'm not.

I tried to get introspective about this, asking myself why I tend to not let people know how I'm really doing, and why I try to present like everything is under control. I concluded that I take pride in keeping myself put together and presentable. I like having my hair and makeup done. I like getting good grades and doing well at work. And I hate making mistakes—so much so that I think I try to make it look like I don't make them in front of people!

Which is kind of ridiculous.

Of course I make mistakes. Of course I embarrass myself and have horrible days. But I don't tell people about it. I hate being vulnerable, I hate seeming imperfect—despite the fact that to grow closer to people, I need to be vulnerable;

and the fact that *being human means that I'm imperfect*. There are days I cry, days I forget something important, days I get embarrassed or don't do something well. But I try my hardest to keep it hidden.

But we're all flawed. I mean, that happened back in the Garden of Eden with the very first sin, when Adam and Eve tried to hide their nakedness, and I think their hiding their nakedness from God shows how it's natural for us as sinful humans to try and hide our vulnerability and imperfections.

I wish it was easier for me to accept that I'm so far from perfect. I wish that I was comfortable being vulnerable and putting my feelings out there into the world. I wish I was OK with the fact that I make lots of mistakes, but that's something I'm pretty sure I can only do with God's help. Romans 3:23 says that "we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (NKJV), which, to me, just shows that there's no point in trying to hide all of my mistakes from the world. We all make choices we might regret later. We all mess up at some point. We're human. But we're all in this place together, and we should lift one another up in God as we deal with each problem that we go through. ■

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



Fresh Pear and Apple Crisp

CRUST:

- 2 cups (500 mL) walnuts, rinsed then dried in a 250°F oven
- ¾ cup (175 mL) dates, soaked
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) carob chips
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) cinnamon
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) ground ginger
- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) shredded coconut

FILLING:

- 2 very ripe medium-sized bananas
- ¾ cup (175 mL) golden raisins, soaked
- 3 Tbsp (45 mL) fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp (2 mL) vanilla
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) cinnamon
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) ground ginger
- 5 cups (1.25 L) pears and apples, chopped
- Pinch of salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place all ingredients for the crust in a food processor. Process to a fine-chunk texture. Do not purée. If the mixture doesn't hold together when pressed between your fingers, sprinkle a tablespoon of water and process again briefly. Reserve ¼ cup of the mixture. Pat the remaining mixture into a 9-inch pie plate.
- Blend the bananas, soaked golden raisins, lemon juice, vanilla, cinnamon, ginger, salt, and 1 cup of the mixed pears and apples in a high-speed blender until liquified.
- Pour the sweet liquid over the remaining 4 cups of mixed pears and apples, and coat well.
- Pour coated pears and apples into pie dish.
- Sprinkle the remaining ¼ cup of the walnut/date crust over the top of the pie.
- To serve, place in a 250°F oven for about 45 minutes until warmed (not baked) through.

Pears and apples grow in delightful abundance here in the Okanagan. They may not be exotic like mangoes and papayas, but they sure are delicious and so full of great nutrition. This “warmed, not baked” recipe keeps the fruit wonderfully fresh and alive, affording you all of the nutrients God has put in them. I like to use Ambrosia, Gala, or Yellow Delicious apples for this recipe, and Bosc or Conference pears. Enjoy this delectable dessert with a dollop of luscious cashew ice cream! ■

Beverley Edwards-Haines is a registered dietitian, farmer, associate raw-cuisine chef, and the health and Bible worker for the Kelowna, B.C., area churches.



2,000 Pathfinders and the Modern 12 Spies

While Canada was experiencing a polar vortex and record-breaking snowfall, I had the privilege of going to the Philippines to be the speaker for the North Philippine Union Conference academy-based Pathfinders camporee. From February 6 to 9, about 2,000 pathfinders camped at Adventist University of the Philippines campground. Those four days were packed with activities from marching and drilling, obstacle course, honours and skills, to cultural presentations, and many more.

The event was themed “Strong.” And with the verse from Joshua 1:9¹ in mind, I had the awesome opportunity to share a devotional each night. On the first night we talked about power, exercise, and consecration as the three important things that can make a young Christian strong.

On the second night, I talked about the things that we are afraid of, then pointed out to the pathfinders that, like the Israelites, we need not fear, because God promised His people in Joshua 1:9 that He will be with us wherever we go.

And on the last night, we talked about our need to step out in faith into the River Jordan as the priests did when they crossed and experienced God’s leading and miracle to the Promised Land. Praise God for allowing me to be an instrument



Friday evening worship at Adventist University of the Philippines gym with the 2,000 pathfinders. (L-R) Jeffyn Rastrollo, Adams Babida, Mrs. Yllano, Mr. Dano.

in these meetings that led 12 pathfinders to give their lives to Jesus through baptism. ■

Adams is a volunteer pastor at the Durham Fil-Can Church in Whitby, Ont., and the SDACC archives specialist.

¹ “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH

Becky WITH ADRA CANADA EMPLOYEES IN NEWCASTLE, ONT.

What do you enjoy doing on the Sabbath?

Nadine: “On Sabbath I enjoy fellowshiping with brethren and friends, and participating in worship—praise and worship.”

Lauren Clark: “Singing with my church.”

Kayla Casey: “On Sabbath I enjoy spending time with family and catching up with friends who live far away. Journaling is a nice Sabbath activity too.”

Michael Kirkby: “One of my favourite Sabbath activities is going on hikes with my wife and two daughters. We have a variety of conservation areas near our home that offer us a quiet area to enjoy God’s nature.”



rainmakers

RAINMAK

Abundantly Merciful

Rainmakers highlights Adventists throughout Canada who are making a difference. In this edition, we feature Lars Justinen, a pioneering digital and traditional artist whose work can be best described as inspiring.

Lars's love for God and art were palpable even from his earliest years. Lars was born into an Adventist home in Washington State, where his father worked as a colporteur and his mother as a homemaker who was committed to her children's education. As such, Lars accepted the Lord in baptism when he was eight years old, and, instead of mowing lawns to make pocket money like most other youngsters, he would sell his artwork to support his investment projects. It was this early decision to follow Jesus, coupled with his love for art, that would shape his character and aid him with selecting his life pursuit.

When his mother migrated with his four siblings to southern British Columbia, Lars, being the eldest, felt overwhelmed by the transition, but this did not stem his natural passion for art. In fact, after his mother took a teaching job in a remote area of British Columbia called Quatsino Sound, and though, at the time, isolated from any Adventist influence, he grew to cherish the God of creation and continue to create art based on this relish of nature. For this reason many of his early works are paintings of life in the remote areas of Vancouver, B.C.

However, late in his teens he was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease and found himself in a hospital with only a 15 percent chance of survival. He felt hopeless and cut off from God's mercy, but through the ministry of the Holy Spirit,

he found an old copy of Ellen G. White's *Steps to Christ*. As he read it, he felt the evil agencies around him relenting as he thought of God's wonderful promises. Once again Lars dedicated himself to God. This decision helped him to change his diet and outlook, and by God's abundant mercy, he miraculously survived.

Yet, Lars did not see how he could live as an artist. He had no role models in the field of art and felt it would not be wise to pursue a profession characteristically mocked with the word *starving*. Furthermore, in his eyes, art was not highly valued by the Adventist community. Consequently, Lars applied to Walla Walla College to pursue a degree in pre-med and fine arts with the goal of becoming a physician. This, he thought, was a bright idea because medical schools wanted students who were well rounded, not only with a knowledge of the sciences but also with a background in the arts as well. Moreover, Lars felt art would enhance his GPA, thereby increasing his chances of being accepted into medical school.

Soon enough, he realized that pursuing medicine would mean he would have to sacrifice his love for art completely. He quickly switched his career goal to dentistry, because he knew some dentists who worked two or three days for the week, and they appeared to be doing well financially. But he ultimately found he really loved art. All his art courses were fascinating to him, and he wanted to do more. By his final year, he could no

longer resist the idea and committed himself to pursue fine arts alone.

Nonetheless, this choice was not without its difficulties. During his final years at Walla Walla College, he had a difficult emotional experience that filled him with despair. He turned to alcohol and drugs to soothe his troubled mind and ended up a street artist in Victoria, B.C. He then began a career as a gallery artist, painting landscapes and wildlife paintings for exhibitions. Lars was remarkably successful but found there was no fulfillment in it.

During this time, even though Lars was able to hide his addictions, deep down he felt he had let God down, despite receiving a second lease on life. But God did not abandon Lars. A friend offered to pray with him, and under the power of the Holy Spirit and their conviction of faith in Jesus, Lars's struggle with his addictions ended and he began to renew his hope in God.

On reading an article in the *Review and Herald*, he noticed Pacific Press was moving to Boise, Idaho, and thought at the time that Boise was near the Canadian border. Consequently, he wrote a letter asking if they would be interested in any of his work. Soon he received a call from Dr. Herb Douglas with an offer to become an in-house illustrator. Lars accepted the offer and found this work to be more interesting and fulfilling than anything he had previously done.

ERS

Lars worked as an in-house illustrator for Pacific Press for six years and was actively involved in freelance projects as a book and magazine illustrator. He painted illustrations for various national publishers, including the *New Yorker* magazine, McGraw Hill, and *Focus on the Family*. He won several national awards for his artwork in publications such as *PRINT*, *Communication Arts*, *The Society of Illustrators*, and *Japan Creative Annual*.

In 1987 he married Kim McConnell, also an illustrator, and began to experiment in the field of digital art. In 1991 they formed Justinen Creative Group, expanding into digital media, which took him into the world of creative direction and writing. This included producing large animated online training websites for the US Forest Service, the American Youth Soccer Organization, and the US Department of the Interior.

Additionally, he and his wife launched an online company, Goodsalt.com, which has grown into the world's largest online licensing site for Christian art. Lars believes "we are divinely created to live forever, and this is evidenced by the fact that our creative powers never stop growing as we age; my work today is better now than it ever has been." Pointing to notable artists like Harry Anderson, Lars observes that these artists produced their best work later in life.

Lars and his wife reside in Quatsino, B.C., and are the proud parents of two adult children, whom Lars counts as a miracle as well. His son, Stephen, is a bioengineer; and his daughter, Hannah, is a computer animator. Lars has travelled widely with his family and has been involved in numerous projects. Most notable to Adventists are the cover illustrations for the Adult Bible Study Guide, which he has illustrated since 1990.



Lars and Kim Justinen (Kim has painted all the artwork for *Our Little Friend* and *Primary Treasure* for the past 24 years.)

Currently, Lars is doing a large project for *Voice of Prophecy* that involves creating digital artwork based on Christian themes. He believes, "Everything I did before in my life was preparing me for what I am doing now." God prepared Lars to do His work as an artist and to be a testimony of God's redeeming power and love for humanity.

One of Lars's favourite Bible texts is found in Micah 7:18: "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgres-

sion of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy" (NIV). Lars believes God has been abundantly merciful to him and knows it is God who has been leading him all along. ■

Kareen Hewitt is a homemaker, wife, mom, and writer. She lives in Northumberland County, steps away from Lake Ontario, where she tends to vegetable and flower gardens.

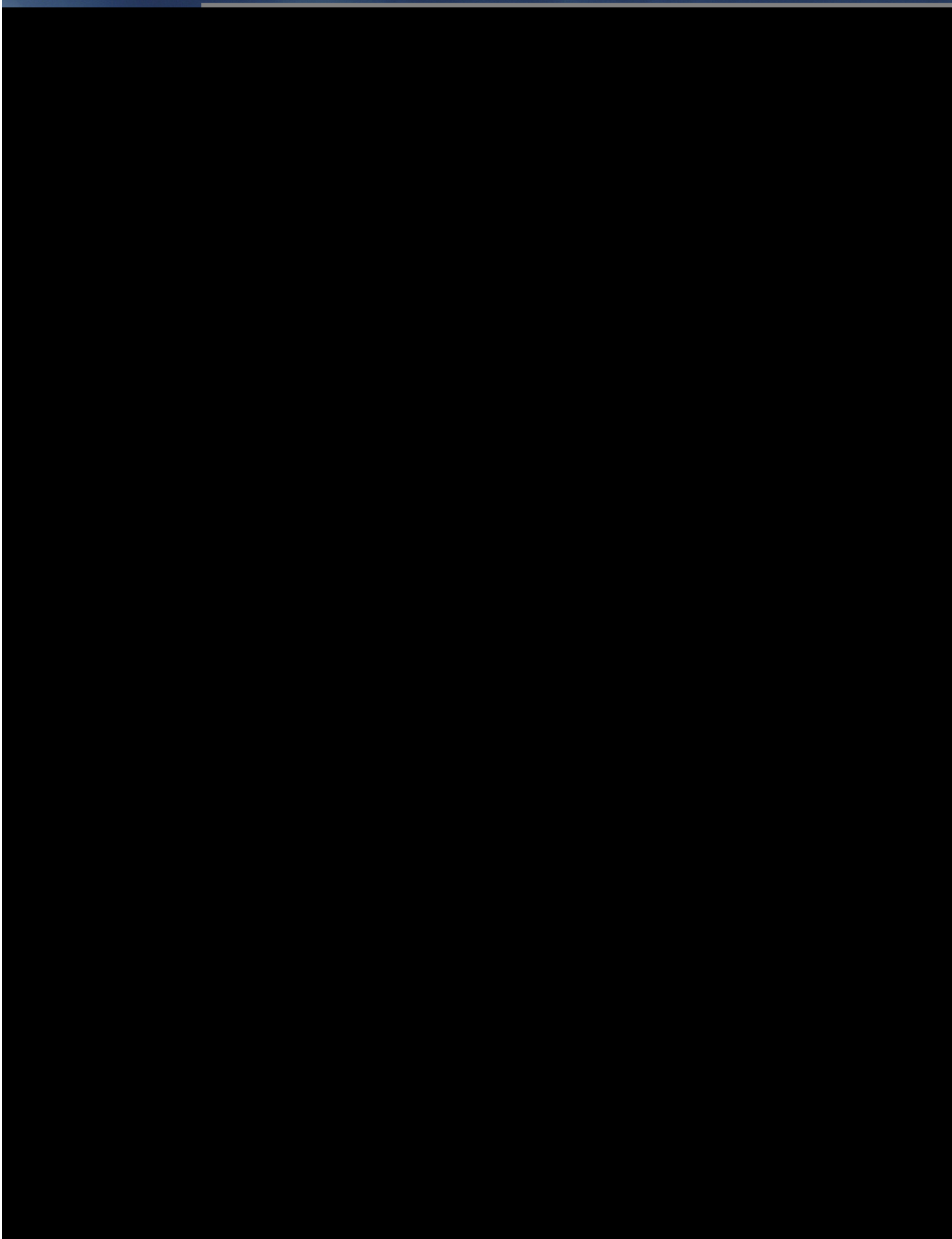
View some of the Justinen's work on the Justinen Creative Group website, www.jcg.com, and also on Goodsalt.com where you may search specifically for Lars's or Kim's art.

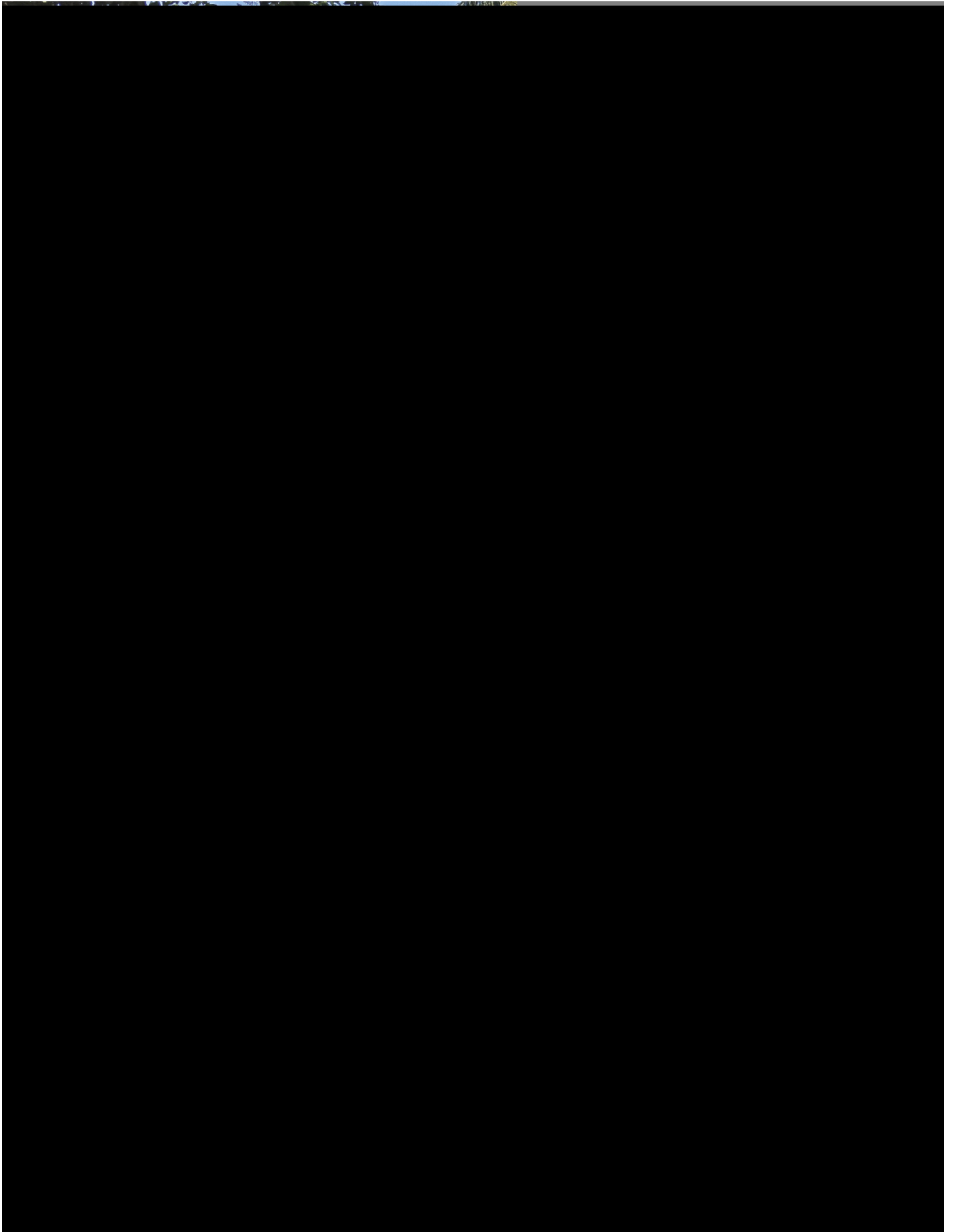
cover story



OUR HOME IS GONE, BUT GOD IS STILL THERE

"The winds started in the evening," Glorimar recalls the horrors of Hurricane Maria as if it was yesterday. The powerful storm all but destroyed her community of Villa Cristiana, Puerto Rico—the place she had called home her entire life.





Nature can be destructive, but so can humankind. Some of the most severe humanitarian crises the world currently faces have been caused by conflict.

Mohammed, his wife, and their six children were at one point forced to flee their home in Yemen because of the ongoing civil war. He recounts:

We were living in a safe environment. I was working as a teacher in one of the village's schools. As soon as the war started, we were forced to leave our home. And to save ourselves from the random airstrikes, we sought refuge in the mountain's caves.

We were living there with other people from the village. We shared food and could afford to eat only one meal a day to conserve our supplies. Leaving the caves to collect more supplies was a scary risk to take. We were afraid to be caught as collateral damage during an airstrike.

This was our reality for four months until all the food we had ran out and we could no longer stay there. When we returned home, in spite of our fears, we didn't have food or money to buy food, because we hadn't received our salaries for months.

That situation lasted for a long time. We were getting food from neighbours. I couldn't do anything and felt helpless when it came to providing for my family. The area we live in is especially far away from the market, and basic food items were either scarce or not available. We relied on relatives who travelled to Sana'a to bring food and share with us.

Once we heard ADRA was intervening in our area with food basket distributions, I felt a ray of light shine on me for the first time in a long time. It was a good omen for me and many vulnerable families in the village, knowing that one basket was enough food to provide for my family for a whole month. It was a weight off my shoulders that I cannot describe.

During the collection of my food basket, and to my surprise, ADRA conducted awareness sessions on the importance of food diversity and how I can keep my children healthy. I found this was especially beneficial to me, because my children were malnourished and often suffered from diarrhea. It was clarified to me that this was due to the unclean and unsafe water we had been used to drinking and cleaning with. My perspective on food and water changed with these simple sessions that enlightened me and showed me how to protect my family from life endangering threats.

The lives of my family have changed for the better. I no longer live in a constant state of fear. I have been fortunate enough to be able to return to teaching, and I am teaching children what I learned from ADRA's awareness sessions. When I return home every day, I feel safe because my children's food is provided for and they are drinking purified water that will not cause them harm. What may seem like a simple intervention has really changed my life.



Mohammed, his wife, and their six children were forced to flee to mountain caves to escape random airstrikes. Food was scarce. ADRA intervened in their area with food basket distributions.

Every day countless people like Glorimar, Kanarudin, and Mohammed face uncertain futures as a result of disasters. Hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods, along with human-made crises like war and civil unrest, destroy and displace millions of lives.

But thanks to people just like you, hope is not destroyed.

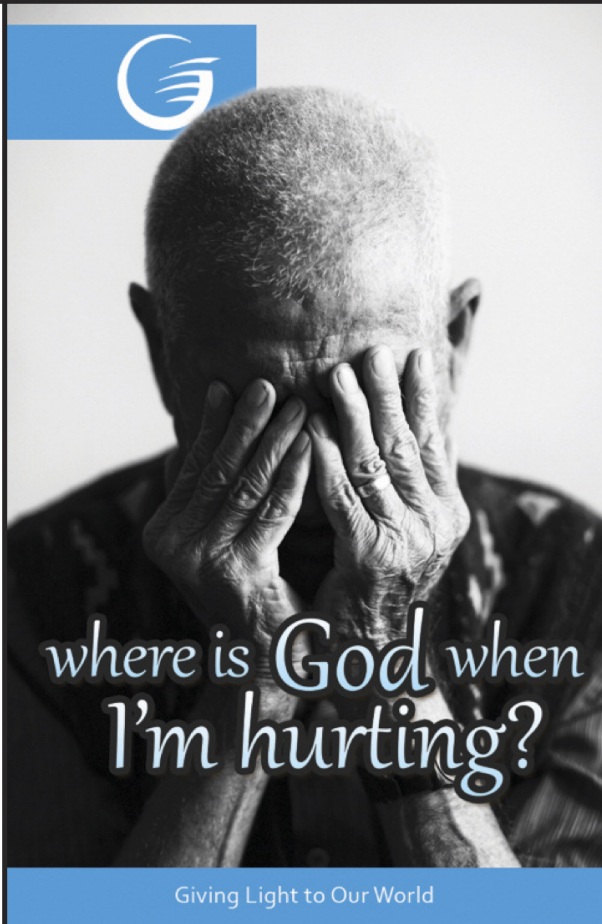
In just the past 12 months, people like you have provided families with emergency food, water, and shelter in places like Nepal, Burundi, Mexico, Uganda, the Caribbean, Bangladesh, and Yemen, to name just a few.

By your Christian actions, you show those who are hurting that God is with them always. For many people, you may be the only way they will ever see God's love made real and see the Adventist Church active in their lives.

Our world is so far from what God intended, a world filled with people desperately needing others to remind them that God stays true to His promise: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5, NKJV).

Thank you for your support and generosity. ■

Sharmilla Reid is the supporter relations director for ADRA Canada.



Touch and GLOW

*"God had answered my prayer,
and I knew for sure I needed to share
even more of God's message of
hope and wholeness through GLOW."*

GLOW tracts are really important to me. I feel impressed that they can be used in a powerful way to touch people for Jesus. But one morning, before going out into the community with the other Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) missionaries, I talked to God about GLOW. I told Him I would be sad if the GLOW tracts were not reaching people, and I asked Him to give me a confirmation that day that these small leaflets were touching hearts and lives.

I then headed out into the community with my team. As the day went on, I approached a particular house. I knocked, waited, and after a little while a man came to the door. "Hello, my name is Joshua," I began.

Before I could get another word in, he said, "Not interested."

"No problem. I—" I tried.

Once again, the gentleman cut me off mid-sentence and said, "Not interested."

"OK, then please let me give you a GLOW tract."

"OK, fine," the man said, an edge of impatience in his voice. He grabbed the tract and shut the door, and I went on to the next house.

Reaching a new door, I knocked and waited. No one came to the door. I waited a few more minutes, and still hearing no one, I decided to move on to the next house, when I heard someone whistling. I turned and saw a dog running down the street, so, assuming it might be his owner whistling for him, I continued to the next house.

When I finished at the next home and returned to the street, I heard a whistle again. Turning my head, I saw the man I had met a couple of houses earlier. He beckoned me to come to him, and when I did, I saw he had tears in his eyes.

"Listen," he said, "This is not a lot, but here is something for you." After exchanging a few more words, he gave me a donation and sent me on my way.

I don't quite remember what tract I had given him. It was probably *Where Is God When I'm Hurting?*, or it might have been *The Promise of Peace*. Whatever it was, he read it, and it touched his heart. God had answered my prayer, and I knew for sure I needed to share even more of God's message of hope and wholeness through GLOW.

How about you? Do you also share God's word with others? If not, why not contact your local church or book centre to find out how you can start sharing God's word today? ■

*Joshua shared story with Lifestyle Canada,
Canada's literature evangelism ministry that
operates Canada Youth Challenge (CYC).*



Steve Kibbee

ADVENTIST EDUCATION: CALLED TO LEAD

“YOU WANT TO BE A PRINCIPAL? I’ll pray for you!” said the aged school administrator, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, when he learned of my intention to follow my calling into Adventist school leadership. In a few short months my wife, Melanie, and I would be heading to Nova Scotia to serve at the Sandy Lake Academy (SLA); she as the high school math teacher and I as the principal.

In the fleeting moments of reflection afforded me as I, with God’s grace, juggle portfolios as diverse as curriculum, safety, pest control, public relations, staffing, plumbing, teaching, and lawn care, I have reflected on this decision to lead and serve within our Adventist school system. I would like to provide you with a glimpse into a typical work day in hopes of conveying what makes serving within our schools so special.

I arrive at the school fully intending to capitalize on a couple of peaceful hours to write my *Messenger* article. Beginning the day in worship together as a staff is non-negotiable. Here, we meditate on the Word of God, pray, and comfort one another in our trials. Entering my office, I am greeted by a letter conveying that water usage is higher than average. I better go check the toilets and begin monitoring the water meter.

This trip to the basement furnishes the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Mr. Scott’s canoe building class. How cool is it that a student who may have never even canoed has the chance to help build one at school? It is here that I am reminded that 15 yards of donated mulch sits outside needing to be transported to our future outdoor classroom before the winter freeze sets in. My high school PE class and our gardening class will get the job done; basketball may have to wait a couple of days.

Back at the office, I am ready to start writing when our

secretary/treasurer/registrar Tracy DeMerchant—yes, she does all three (and our schools would struggle without such faithful and hardworking people)—informs me that a prospective family has arrived for a tour. They are looking for a praying school that is not ashamed to uplift Jesus and teach faith in the Word of God. After meeting with them and describing to them our Christ-centred approach to education, I figure it is a good time to complete my preparation for my two afternoon Bible classes. I am adjusting to the large amount of preparation for delivering our new *Encounter* Bible curriculum, but shouldn’t the teaching of Bible require our greatest energy?

Through the rest of the day, God gives me the grace to teach three classes, remove a paper jam, meet with the Student Association, send dozens of emails, sacrifice a full lunch to address a discipline issue, and pray with a parent whose family is hurting. Heavenly music emanating from Ms. Rasmussen’s music room and cheerful voices echoing from Mrs. Walker’s Grade 4–6 beehive of activity make the grind more than bearable. Though exhausted, I am uplifted when a handful of anonymous encouraging notes are delivered to me on behalf of the students. This is their initiative, and it brings many blessings to our students and staff alike.

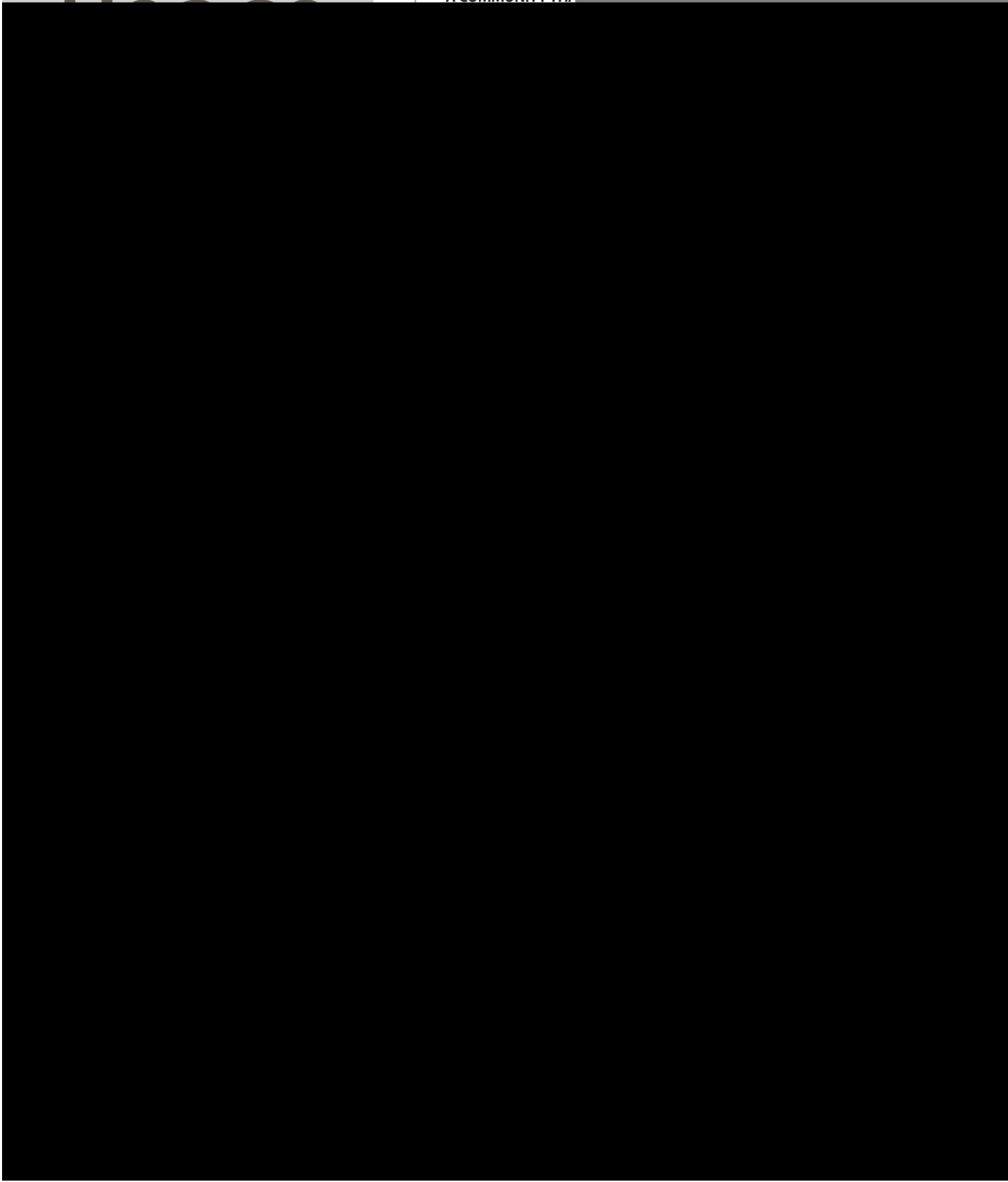
I never get the chance to write the article today; Christmas break will supply the necessary time. Instead, like every day, I get to see education done God’s way as He draws near to His people and works in them and through them to shine the light of truth from this little school in the Maritimes. Adventist education—there is nothing like it. And when done right, nothing beats it.

Steve Kibbee is principal at Sandy Lake Academy.

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