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Messenger

may 2019



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heart to heart

“A God not angered by sin would be problematic.”

Knowing God

We need to know God. He needn't be frightening. A misunderstanding of God, salvation, and sin has plagued some people of faith through the centuries right down to some within the Adventist faith today. Everything we need to know about God's plan for saving us from permanent death by sin is clearly described in Scripture.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make salvation possible for any human. We need to understand the personality and work of each to the extent we are able to grasp it.

Sin is deadly. God designs to save us from sin's outcome. This is good. Good and sin are incompatible. Sin justifiably brings the wrath of God. A God not angered by sin would be problematic.

Salvation is incredible. Absence of sin. Absence of pain. Life without end. Getting to know Jesus personally. What could be better?

We need to know God better. And when we know Him, apprehension disappears.

“The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation” (Numbers 14:18, ESV).

Meet the God who balances forgiveness and accountability. He's worth knowing better. ■

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



M May 2019

3

"I want to go to Burman University for a biology major so I can pursue a medical degree."

Jade, MANS Honour Student
Class of 2020

People who believe in you make you believe in yourself.

When students like Jade read about the Schafer Family and the scholarship they recently established at MANS to help graduates attend Burman, a seed is planted. As they read the plaque by the high school staff room, they can see themselves in the story—and at Burman, and a life they never thought possible.

MANS Scholarships
You can Make a Difference Too



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**

albertaadventist.ca/schools

The Emilie Schafer Family Staff Room & Scholarship



As a young widow left with 13 children, Emilie determined that Adventist education would be a priority. Her two oldest boys, teenagers Fred and Dave, worked the family farm so each of their siblings could attend Burman University.

Because of Emilie's faith and determination, the brothers' sacrifice, and the family pulling together, three generations have succeeded through education and changed the course of an entire family's story.

Dave and his wife, Shirley, gave the founding gift for a scholarship that extends the Schafer legacy of helping those with few means to advance and flourish.

To donate to MANS scholarships, contact
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WHAT'S INSIDE

May 2019



FEATURES

24 COVER STORY Adventist Ontario: 120 Going on 2,000.

36 INTERVIEW Q&A: Clifmond Shameerudeen

IN EVERY ISSUE

3 HEART TO HEART

6 THE BURMAN EFFECT

7 PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

8 TEEN TALK

9 CREATION CORNER

10 AGUILARS IN UGANDA

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 LITERATURE EVANGELISM

29 EDUCATION

30 BURMAN UNIVERSITY

31 MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL

32 ADVENTIST WORLD AVIATION

34 ADRA CANADA

38 NEWS

42 ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADS

46 FROM THE EDITOR

47 A BACKWARD GLANCE

Cover photo: Ontario Conference presidents from 1899 to 1918, (L-R) F. D. Starr, G. B. Thompson, A. O. Burrill, H.M.J. Richards, and M. M. Hare. Background photo is an iStock photo of Toronto, Ont., at the turn of the century.

the burman effect

Theresa with students she tutored while volunteering in Kenya.

SERVICE AS A WAY OF LIFE

Theresa Donkor: *Improving the Quality of Lives*

AT WHAT STAGE IN LIFE does a passion for service develop? What is the flash point that transforms occasional acts of kindness—volunteering at the soup kitchen, helping out with Meals on Wheels, singing at nursing homes—into a way of life? Where does one find the courage to step out of one's comfort zone? For Theresa Donkor, it happened while she was a student at Burman University.

When Theresa was 18 years old, she was given the opportunity to volunteer at Kenya's East African Mission Orphanage for four months. During that time she updated intake files for over 200 orphans to include information on arrival dates, health histories, and family backgrounds. She also organized annual child update packages to be sent to more than 50 child sponsors. In her "spare time," she tutored high school and elementary students.

Theresa writes, "Living in Kenya exposed me to the devastating injustices that life often renders. I encountered women who were denied health care, young men who were starving on the streets, and children who were exploited because there were no effective laws to protect them. These images burned in my mind and ignited my passion for volunteering."

When she returned to Burman University to complete a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, she soon became immersed in campus life. She played on the women's soccer team, served on the Campus Ministries team, and was a Student Association senator. In addition, she began working with Eric



Rajah at A Better World Canada, assisting with various humanitarian projects. She found Eric's love for humankind to be contagious—a daily reminder that one person can help improve thousands of lives.

After graduating from Burman University, Theresa moved to Toronto to attend law school, a move that gave her unique opportunities to participate in volunteering from a legal angle. During her four years at the University of Toronto, she worked with three separate volunteer organizations.

Law in Action Within Schools had her tutoring students with diverse backgrounds at an after-school law preparatory program. She found coaching mock trials and providing mentorship advice regarding post-secondary studies both satisfying and rewarding.

Theresa's work with Pro Bono Students Canada had her administering surveys to represented and self-represented clients awaiting family court appearances. These surveys were part of a study on improving the family law justice process. She also met with judges to discuss relevant family law issues and learn more about the judicial process.

The third organization, Artists' Legal Advice Services, had her identify clients' legal issues over the phone and scheduling appointments for clients to receive free summary legal advice from experienced entertainment lawyers.

Now that Theresa is articling with a full-service business law firm in Toronto, she volunteers with associates at her firm at a drop-in legal assistance clinic to help people with legal issues at the Small Claims Court.

Theresa writes, "I don't think I'll be able to change the world. I don't think I'll be the next Mahatma Gandhi or Mother Teresa. But I do know that the field of law is an avenue that leads to making a difference, and I hope to use my legal skills to make a positive impact on others' lives." ■

*Theresa Donkor as told to Renate Krause,
editor of Burman University Magazine.*

Theresa with her friends at East African Mission Orphanage, Kenya.

God's Infallible Vision

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.” —*Isaiah 55:8, ESV*

While back I boarded a plane in Vancouver to visit some of our churches in Northern British Columbia. Although I had flown many times before, somehow that particular flight reminded me of a remark one of my theology professors in Brazil had made when introducing himself to the whole class for the first time. He informally sat on his desk, looked at us directly, and told us that we were embarking on an amazing journey. He then compared our high school and college educations.

He said that our “exposure” during the secondary education level was like the view of a person seated in a car: direct and guided, but narrow and limited to the confines of the road—which itself might be surrounded by mountains, forests, and valleys! Essentially, secondary education was *planned* like the exact route and destination of a highway. But the college-level studies we were beginning at the time were more like the view from an airplane. Our vision would expand and give us the ability to see things differently from broader, higher, and wider perspectives.

Beautiful as Vancouver is, my road-trip vantage point would allow me to see only roads, people, buildings, and the gorgeous natural landscape afar. However, as the airplane took off and the flight progressed, I could see nearly the whole city from above. I was also able to view the top of the snow-capped mountains, the sea, bridges, surrounding lakes, and finally the stunning glaciers in Northern B.C.—all of that from above. What a thrill!

This is also true in our spiritual journey. As we travel our life's journey, we have only a limited vision and see things from a surface level. However, God sees the big picture because He sees everything from “on high.” As we cannot grasp the whole picture while we go through some experiences in life, we often cry and ask God, “Why? Why? Why?” However, God has everything planned out and is in control. He does not

miss anything. Inspired by God, Isaiah 55:8, 9, says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (ESV).

Indeed, God knows everything regarding each one of us, even before we were born. He knows about our challenges and triumphs, our achievements and failures, our excitements and fears. Best of all, He rejoices and suffers, He applauds and sympathizes, and He laughs and cries with us as we journey through this life. He promises to be with us always: “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you” (Heb. 13:5b, NIV). He also delights with us: “The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing” (Zeph. 3:17, NIV).

Now, as a more mature Christian looking back at my experiences in life, I often feel embarrassed about my past situations: when I cried while I could have laughed, when I isolated myself while I could have enjoyed God's comfort, and when I felt lonely while I could have rejoiced in His presence—if I only had understood and accepted God's big vision! Even today I need to keep reminding myself about this.

My prayer is that we fully realize that we have been purchased by God through the precious blood of Christ and that we are His and our names are “engraved on the palms of His hands” (Isa. 49:16, ESV). Yes, God is and has always been in control; we have nothing to fear! ■

*Wesley Torres is president
of the British Columbia
Conference.*



teen talk

Q: Would it be bad to not get baptized and still go to heaven?

A: The short answer is no. But you would miss out on some of the fun! Let me explain.

The ideal is to be baptized *and* go to heaven because you get to enjoy the whole experience: falling in love with Christ, publicly committing your life to him, and resolutely following Jesus all your life until you give him a huge hug at the gates of heaven.

The baptism per se is not a prerequisite of going to heaven when the opportunity itself is not presented. Otherwise, verses like John 3:16 and stories like the one of the thief on the cross wouldn't exist. But if you are able, what impedes you from publicly committing your life to the one who was hung on a cross for you?

Baptism is often compared to a wedding ceremony. As such, you have the freedom to choose the setting: surrounded by a large crowd (think Camporee), at church (most common), in a more intimate setting that includes your closest friends and family members at a scenic lake or gentle creek (or a hole in the frozen river if you live where I do), or even in your home's bathtub (think illness or persecution).

I am sure the thief on the cross would happily trade places with you. Why not opt for the full experience, my friend? ■



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

Creation Corner for Kids

Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.—John 1:51

The **only** Stairway to Heaven

In a lush tropical forest, mist floats upward as the sun rises over the mountains. Tropical birds flit about in the canopy. Colourful butterflies hover over fragrant blossoms. The air grows hot and humid.

From a spring-fed pool at the top of a steep hill, crystal-clear water spills over the hillside, leaving a white mineral deposit on the boulders. The multi-tiered waterfall flows around tall trees and green islands of moss and ferns. The hillside has several of these white “stairways” that look like they’ll take you up into the clouds of mist above the forest.

Think about it.

After cheating his brother out of his inheritance, Jacob fled for his life. Alone in the wilderness, he thought of his sins. Cut off from family and friends, he worried that God had left him, too. No loneliness on earth could be worse than feeling forsaken by God. But God gave Jacob a vision of a ladder, or stairway to heaven, on which angels went up and down. Joyfully, Jacob saw that the stairway was his only way back to God.


Jesus is that ladder. He has bridged the gap between heaven and earth. He has reached down to sinful, weak humanity and opened the way for us to return home to our Father.

Do it!

When you feel that your sins have separated you from God, think of Jacob’s ladder; think of God above, of Jesus’s sacrifice and prayers for you, of the angels sent to help you. And remember, all of heaven is working to bring you home.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God’s creation. For more on the Bua Thong waterfall, visit Creation Corner at www.facebook.com/CreationCornerforKids. Inspired by *Steps to Christ* by Ellen G. White.

 May 2019

9

aguilars in uganda

A New Home Away from Home

It's not what I had expected or imagined. I always pictured a "tent city" in dry, crusted barren lands with families living in tents, cooking over open fires, and crowded, unorganized living conditions. This was not the case at the refugee settlement we recently visited, and I was glad.

We turned off the main road and headed towards the lush, green rolling hills and plateaus. It had just rained, and my dad was having fun maneuvering the truck through the muddy roads. It felt as if we were on ice, fishtailing as we went along. We cheered as we made it through each mud hole. We got closer to the mountains when I noticed little settlements dotting the landscape. Each area was the same: a small structure, a field, and a fenced area. *Nice village*, I thought to myself. I realized later on that those little settlements were the new homes of the Congolese refugees.

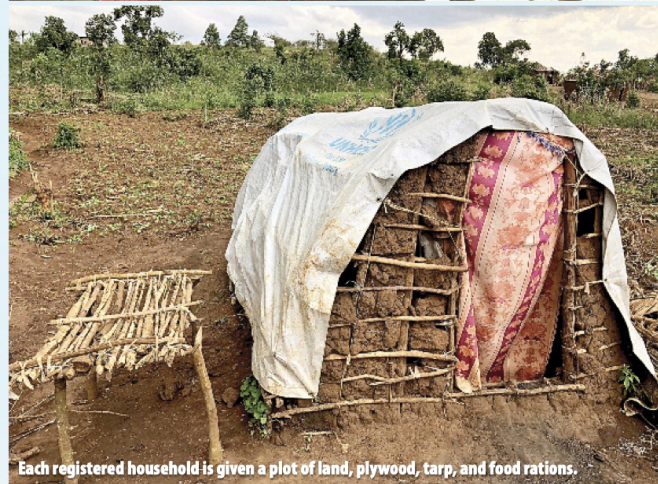
The neighbouring country of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently going through political crisis. Thousands of Congolese have had to flee for their lives and, for the most part, with only the shirts on their backs. Uganda continues to open its borders and currently, 1.2 million refugees live in various settlements in the country. Each registered household is given a plot of land, plywood, tarp, and food rations of grains, millet, oil, salt, sugar, and beans.

You can tell how long a refugee has been in the settlement by looking at the house on their plot. When they first arrive to the settlement, they have a house made of wood and tarp. After a while they start a garden, and their house typically evolves to having walls made of mud bricks and an iron sheet roof. In addition, they may have goats and chickens. I was amazed to learn refugees are not able to return to their country for years, even decades, because of the turmoil in their homeland.

It must be so traumatizing to have to flee for one's life to a foreign country and then to have to depend on them for protection and help. It's such a vulnerable position to be in. So, aside from helping people in their time of need, it is just as important to help keep their dignity.



Congolese refugees at a settlement camp.



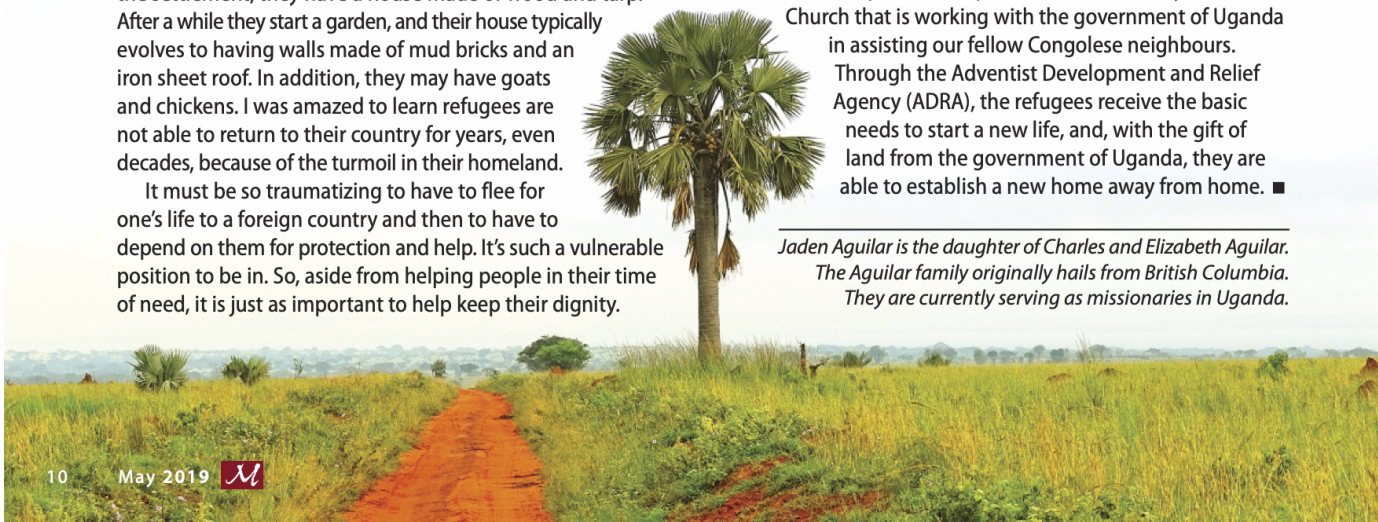
Each registered household is given a plot of land, plywood, tarp, and food rations.

My first trip to the refugee camp helped me understand the meaning of sustainability. It means to help people get back on their feet by giving them resources to allow them to sustain themselves. Yes, they are given grains, but they are also given the skills and tools to plant the grains so they can have a field of grains. I was struck by the fine line between truly helping and making someone dependent on help. So, the gift of land by the Ugandan government is so generous and kind. It's sustainable.

I'm so proud to be part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that is working with the government of Uganda in assisting our fellow Congolese neighbours.

Through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the refugees receive the basic needs to start a new life, and, with the gift of land from the government of Uganda, they are able to establish a new home away from home. ■

Jaden Aguilar is the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Aguilar. The Aguilar family originally hails from British Columbia. They are currently serving as missionaries in Uganda.



Educating children and youth for time and eternity



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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 George Unger.

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



George and Frances Unger

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

George Unger: My mother's parents moved from Volga to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. My dad's parents came from Ukraine. After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, religious freedom in Russia became almost extinct, so in 1926 my folks were among those who were on the last train to leave Russia. Since two of Dad's brothers' families had come to Canada in the early 1920s, my folks, Dad's parents, and an uncle with his family also came to Steinbach, Manitoba. Mother's father, during the 1930s, was incarcerated because of his religious convictions and paid the supreme sacrifice. Some of his descendants have continued to spread the three angels' messages in Russia and Germany.

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

G: Since there wasn't an Adventist church in the area, I grew up going to a "home church." Here I acquired a love for history listening to Dad read the *Great Controversy* to us on Sabbath afternoons. At the age of 12, I was challenged to read the entire Bible, which I did, including the Apocrypha. Public school was also a learning experience. I was in this country school for eight years. Grade 9 was taken by correspondence.

When Dad sold his 160-acre dairy farm and moved our family to a 10-acre fruit farm in Ontario, I took Grades 10 to 13 in a public high school with over a thousand students! After teachers' college at Hamilton Normal, I taught for 16 years in Ontario public schools. I furthered my education at Queen's University (Kingston, Ont.) and McMaster University (Hamilton, Ont.), but

it was the hard way—through night school, summer school, and correspondence. I graduated with a BA in 1964. After six years in Beirut, I spent a year at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Mich.) and completed my master's degree in school administration.

M: *What were the factors that influenced you to choose education as a career?*

G: Attending a one-room school with eight grades, 60 students, and one teacher was a challenge. I was fortunate to learn to read quickly, so I had the privilege of coaching the 15 Grade 1 pupils in the cloakroom during reading class. It whetted my desire to become a teacher.

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

G: In 1967 we received a phone call from the General Conference asking if I would consider mission service—specifically in Lebanon as principal of Beirut Overseas School. After talking it over with my wife, we said yes. When I told administration at the school where I was teaching, they told me I was crazy to go to the Middle East because the Six-Day War had just erupted. However, we knew that we were under God's care, and we went anyway.

We spent six years in Beirut. It was rewarding to see a 1–10 grade school grow to be a K–12 facility to provide good education for students from a wide background and to see graduates take on responsibilities working for God.

We did experience some stray bullets zipping through the trees. We had a student missionary take home a stray bullet that had ricocheted back and forth in her apartment and had come to rest on a bookshelf. After a year at Andrews, we returned to Canada. I spent a year at Kingsway College in Ontario as dean of students; then as superintendent of education in the Ontario Conference. In 1985 we went to Oregon, where I was principal at Rogue River Junior academy. In 1987 I became principal at Roseburg Junior Academy and was also on the conference executive committee. In 1991 I was invited to be superintendent of education for the Alberta conference.

M: *What brought you the greatest joy and satisfaction as an educator?*

G: There are many rewarding memories. The most outstanding, perhaps, is the time when the Beirut Overseas School Choir (under the direction of my wife) took a bus trip through Syria to Jordan. The only Adventist in the area invited the choir to give a concert in the auditorium in Madaba. The place was packed with the men of the city—standing room only. The next day we took the choir to the top of Mt. Nebo where God had showed Moses the Promised Land. The choir

sang Randall Thompson's "Alleluia" overlooking the Jordan Valley. What a memory!

M: *Tell me about your family.*

G: During campmeeting at Kingsway in 1960, I met Frances Chamberlain on the steps of the Ad Building. It took nine months for us to become one, and 58 years later we are still enjoying this oneness! She had made quite a journey from Wyoming to come to Canada. On the way she stopped at Union College to pick up degrees in music and secretarial science.

She took time out to direct choirs and teach voice at Champion Academy (Loveland, Colo.), Platte Valley Academy (Shelton, Neb.), and Indiana Academy (Cicero, Ind.). At Kingsway she taught business subjects and typing. And I persuaded her to get an "MA" in child care and family science! As a result of her expertise, we have three children: a teacher who specializes in special education, an artist who has taught art, an outstanding business inside sales person—and seven talented grandkids.

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

G: In 1996, after 45 years in education, I retired and moved to Creston, B.C., where we enjoyed landscape gardening plus teaching a Sabbath school class, being head elder, school board chair, and a member of the conference education committee.

After moving to Walla Walla, Wash., in 2007, I had a unique experience. One morning in my devotions, I said to God, "I'm in good health. If there is something you want me to do, please let me know." A week later I had a phone call from Claude Sabot at the General Conference saying, "George, we need an interim Superintendent of Education in Micronesia for one year. Would you consider it?"

How could I say no? This was a new experience visiting the schools on the 10 islands, which were staffed mainly by highly motivated and committed student missionaries. It was also necessary to recruit over 100 replacements from Adventist universities in North America and spend a week of orientation with them in Hawaii. How rewarding!

Now that we are in Nampa, Id., Frances has been director (with me as her assistant, she says) of community services for five years. Each family can be served once a month, and it has been rewarding to have helped up to 250 families during a month. She has retired as director, but we still work there on the days we are open each week.

At present I am a Sabbath school teacher, serving on the school board, and leading out in a prayer group. God has blessed us with good health and continues to give us opportunities to be a blessing to others. ■

Alberta Family Turns Vacation Into Humanitarian

Support for Ghana



Students enjoy iPads donated to their school in the community of Boanim, where Sam Asante lived as a small child.



Matio Asante and his parents, Toby and Sam, and sister Madisen visit Elmina Castle, which had been used for slave trading in the past.

A family trip to Ghana turned out to be an amazing Christmas gift for so many. That's what the Asantes discovered during a two-week visit to the West African country last December. With the help of an Alberta business and A Better World Canada (ABW), their vacation wound up benefiting hundreds of students as well.

Ghana, home to Lake Volta, the world's largest artificial lake, is where Sam Asante was born and raised until he left at the age of 10 for Canada, where his oldest sister lived. He has returned twice before; but his wife, Toby, and their children, Matio (12) and Madisen (15) had never travelled to Ghana. It was a memorable trip in more ways than one for the family from the Ponoka area in Central Alberta.

Toby noticed the disparity of rich and poor, and Matio found the weather hot and humid and the people "always happy, smiling."

Madisen was excited to meet her dad's family and see the area where he lived. Like her brother, she would like to return "when it's colder."

For Sam, it was great to help out in Boanim, where he was raised as a small child. It was also great having his workplace and ABW readily get on board, too. Badger Daylighting, a hydrovac trucking company, had a collection of 80 iPads given by management to be donated to four elementary schools and one nursing school. ABW donated about \$1,200 worth of chargers and adapters. Sam downloaded well-known educational apps on the iPads for the children's use. ABW has sponsored small projects in Ghana.

Sam has known ABW co-founder Eric Rajah for many years, having worked at his IT company and attending the same church in Lacombe. "He's like a father figure to me," said Sam, whose own father died when he was 10.

Together, Sam's family delivered all of the iPads in person, and the response was huge. School assemblies were held in their honour. The family was overwhelmed by the praise being given; they were grateful and touched by the opportunity to give back. "We didn't go there to do a big project," said Sam. "We just saw a little need and decided to help out."

Toby said that Badger Daylighting could have chosen to sell the iPads through a buy-back program but instead donated them to youth thousands of kilometres away. She was so glad, too, that none of the iPads were damaged or stolen during their 15-hour plane journey. "It was a small miracle," she added.

Toby's colleagues at Burman University donated just under 500 scribblers and other much-needed school supplies to the elementary schools. The university also donated jerseys.

It was a trip that definitely bonded the entire family. Sam recommends that other families take the opportunity to experience being humanitarians on a vacation. "We're so used to doing our traditional Christmas," added Sam. "It was different and yet enjoyable, and I think we grew from it." ■

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

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

How can your local church help families in your community who are experiencing deep stress, often in secret? Many people do not have a place to go or have the resources to get the assistance they need. In recent years I have found that churches can serve as a community peacemaker and facilitator for hot topics. Here are some seminar ideas that your outreach committee could consider hosting:

Diabetes Management Seminar

The number of people with diabetes or who are at risk is growing in Canada. One study suggests that Canadians will outpace Americans with the disease, per population percentage. This disease is deadly and costly. Offering seminars that educate the community on making better meal choices, weight management, and lifestyle changes could be life-changing while offering goodwill to your community.

Dying of Debt

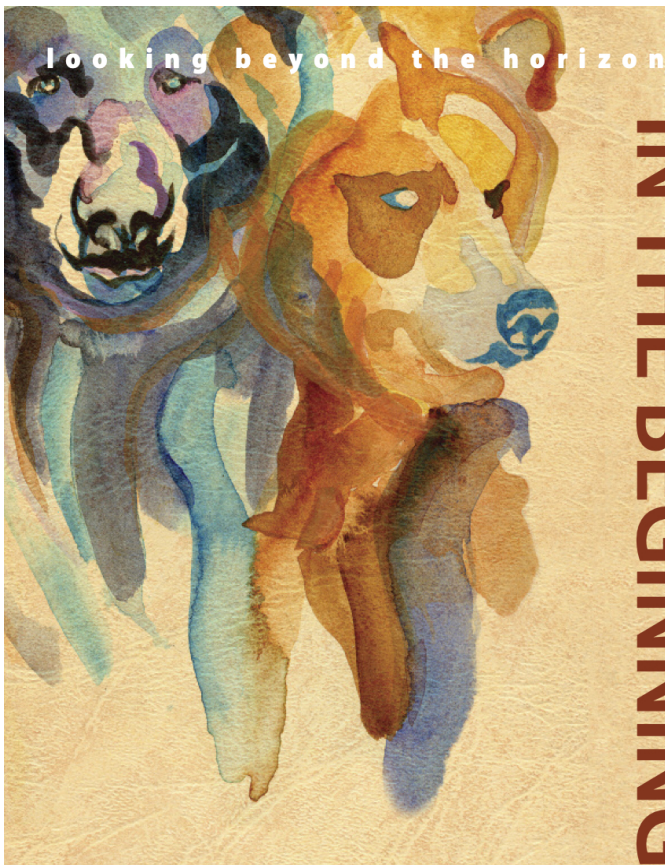
Sadly, most people never learn how to create or maintain a budget. Debt is overwhelming and causes stress on individuals and relationships. When a person joins a support group that educates them on how to decrease debt and manage their funds, they are then free to have more income to give away. If you want to strengthen stewardship, teach your members and community to manage their funds.

End of Life Decisions

Christianity has an unspoken secret: the belief or expectation that everyone should be healed with a miracle. I have observed people who are verily dying in hospice but cannot talk about their impending death because their pastors and religious leaders are still praying for a miracle. If your church can help people make end-of-life decisions while people are still well, that would be a great gift to your community. The discussion can include advance directives, pain management, how to create a will, and creating a lasting legacy.

If you can serve as the container to hold these courageous conversations, your community will view your church as a place of integrity and as people who care about their needs. ■

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



looking beyond the horizon

IN THE BEGINNING

IMAGINE.

No European has walked the shores of Turtle Island. It is the 1400s by Eurocentric reckoning. We are well over a hundred million people¹ on this land, later to be known as North and Central America. Before the Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius.² Before we were dehumanized because we were neither Christian nor European. We live in a land with a strong, functional, and sustainable economy, productive laws that govern society that are redemptive and restorative, and a diversity that works. Our governmental systems provide stability, care for each member of society, and room for newcomers. Everyone has enough. Our spirituality pervades and integrates with everything we do as we worship the Creator.

This is our home. It is not new nor empty. Our families have lived here for thousands of years. Then, the “new” people show up. Our society, like our spirituality, is full of generosity and openness to others. A values-based system where love, humility, courage, truth, respect, honesty, and wisdom are sought and lived daily. We meet these new visitors. If not for our generosity and a willingness to share

the land (because who can own land the Creator gives?), these visitors would die. We teach them how to survive.

Everyone realizes the newcomers want to stay and settle. We recognize that we need to learn to live together. There is a lot of land. So, we meet with these nations from other places in the world. We enter into agreements, treaties, covenants—one nation to another. For us, the first peoples of this land, the treaty is a sacred covenant between us, the newcomers, and the Creator to look after and share the Creator’s land and resources. We assume it is this way for the newcomers as well. They talk of a Creator too. Their ancestors have stories of covenants and treaties between God, the Creator, and Adam and Eve; between Jacob and Esau, Abram and God; between Jesus and all humanity. These Christians are a people who understand the sacredness of covenants and treaties. They are people of the New Treaty, the New Covenant—the Creator has responsibilities and benefits, as do they.

We, the first peoples will keep these treaties; it is not only international law, but a sacred trust. We, and the newcomers, for as long as Canada lasts are treaty people together. We are all treaty people.

Pause. Step out of history, back to today.

The many different nations of Turtle Island, today known as North America, were and still are recognized as international nations who engaged with other nations, to make treaties,³ with benefits and responsibilities on both sides. As one Mik’maq father recently tried to explain treaty to his seven-year-old, “It is two groups making an agreement to stop fighting and start sharing.”

These treaties still stand as binding international law. They have been recognized as law by the Canadian government⁴ and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).⁵ Canada’s Indigenous Peoples have always kept the sacred trust of these treaties.

Long before Europeans touched the shores of this country, Turtle Island and its First Peoples were here. The First Nations entered sacred covenants to share the land. The First Peoples have always kept the treaties.

What is expected of us? That is simple.

We are all treaty people. Live the treaties. “Learn to stop fighting and to start sharing.”

If you’ve got it in you, live at peace with everyone (Rom. 12:18).

Covenant living. Treaty living. ■

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

1 Pam Toulouse, Assembly of First Nations Forum on Education, Presentation in Halifax, N.S., Feb. 14, 2019.

2 Indigenous Values, “What Is the Doctrine of Discovery?” <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org>. Senwung Luk, “Ditching the Doctrine of Discovery (and What That Means for Canadian Law),” OKT Law, <https://bit.ly/2JMSRDw>. “The Doctrine of Discovery, Manifest Destiny, and American Exceptionalism,” *Challenging Christian Hegemony*, <https://bit.ly/2UfqSQN>.

3 Anthony J. Hall, “Treaties with Indigenous Peoples in Canada,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, June 6, 2011, <https://bit.ly/2yXAXWO>. See also <https://native-land.ca>.

4 Bill C-262, <https://bit.ly/2U0dn8h>.

5 First Nations and Indigenous Studies, “UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” University of British Columbia, <https://bit.ly/2K0J5xN>.



Prayer Clichés

"Clichés may be a lazy way to pray ..."

Recently I participated in a funeral service of a person I knew, paying respect to him and his family. It took place at a more traditional non-Adventist church. While for me the service was new and hard to follow, for the majority of people it functioned like a well-oiled machine. They knew exactly what to say, what part of the prayer to recite, what positions to take. It seemed to give these nice people a sense of security and belonging.

The priest, a very pleasant and sincere man, led the service. He had everything written out. He went from book to book, every motion and gesture carried out with precision as several assistants served him with dignity. He knew how to recite every line, while the congregation responded with well-memorized, formulaic affirmations.

I have a tendency to contemplate and evaluate things that differ from what we as Seventh-day Adventists believe to be right and true. So at the funeral, I was reminded of Jesus referring to "vain repetitions" (see Matt. 6:7). But then a thought occurred to me: *Judge not and you won't be judged* (see Matt. 7:1). Am I—are we—doing similar things? We might not use preprinted prayer or worship books and memorized lines, but do we use our own formulas? You be your own judge. Examine what you say in your prayers. Are they the same vague utterances over and over that bore the saints and angels, and require God to infer meaning?

I became aware of some of our favourite clichés. For example, when we pray, "Lord, please be with so-and-so" or "Please, Lord, bless so-and-so ... bless our pastor, all the missionaries, heal so-and-so," etc. Yes, these prayers reveal caring hearts and interest in others, which is very good. They surely beat self-centred prayers (unless, of course, the prayers express our confession as we humble our hearts before the Lord, commit our lives to Him, or ask for the Holy Spirit to serve Him effectively).

But what I am hinting at is, *Are we specific enough?* Do we know what we are praying for and what we are asking the Lord to do? Clichés may be a lazy way to pray, thoughtless phrases that are so ambiguous that we cannot trace God's answers to them. When we pray for God to be with so-and-so, isn't He already with them? And when we ask blessings on someone, what are we asking the Lord to do for that individual? (Mind you, according to Ephesians 3:20, He always does exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask or think.) Yet I believe God wants us to be specific, ideally finding promises from the Bible that fit the situation the person may be dealing with and that we are praying for. As we learn to put intercessory prayers into practice, the Lord will even make us more sensitive and aware of *what* we need to pray for.

"Lord, thank you for 'M' and make them aware You are with them already. Lift up clouds of doubt and discouragement that hang over them. Send people into their life who can be a blessing to them; show me what I can do to be a part of answering my prayer."

"Father, bless so-and-so with your Holy Spirit presence. Give them experiences that will help them to see your love. And help them to resolve difficulties that are weighing on them and oppressing them."

Prayer is like a school. We learn as we go. Many are afraid to pray publicly, comparing their unlearned words with lofty clichés of eloquent Christians. However, it is these kinds of unrehearsed, spontaneous prayers God longs to hear from you and me. ■

Karel Samek is the prayer coordinator for the British Columbia Conference.



barry's blog

The Not-So-Dark and the Not-So-Secret

In March, CBC News ran a story about a “dark secret” that ignited a social media frenzy. Thousands of Canadians took umbrage at “discriminatory” religious schools receiving government money while requiring teachers and staff to abide by the schools’ codes of conduct.

Three points come to mind. First, this is not a “dark” secret; second, this is not a “secret;” finally, the government funding argument is a red herring.

The notion of exposing a “dark” secret suggests there is something sinister about a religious community establishing a school in accordance with its religious teachings. However, it is not dark; it is luminescent. Expectations are transparently clear from the get-go.

Nor is it a “secret” that Christian schools hold their staff to the agreements they sign upon employment. In many cases religious schools have their statements of belief posted on their websites for the world to read. The reason is obvious. They are carving out a haven, distinct from society at large, so that they may live and teach in accordance with their conscience. Their standards may not appeal to everyone—which is precisely why they have established private institutions separate from the public system. Their beliefs are not being imposed on anyone who does not voluntarily choose to join that unique community.

Additionally, Christian education of young people is not new. It’s been around for thousands of years. No secret. Perhaps society has forgotten, but that doesn’t give the public a right to remove the freedom of the religious community. Religious freedom is a pillar upholding our democratic ideals, a “load-bearing” beam that supports pluralism and respect for difference in a peaceful society. We must recognize that others are free to hold beliefs that may cause us discomfort, just as we have the right to embrace our own convictions.

As to the question of public funding, it’s worth noting that private schools in Canada have been receiving government

money since 1867. There is no principled reason why religious taxpayers should not receive some funding to ensure that their children receive a competent education. After all, as we saw in the Canada Summer Jobs controversy, making the distribution of public money contingent on certain beliefs (or non-beliefs) is contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And compared to the public system, governments save money when it comes to Christian schools. Recently, CBC reported in Alberta that if the 34,754 children in private schools suddenly attended public school, the province would have to pay \$117 million more for education. Plus, government funds typically cover only a fraction of the expenses involved in running a private school; the shortfall is made up by parents and the religious community.

But the debate is not just about dollar signs. Underlying many comments about funding is a contempt for Christian schools in the first place. If we are not willing to allow government funding for Christian education, then where do we stop? Should provincial governments refuse to accredit Christian schools because their teachings are unpopular? What about other benefits given to religious people who have the “wrong” ideas? Maybe I should not be issued “government support” in the form of a driver’s license because I believe differently than the government?

Such contempt evinces a disregard for the right of religious communities to live in accordance with their consciences. Of course, no right is absolute. But, when it comes to fundamental human life, issues of respect for life, and for the traditional definition of marriage—though at odds with the current thinking—it is the absolute purview of the Christian community to live, as former Chief Justice Brian Dickson said, “without fear or hindrance.” ■

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

Growing Up Millennial

TBH

"My mom looked at me and, with all seriousness, told me that she couldn't stop loving me, ever."

An Ode to Mothers

It's almost Mother's Day. A holiday I always looked forward to as a kid, strangely, because it meant that I got to make my mom breakfast in bed and then do something that *my brother and I* wanted to do, like go to a playground or the zoo. As a little kid, I didn't really think about whether this was something my mom even wanted to do; I just assumed that my brother and I were having fun, so my mom must be having fun too!

Years later I asked my mom why we always did "kid stuff" instead of doing something that she might have wanted to do. Her response? That Max and I were what made her a mom, and seeing us having fun and happy was enough for her. She loved spending time with us, no matter what we did.

For me, as someone in her 20s, this is kind of a hard idea to grapple with. I'm not married and I don't have kids, so it's hard to imagine loving anyone so much that I'm willing to give everything up for them. My mom quit the job she loved to stay at home with me when I was born. She drove us wherever we needed to go, and maintained family traditions. When I was sick, she would sit with me and rub my back. She taught me to say my prayers at night and how much God loves me.

And I understand that some mother–daughter relationships are not like this. I also don't have a perfect relationship with my mom. When I was 13, I had a terrible attitude. I argued with my mom all the time. I said things that I wish

I could take back, things that are incredibly hurtful; and if my mom had reciprocated those words, I would have broken down. But she never stopped loving me. I asked her once if she ever didn't love me. My mom looked at me and, with all seriousness, told me that she couldn't stop loving me, ever. It didn't matter if we were fighting, if I said I hated her, if I never talked to her again—she would love me for the rest of her life.

After my early teens, our relationship got better over time. I appreciated her more, and I saw that everything she did for my brother and me, she did out of love over anything else. My mom is now the person I go to first for almost everything. I tell her stuff that I don't tell a lot of people. I call her between classes if I can, and I try to remember to text her back every night.

I see God's love for me the way I do my mom's love for me. It never stops, no matter what I do. I mean, God sent Jesus to die for us, which is a sacrifice incomparable to anything else. My mom followed this idea to a tee: she spends her time caring so deeply about me that I can't even fully comprehend it. And I can love her back as much as I can, but she tells me that it doesn't even compare to her love for me, just as our love for God will never amount to the love and patience that He has for us. ■

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



Easy Tofu Salad Spread

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (350 g) firm tofu
- ½ cup (125 mL) grated carrot
- ½ cup (80 mL) minced celery
- ¼ cup (60 mL) minced red onion
- ¼ cup (60 mL) grated plant-based cheese
- ½ cup (125 mL) plant-based mayonnaise
- 2 tsp (10 mL) chicken-style seasoning
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) dill powder
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) onion powder

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Using your fingers, crumble tofu into a large bowl.
- Add carrot, celery, red onion, cheese, mayonnaise, chicken-style seasoning, dill powder, and onion powder. Mix well. Adjust seasonings according to your taste.
- Place in the fridge for at least an hour to let flavours develop.

Keeping things creative in your lunchbox can be stressful when you're pressed for time. Here's a quick and easy, delicious, and highly nutritious sandwich spread that will have people asking, "Is that really tofu?"

Crumbled with an assortment of freshly grated veggies, this tofu recipe packs a wholesome amount of protein, calcium, and iron. You'll also get some omega-3s from the tofu. Be sure to purchase an organic, non-GMO brand, though.

While you can eat this delicious spread right away, it's tastier when served about an hour after you've made it. And, if you let the ingredients mix and mingle in the fridge overnight, it will be at its tastiest. Enjoy this delectable spread on rustic whole-grain bread, in a pita, or simply on a bed of luscious lettuce! ■

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





A Little Piece of Heaven

"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." —1 Cor. 12:7, NASB

Ray worked in the plumbing industry designing bathrooms for large buildings. As a recent retiree, now living in Gull Island, he had more time to tune in to Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) as he pattered in his workshop. He took the time to drop by VOAR to let us know how much he had been appreciating the music.

He said, "I heard one group in particular and liked them so much I had to contact them on the other side of the country." Ray was an immediate fan of Fountainview Academy Choir (Lillooet, B.C.). He said with a smile, "I am actually obsessed with their music and had to look up their YouTube videos to hear more. What an amazing choir! It thrills my heart to hear this bunch of young people sing such beautiful songs about Christ. I feel like I've glimpsed a little piece of heaven now."

Ray is a talker and went on and on about the songs that meant the most to him. He was a delight to chat with. He said, "I wanted to stop in and say, not every song is for everyone, but every song is for someone. I'm not Seventh-day Adventist, but this choir is, and so is VOAR. I've been reading up about your faith on the Internet. We may have different faiths, but we have common ground. So, I'm here to say thank you for blessing me these past few weeks. I really appreciate VOAR."

Kindly keep the students of Fountainview Academy, as well as VOAR and Ray, in your prayers. Christ continues to use various ministries in our church to tell the good news of the gospel to the world. ■

Sherry Griffin is the station manager for VOAR.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky AT THE COLLEGE PARK, AJAX COMMUNITY, AND
BOWMANVILLE CHURCHES IN ONTARIO.

What is one thing you are looking forward to and why?

Sharon Ennis: "I am looking forward to the day when Jesus bursts through the clouds to take us home!"

Sarah Moturi: "The coming of Jesus's return [and] to live with God eternally because [there will be] no more pain and heartache ... but [to] live in joy [and] worship God forever and ever."

Euthalia Dockery: "Sabbath school, because sometimes you get to see your friends from school and play with them. And when you bring ... a guest, you get a prize in a toy box and you do snacks, games."

Norene Dyer: "I have been blessed with the gift of writing/acting and directing plays. My hope is that come Easter I will be able to present an Easter play to the Durham region".



rainmakers

RAINMAK

Creating a Lasting Influence

Eric Rajah, co-founder and executive director of A Better World Canada (ABW), had just returned home from another trip overseas. Rajah estimates—based on his wife, Candi’s, count—that he has made 42 international trips since founding ABW in 1990.

Born and raised in Sri Lanka, Rajah has always possessed an innate sense of appreciation for the developing world. After receiving the gift of education from Canadian missionaries, a young Eric and his family immigrated to western Canada. As parents, Eric and Candi have worked hard to pass along that same sense of appreciation to their own children.

Yet, even as Rajah advanced in his schooling at Canadian Union College (now Burman University), his highest education came at the feet of his selfless mother. Such compassionate principles infused within Rajah early on are now what drive his deep passion and commitment for humanitarian work. “My mother told me some time ago, ‘You [have] to realize what people did for you and give back,’” he said. “So, that seed was planted.”

The Birth of a Vision

In 1990 a new vision pressed heavy on his heart, and, with it, the opportunity to give back to his community on a larger scale. With Candi and co-founder Brian Leavitt, Rajah decided to invest \$5,000 in what would end up being ABW’s first project: construction of a rehabilitation centre for victims of polio in Kendu Bay, Kenya. They then appealed to members of College Heights Seventh-day Adventist

Church to support this infant project by pitching in another \$5,000. What happened next completely exceeded their expectations: the congregation donated close to \$25,000. ABW was born.

Driven by a strong motivation to truly see communities and the world changed for the better, ABW works to achieve life-changing results through seven ongoing projects in nearly 20 countries. Projects at hand, managed and operated entirely by a team of volunteers, aim to ultimately improve the quality of life in several key areas: education, health, food security, infrastructure, and income generation. “With all of the successes we have in the world, we still don’t have access to education, health, and clean water,” Rajah says. “These are challenges that we see, and we are moved by it. It inspires me and others to not give up.” Since its founding, ABW has invested over \$34 million in projects that have helped to enrol over 260,000 students in schools, provide access to good health care for over 60,000 people, and clean water for 417,145 people.

Investing in a Better World

Investment is a word that means big things for Rajah—a businessman at heart—and his team, especially in relation to ABW’s operation. “[When] people give their money, it’s to invest in other people’s lives,” explains Rajah. “So, we are to demonstrate that their investment is a good one and that it’s showing returns. We call these social returns: reducing poverty, improving health, getting more children in school.” Whatever the aspiration, Rajah is intentional in his

pursuits to achieve long-lasting relationships with all those involved—donors, volunteers, and those he engages with both overseas and in his local community.

Over half of donations come from those outside of Adventist faith circles, with Rajah estimating that number to be well over 90 percent. Over the years, more than 2,600 volunteers have travelled with Rajah, including medical professionals, dentists, educators, and even young musicians. His own sons, Brenden and Jaden, have also served actively with ABW.

The individuals who choose to join Rajah in building this grander concept come from all walks of life. Yet, everyone who has ever glimpsed and then joined in on ABW’s vision, has done nothing less than go on to create lasting influence in their own communities. Gord Bontje, who currently serves as one of ABW’s executive advisers, is an example of this. In 2017, Bontje donated \$500,000 for his 60th birthday. In total, Bontje has donated over \$1 million, which has gone towards projects in Kenya and Rwanda.

According to Rajah, helping others discover a unique purpose best found in unadulterated love and service, is how the church can best make an indelible impression. “People are not lying awake thinking about what Seventh-day Adventists believe,” Rajah says. “What’s keeping them awake at night is *What is my purpose on this earth?*”

The Future of Tomorrow

In Rajah’s efforts to pass along the trail-blazing torch of ABW, he has come to embrace outreach to individuals near and

ERS

far, part of which includes a lineup of eager youth. Since ABW's founding, over 300 students have travelled to Africa and currently over 18 schools are involved in humanitarian projects.

One of ABW's board members and the existing project manager in Afghanistan, Azalea Lehndorff, started the 100 classrooms project in 2010. The project, which promotes education for girls in Afghanistan, ended in November 2018 with the successful completion of 101 classrooms. Last year ABW hosted a humanitarian conference that drew in youth from all over the world.

In 2011, Rajah was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence, known for recognizing Albertans who have made a difference and served their community in extraordinary ways. In the previous year, Rajah was chosen from among 2,000 nominees as one of the top 50 in CBC Canada's Champions of Change.

A year later ABW partnered with Raise Their Voice throughout the tour of Andrew Kooman's *She Has a Name*, to raise awareness about human trafficking. According to Shanelle Adams, manager of the *She has a Name* project in Thailand, ABW has overseen the fundraising for a safe house for victims of human trafficking.

"We have a few girls in the home, whom we help with education as well as [equip] with life skills so that they don't have to sell their bodies to make money," Adams says. Last year, a 17-year-old from Delta, B.C., was instrumental in raising over \$10,800 for this initiative.

Ron Sydenham, chair of ABW's board of directors and a long-time close personal



Eric Rajah

friend of Rajah, says that Rajah is a natural-born leader. "He is the heart and soul of ABW," he says. "[Eric] is a great leader who at the same time is able to get out of the way and let other people have the freedom to engage with their gifts."

As an influential man of faith, he intentionally lives out the vision of ABW using Matthew 25 as his foundation. In enacting such personal service, Rajah

strives to boldly communicate God's love in the midst of suffering and, in such moments of compassion, powerfully reveal to recipients a small glimpse of the "better world to come." ■

Alexandra Yeboah is a freelance writer and storyteller facilitator living in Ontario. Visit her at: theheartofthestory.ca.



Adventist Ontario 120 Going on 2,000

The Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized at a London, Ont., campmeeting in mid-June 1899. So in June of this year, the conference, and by extension, the Seventh-day Adventist faith in Ontario, turns 120. But that depends on how you count. Like a child who is 15 going on 25, Adventism in Ontario can be said to be 120 years going on 170, or even 2,000 or more.

Adventist faith in Ontario was always that kind of “child”—learning from the past and living in the present, but looking to the future. There were Adventists in Ontario at least half a century before that London campmeeting, long before an Ontario Conference existed, long before there was an Ontario Adventist church.

J. Ernest Monteith, arguably Adventist Canada’s leading historian, wrote in *The Lord Is My Shepherd: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada*: “The earliest Sabbath-keeping Adventists in what is now Ontario were the Peter Gibsons of London, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Corcoran, and a Mrs. Estacy Young.” Monteith’s

chronicle of these early Adventist beginnings takes us back at least to the early 1850s.

Many early Ontario Sabbath-keepers died before realizing their dreams of seeing an Adventist church member. The book *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: 100 Years of Adventism in Ontario* revealed the story of a gentleman in his 90s who had learned about the Sabbath truth from a tract. For nearly a decade, he had worshipped, Sabbath after Sabbath, without meeting another Sabbath-keeper.

Of course, before the Seventh-day Adventist Church formally came into being in the early 1860s, there was

the Millerite movement. Named after its founder, William Miller, it comprised members from various Protestant denominations. Those members were also called Second Adventists because of their strong attachment to the belief in the imminence of the second advent of Jesus. An elderly Toronto couple baptized by Miller himself were among those weeping on Oct. 22, 1844.

With such foundation laid by missionaries from the United States, Ontario joined the family of conferences within the Seventh-day Adventist movement two years after the historic vote at that London campmeeting. Thus the province, together with its new conference, was well on its way to writing its own ecclesiastical repertoire of stories within God's remnant church.

There were the amusing stories, like the fact that the small building at Kingsway College housing the Ontario Conference was just large enough to house the chicken coop when the conference found more suitable quarters. The conference liquidated its debts and started the year 1929 in the black. But, with an operating surplus of only \$3.67, it had to take a loan from the Ottawa church.

Then there were the stories of bravery and integrity. Ministers were thrown into jail for working on Sundays. A prisoner who was given supervised labour duties outside

of the jail was one day left behind and accidentally locked out, and he insisted on being let back in! The sacrifice of preachers and the commitment of converts were often impressive.

My favourite evangelic story is about three-year-old soul-winner Bradley Wiebe, son of Pastor and Mrs. Ken Wiebe. Young Bradley invited family friend Frank Davidson to church. Davidson said yes. Then, in answer to prayer, he was healed of an illness, overcame a seemingly intractable smoking addiction, and followed his Lord in baptism.

Adventism in Ontario grew from the four or five known Sabbath-keepers in the 1850s to "not quite 500" members and just "14 or 15 churches" at the birth of the conference 50 years later, said the first president, F. D. Starr. Today the conference has just under 34,000 members who worship in 131 churches, 27 companies, and a number of groups.

Some things that are important to Adventism started in Ontario. Pastor Dale Thomas was the top student literature evangelist before becoming Ontario Conference's director of literature ministry. He wrote that George Albert King Jr. "was not only the first career literature evangelist here in Ontario, but the first professional



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the grand opening of Crawford Adventist Academy's East campus in Pickering, Ont.



Health Ministries booth at the 2012 Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.



Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist and publishing leader in the world.”

World-famous radio evangelist H.M.S. Richards Sr.'s first pastoral posting was Ottawa. His sojourn there may be remembered for at least three reasons. Firstly, he regularly walked across to the church school to ensure the newly appointed teacher always had adequate supplies of chalk. Secondly, he reduced his walk by marrying said teacher, Mabel Eastman. Thirdly, this Ontario-based pastor birthed the idea of the Voice of Prophecy, North America's first national religious broadcast.

In 1999, as Toronto and the world prepared for the new millennium, 100 years of the official existence of Ontario's Adventism elapsed. Jean Chrétien, then prime minister, declared, “When such a venerated organization reaches the milestone of 100 years of dedicated community service, it is certainly cause for celebration.”

Chrétien added, “The Church has played an important role in the development of the community and has served as a focal point, both spiritual and social, for countless individuals from all walks of life. No doubt, this occasion will give you an opportunity to reflect upon your church's unique history and take pride in your spiritual heritage.”

The church did more than look back on its heritage. It looked forward. Then conference president Derrick Nichols challenged members in an article entitled “Courage to Conquer the Unknown.” He implored, “Today the Ontario Conference needs members who are willing to carry the mission of the church. It needs individuals who seek ways to contribute to the building of God's kingdom.”

In words that bound the original 2,000-plus-year-old mission of the Christian church, the specific 100-year-old mission of Adventist Ontario, and the uncharted future that beckoned, Nichols declared, “As we face the end time, we cannot help but turn our minds to the soon return of our Lord, which must be front and centre in our individual

lives and in our church. This is the message with which our conference started 100 years ago.”

Under the leadership of Nichols's successor, current president Mansfield Edwards, the conference employs a highly strategic approach to its contribution to the building of the kingdom. In August 2013, the 33rd constituency meeting approved the REACH initiative. With each letter of the REACH acronym featuring a strategic intent, the initiative, says Edwards, “will guide our actions to become a conference of excellence fulfilling our purpose in bringing glory to God.”

R—Revival and transformation

This implies spiritual growth across the entire membership of the church. This spiritual growth, he says, includes the pastor because “a church will not rise above the spiritual level of its pastor.”

E—Education for discipleship

Again, this component encompasses all levels, including training to equip pastors to make the REACH initiative effective. And it includes continuation of the conference's school of evangelism for lay leaders. It involves Christian education through the conference's nine schools, which recorded a 23 percent increase in enrolment between 2013 and 2017, and the kind of education provided through Adventurers and Pathfinders. Of course, E is also for evangelism.

A—Alignment

This concept involves a range of efforts to get the diverse membership of the church in Ontario to work together. These efforts have included the appointment of a field secretary and the assignment of a conference director to each of the 11 ministerial districts. Alignment also happens through the Church Building Fund in which churches help liquidate one another's mortgages.



Hope Vision Fellowship, the first church for the visually impaired within the NAD, held its inaugural worship service in Scarborough on Nov. 26, 2016.



Conference president, Mansfield Edwards and former executive secretary, David Schwinghammer at a seniors' ministry outing.

An active seniors' ministry gets seniors aligned through greater involvement in the life of the church while "adding life to their years and years to their lives."

Youth and young adults, including those attending non-Adventist educational institutions, are also part of the alignment. So are pastoral spouses, through an initiative spearheaded by Sharon Edwards, wife of the president.

C—Community outreach

This component calls for members to be "more actively involved in the life of the community as stewards of hope and holiness" and involves the conference's compassion ministries such as Touch of Love and the expanding disaster relief training and activity.

In 2015, this community-outreach component found expression in the Pan American Games held in Toronto. Thanks to the welcoming hands extended by those volunteers, many athletes and volunteers returned to their countries with an improved awareness of the friendship and theology of Adventists.

H—Healthy leadership and management

Here, the idea is to combine and coordinate efforts to fulfill the mission of Adventist Ontario by providing the training and resources for the effective involvement of leaders and entire congregations.

In reporting on the REACH initiative at the 34th constituency meeting in 2017, Edwards also mentioned some new initiatives. One was the Native Ministries Department. Though it had existed before, this ministry was not as effective in reaching Aboriginal communities. The conference appointed its first Aboriginal pastor. And, through a partnership with Adventist World Aviation, it has access to an amphibious Cessna aircraft, through which it could reach those communities.

Another community now being reached more effectively for God are worshippers with impaired vision. Hope

Vision Fellowship, the first church for the visually impaired within the North American Division, held its inaugural worship service with 25 charter members in Scarborough on Nov. 26, 2016. The conference has also acquired the required software, as well as a Braille printer, to produce reading material for members of the fellowship.

Another new initiative, a special media ministry, includes a television studio and the facilities to create broadcast-quality programs. These facilities will enable training for leaders and the hosting of television programs.

A new committee on Adventist–Muslim relations is, in part, a response to the influx of Muslim refugees to Canada.

The most recent, and possibly the most innovative initiative, is the Earth Day Summit, held near Toronto on April 21, 2019. Mansfield Edwards conceived the event partly to correct the impression among millennials, including 50 percent of Adventist millennials, that the church is anti-science. Bible-believing PhD-level scientists from various fields who espouse intelligent design were invited to showcase the reconciliation between the biblical and the scientific worldviews. Edwards emphasized that the event was intended to reach a public far beyond the membership of the church, "because the gospel is to go to all the world."

And by celebrating God's creative work, the Earth Day Summit was directly related to the first angel's message, which mandates the worship of "Him Who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the fountains of water" (see Rev. 14:7). ■

Frank Campbell is a freelance writer and editor, and a local elder at the Agape Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pickering, Ont. He was the editor and principal writer of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: 100 Years of Adventism in Ontario.



Tenderhearted

*"If we would humble ourselves
before God, and be kind
and courteous and tenderhearted
and pitiful, there would be
one hundred conversions to the truth
where now there is only one."*

Grigore and Angie decided to go knocking on doors. They greatly desired to share God's love and truth with others through literature. At one door, God used them to share something more. This is how Grigore shared his story with us:

Sometimes God sends His messengers to visit His children who need comfort. One day He used us in this manner.

Angie and I went to a door together. An elderly lady answered the door. At first, she refused anything we offered her, telling us that her husband had passed away. We told her we understood and said we just wanted to give her a present. The gift was a book called *Peace Above the Storm*, otherwise known as *Steps to Christ*. She accepted it, and immediately tears welled up in her eyes and flowed down her face. She said that her husband had been so loving and kind to her. She added that he had been a good person. Apologizing for her emotional outburst, she tearfully said that she hadn't been so moved since her husband had passed away at least six months earlier. He had died of prostate cancer. I guess she was surprised at her own lack of composure at the very mention of her husband.

We listened to her and consoled her. She said she actually wanted to give us something and brought us a small gift, which we accepted. We asked her if we could pray for her, and she surprisingly agreed! We prayed that her home would continue to be a place of joy, love, and peace. We prayed for Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to comfort her in her pain and to help her look forward to a great resurrection that would bring her loved one back from the grave. I released her hand, and we went our way.

People continually walk in and out of our lives. Many are hurting, and God desires for us to be a source of encouragement to them. We are told, "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one."¹ So let us share God's truth with others—but always from a humble and tender heart. ■

Grigore Decev shared his story with Lifestyle Canada, Canada's literature evangelism ministry.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, 9:189.



Adventist Education

Where There's a Will, There's a Way!

My name is Heather Warner, and I live in McBride, B.C., a small town on the Fraser River with a population of roughly 500 people. Here in McBride we are blessed to have an Adventist church and school on the same property. I attended that school, Robson Valley Junior Academy (RVJA), for nearly all of my elementary and high school years, and experienced God's many blessings.

My school life started with kindergarten at home when I was six. I attended RVJA for Grades 1–6. In the middle of my Grade 6 year, my parents pulled my brother, sister, and me out of school, and we then needed to find another way to complete the school year. Somehow we discovered West Coast Adventist School (WCAS), a distance learning school offering classes online. At the time, WCAS was based out of Cariboo Adventist Academy in Williams Lake, and the principal was Lee Richards (who, incidentally, had been my mom's high school principal at Okanagan Adventist Academy in Kelowna). It was a big adjustment at first. My mom took on the role of teacher, grading all our work and sending in reports of our progress. We got through that year and the following year returned to RVJA.

Around that time our family started discussing what we would need to do to have us kids finish high school. RVJA only offered up to Grade 9. The subject of moving somewhere such as Kelowna came up more and more often. This was kind of a scary thought, as I had only ever lived in the country and gone to a small school, and I hoped that there would be some way not to have to move.

We did a lot of praying! Again, WCAS became the solution to our problem. This time our church and school together decided to keep the school open but as a learning centre with a supervisor for each room. That way, students wouldn't have to work at home

and could still enjoy the classroom environment. This had been done with Grades 10–12 before, but not with all the other grades, and their learning centre had been in the church so students had not stayed connected with the rest of the school.

The plan worked! Even when we found a new teacher for the school, we kept Grades 7 and up doing WCAS with a supervisor. Currently, we have two teachers again, and are offering Grades 10–12 through WCAS. Our church even built an addition to the school, so now we have a room just for the WCAS learning centre!

Last summer I graduated from Grade 12. We had a really nice celebration at the BC Campmeeting in Hope, even though I was the only graduate! This year I have been able to take Pre-Calculus 12 and Comparative Religions 12 through WCAS at no extra cost. This has been a huge blessing, since I still have no idea what I want to take in college or where I want to go. This has given me more time to think and pray about that while still exercising my mind (plus I get to be at home).

I feel so blessed to have been a part of the WCAS family. The teachers are awesome, even taking time outside of class to help with homework. I believe that they care about me as an individual. Although the online environment is different than a brick-and-mortar school, it has been wonderful to have that option for an Adventist education. My family and I are so thankful to WCAS, our church family, and most of all to God for His many blessings! ■

Heather Warner is a student of West Coast Adventist School and lives in McBride, B.C.

Service Break



Alessandro Coronado, a second-year religious studies major, led a group of Burman students in delivering presentations to the youth of a few churches just outside of Vancouver, B.C.

THERE COMES A TIME during the second semester of a university academic year, shortly after midterms and about a month before graduation, that students begin needing a break. Spring break means different things to different students. Some use the nine days in March to catch up on homework and papers, while others use it to take some time to just relax and not think about school and the upcoming final exams at the end of the school year. This year during spring break, while some took time to catch up on studies or enjoy some much-needed rest, many Burman students instead chose to give back. They chose to serve.

A day before spring break officially started, Hope Marchok, a fourth-year music major, was starting to pack for her last orchestra tour, headed for British Columbia and Southern California. For Hope, being able to share music with others is a big reason she is part of the group. “Sharing music with others is such a great experience. All of the audiences at our concerts throughout the tour were very grateful to us for coming to share with them. Music is something that many people enjoy, and it is great to be able to share it with them. Our orchestra has very talented individuals, and it means a lot to be able to share our music with people outside of the Burman University and the Lacombe area,” states Hope.

Phil Honest, a second-year biology, medical-track major, wanted to do more than just rest during spring break. Phil helped organize a group of 11 Burman students who decided to give up their relaxing spring break and instead drive up to Fort McMurray and put on programming for the children in the area. Their program consisted of a basketball camp and art programming for over 30 children. On days where the camps were not run, they took time to paint and renovate the local youth room at the church. Phil reflects, “To be of service as a Burman student means being selfless and giving up your own personal time to help other people in any way you can. Just putting a smile on people’s faces is accomplishment enough.”

On the West Coast, Alessandro Coronado, a second-year religious studies major, led a group of Burman students in delivering presentations to the youth of a few churches just outside of Vancouver, B.C. The Burman group conducted an “innovation lab”—discussions on leadership and on how to build an environment of creativity and motivation. They worked with over 50 youth and guided them to generate and implement ideas in their local churches. “I choose to spend my break doing this innovation lab because I believe that ministry is a lifestyle. I have been richly blessed with growing in a university community where I can help others reach their goals. But it’s more than just our university campus; it goes beyond that. I believe that we can change the world,” says Alessandro.

For these and many more Burman students, being of service is part of what it means to be a student at Canada’s Seventh-day Adventist university. Burman students are asked to lead, to be part of a campus of leaders not just for today but for tomorrow. For Alessandro it is simple why he serves: “Coming to Burman University has given me the chance to be who I am and serve with the talents that God has given me. Our campus allows us to think, to believe, and to act.” ■

JR Ferrer is vice-president for marketing and enrolment services at Burman University.

The Emilie Schafer Family Scholarship at Mamawi Atosketan Native School

A Family Pays It Forward



Emilie and her children inspire students at MANS with their story and a family profile they recognize: a single parent with 13 children and few resources. The faith and Burman University education elements of the Schafer story provide hope within reach. Pictured (back row): Dave, Elmer, Irvine, George, Donald, Herbert, Bob; (front row): Fred, Evelyn, Selma, Emilie ("Mother"), Ruth, Carol, Leon.

As a young farm widow in Depression-era Alberta, Emilie Schafer was left with 12 children and another on the way. Looking resolutely forward, Emilie was determined to see her children equipped for this world and the next, and she made Adventist education a family priority.

Everyone played a part. Emilie's two oldest boys, Fred (aged 15) and Dave (aged 13), worked the family farm so each of their siblings could attend Canadian Union College (now Burman University). Because of Emilie's faith and determination, the brothers' sacrifice, and the family pulling together, three generations of Schafers have succeeded through Adventist education.

That combination of faith, hope, work, and Adventist education changed the course of an entire family's story.

Some things are bred in the bone: Dave and his wife, Shirley, recently gave the founding gift for the Emilie Schafer Family Scholarship that helps motivated Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) graduates attend Burman University or trade school. Dave's siblings and Emilie's grandchildren—many successful professionals

including pastors, doctors, teachers, nurses, lawyers and past church administrators—joined in.

Thanks to Emilie and her descendants, the Schafer Family Miracle is poised to happen again. To see the Emily Schafer Family plaque that MANS high school students see every day, go to page 4.

The Schafers know their roots; they know that when children from large families with few means meet Adventist education, incredible things happen. Now the family is paying that gift forward to First Nations students—students who are seeing hope and a better future through MANS and the story of a family who claimed hope in the midst of adversity. ■

Lynn McDowell is the director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference.



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



May 2019

31



AWA Missionary Monique Wilkerson teaching English (Guyana's primary language)

AWA in Guyana: Stepping Forward to Help Venezuelan Refugees

The annual inflation rate for Venezuela in 2018 was 1,300,000 percent. Count the zeros—that is 1.3 million percent! I can't even wrap my head around that when I live in an economy with a rate of 2.4 percent for the same period, and that is a high in recent history!

Of course, news reports have covered the millions who are fleeing Venezuela into neighbouring Brazil and Colombia. Fewer people are aware of the shared border with Guyana, a frontier border with no actual border crossings; primary transportation in most of the area is by water. The vast Orinoco Delta has a widely scattered population, and in the area near the Adventist World Aviation (AWA) airbase in Mabaruma, Guyana, it is mostly Warao Indians. The Warao people live on both the Venezuelan and Guyanese sides of the border, and their own dialect is still widely spoken.

That 1.3 million percent has impacted the Waraos too. What little food is available to buy they simply can't purchase, as their money is worthless. So, in much smaller but still significant numbers, they are crossing over into Guyana seeking something better. Our AWA team has counted about 1,400 people living in three makeshift camps within just a few kilometres of the AWA base. The team has been doing their best to help with critical needs of these people, while still working with the Guyanese people as they have for many years. The reality is that the circumstances of the local people are only slightly better than that of the Waraos!

AWA project managers, Bruce and Monique Wilkerson, have been helping with hygiene, providing clean water, teaching a few words of English, and creating some fun with crafts and singing on Sabbath afternoons. However, addressing the needs of displaced people groups is not an expertise of AWA. The good news is we know who is!

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada (ADRA Canada) has stepped forward quickly in response to this crisis. Under the direct guidance of ADRA, assessments now are underway that will result in a plan to provide emergency supplies along with programs and services that will help affected people survive the crisis and prepare for the next chapter of their lives.

One bright spot in this crisis is that we are generally seeing complete family groups who are seeking something better together. There is hope, too, that the conditions at home may improve and they can return to their homes in the future.

Adventist World Aviation is pleased to be partnered with ADRA Canada to provide the aircraft and logistical support for the health, hope, and better life for the Waraos and the Guyanese people in this area.

To learn more about Adventist World Aviation, visit our website at www.flyawa.org. We can also be reached at info@flyawa.org or by calling (778) 753-6564. AWA Canada's mailing address is 302-2237 Leckie Road, Kelowna, BC, V1X 6Y5. ■

Jud Wickwire is the VP Operations for AWA Canada in Kelowna, B.C. He travels to Guyana frequently and witnessed first-hand the plight of the Venezuelan refugees during his trip in January 2019.



A Warao man carefully transcribes his English lesson.



ADRA has been building birthing clinics and equipping them so that mother and baby can have a clean, hygienic, comfortable place for this joyous moment in life.

New Birthing Clinics in Cambodia

In October 2018 I had the privilege of attending the opening of a beautiful new birthing clinic built by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) for mothers living in a rural region of northern Cambodia. About 500 people from nearby villages came to celebrate. Speeches were given by the governor of the province, an official from Global Affairs Canada, and the country director of ADRA Cambodia. I was asked to say a few words on behalf of ADRA Canada.

As I thought about what I might say, my mind drifted back to one of my previous visits to Cambodia. As a photographer and video producer, I have had the unique opportunity to visit Cambodia about 30 times over the years. I have observed many sad scenes but also a lot of progress, thanks in large part to the work of non-profit organizations such as ADRA.

On one of my visits about 20 years ago, I was filming a health training session that was being conducted by ADRA near a hospital when my translator and guide asked me if I would be interested in filming the birth of a baby. I was delighted! It is a rare opportunity for a video person to get the chance to capture that wonderful moment of new life entering our world. I am a father myself and I was present for the birth of my children. To see your

baby take that first breath, hear that cry, and see the little body turn from dark blue to a rosy pink is perhaps the greatest experience a parent can have! I was excited to try and capture a little of that emotion on video.

Sadly, on that day, the little baby that entered this world never did take that first breath. There was no sweet cry, and the little body never turned pink. Like so many babies born in rural regions of our world, this precious little child never got a chance at life. I was devastated by what I had just witnessed. I can't begin to imagine what this experience must have been like for the baby's parents.

As sad as this story is, the harsh reality is that it is only one of thousands that happened in Cambodia that year. About three million such deaths still occur each year worldwide. The numbers tend to be higher in remote regions of our world where people have limited access to health facilities, health professionals, prenatal care, or education in maternal health and the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

Thankfully, ADRA has worked hard to reduce these sad statistics in many countries of our world, including Cambodia. In 2005 we began forming women's groups in remote villages

all across the country. Health workers and trained facilitators educated women on the many things they could do to have a safe and healthy pregnancy.

This training is still being conducted in Cambodia today, through the EMBRACE project. Funded in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, EMBRACE is an ADRA project that is designed to improve the health of women of reproductive age and children under five in some of the most remote villages of our world.

EMBRACE teaches women about the importance of living healthy lives while pregnant, free from alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, including second-hand smoke. In the group training sessions, women learn that the first 1,000 days, beginning with conception, are the most important time period in a child's life for physical and mental development.

EMBRACE encourages women who know they are pregnant to make sure they are getting good nutrition every day. The training sessions teach people about the importance of eating balanced, healthy meals with lots of organic greens and vegetables to provide vital vitamins and minerals.

The importance of prenatal checkups is emphasized as a way to discover any potential complications and give the health professional an opportunity for further education. Practices of good hygiene and sanitation are also taught. If the mother is healthy, there is a better chance that the baby will be healthy.

The EMBRACE project is also conducting training for midwives to make sure that they are up to date with the latest safe practices for delivering babies. Traditional birth attendants, who are still well-respected in the village, have been included in the training and have been given new roles as local educators and promoters of good prenatal health and practice.

Some of the poorest in a remote village may not have the

resources to go into a health post for the four recommended prenatal checkups. To respond to this need, ADRA has set up a community-based transportation system in each EMBRACE village to make sure that everyone who needs help to get to the clinic has access.

ADRA has also been building birthing clinics and equipping them so that mother and baby can have a clean, hygienic, comfortable place for this joyous moment in life.

In Cambodia, the EMBRACE project is working with 168 communities, directly improving the lives of 40,000 people. The building and equipping of birthing clinics and health centres is a key component to this endeavour. The new sanitary facilities will provide a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for mothers and babies.

During my visit to the Sandan district of Cambodia, the new clinic in one of the villages was still a few days away from being opened, and so I had the opportunity to see and photograph the difference between a typical "waiting room" for women giving birth in rural Cambodia and what the new ADRA clinic will be like for them. What a contrast! One of the ladies I spoke with had been in labour, waiting outside the old government clinic on a typical hard, wooden bed frame, for 15 hours. My translator and guide then pointed out the "recovery room" that she and her baby had to look forward to—a small room where the walls and roof were made of tin sheets and roofing. In the tropical heat, this room becomes a hot box! The new ADRA birthing clinics in this region of Cambodia are being received with genuine appreciation. ■

Frank Spangler is the communications specialist for ADRA Canada.



feature interview

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

Approximately five percent of the Canadian population is of South Asian descent, which includes those from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and other countries. South Asians are the fastest growing people group in Canada, and their main religions are Hinduism and Sikhism. In response, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) recently voted to establish a South Asian Ministries department. This month we sit down with Clifmond Shameerudeen, director of the General Conference's Center for South Asian Religions (CSAR) and coordinator of South Asian Ministries for the SDACC.



Clifmond and Amy Shameerudeen with their sons, Paul and Peter.

EDITOR: How did you become so interested in reaching out to the South Asian community?

CLIFMOND SHAMEERUDEEN: My journey began as a teenager. I remember looking at the church and my community, which was predominately a Hindu and Muslim neighbourhood in Guyana. I asked myself, *Why does my church show little interest in reaching out to my*

people group? This question bothered me as a teenager and for many years later.

When it came time for me to choose my course of study at the Adventist college in Trinidad and Tobago, my local church assumed that I was going to study to become a pastor, but I felt that I could not study ministry for two reasons: I did not personally feel called to ministry,

and I did not want to be part of a church organization that had little to no interest in sharing the gospel with my people group.

God was patient with me. In 2007, He gave me a bride I didn't deserve. Amy and I started a family with the goal of continuing to follow God's leading in our lives. Then God spoke to me through a sermon. He told me that this is my church, despite how broken it may be. I could no longer look at the hurdles that prevented me from wanting to be a minister in God's church. With Amy's support, I completed an M.Div. at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

During the last semester, the Holy Spirit brought back to my mind my purpose for studying and my calling. Without any reservation, I contacted the conference where I grew up. They were excited to have me but did not have any means of getting me there. Well, God had a plan. Two months before graduation, the office of Adventist Mission at the GC interviewed Amy and me. Then, in July 2011, we accepted a call to be church planters among the South Asian people in the Caribbean Union, Inter-American Division. This call was significant to me because of the burden I had many years before as a teenager. God listened to my plea and called me to partner with Him in reaching the Indo-Caribbean people group.

The story is not complete as yet. After six years in the Caribbean Union, we have seen God's handiwork among His people there. In addition, we accepted another assignment in 2017. My role is to partner with the SDACC in developing and expanding the ministry among South Asians in Canada.

EDITOR: *What does the CSAR do and why is it needed?*

CLIFMOND: In 1990, the General Conference voted to create the CSAR, whose purpose is to assist the world church in taking the gospel to the unreached areas of the world where South Asians reside. These include the 10/40 window and other areas where South Asians call home. For many years the Adventist Church focused primarily on reaching people of Christian background. The world church felt that God has given Adventists a responsibility to take the three angels' messages to the South Asian people all over the world.

Today, 13 percent of the world's population is made up of South Asians who subscribe either to Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, or other South Asian religions. CSAR was set up to:

- Inspire, equip, and assist Seventh-day Adventists to establish new groups of disciples among non-Christian people groups; and

- Work closely with division leaders to
 - ▶ research the culture, beliefs, and practices of specific people groups in order to appropriately contextualize the gospel while remaining faithful to the biblical message;
 - ▶ train and equip global mission pioneers and other church workers and members in contextualized methods and models based on Christ's example of wholistic ministry;
 - ▶ assist in developing mission strategies and practices; and
 - ▶ build bridges of understanding with major world religions and philosophies.
- (Source: Adventist Mission Manual)

EDITOR: *How can others get involved in the work of the centre?*

CLIFMOND: The centre was set up to serve the SDACC and the world church. To get your local church involved, contact the South Asian Ministries office through your local conference. The South Asian Ministries office can assist in planting a church among a South Asian people group, educate on how to reach out to South Asians, and provide resources such as bible studies, tracts, etc. Many of these resources are already available on the CSAR website: csar.globalmissioncenters.org.

The centre is for everyone who desires to share the good news of Jesus Christ to their South Asian neighbours, friends, and family.

EDITOR: *Could you tell us a little about the centre's plans?*

CLIFMOND: After much prayer, the SDACC Communication department is partnering with South Asian Ministries to provide a small magazine that contains friendly evangelism tools and resources, and stories of South Asians who are finding Jesus Christ. This magazine is for all members in Canada, whether you are actively engaged with South Asians, are planning to connect, or you have neighbours who are South Asians.

The magazine will contain testimonies, prayer requests, tips for connecting with South Asians, information on understanding the South Asian worldview, and how to obtain relevant resources. ■

Stan Jensen is the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.

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SDA Church in Canada

More Than \$1 Million Awarded to North American Division Schools



On March 8, 2019, the Versacare Foundation awarded \$1,159,000 USD in grant funding to Adventist education, including \$920,000 to 118 primary and secondary schools across the United States and Canada in support of STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

The STEM grant program is open to every North American Division (NAD) conference- or church-sponsored primary or secondary school and provides funding in three categories:

- \$5,000 for smaller schools of three classrooms or less
- \$10,000 for larger schools of four or more classrooms and 12-year schools
- \$10,000 for senior academies

STEM funds can be put toward many uses, such as purchasing classroom smart boards, tablets or Chrome-books for student use; equipping or updating student computer labs; installing 3D printers and related software; initiating or funding robotics programs; instruction in software coding; and equipping chemistry, physics, and biology labs.

Versacare Inc. is the largest independent private foundation supporting the varied ministries of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church with grant funding. A self-funded lay organization, it is made up of lay Adventists as well as present and former Adventist Church employees. It awarded its first grants in 1990, totalling \$26,000, to five different Adventist ministries. Since then, it has awarded nearly 1,200 grants totalling over \$26 million. This is Versacare's fourth successive year funding STEM grants. To date, Versacare has provided 228 schools with a total of \$1,825,000.

This year 10 Adventist schools in four Canadian conferences received Versacare funding totalling \$85,000.

Alberta Conference

South Side Christian School: \$5,000
 Peace Hills Adventist School: \$5,000
 College Heights Christian School: \$10,000
 Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool: \$10,000
 Chinook Winds Adventist Academy: \$10,000

British Columbia Conference

Lakeview Christian School: \$10,000
 Okanagan Christian School: \$10,000
 Pleasant Valley Christian Academy: \$5,000

Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference

Red River Valley Jr. Academy: \$10,000

Maritime Conference

Sandy Lake Academy: \$10,000

The SDACC Office of Education deeply appreciates what Versacare has done and continues to do to support Adventist education across the North American Division.

For more information about Versacare's STEM grant program and how schools can apply, please visit www.versacare.org. ■

Alberta



Crave 2019 leaders and attendees in Banff, Alta.

Photo: Eric L. Ollila

Crave

First Adventist Young Adult *Unconference* in Alberta

During the weekend of March 22–24, 2019, the Alberta Conference Youth Department hosted its first young adult retreat, “Crave.” The event was held at the Banff Park Lodge in the beautiful and scenic town of Banff, Alta.

Lyle Notice, Alberta Conference youth director and the main organizer of the event, explained that Crave Retreat was unique in several ways. First, it was an “unconference”—meaning that the format was designed to allow attendees to self-direct several aspects of the weekend schedule, in contrast to other conference-type events where every detail is scheduled. While Crave designated times for seminars, meals, and group activities, the schedule was not crowded and allowed for some flexibility and customization.

Attendees had the opportunity to come, attend sessions, and then spend time enjoying the beautiful outdoors and

scenery, reflecting, praying, reading their Bibles, journaling, or engaging with others who were in attendance.

Another unique aspect of the Crave event was in the purposefully small group size. Pastor Lyle had intentionally limited attendance to the 25–30 range. He had to turn down about 50 additional applicants who also wanted to attend. The reason for this was that Pastor Lyle wanted to keep the group dynamic collaborative and interactive throughout.

The topics were also relevant to the young-adult age group. Subjects of sexuality, marriage, success, and mindset were some of the themes addressed during the weekend. The main speaker for the event, Dr. Spence from Ontario, delivered exceptional presentations on each of the said topics. Then, after each presentation, Dr. Spence gathered the group in a round-table discussion about what was presented.

Seminar participants were given opportunities to question, challenge, and comment on the presentation. Oftentimes, the attendees learned as much from the question-and-answer period as they did from the presentation itself.

In the end, Crave retreat was an “unconference” event, tailor-made for a small group of young adults. It provided them ample time to actually enjoy time with one another and the beautiful God-given creation and scenery around them, and they had opportunity to get close to the speaker, get their questions answered, and probe deeper into the subject matter that was presented.

The next Crave retreat will be held in 2020. Details will be forthcoming. ■

—Eric Ollila, director of communications/IT/Media, Alberta Conference

British Columbia

Six-Day Feast of “Hope and Wholeness”

March 4–9, 2019, Fraser Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church (Surrey, B.C.) hosted a feast of “hope and wholeness” under the leadership of the pastor, Ken Naidoo. The Westminster church graciously offered their church as the venue for these educational and spiritually uplifting presentations. Sister churches, including the Abundant Life church, Inspire Ministries company, Vancouver Fil-Can church, and Burnaby Fil-Can church provided the nightly praise teams and special music presentations. Finger food, sandwiches, and pancit were provided nightly.

Vic Louis Arreola, director of Asian/Pacific Ministries for the Pacific Union Conference and the North American Division, and his wife, Dr. Imelda Arreola, a health specialist, served as guest lecturers.

Each evening started with a welcome, praise time, and special music. Then, a presentation of selected health topics followed. After the health lecture, a true-or-false quiz was conducted by Pastor Naidoo based on the presentations given the previous evening. Books or bags of fruit were awarded during prize draws. Tokens of appreciation were also offered to those who brought guests.



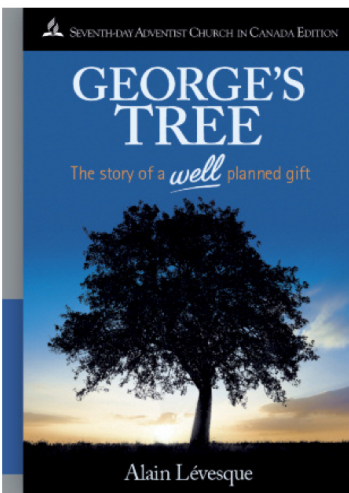
L to R: Vic and Imelda Arreola; newly baptized husband and wife, Fernando and Grace Arceo; Flora Moore; Linda and Ken Naidoo.

The evangelism portion of the night consisted of six Bible topics. Dr. Imelda Arreola presented on the prevention, reversal, and even possible curing of various illnesses including hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and stroke. Pastor Vic Arreola spoke on topics such as Hope for the Future, Good News About the Judgment, and Hope in Jesus’s Death and Resurrection. On the first night of the meetings, the seven pervading fears

of humankind were discussed—for example, the fear of nuclear weapons and the fear of world religions.

An appeal was made, which led to the baptism of Fernando and Grace Arceo and Flora Moore. Hallelujah for the mighty workings of the Holy Spirit! ■

— *Romi Talento,*
public relations officer,
Fraser Valley church



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Ontario

Ontario Conference Ministries Convention Ignites a Discipleshift in Over 800 Church Leaders



Dr. Jesse Wilson speaking at the worship session during the Ontario Conference's 2019 "Discipleshift" Ministries Convention. Over 800 church leaders attended.

Over 800 church leaders recently gathered in Richmond Hill, Ont., for Ontario Conference's 2019 "Discipleshift" Ministries Convention. Conference, union, and division ministry partners, pastors, and lay leaders joined forces on March 22 and 23 to inspire attendees to make disciples who will then make more disciples, as per the conference's 2019 Discipleshift theme.

Featuring uplifting yet challenging devotionals and leading-edge workshops, the biennial training event signalled a paradigm shift in our churches from a model of programming to one of discipleship. Reynold Hazelwood, organizing committee head, stated, "Saturday night, many people said, 'Now I understand what Discipleshift is.' They were going back to their churches with a new sense

of direction and vigour."

With a record 33 workshop presenters, attendees had a plethora of seminar choices. Among the many unique, relevant sessions was one on deaf ministries, presented by Alan Meis, vice-principal of Battle Creek Academy, as well as sign language interpreter and deaf lay pastor, Paul Kelly. They urged people to consider, "What if, in the story of the lost sheep, the lost sheep was deaf?" Other standouts were seminars on autism, Muslim ministry, ministry to young women using 21st-century tools, men's ministry, and digital ministry.

Skillfully weaving the Discipleshift theme into their messages, worship speakers included Sung Kwon, North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services director; Pastor Tricia Wynn-Payne of Lake Region Conference; Jesse Wilson,

Oakwood University religion professor; and conference president, Mansfield Edwards, who presented the final charge on Sabbath evening. Wynn-Payne summarized their messages on pursuing discipleship regardless of cost, saying, "When Jesus calls, we've gotta answer."

Overall, participants were excited, blessed, and ready to hit the ground running. Lula Bestman-Mombo, of Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church, attended a digital ministry seminar and reflected, "I've gotten more ideas on ways that we can reach the community. Digital ministry is one thing that I will take back to the church and implement. I'm now motivated to go out and do more." ■

*Christelle Agboka,
communication director,
Ontario Conference*

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of March 31, 2019, there were 396 depositors with a total deposit of \$29,372,629. There were 89 loans with a value of \$29,128,297.

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

Correction: In the April 2019 issue of *Messenger*, page 40, the caption for the second photo on that page incorrectly identified the Pathfinder being baptized. The correct name is Jane Cyrell Alo.

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MAY

Local Church Budget	May 04
Disaster & Famine Relief*	May 11
Local Church Budget	May 18
Conference Advance.....	May 25

JUNE

Local Church Budget	June 01
Canadian French Ministries*	June 08
Local Church Budget	June 15
Conference Advance.....	June 22
Canadian Native Ministries*	June 29

*Special materials provided.



■ Announcements

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- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click "Writers' Guidelines" then click "announcements."

■ Announcements

Spirit of the Pioneers—Beauvallon Church 100th Anniversary and North East Regional Camp Meeting, July 5–7, 2019. Come remember the past and celebrate how we are being led into the future, with our special guests, the Melashanko Family and Marian Kossovan. Info at <http://beauvallon100.ca> or call 780/366-3982. (6/19)

66th Annual TJA/CAA Alumni Weekend—Crawford Adventist Academy will be holding its 66th Anniversary Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 24–26, 2019 honouring TJA classes of 1979 (Grade 10), 1974 (Grade 10), 1969, and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, and 1989. We welcome all alumni and families, former and current administrators, board members, faculty and staff, parents, friends, and supporters. For more information, contact Judy Gamez, Development Director, 416/633-0090 ext. 248, jgamez@caasda.com. Visit our website www.caasda.com; Twitter @CrawAdv Academy; Instagram @crawfordadvacad; Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/19)

Missing Members: The Toronto Central Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Michael Asumeng, Merlyne Marsh, Gregory McIntosh, Keturah McLean, Karen Miller, Mavis Mullings, Marlene Nelson, Denise Noel, Martin Noel, Randy Noel, Beverly Ocampo, Valdon Paul, Rose Peddie, Baptiste Peter, Michael Pierre, Debra Piome, Janette Reid, Garfield Robinson, Maureen Saint, Mary Salim, Leonard Samuels, Hubert Shaw, Uretha Simon, Josephine Smith, Yvonne Smith, Althea Sutherland, Carol Symonette, Christine Taylor, Jerry Taylor, Rosetta Taylor, Handy Telford, Doreen Thomas, Marcia Thomas, Margo Thompson, Sharon Tousaint, Patricia Treacher, Lois Watson, Pearle Watt, Denise Wiafe, Richard Wiafe, Laverne Williams, Martin Williams, Vernon Williams, Stephanie Wilson, Paul Withworth, Janet Wright, Mark Wright. If you have a current phone number, address, or email for any of these people, please contact Petra McGann, church clerk, at 416/784-0261 or tccentralclerk@adventistontario.org.

Missing Members: The Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church (Ont.) is seeking the following missing members: Matthew Allen, Victor Allen, Tom Bullock, Claudia Campbell, Jim Campbell, Brandon DeRush, Joseph DeRush, Donna Johnson, Lillian Kavur, Michael Kavur, Donna Khan, Vickie McFarlane, Carla Melo, Robert Milmine, Luchen Pearson, Sherry Ann Reynolds, Tyler Slijboom, Urella Vassell, Yvon Veileux, Ian Zinner. If you have a current phone number, address, or email for any of these people, please contact Elaine Habicher, church clerk, at elaine.habicher@outlook.com; or Paul Casey, pastor, at pcasey@adventistontario.org. (5/19)

■ New Members

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Lars Andersen was baptized in Abbotsford, B.C., on Dec. 15, 2018, by Pastor Luc Sabot. Lars first became acquainted with the Seventh-day Adventist faith through the Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church's literature ministry at the local Sunday flea market. This was followed up with Bible study with church members and Pastor Sabot. Lars is now a member of the Abbotsford church.

Anitha Jesudasan professed her faith in Abbotsford, B.C., on Dec. 15, 2018, with Pastor Luc Sabot. She is now a member of the Abbotsford church.

Alise (Alisi) Pollock professed her faith in Abbotsford, B.C., on Dec. 15, 2018, with Pastor Luc Sabot. She is

now a member of the Abbotsford church.

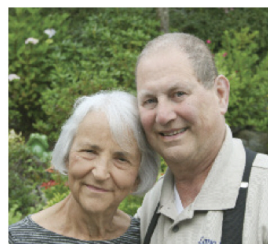
Kevin Pollock was baptized in Abbotsford, B.C., on Dec. 15, 2018, by Pastor Luc Sabot. He is now a member of the Abbotsford church.

■ Births

Andrew Hudson Houghton was born on April 6, 2017, to Danny and Sondra (née Smith) Houghton, of Lynden, Wash. Danny and Sondra are also active members of the Abbotsford Seventh-day Adventist Church.

■ Anniversaries

Joseph and Merilyn (née Wettstein) Billock of Everson, Wash., celebrated their 50th wedding



anniversary on Dec. 30, 2018, followed by a family get-together in April 2019. They were married in Langley, B.C. The Billocks have three children, Greg Billock, Becky Billock, and Paul Billock; and four grandchildren.

Raymond and Gwen (née Fry) Smith of Abbotsford, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on



Dec. 15, 2018, with a small gathering of family and close friends. The Smiths have two children, Glenda (Chris) Smith Hess and Todd Smith; four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

■ Tribute

Erna and Ewald Wutzke can be described in many ways, but warm-hearted, trustworthy, conscientious, and sincere are just a few. Their love



for God is vibrant and strong, and they work tirelessly to achieve goals.

The Wutzkes have been members of the Edmonton Central church for over 50 years. They began attending Edmonton Central in 1953 by way of an evangelist series conducted by Pastor E. E. Duncan and were baptized in 1961.

This couple has served in various roles, including deacon, deaconess, elder, and were among the first members to lead out in the Dorcas Society (Community Services). Every Wednesday a faithful group of ladies and Ewald work relentlessly on their projects, whether it be cutting fabrics for quilting or preparing ingredients for baking. All proceeds from these events go toward church investment programs.

Erna and Ewald gave their final contribution to the church bake sale last fall. As I watched, they transported boxes and plastic containers of home-made baked goods. When asked why they continued to do this for so many years when retirement was supposed to be for relaxation, their response was quick: "When God leads the way, we follow."

Why we do what we do is extremely important, particularly when it comes to our working lives and careers. That's why Paul challenged the Ephesians to do their work, not with eye service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart (see Eph. 6: 6, 7).

■ Obituaries

Marguerite (née Elliott) Covey was born on Nov. 15, 1928, in Cole Harbour, N.S., and died on Nov. 5, 2018, in Williams Lake, B.C. Marguerite served as a faithful charter member of the Dartmouth, N.S., church for many years. She was a deaconess, Sabbath school superintendent, and Pathfinder leader. She loved going to Ingathering every fall, cooking, and inviting visitors home for Sabbath meals. Marguerite and her husband, Quentin, moved to B.C. to be closer to family and has lived there for the past 20 plus years. Marguerite is predeceased by her

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husband, Quentin Covey; parents, Harold and Beatrice Elliott; brother, Harold Elliott; sister, Sylvia (Buddy) Smith. Surviving: daughters, Marion (Ray) Betz of Portland, Ore., Shirley (Cameron) Johnston of Williams Lake, B.C.; sister, Jean (Frederick) Parish; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Alexandra (née Cochkanoff) Jackson was born on March 2, 1927, in Calgary, Alta., and died on March 14, 2018, in Salmon Arm, B.C. Following her baptism in 1966, Alexandra "Sasha" taught in church schools in Kelowna, B.C., as well as Peoria, Beiseker, and Lethbridge, Alta. She enjoyed Bible study and teaching adult Sabbath school, and remained faithful to Jesus all her life. Alexandra is predeceased by her husband, Robert Jackson; parents, Joachim and Barbara Cochkanoff; brother, Orest Cochkanoff of Halifax, N.S.; and sister, Irene Nettles of Coquitlam, B.C. Surviving: son, Raymond (Marion) Jackson of Chase, B.C.; daughters, Barbara Raney of Clavet, Sask., Kathryn Egolf of Lacombe, Alta., Sylvia (George) Haines of Kelowna; sisters, Helen Fanslow of Missoula, Mont., Anna Gandossi of North Vancouver, B.C.; 12 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Helen (née Tataryn) Kapiniak was born on May 6, 1924, in Ketchikan, Sask., and died on Dec. 2, 2018, in Kelowna, B.C. She served as a deaconess and worked in the Dorcas Society (now Community Services). Her hospitality was outstanding as she invited family, friends, and strangers to her table. Helen is predeceased by her husband, Joseph Kapiniak; parents, Michael and Frances Tataryn; sisters, Anne, Ethyl, and Pauline Gallant. Surviving: sons, Arthur (Yvonne) Kapiniak, Samuel (Lynn) Kapiniak, Leonard Kapiniak, Brian Kapiniak; daughter, Rhonda Kapiniak; brothers,

Willie (Lynda) Tataryn, Steven (Ann) Tataryn, Peter (Pat) Tataryn, John (Pat) Tataryn, Aaron (Doreen) Tataryn, Joseph (Shirley) Tataryn; sisters, Mary Gallant, Ruth (William) Chobotar, Esther (Luwayne) Stout, Lilian (Les) Berreth, Gloria Nicol, Sylvia (Reg) Retzlaff; Barbara (Len) Sylvester; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Blaine Mark Michael Neumann was born on Oct. 18, 1963, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Dec. 24, 2017, in Devon, Alta. Blaine completed a religious studies degree at Burman University (then Canadian University College), where he was well-known as a versatile musician and for his baritone voice as part of CUC's travelling summer quartet. Blaine is predeceased by his parents, Elsie and Fred Neumann. Surviving: brother, Henry Neumann; and sister, Lynn (John) McDowell.

Elsie Violet (née Kiehlbauch) Neumann was born on May 23, 1928, in Hilliard, Alta., and died on Aug. 2, 2017, in Devon, Alta. Voted Friendliest Girl on the Hilltop when she attended Canadian Junior College, Elsie was a charter member of the Edmonton West End church and the first secretary of Coralwood Academy. Elsie is predeceased by her husband, Fred; mother and father, Lydia and Edward Kiehlbauch; and brother, Edwin Kiehlbauch. Surviving: sons, Henry and Blaine; daughter, Lynn (John) McDowell; and two grandchildren.

Henry Craig Fredrick Neumann was born on Jan. 26, 1959, in Edmonton, Alta., and died on Jan. 6, 2018, in Edmonton. Henry was the first of many student missionaries to go from Canadian Union College to the Marshall Islands. Henry is predeceased by his parents, Elsie and Fred Neumann, and his brother, Blaine Neumann. Surviving: sister, Lynn (John) McDowell.

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from the editor



SOMETIMES WE NEED A SOFT REBOOT. In marriage, friendships, work, or just life in general, it seems like we can handle the big stuff better than the little things.

It was one of *those* days. You know the ones, when nothing seems to go right. I was about to embark on a 10-day trip through several cities for a handful of meetings and conventions. I woke up late, so I had to stop and pick up breakfast on the way. My breakfast sandwich came to me with bacon on it, so I had to go back and ask for it to be remade. There was an incident on the highway that delayed my arrival to the airport by one hour. I ended up in the “slow lane” through security and immigration, so by the time I arrived in the airport lounge, my favourite meal was no longer being served.

The airline moved me from my preferred aisle seat to the window. By the time I got up for the second time on my five-hour flight, I got “the look” from one of my seatmates. My checked luggage was the last one off the carousel, despite its priority tag. The car rental shuttle left just as I exited the airport, making me wait the longest 20 minutes of my life for the next one. I was given a large minivan instead of the smaller vehicle I had reserved. My usual one-hour drive to the hotel took three instead.

I headed to my favourite restaurant for a simple dinner of soup and salad. And guess what? There was a one-hour wait to be seated. Instead, I went to my least favourite eatery and watched while others who arrived after me were served first.

And then I saw him. A man about my age, wearing clothes three sizes too large, unkempt hair, looking ragged and broken, walked in. *But for the grace of God, that could have been me*, I thought. The man had as much food as his meagre eight dollars could afford him. I asked the staff to charge his meal to my bill. I doubt I will ever see this man again, but without even knowing it, he changed my whole outlook. For this, I am indebted to him.

I walked out to the parking lot and saw an aged couple who appeared to be living in their 30+ year-old car. The woman sat in the driver’s seat reading, and the man, lying in the back seat, appeared to be in obvious pain. I asked if there was anything I could do to help, to which she replied, “Can you cure pancreatic cancer or provide medical insurance?”

I think they might have given everything they had to deal with the kind of problems I had that day. Right there, I asked God to give my heart and mind a Psalm 51:10 reboot, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” ■

from the editor
A Soft Reboot

by Joan Tanasiychuk

A BACKWARD GLANCE

MOTHER'S DAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY. In honour of Mother's Day, A Backward Glance brings you a few clippings that represent some of the ways Canadian churches and schools, as well as the *Messenger*, have paid homage to mothers.

Mother's Day Gift That Pleased

It was Mother's Day and Kenny just knew that in some way he was going to have a gift for his mother.

Kenny Sinclair watches Bible School each Sunday over Channel 2 in Calgary. At the close of the programme, Miss Kathie invited the children to call in and have their mothers' names entered in the drawing for a beautiful potted flower. Kenny told his friends that he knew his mother's name would be drawn because there was no other way that he could have a gift to present to her. Imagine his happiness as Kathie knocked at his door with the flowers to present to his mother!

Kenny, along with over two thousand more children, loves Bible School. We cannot help but feel that the image



Mrs. Betty Sinclair receives a beautiful flower plant from her son, Kenny, on Mother's Day. Kenny, a boy with childlike faith, believed his mother's name would be drawn and his faith was rewarded.

of Seventh-day Adventists has been lifted because of this wonderful children's programme.

June 1, 1966—*Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 12, No. 10.



The Kindergarten children sang, "Happy, Happy Home." Of course, mother is one of the family in particular who makes it happy.

The children in the Woodland Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, at South River, participated in a Mother's Day Program, May 8. The leaders of the divisions gave good direction for the Sabbath School program. All mothers received a flower when they came to Sabbath School.

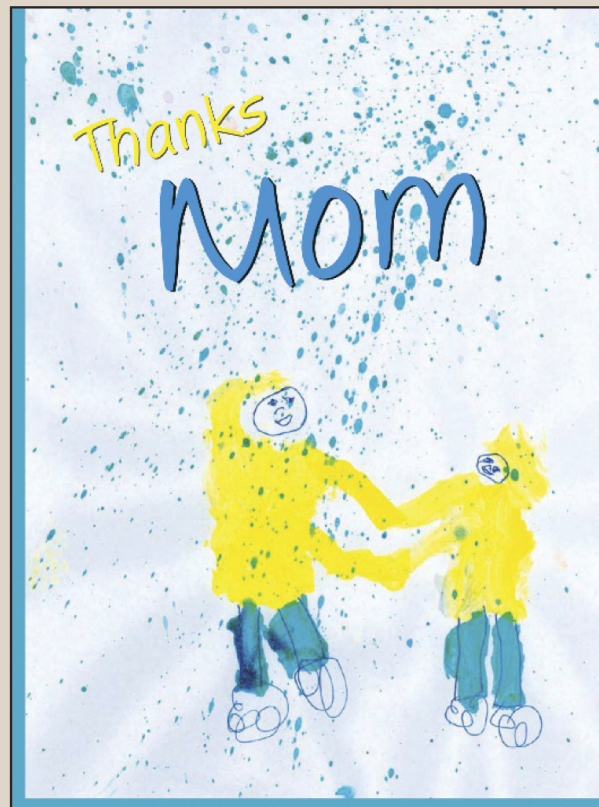
The work done for the children sows seed in growing minds. These young lives receive impressions which remain with them all their lives.

I would challenge every Sabbath School to put forth its best efforts to train the children. Many of our Sabbath Schools are doing a great work for the children. God is pleased with this. May God bless every worker.



The three daughters of Pastor and Mrs. Orpana sang for the mothers. From left to right: Louise, Linda and Lori.

July 30, 1971—*Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 40, No. 15.



"Mom and Me in the Rain," an illustration by Maddie Holloway, daughter of Crystal Steeves, former *Messenger* editor. It was published in the 2007 Mother's Day issue. May 2007—*Canadian Adventist Messenger*, Vol. 76, No. 5.

College Park Baby Dedication



On Sabbath, May 12, a special Mother's Day service was given at the College Park Church in Oshawa. During the service twenty-one babies were dedicated by Pastor E. E. Duncan.

Special music was given by the children's choir under the direction of Paul Hoar. The Mother's Day message was entitled "Portrait of a Mother."

How long has it been since you've seen, or have you ever seen, 21 babies dedicated during one service? June 20, 1962—*Canadian Union Messenger*, Vol. 53, No. 12.

Ice cream. Shae-lynn, gr. 2

Hugs and kisses. Sarah, gr. 3

Read me a story. George, Jr. K'

My mom picks up my toys. Jairo, gr. 1

There is a rule in our family that you can't have sleepovers until you're 10, but my mom let me have just one sleepover with some of my friends. Nadine, gr. 2

She gave me the best birthday present. Abigail, gr. 3

My mom loves me. Zion, gr. 2

Take me for walks.

Tuck me in at bed time. Rafael, Jr. K

She loves me. Samuel, gr. 3

Go to the park. Denika, kindergarten

Clean up my room. Jewel, kindergarten

Gave birth so that I could be alive. Jessie, gr. 1

An excerpt from the article "Thanks Mom." Students at Red River Valley Jr. Academy in Winnipeg, Man., answered the question, "What is the greatest thing your mother ever did for you?" May 2007—*Canadian Adventist Messenger*, Vol. 76, No. 5.

ADRA recently got a new look and renewed our focus on restoring Justice, extending Compassion and sharing God's Love.

Our Purpose

To serve humanity so all may live as God intended.

What We Do

We are the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—part of the 20-million strong Adventist community, with hundreds of thousands of churches globally and the world's largest integrated healthcare and education network.

We deliver relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 130 countries—regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, gender, or religious association.

By partnering with local communities, organizations, and governments, we are able to deliver culturally relevant programs and build local capability for sustainable change.

Fueled By Faith

As the global humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it is our faith that drives our work of compassion. Founded on Biblical beliefs of justice, compassion, and love, we are able to unite people and organizations around programs that deliver lasting change. We use these to address underlying causes of distress now, while cultivating a better tomorrow by unlocking the potential in people and kick starting a cycle of generosity so today's beneficiaries become tomorrow's leaders. In this way, we can be sure our work has a longlasting effect on not just individuals but whole communities.



Adventist Development & Relief Agency

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