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Wait for It... (p. 17), Sowing Seeds (p. 22)

november 2020

# canadian adventist Messenger

## HEALING FROM WAR

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# Messenger

November 2020 Vol. 89 No. 11

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**The Canadian Adventist Messenger**—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$20. Printed by Marade Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



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### Submission Deadlines

January issue **November 1**  
February issue **December 1**  
March issue **January 1**

>> View this issue online at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger)

**Postmaster: Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Messenger subscriptions, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8**

Canada Post agreement number 40069337.



heart to heart

“Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.”

—Psalm 119:165, ESV

## Personal Peace

This simple statement, made through the inspiration of God, stands at the crossroads where God and humans meet.

Most of us crave peace—peace in our homes, at work, in our communities, and on our planet. But peace anywhere and everywhere begins with inner, personal peace. If we don't have peace within, then there's no point looking for it anywhere else.

I've met individuals—and perhaps you have too—who are so intent on discovering peace, that they are willing to go anywhere in the world or retreat deeply into themselves to find this missing peace. And yet, finding this missing *piece* to life needn't take us elsewhere to some coach or movement. Peace is about a frame of mind. It begins with the question, *Who actually calls the shots in my life?*

For many people, life is a constant tug of war over who frames—who controls—their daily decisions.

Inner peace becomes ours when we quit trying to grab the steering wheel out of God's hands and substitute our will for His. For many of us, our greatest struggles begin when we stubbornly follow our own inclinations instead of embracing God's approach.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you and I were willing to let God decide our actions, thoughts, and attitudes all day long?

Why don't we try it and find out? ■

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



# A DREAM COMES TRUE

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

Jade Rabbit, MANS Valedictorian 2020  
Freshman at Burman University

**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. They can see themselves in the story and at Burman—and a life they never thought possible.

## 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.



## MANS Scholarships

*You can Make a Difference Too*



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN  
NATIVE SCHOOL

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Watch Jade and Shaneek's interview, ***“The Valedictorians: Two Best Friends Speak”*** at [mans1.ca](http://mans1.ca).

To donate to MANS scholarships, contact  
**Lynn McDowell**  
(403) 342-5044 x 233  
lmcowell@albertaadventist.ca  
Alberta Conference  
5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe,  
AB T4L 2G5





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# FREEDOM OF RELIGION



**Q:** *I was brought up an Adventist and have always attended church when I was not working. My job is in the trucking industry. Up until recently, I was willing to work seven days a week to provide for my family. Now, after having been rebaptized, I'm under the conviction that I can no longer do that. The company I work for doesn't understand why I want Saturdays off and is very disappointed with me, stating that this is the first problem they've had with me. What can I do without losing my job?*

**A:** Thank you for your question. This is undoubtedly a stressful time for you. Your employer is understandably confused. They might even know that you've been a Seventh-day Adventist for many years and that you've never asked for a Sabbath accommodation until recently. They likely will not understand why, or how, that could have changed.

That said, your employer has an obligation under human rights statutes to accommodate your religious belief and practice. In your case, the applicable legislation will depend on whether your employer is involved in transportation only within the province, or across provincial or national boundaries. If they operate only within one province, the provincial human rights statute will apply. If they operate across boundaries, then the Canadian Human Rights Act will apply. If you have to seek assistance from a human rights tribunal, it will be important to ensure that you have chosen the correct forum. But hopefully you won't have to get to that point.

Your employer does have a legal obligation to accommodate you, provided that you have a sincere religious objection to secular work on Sabbath. Your employer cannot question whether your beliefs are *correct*, but they can reasonably question whether your beliefs are *sincere*. They can ask for some evidence and explanation about whether you genuinely need the day off for religious observance or simply prefer having weekends off.

The fact that you previously worked voluntarily on Sabbaths complicates the issue. Fortunately, courts and human rights tribunals recognize that people's beliefs and levels of religious commitment change over time. Do your best to be respectful and provide clear information about your current religious beliefs. It would be very useful to have the pastor who rebaptized you provide a supporting letter that explains how your beliefs and convictions have changed and developed recently. The letter can also explain Seventh-day Adventist beliefs concerning Sabbath observance.

If you're a member of a union, you should contact your shop steward and seek some assistance because, in a union environment, the union has the right to pursue this on your behalf. If you're not unionized, then this matter has to be addressed directly between you and your employer.

While your employer has to accommodate your beliefs and practices, you also have a duty to work with the employer to find a reasonable solution.

If you run into problems and the employer is not prepared to provide you with a Sabbath accommodation, you will need to find a lawyer in your area who understands human rights law. The religious liberty department of your local conference office may be able to refer you to a lawyer who can help. ■

---

*Kevin Boonstra is a lawyer in British Columbia. Send your religious liberty questions to [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca).*

*Disclaimer: This article is written for general information only. It is not legal advice and should not be relied on as legal advice. All individual circumstances are different. If you have a legal issue or problem, seek the advice of a qualified lawyer in your area.*





# Lasting Peace in a Time of Crisis

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."—*John 14:27, NKJV*

**H**as the global pandemic been an uncanny reminder that the world has no lasting peace to offer? Just take a moment to think about the short span of time it took for our world, including the G7, to be shaken to the core. Just a year ago, who would have thought that frustration from job loss, economic collapse, trauma, health crises, and death would be robbing us of our peace today?

Finding peace remains the greatest aspiration of humanity today. Though fallen from God's ideal, we still bear traces of the image of our God of Peace. We thirst to see all things go well. We rejoice having a loving and caring family wherein peace abides. We love the idea of living in a trouble-free community. We wish we could stay healthy all the time; long for assurance of marital harmony; strive to be able to make ends meet; wish we would never have to experience the death of a loved one; and so on. Oh, how we wish that COVID-19 had never happened and that it could now just go away! If our peace can so easily be shattered, the question becomes, *how can we find lasting peace?*

Fortunately, Christ offers the peace the world needs. Take this comforting quote from Christ: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27, NKJV).

Most people have no problem with the first part of the text, "Peace I leave with you ... give to you." It sounds comforting. But the

second part they find troubling: "... not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Perhaps this last portion is uncomfortable because it implies that to access peace, we must walk the narrow way.

The reason God's path for us is narrow isn't because God wanted to make it difficult for us, but because the devil is doing everything in his power to block our connection to the Saviour and to blind us from seeing the light of God's truth. John 8:44 says that the devil "was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him" (NKJV).

But we can fight against the devil and the havoc he wreaks in the world. In fact, Jesus Christ Himself is our only source of hope, strength, and peace amidst chaos—and His solution lies in the work He needs to do *in our hearts*. "Abide in Me, and I in you," He says. "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4, 5, NKJV). ■



*Kwasi Ansah-Adu is president of the Quebec Conference.*



children's ministries



# safe DELIVERY OF A SPECIAL MESSAGE

Boys and girls, I have some questions for you. Do you like to receive emails, cards, or letters? Do you like to write letters to others? Sharing information with those around us is just what Jesus wants us to be doing. Did you know that? Really, it's true!

Jesus always liked to share *His* special messages with the people around Him *and* with those He went out searching to find! He would teach them lessons by telling them stories called parables. He has such a special message to tell to the world, and that message can continue to travel around the world. How? You guessed it ... with *you!* Jesus wants you to know that you are able to share this message too. Would you like to?

I have a story to tell you about a pigeon called Cheri Ami. She was donated to the US Army during World War I. Cheri Ami was trained to deliver special messages. The soldiers would attach their message to her leg. When Cheri Ami took flight, she knew her travel path.

On Oct. 3, 1918, Major Charles White Whittlesey and his men were trapped without their needed supplies. The men who were sent as runners to provide messages continued to be shot at during the war. So they decided to send Cheri Ami, hoping that she would be able to deliver their much-needed message and that help would be on the way!

Cheri Ami had an important job to do and an important message to be delivered—so, off she was

sent. When she arrived back to her loft at the division headquarters, her message was received! It said, "We are along the road parallel 276.4. Our artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. [Please] stop it."

Cheri Ami was a brave pigeon. She did her job well. Just as the soldiers depended on her to do her best, Jesus expects the same of us.

Do you want to be like Cheri Ami? Ask God to help you share the message of Jesus to the world. Tell others that He is their best friend and their Creator, and that He loves them and wants to spend all of eternity with them in heaven.

Look up these special verses and share them: Jeremiah 31:3; John 6:40; John 14:1–3. ■

*Amanda Matthews is the children's ministries co-ordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.*



CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES

Seventh-day Adventist  
Church in Canada





# Creation Corner for Kids

*Come, my people, enter into your rooms and close your doors behind you; hide for a little while until indignation runs its course.—Isaiah 26:20, NASB*

## Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel

The golden-mantled ground squirrel looks a lot like a chipmunk, except that it's bigger and doesn't have stripes on its face. Like chipmunks, these cute little rodents are fun to watch. They're curious, and if you're quiet enough and sit still long enough, they might even come right up to you. During the summer months, they hurry around during the day, busily gathering food—pine and spruce seeds, berries, grass, and sometimes mushrooms and a few insects. If they see an enemy like a hawk or a

coyote, they'll dash into the nearest hole and hide in their burrow.

You might wonder why they seem to be in such a hurry all the time. Maybe it's because they know that summer is so short and they only have a little time to get ready for winter. Snow falls early in the Rocky Mountains and may cover the ground from September to May. Golden-mantled ground squirrels may spend more than eight months underground!

### Think about it.

As the ground squirrel hides from the blasts of winter, God's people must take shelter in Him when He pours out His judgments upon the earth. God has promised to be our "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Is He your very best friend? Will you let Him be your hiding place?

### Do it!

Spend time alone with God just as you would with a best friend. Put away all your distractions and pay attention to Him. He will bless you with His love and friendship. He will be your shelter through trouble.



Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God's creation.



**T**he Kibera slum in Kenya is one of the largest informal settlements in Africa, housing up to 60 percent of Nairobi's 4.3 million residents.

Beneath the overlapping tin roofs is a hive of activity. Residents move back and forth, hoping to find opportunities to help them cope with their difficult everyday lives. They live tightly packed, mostly in improvised housing. It's not unusual to have six people inhabiting a space of nine square metres and sleeping on the bare ground.

Most residents live in extreme poverty, earning less than US\$1 per day. Most live hand to mouth, day to day. Diseases caused by poor hygiene are prevalent, as most people lack access to electricity, medical care, and clean water.

On May 8, 2020, massive landslides in the Aberdare ranges damaged some of the water lines that bring water to Nairobi. The water company was forced to shut down the water supply to many parts of the city, including Kibera.

To cope with the lack of water, Kibera residents began to use sewer water for their drinking, cooking, washing, and bathing needs. Children, who because of the pandemic were not in school, would walk up to three kilometres searching for a source, then immediately drink the unsafe water.

Cholera was a serious threat. An outbreak would have compounded the pressure on a health system already strained by COVID-19.

Some supplies of clean water were available; however, the price of the water had increased beyond the means of many residents. "It was a challenge to even afford one jerrycan of water," says Beatrice, a woman who lives in Kibera.

ADRA Canada, in partnership with ADRA Kenya, has been

providing access to clean water, handwashing facilities, and personal hygiene items. During the project, ADRA provided over 50,000 litres of clean, safe water a day for six days each week to over 4,000 people.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has really affected us," says Elijah, a resident of Kibera. "We've lost our sources of livelihood. But at least we have free access to clean water, thanks to ADRA Kenya."

Some of the water was sourced from vendors in the Kibera settlement, which helped them to sustain their businesses during this challenging time.

Another resident, Everlyne, says, "We have really benefited from ADRA's water project here in Kibera. We are now able to meet other financial obligations, since we don't have to buy water anymore. We are indeed grateful to ADRA Kenya for this form of support, given that these are hard economic times."

Priority was given to families with infants, pregnant women, the chronically ill, and the elderly. "I want to thank ADRA Kenya for giving expectant women a priority at the water collection points," says Liliane, also a local resident. "We don't even queue for water. In fact, they even help us carry the water home."

We thank our faithful supporters. Your donations enable us to reach thousands in need each day. We pray that God will continue to pour out his blessings upon you.

To see a video of the Kibera project, please visit [adra.ca/the-gift-of-water](http://adra.ca/the-gift-of-water). ■

*Sharmilla Reid is the supporter relations director for ADRA Canada.*







## Spreading the Gospel Through Song

by Alannah Tjhatra



We all spoke our first words as babies, but Tiffany Campbell-Dailey probably *sang* hers. For Tiffany, a Christian gospel musician, life has always revolved around music—especially traditional gospel music. From a young age, she always seemed to be singing or humming a tune. It was her father who realized that his young daughter had some talent, and when Tiffany was just three and a half, her parents enrolled her in a children’s choir. It was there that she had her very first solo, and things began to change from that point on.

The life-changing opportunity came when Tiffany was just 11 years old: she was invited to sing at the 2000 General Conference Session, in Toronto, Ont. After her performance at the event, numerous possibilities opened up for her. She was invited to sing on programs such as *Voice of Prophecy*, *100 Huntley Street*, and *The Quiet Hour*, 3ABN, and many more—all incredible opportunities that not many other 11-year-olds would have. Since then, Tiffany has continued to sing for all kinds of events, programs, and churches.

“I have been able to minister all over the world and have sung at every GC session afterwards,” says Tiffany.

Singing itself was never just enough for her, though. She was always trying to figure out how she could use music to uplift and impact others. And through the years, her desire to minister has led her to share the gospel around the world and meet people from all walks of life. She has visited Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Mexico, and many other countries while using her gifts to spread God’s love.

“I would sing in evangelistic series by night and teach English in orphanages by day,” explains Tiffany. “It’s so much more fulfilling that the talent God has given me can be used alongside other skills to really impact a community.” Tiffany has always used her singing to praise God, and through these opportunities, she has learned to truly value the life she has been blessed with.

As she continues learning and growing from her many experiences, Tiffany offers some advice to other young musicians and singers: “Sing from your heart. Find music that speaks to you. ... Listen to God’s voice, and He will direct your path.”

God has surely directed Tiffany’s path, and she will continue to use her gifts for His glory. ■

# 35 & UNDER

In 35 words or less, how has COVID-19 strengthened or weakened your faith?

**Aaliyah Roberts**

COVID-19 has impacted my faith by making me re-evaluate my decisions on how and what to spend time on, and to laugh and enjoy the little things in life more.



**Kyle Bacalso**

Through quarantine, COVID-19 has made everyone worry, including me. After many days, I realized that God was watching over me. I didn’t have to worry but just keep my body healthy and trust in Him.

**Marcia Roberts**

COVID-19 has impacted my faith by strengthening it. Now I can spend more time on worship in the morning with my family, and on hobbies that I enjoy, like drawing.



**Kimberly Junsay**

COVID-19 has strengthened my faith [because I learned] to not worry about tomorrow [and] rather focus on today, as you never know what tomorrow will bring. Whatever happens tomorrow, I know that God has my back.

**Konnor Adema**

The negative impacts of COVID-19 have created positive impacts on my faith. God has a way of revealing Himself even during our most difficult times.



**Davia Johnson**

COVID-19 has strengthened my faith. I really got into Bible app devotionals, and I was able to learn more about God, which helps you to learn about yourself and be a better person.



**Q:** What is my purpose? Why am I here?

**A:** Thanks for sharing what's on your heart. Would you believe that we often struggle with this question even as adults? This is one of those big life questions that can often have very different answers.

There are some people who seem to have always known what they wanted to do, and then there are people like me who take the long way to find out. But this "long way" also helps to build trust. God draws our hearts to Him, and we begin to trust Him with our life and future as He continues to unfold His plan for us.

God has told us in Scripture that before we were born, He knew us and was beyond excited for us to exist. This means that even before our parents met, God had a beautiful plan for our lives—specific tasks that, in our uniqueness, we are given and meant to complete. It means that we are not an afterthought.

It took me 25 years before I really found the major

purpose I believe God had in mind for me. But along the way, in all situations, my purpose was still there. In the seasons I was in school, my purpose was to be a diligent student and apply myself to the best of my ability. In the times I had odd jobs even working at a coffee shop, my purpose was to be honest, dependable, and efficient. In each stage of our lives, God's purpose for us is to glorify Him. And as we do so, we allow the stages to teach us skills we need for the next level of living where God has called us.

We are never without purpose even when the entire future isn't clear. Identify where God has called you now and be committed to the tasks and relationships presently. ■

---

*Do you have a question for Pastor Ashia Lennon? Email it to [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca).*



# THE BUSINESS OF WITNESSING

Several years ago, when I first started pastoring a new church, I called a local company to rent some outdoor play equipment. We were planning a fall festival for the community. This company had everything I needed for the event: moon bounces, popcorn machines, cotton candy makers, and so much more. What was even more exciting was that the company was only a few kilometres from the church. After placing the order, I sat back and smiled, thanking God for how easy it was to order everything from one place.

About an hour later, the phone rang. It was the owner of the company I had just made the order with. "Tell me again the name of the church?" he inquired in a very gruff voice.

Repeating our name with great pride, I said, "We are the Seventh-day Adventist church not very far from you." I began to smile, relishing what a great witness I was being over the telephone.

He repeated the church address for confirmation. Now hesitant, I replied that it was indeed correct. "We don't want to do any business with you all," he grumbled on the phone.

"Sorry, sir, can I ask why?" I was surprised by his hostility.

"Because you guys never pay your bills on time," he hollered and then hung up the phone.

The next day I drove to the company to meet the owner. He told me that my church had a reputation among the small business owners of paying late or never paying at all. I explained to the owner that, as a new pastor, I was unaware and deeply embarrassed by this poor track record. I made payment for the rental equipment in full on my personal credit card and promised to show him a better side of our church.

We can easily share the gospel by blanketing the community with postcards and holding fun events. But how do we treat the local merchants? Do you pay the roofer or carpenter a fair wage, or are you always asking for a "favour?" Do you tip the pizza delivery person after a youth event, or do you give the bare minimum?

It's the small gestures—like paying our bills on time, making good on our word with the local business owner—that often make the most significant witness for Christ. ■

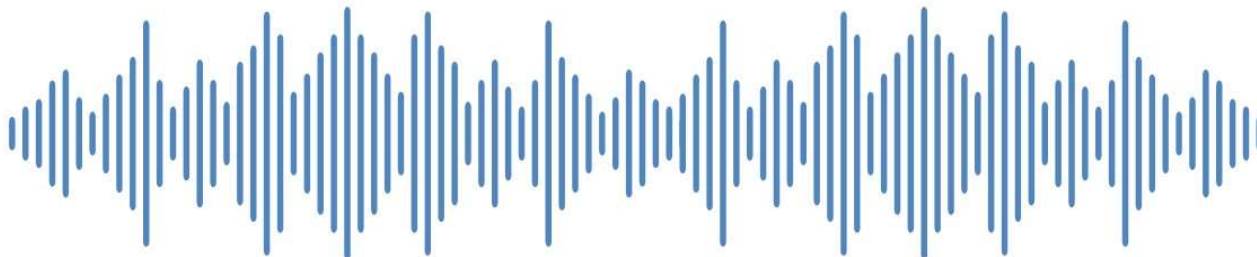
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*Kumar Dixit is the creative principal of Dixit Media Group, an organization that rebrands religious and non-profit organizations.*



# Tech SAVvy

BY SANDY AUDIO VISUAL



## Webcasting: CLIMB (Part 3 of 3)

In the last two issues we established that no matter how simple or elaborate your live webcasting setup, you need these basics—CLIMB: Camera, Light, Internet, Microphone, and Box (Encoder). In Part 1 we discussed the camera, in Part 2 we covered lighting and internet connection, and, finally, this month we focus on microphones and your encoding box.

### Microphone

Your phone has a microphone—but it probably isn't great. If you *must* use a smartphone to get started, you'll want to use something like an iRig, which lets you connect your phone to an external microphone or audio source.

As with lights, there is a vast universe of audio options for your live web stream. The type of microphone you need varies by application. In general, you want to get your sound source and your microphone as close to each other as possible. There are specialized microphones, such as boom microphones, that will focus sound from a distance, but getting close to your subject is the least expensive and most effective way to improve the sound quality of your stream.

So, what should you use? Wired earbuds with an in-line microphone are an effective and affordable choice for Zoom-type presentations. If you're using a traditional space like a church, you'll most likely have a sound reinforcement system that has professional-grade microphones. If you want to step things up a bit, a headset microphone or a studio microphone will enhance your audio quality.

On the affordability spectrum, you can start with products from IK Audio, MXL, Rode, Pyle, and the like and move up to Shure, Sennheiser, DPA, Neumann, and beyond. The best microphone is the one you can afford and fits your application and voice.

### The Box

Out of all the parts that make up a streaming system, the encoder, or "box," is the component that probably receives the least consideration. The encoder is what allows you to transform your video into something the internet can use.

The most common and readily available encoders in use are simply computers running encoding software like Open Broadcaster Software (OBS), WireCast, Livestream Studio, vMix, or TriCaster. These range from free and open-source (e.g., OBS) and require you to bring your own computer, to purpose-built devices like the NewTek TriCaster that fetch a price premium, are turnkey, and also include value-added features. Some worship software like ProPresenter now includes an encoder. If your computer can perform the double duty, a software update may save you the cost of extra hardware.

Going beyond computers, your encoder can be a dedicated hardware device. This is ideal if you want the reliability of a box that no one can introduce malicious software to or fill up with apps that will slow down your livestream or cause it to crash. The cube series from Teradek is an example of an excellent hardware controller. Products by Epiphan, such as the Pearl, and the Monarch from Matrox are both Canadian-made products that work extremely well and are highly reliable.

When you expand to multiple cameras, you will need to buy a hardware switcher (such as a Blackmagic design ATEM) or a combination device (such as the NewTek TriCaster or Roland VR series) that can perform a number of tasks.

### Conclusion

You should now have the basics to take your ministry online, or to make your existing online ministry a little better. From here you can consider enhancements such as online worship platforms, tithing and donation integration, volunteer and ministry support, and member engagement.

We are at a crossroads for online ministry. God willing, we will meet in person again and soon, but the pandemic has taught us that online ministry is important and that it's worth doing well. It is my hope and prayer that this article will help get you on your way. ■

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*Colin Sandy has been passionately streaming video online since 1997. Go to [www.savweb.com](http://www.savweb.com) for more about Sandy Audio Visual.*



# Growing Up

# Millennial



*"Like every summer, though, the kids taught me a lot. Here are some of the final lessons I learned."*

## About Last Summer

**A** few months ago I completed my last summer working at the daycare. Like every summer, it was hard to leave. However, *unlike* every summer, I kept remembering that *this was it*—the last time I'd be spending hours with the kids I had gotten to know over the past few summers. Like every summer, though, the kids taught me a lot. Here are some of the final lessons I learned:

**1** We tend to think that people don't change. They do, though. They mature and grow up, and every single person deserves a second chance. There was this little girl who, three summers ago, was difficult to take care of. She was defiant and wouldn't listen, and more than once I went home frustrated. This summer she grew and matured significantly. People change. Yes, in this case it was a child, but anyone is capable of change. And we have to give people chances, because we need to be open to these changes.

**2** Sometimes we think current events don't affect children as much as adults, but this summer showed me that kids pay a lot of attention. The children I worked with ranged from six to 10 years of age, and they knew all about COVID-19. Most of them understood what was going on, and they were affected by how challenging all of the new updates to life were. Kids deserve more credit.

**3** Working a shift that starts early in the morning is so much better than in the evening for me. I'm more cheerful, the kids are cheerful, and I get to go home mid-afternoon. I've turned into something of a morning person.

**4** Sometimes all a person needs is a nap to feel better. There was a two-year-old little boy who never wanted to sleep and would get upset easily. After finally succumbing to a restful nap, he would wake up significantly happier than he was before. This naptime idea applies to me too.

**5** To work with children (and in most jobs, I would assume—but all I've done in the past four summers is work with kids), you need to have an open mind. Not really listening to others isn't an option. Not putting others first isn't an option. To be the best person I could be for these kids, I really needed to let go of any preconceived ideas.

**6** Pray hard when your day is frustrating. This summer, as with any other summer I spent working with kids, presented moments where I just wanted to sit down and scream. I would feel so frustrated at times. What I learned was that just taking a couple of seconds to send God a silent prayer is really, really beneficial.

**7** Regardless of the frustrations that naturally come with working at a daycare, I always miss the kids. Working at a daycare just adds this little extra light into your life that I often take for granted. I miss them the same way I always do when I'm away at school. But I'm grateful that God gave me the experience of spending time with them, learning from them, and hopefully getting to visit them in the next few months. ■

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*Jordyn Boonstra is a British Columbian millennial pursuing a master's degree at Andrews University.*



# Looking Beyond the Horizon



## Nimishoomis Miigiwewin (My Grandfather's Gift)

*“Indian* giver.” This is a stereotype based on a misunderstanding of Indigenous peoples in Canada. And I’ve hated it for as long as I can remember.

It refers to this idea that in their earliest contacts with European settlers, Indigenous peoples would offer a gift *but expect one of equal or greater value in return*. I’d like to decolonize this thinking for you.

First, let’s stop and think about this. It doesn’t make sense, does it? I mean, a gift is free, right? Nothing should be expected in return. When given a gift, you *own* it. It’s yours.

That’s because in western thinking, a gift gives you *rights*, not responsibilities. This mindset is rooted in a private property economy. As Robin Wall Kimmerer explains, in such an economy when people think about a gift, they focus on the fact that it’s “free of charge.” In other words, “private land is understood to be a ‘bundle of rights.’” In contrast, an Indigenous worldview understands economy as being gift based; “in a gift economy, property has a ‘bundle of responsibilities’ attached.”<sup>1</sup>

Kimmerer explains that the pejorative term “Indian giver” is, therefore, the product of “cross-cultural misinterpretation.”

Allow me to tell you a story. My grandfather Spencer Page was an Adventist. He had a great library. When he died, my parents wanted me to have it. A precious gift for a fresh Adventist pastor. So I visited to begin exploring this gift. Commentaries, Ellen White, Knight, LaRondelle, Shea, Adams—what a fantastic gift indeed. The collection was probably worth thousands of dollars, but that wasn’t the most valuable thing about it.

As I began leafing through the books, personalized cards and letters kept falling out. I discovered that Grandpa would take sentimental cards and letters he had received and place them in the books. When he read them months or even years later, he would pause and smile, as the handwritten note reminded him of the people who’d sent them. The letters were from around the world—some even from me—and the fact that he’d kept

all of them reveals how much he valued those relationships.

So, I kept these notes tucked away where I found them. I also began adding to them whenever I received homemade cards from my kids.

You see, Grandpa had passed along a gift more valuable than the books. Now every time I open up a book, gifts given to my grandpa are passed down to me. The gift might have originally been given some 40 years ago to a dapper old man with a fading English accent, but it grows in value every day. I plan to pass this tradition on to my children.

The perpetuity of Grandpa’s gift perfectly illustrates Kimmerer’s point that “the essence of the gift is that it creates a set of relationships.” She adds, “Many of our ancient teachings counsel that whatever we have been given is supposed to be given away again.”<sup>2</sup> *The value is in the obligations and responsibilities of caring for one another*. It has nothing to do with material worth or selfish rights.

As Christians we should embrace this gift economy of reciprocity. After all, we’re “bought with a price” (the gift) and should “glorify God with our bodies” (the gift back) (1 Cor. 6:20). We’ve been given the best gift of all: salvation. But if we claim a right to it and keep it to ourselves, we will lose it—it will be of no value. However, the more we pass it on and the more we teach others to do the same, the more valuable it becomes, coming back 10- or 100-fold (Matt. 25:14–30).

Since all we have is not ours, but from the Creator, we have no inherent rights to it. God is the one who has given us life, land, food, and the world to enjoy and take care of. So, we should be living a life of generosity.

Indigenous people get this, because parts of the Indigenous worldview are more culturally biblical. Learn to give like an Indigenous giver, and you’ll be a little closer to giving like Jesus. ■

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

<sup>1</sup> Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of the Plants* (Toronto, ON: Milkweed Editions, 2013), 28.  
<sup>2</sup> Kimmerer, 28.





## Wait for It ...

*"How much do I miss by not waiting and listening?"*

**G**od says, "I know the plans that I have for you. ... They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope" (Jer. 29:11, GW).

Do you ever sit and contemplate the plans God may have for you?

Often our prayer time is so rushed as we try to get through our list of asks, that we don't really *wait* to see if God has something that He plans to give us. The busyness of life can so easily rob us of the plans of peace and hope that our loving God intends for us to experience ... just as the weeds choked out the good seeds planted by the sower, in Mark 13.

I don't know about you, but I have a hard time waiting for God to speak to me. As I've said before, I'm a list person, and today my list of to-dos is trying to get my attention very loudly. It's sad, too, because while lists are great for helping us get things done, they're not particularly good at building relationships. Also, speaking doesn't actually make for a conversation when only one person is doing the talking.

I know how *I* feel when someone does these things to me, so why would I do it to God? Why do I go through my list and then get up and leave, not waiting for a response—or for the blessing? Am I so self-centred that I only care about my own things? Do I think so poorly of God that I actually believe no blessing or response will be given to me? Do I think He has no interest in speaking to me? Do I believe He treats me as my sins deserve, instead of according to His immeasurable love for me?

What if He wants to put the words of a song in my mind and heart that will fit a situation I'll face later today? What if He wants to give me clarity on a troubling matter I've been struggling with? What if He just wants to flood me with His peace and love so that I don't feel lonely or discouraged anymore? What if He wants to teach me some amazing truth about Himself that will cheer my way and bind my heart more closely to His?

How much do I miss by *not* waiting and listening?

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:30, 31, KJV).

Blessings and connectedness are there for us. Let's take some peaceful moments, and ... wait for it. ■

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*Erna McCann is the prayer co-ordinator liaison for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.*



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 Carol von Gunten.

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



Don and Carol von Gunten

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

**Carol von Gunten:** I was born in Vernon, B.C., to Lawrence and Annie Miller, residents of Grandview Flats. My dad was a chimney sweep, and my mom was a nurse. I had two older half-sisters, both of whom were already married. My oldest sister already had a three-month-old son, so I was born an aunt. I had two siblings — an older brother and a younger sister.

When I was six, we moved to Toronto. My parents worked at Branson Hospital. I graduated from Grade 8 at Toronto Junior Academy (TJA), now known as Crawford Adventist Academy. In 1967 my mother was called to be the matron at Sunnyside Nursing Home in Saskatoon. I was a student at the church school there for Grade 9 and part of 10. I attended Canadian Union College (now Burman University), in Lacombe, Alta., for three years and graduated from Grade 12 in 1971.

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

**C:** I attended CUC for one year of general studies, then went on to Walla Walla College (Wash.). I graduated with a B.Sc. in elementary education and a minor in biology.

**M:** *What were the factors that influenced you to choose teaching as your career?*

**C:** My plan at WWC was to take a biology degree. I hoped to apply to an occupational therapy (OT) program, but circumstances changed. I was a single parent with two children under the age of two. I didn't have the study time I needed to produce the competitive grades



required to enter OT.

After much prayer and excellent advice, I switched my major to education. It seemed like a natural transition, as I'd had many enjoyable experiences working with children in the Saskatoon and CUC churches in my teens, playing the piano, and teaching children's Sabbath school classes. I spent a summer in Yellowknife as student missionary helping with Vacation Bible School (VBS).

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

**C:** I have been a multi-grade teacher for 36 years and was principal at four of the schools. My smallest span was two grades in a classroom, and the largest was seven grades. My mother and a parent helped during those years. I taught in Stettler, Alta.; Merville, B.C.; Fredericton, N.B.; Orillia, Hamilton, and South River, Ont.

While in South River, I was honoured to receive the Zapara Award for excellence in teaching. In 1995 I was called to teach at Mamawi Atosketan Native School and spent a memorable 10 years there. My last 14 years were spent at Sylvan Meadows Adventist School (Sylvan Lake, Alta.) teaching K-4 and being principal. I retired in the fall of 2018.

**M:** *What brought you the greatest joy and satisfaction in your teaching ministry?*

**C:** I have had many experiences with the children that helped me to realize that the Holy Spirit was working hard to win their hearts for Jesus. One of these experiences took place in my Grade 3 and 4 Bible class at Mamawi. I had discovered that I could keep the students' attention better if I drew the story as I was talking.

I don't remember which Bible story it was, but we were talking about choosing Jesus or Satan. I was trying to get them to understand that it was best to choose Jesus while young. One of my Grade 3 boys stood up, took the chalk gently out of my fingers, and told the class that he had decided to follow Jesus. He drew a large heart on the board and signed his name inside. He invited the entire class to join him. Under his influence they *all* came to the front, signed their names inside the heart, and promised that they, too, would choose Jesus. It was such a sacred moment watching the Holy Spirit use this little boy to guide others to make that important choice. That experience sums up the purpose of Christian education.

**M:** *Do you have any hobbies and if so, how did you use these in your teaching?*

**C:** My lifelong passions are art, music, gardening, and camping. I took piano from a young age and guitar, violin, and organ in my teens. At home we all had to help with the planting and weeding and yard work.

I joined Pathfinders and fulfilled the requirements for the outdoor survival honours. Some of my best memories of CUC days are of the Wilderness Ventures Club at Nordegg, Alta., and our survival activities.

I loved drawing and took some evening art classes when I lived in Saskatoon. Teaching provided many opportunities to use these skills. The Outdoor School backpacking program; helping with Pathfinders and VBS programs; providing music for classrooms, school programs, senior outreach programs, Sabbath school, and church services. I believed art made learning a more memorable experience and worked creative projects into every objective possible.

We often painted our backdrops as a school group. I joined the Lacombe Art Guild and then shared the workshop tips and techniques with my students. Over the years I researched each community for resources and took advantage of volunteer programs to enhance the curriculum. Some of these programs were Jack Rabbit cross country skiing, the Horsemanship course at Circle-Square Ranches, curling, and golfing.

**M:** *Tell me about your family.*

**C:** Don and I have been married now for 31 years and have lived in Lacombe since 1995. Together we have five children and 11 grandchildren. Each one is a blessing! Don took carpentry at Durham College in Ontario and apprenticed with Blair Flowers. He is a "finish" carpenter with a stair specialty. He was self-employed and subcontracting but now works part-time as a bus driver and does maintenance for College Heights Christian School. He loves riding motorcycles and going for long rides out to Nordegg.

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

**C:** Retirement is marvellous. I love being able to spend time travelling and being with my grandchildren. I love to read, paint, and garden. It's a nice change to be able to can my garden produce and fruit without simultaneously having to start a new school year. I have several children's book ideas and am learning the process of how to write and illustrate.

I am a member/treasurer of the Lacombe Art Guild. I love watercolours and paint whenever I have the opportunity. This year, due to COVID-19, we have switched to Zoom classes. One advantage is that we can access artists for workshops worldwide.

The last two years I have been helping with Pathfinders and am still helping in the primary Sabbath school division at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. I often sub and enjoy seeing the various classrooms and keeping in touch with former students and colleagues. ■





## Granola

### INGREDIENTS:

- 14 cups (3.5 L) rolled oats
- 1 cup (250 ml) raw shelled sunflower seeds
- 1 cup (250 ml) raw shelled pumpkin seeds
- 1 cup (250 ml) raw whole almonds, roughly chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) raw walnuts, roughly chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) pitted dates
- 1 cup (250 ml) water
- 1 cup (250 ml) honey
- 1 cup (250 ml) raw cashews
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Soak cashews in water for a couple of hours or overnight. Discard soaking water, then rinse and drain cashews.
- Preheat oven to 180 F.
- Place cashews along with dates, water, honey, and salt in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Combine the remaining ingredients in a large bowl and mix together.
- To the bowl, add the mixture from the blender. Mix well.
- Spread granola mixture in an even single layer on several baking trays. Bake in oven for 8 to 10 hours or until mixture is completely dry and crunchy. Stir and evenly spread granola mixture every 2 or 3 hours to ensure even cooking. Allow the granola to cool completely, and store in an airtight container.

**Tip:** Recipe can be easily halved, or even doubled, as needed.



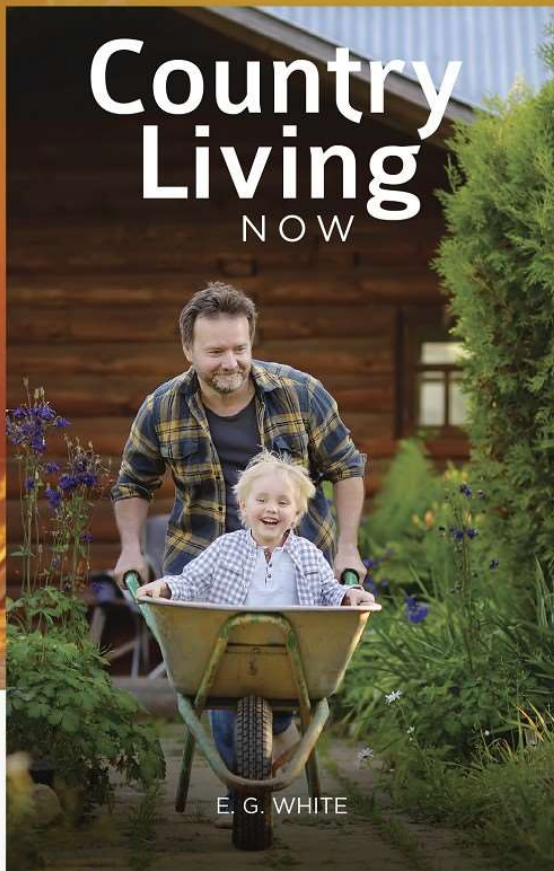
### NUTRITIONAL INFO:

Serving Size 56 g (½ cup)  
 Calories 206  
 Total Fat 8.9 g  
 Saturated Fat 1.1 g  
 Cholesterol 0 mg  
 Sodium 48 mg  
 Total Carbs 28.4 g  
 Dietary Fibre 3.8 g  
 Sugars 10.9 g  
 Protein 5.5 g

*The late Afia Donkor was a passionate health advocate who volunteered for LCES and authored the cookbook The Powerful Plate. It is now available for purchase at the ABC Christian Bookstore in Oshawa, Ont.*



CALL TODAY TO GET A FREE COPY OF THIS BOOKLET:



*“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions, for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one... Get out of the cities into rural districts...where you will be free from the interference of enemies.”*  
 2 Selected Messages p.141, E.G. White

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rainmakers

# RAINMAK

## Sowing Seeds

It started with the desire to be a social worker, a career that would involve helping people cope with problems they're faced with and improve their lives. Beverley Edwards started taking courses at Ryerson University in Toronto. She believed this was her career path, but her friends had a different impression. This, they thought, was not their friend's most obvious calling.

Beverley is confident in her own judgments and decisions when it comes to helping others live a healthier lifestyle. She believes and lives by the health message, because through it she's able to live the optimal life Christ has planned for her *and us*. Beverley has always been receptive to the people who approached her about their health. It wasn't her area of expertise at the time, but God was already preparing her and opening doors.

While in the process of trying to figure out what to do or be in life, there was an "aha" moment that led Beverley to recognize and accept the calling to work as a dietitian. "My path was crystal clear. I knew where I wanted to go to university for it, where I wanted to go at the end of it. It was like God lit the whole path up in an instant." And in that instant, she had listened to God's voice and accepted His plan for her career choice.

Instruction from the Word of God made Beverley ready to do the good that God wanted her to do. The next hurdle was enrolling in her dietetics degree program of choice and to do well in the courses. In her entire program, Beverley was the only student who supported a plant-based diet, a perspective that,

at the time, wasn't well received by her fellow colleagues. She didn't shy away from her passions but stayed true to her beliefs for the entire four years. By the end of the program, the idea of a plant-based diet didn't seem so strange after all. There was a change of perception in her classmates and professors, and Beverley had now become the go-to person for inquiries about plant-based lifestyles.

For Adventist believers, the health message is nothing new; it's something that has been around since 1863. The goal of developing a healthy lifestyle is to help us function at our best to serve the Lord and others. Beverley's dream involved building a healthy lifestyle centre to help transform lives. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints at the time she went directly into long-term care work. It was not the place Beverley had envisioned, but it was the place God had assigned her to be. It was the environment where her co-workers and their families were exposed to the passion that burned within her heart.

"Witnessing to my co-workers every day as they saw me bring my plant-based lunches to work was wonderful ... and then to see them go out and buy Vitamix blenders to whip up their smoothies! Talking to the family members of my patients who had come to me asking questions was truly a blessing." The love for the health message was being transferred unto those Beverley came in contact with; lives were being changed and transformed right before her eyes.

God's assignments weren't finished yet. The next involved the help of her

church pastor, Rob Putt from the Richmond Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church (Ont.). He saw a drive and vision in Beverley that had to be explored. Pastor Putt had already heard of Beverley's work as a dietitian and wanted to start up the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) at their church. CHIP focuses on the benefits of positive lifestyle choices, with particular attention on diet and physical activity. The program advocates a predominantly whole-food, plant-based diet. This was definitely Beverley's specialty. So, Putt sent her to British Columbia to attend the CHIP Summit for training. It was then that Pastor Putt proposed that Beverley bring her passion as a dietitian to television. And from that small conversation, health nugget segments were aired on the *It Is Written* television program for 11 years.

"I was so in love with the idea of being able to share God's health message; it's so vital," says Beverley. Another door opened for her to take that message to another audience on Rogers Cable. It was a one-hour show called *Live Healthy Now!* which aired weekly during the prime-time slot from 8 to 9 p.m. Beverley was faced with the grand opportunity of producing her own shows and juggling her work as a dietitian. "It was so tiring yet exciting to be on the air every week to get God's message of health out there," says Beverley. "It was such a blessing that God provided that venue. If we don't take the opportunities that God opens up for us, He will take it to the world. We have to put ourselves out there to share what God has given to us; He will bless it."



# ERS

In 2011, Beverley had taken a 10-day vacation at the BellaVita Lifestyle Centre in Sacramento, Calif. The centre provides an atmosphere for its guests to renew physically, mentally, and spiritually while detoxing and nourishing the whole body. This vacation only fuelled Beverley's desire for health evangelism more. "I wanted for me to have my own healthy lifestyle centre to sow the same type of health and healing message." In 2013, she returned to that same vacation spot to start training on how to start up her dream centre.

Little did Beverley know that in 2014 her dream would come to fruition. It involved moving to the Kelowna area in British Columbia and marrying Randy Haines. He was the perfect partner God had in store to help construct her dream centre. With Randy's work as an avid gardener and Beverley's expertise as a dietitian, R&B Farm was created in 2015 to provide fresh, nourishing food for families and homes. The farm made the health message even more tangible because now they were growing delicious vegetables and herbs literally from the ground up.

"It has been a tremendous blessing," says Beverley. "It is such a huge ministry for us because we get to share health tips, recipes, and we get to talk about God to our customers every week at the farmers' market. It is a lifestyle centre that we are running."

Connecting with her clients every week is what Beverley looks forward to the most nowadays. She is inspired by their happiness and appreciation of the produce R&B Farm grows and provides.



**Beverley Edwards-Haines**

God has executed the plans for Beverley from Day 1, and she has proven through her work that she's enjoying those plans. She is a health worker, speaker, co-ordinator of cooking classes, and she encourages churches to become healthy lifestyle centres in their communities.

God no doubt takes pleasure in Beverley's joys in delivering the health message to others. She believes and follows

God's principles and has applied them to fulfill her destiny and get into her breakthrough. We don't know what the future holds, but we know that He is good and will bring what He began to completion (Phil. 1:6). ■

*Sharon Ennis is a journalist and entrepreneur based in Ontario.*

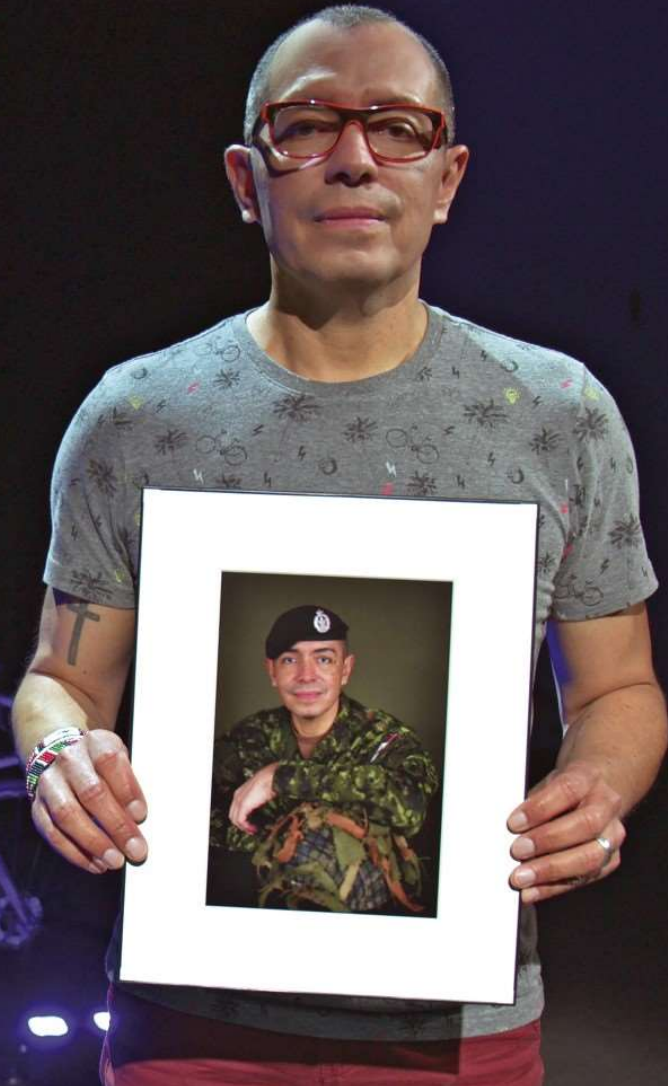




cover story

# HEALING FROM WAR

*Otto Castillo—a soldier, survivor, man of God, and filmmaker—is the creative genius behind Panashooter Films, which he named after his homeland of Panama in Central America. Although not born in Canada, when Otto became a citizen of the Great White North, his pride inspired him to wear the maple leaf and join the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). His story is one of heroic faith and resilience in the face of trauma inflicted by the distresses of military conflict.*







Photos, L to R: A young Otto in Panama dressed up for church; Otto's wise and beloved grandma.

Warm memories of Otto's country of birth have remained with him to the present day, especially the visits to see his grandparents in the countryside, where he climbed trees, rode horses, and swam in the brook. His grandmother had been converted to Adventism by missionaries who came to Panama during her childhood; she had a strong influence on Otto's life because she lived such a beautiful Seventh-day Adventist Christian lifestyle and was only ever sick for the last 18 days of her 104 years of healthy living. Because of the positive impact her faith had, most of her children and grandchildren remained in the church.

As a child, Otto remembers reading the *Encyclopedia Britannica* for hours, mesmerized by the black-and-white photographs and stories of Canadian peacekeepers working with the United Nations for the common good of all nations, so he dreamed of one day becoming a Canadian peacekeeper himself.

When the people of Panama experienced persecution under the leadership of Manuel Noriega, Otto left his homeland and arrived in Montreal as a political refugee. After becoming a Canadian citizen in 1995, Otto joined the Canadian Forces the following year as an armoured reconnaissance specialist. Now he could see his childhood dreams materializing.

As an armoured reconnaissance

specialist, Otto's job was to move ahead of friendly forces into enemy territory for the purpose of acquiring information, pinpointing enemy locations and activities, and reporting back to headquarters with his findings. Otto participated in a variety of overseas deployments and military exercises, including a deployment to the Balkans. While stationed there, he was part of a unit that had to investigate any intelligence piece that would lead to solving war crimes that had occurred during the conflict—including locating mass graves.

Otto says that he somehow been able to choose his theatre of operations, he would have definitely chosen combat over going to a place where conflict had recently ended. "In those [post-conflict] situations," he stresses, "your brain is not as [focused on] keeping you alive. Your brain has too much time to soak in the horror of war. Combat is a survival exercise, whereas I witnessed too many horrible images of war. My brain had too much time to take it all in."

During his time serving in the Balkans and in other areas of conflict, Otto was repeatedly exposed to the atrocities of military conflict throughout the course of his 22-and-a-half-year career, the effects of which would spill over into his civilian life.

However, he did enjoy some aspects of serving in the military. The

most enjoyable part of his experience in the Canadian Forces was physical training—the daily organized exercise sessions as well as hours of personal time dedicated to various fitness pursuits: road bike riding, trail running, rock climbing, kayaking, and long-distance hiking. He even did parachute training; however, one particular landing caused him to sustain a serious hip injury, which eventually led to his retirement from the Forces. Before that incident he was in tip-top shape, especially since he has always been a big fan of healthy eating and also enjoyed cycling, which was especially therapeutic because it afforded him time to unwind and process his experience in an active manner.

Second to the physical training, the Esprit de Corps formed a much-loved part of his participation in the Canadian Armed Forces. "Depending on one another to stay alive was a very powerful glue because the life of your buddies depends on you staying fit, clear-headed, and dependable, and" Otto asserts, "you depend on them to do the same for you."

Otto emphasizes that "the toughest part of deployment is being away from the homefront, when you are not there for burst pipes. Yes, what you're doing is a very important job, but just as important is staying home and raising the family. This inevitably places a strain on relationships, to the point where the rate of divorce in some areas of the Forces is fairly high." Whenever he was deployed, Otto would tell his family, "See you soon." Never would he say, "Goodbye," even though leaving home meant there was no guarantee of return.

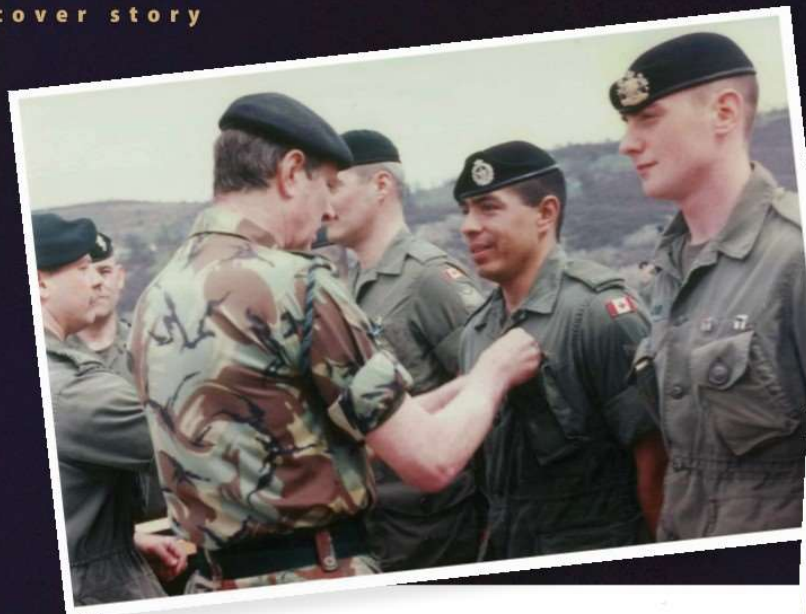
During pre-deployment training, he received lectures from specialists saying, "If and when you experience trauma in the military—at home, or abroad—chances are you will develop PTSD or depression or maybe just anxiety. Many things can rise to the surface, and not necessarily right away. Chances are you will develop PTSD."

When he listened to these lectures, he thought to himself: "I feel great! I'm on top of the world, super fit, enjoying life too much. PTSD is for people who are weak minded. That's not going to





## cover story



Photos from Otto's service with the Canadian Forces. Clockwise from top: Receiving a service medal; In uniform during a training exercise in the UK; Running outside The Wire.

happen to me." So, Otto dismissed it, feeling invincible.

"Was I ever wrong!" Otto admits. "First, I saw some comrades-in-arms go through it. Some of them went through PTSD years after whatever they were exposed to; it just came out of nowhere."

Then it hit Otto. Back in the Balkans, the Canadian military police used white four-door vehicles. Whenever he saw a white four-door vehicle at home in Canada, his face would turn red and he would become anxious, but it never crossed his mind that this reaction was associated with his deployment. He couldn't make the connection until it started happening repeatedly.

Another experience was when he went to pick up his daughter from school. She was standing across the sports field waiting for him, and he couldn't bring himself to walk across the grass. He had to call a teacher to get his daughter for him, because for so long it had been drilled into his mind that the area where he was deployed had the highest concentration of unexploded landmines in the world. He could proceed only through approved, cleared routes, and he was to never walk on grass! For a while the thought of walking across the grass to pick his daughter up routinely made him feel paralyzed, but in time and with therapy, this trigger resolved.

When he realized his hip and lower back injuries from his parachuting accident were not going to magically go away, the PTSD hit him really hard. "Some days," Otto remembers, "I would lie on the couch in my living room—blinds closed, doors locked, windows locked, TV off, no music, and not even reading a book—just lying there, not even wanting to eat. That was a very slippery slope, and if I didn't do something about it with a sense of urgency, it would become a hole I couldn't climb back out of." Eventually, it struck him that the only wise choice for him was to seek help.

Otto had been filling a volunteer



role as the sound team leader at his local church, and the Lord reminded him that he needed to continue this service as well as help on a mission trip to Africa. Even though he was battling psychological repercussions, he still felt deeply impressed by God to serve others, because it was in serving that he would find recovery.

He began to notice that he would get extremely angry in situations or at people for no apparent reason. It struck him that if he didn't do something to seriously address this issue, he would end up committing suicide or becoming an alcoholic or a drug addict—or all of the above. "It's not good to just sit there and mope," says Otto. "God made it very clear to me that I needed to take action, which is not easy. I'm so thankful that He is my God. ... I have friends from the Armed Forces who are no longer with us because they have died by suicide as a result of mental illness. I have friends who are not dead, but who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. And I could easily

have become one of them and ended up like that. God has a purpose for everyone, and in my particular case, He reminded me that He wasn't done with me yet." He adds, "The struggle is still real. ... Some weeks are better than others."

Otto proclaims his ongoing faith in the Lord: "God has always been important to me, but through my physical and emotional breakdown, He has reminded me how important He *really is* to me [as opposed to] how important I *think* He is. It's beyond words I could express in Spanish, French, or English."

"Because I needed a new career," Otto continues, "I decided to go to film school so I could tell stories. I love stories—and powerful stories are everywhere. Recently, I did a short story on an active duty member of the CAF and his struggle with mental illness; how it affected him and his wife and how it continues to affect their lives, their marriage; how they're looking ahead to the hope of better times as he works through the

trauma of PTSD."

Otto has received ample positive feedback about his raw and honest documentary work, which is filled with messages of hope that line up with the gospel message, a message of hope centred in Jesus. Otto is convinced that if he didn't have Jesus in his life, he wouldn't be alive today. This compels him to openly share what God has done for him.

"Through my filmmaking," Otto concludes, "I've been able to talk to others about my faith in Jesus. I want people to know that no matter what we do, we are never alone. For me, it is very powerful when people are willing to accept that Jesus could be there for them too. [You may] think somebody's going to be unhappy if you mention Jesus—[but] you don't know. Let Jesus decide." ■

*Mike Lemon is the speaker director for It Is Written Canada.*



*Otto's story will be featured on It Is Written Canada and will first air on Nov. 14, 2020, on CTV, 3ABN, Hope Channel, and other networks. After that, you can access it online at [YouTube.com/IIWCanada](https://www.youtube.com/IIWCanada), on Facebook at [facebook.com/ItIsWrittenCanada](https://www.facebook.com/ItIsWrittenCanada), and on It Is Written Canada's website at [IIW.ca](https://www.IIW.ca).*





# If I Kill Myself, Will I Go to Heaven?

*“There are so many people who think they’re not good enough, and so they’ve given up on life.”*

**A** *divine appointment is when you meet someone who really and truly needs an experience with God, and you’re the one given the opportunity to point them in the right direction. Have you ever prayed for a divine appointment?*

*Simonique was a missionary student with Canada Youth Challenge for more than one summer. She asked God for a divine appointment. Listen to how God answered her prayer.*

I knocked on a door, and a girl answered with a smile on her face. I went over my presentation not expecting much, since she seemed to be around my age—in her late teens.

In the middle of my presentation, the most unexpected words I heard in my life came out of her mouth. She said, “If I kill myself, will I go to heaven?”

My mind quickly went to the devotion we’d had one morning, and I silently prayed. Then I said, “No. How can you go to heaven? Murder is a sin and you can’t ask for forgiveness when you’re dead.”

She immediately responded, “You know, that’s the first answer I got that made sense, and I’ve asked a lot of people.” She went on to tell me about why she had come to that thought. “My mother kicked me out of the house because I told her that her boyfriend was touching me inappropriately. I have nowhere to go, so my boyfriend and I moved in together here with our friend. It’s not permanent, but I just can’t handle all the pain and struggles that are happening to me as a result of telling my mom. ... Do you think I did the right thing?”

At that moment my heart broke into a million pieces. I quickly assured her that she *had* done the right thing. I

told her, “Your mother is in the wrong. You should never have to go through that! She should be protecting you as her child.”

As I sat there encouraging her and sharing my own story, it dawned on me the impact that our work can have on others. There are so many people who think they’re not good enough, and so they’ve given up on life. I told her how beautiful she was and greatly valued. I told her that I needed her to live.

While sitting on the lawn, I asked her if she wanted me to pray. I needed to point her to Jesus. She said yes, and we sat there and held hands. While I was praying, she began to hold me so tightly and just cried and cried. At that moment my heart just opened up and I began to cry as well.

At the end of the prayer, she said, “I know you have to leave, but can you just stay with me a little longer?” So I did until my supervisor came. Before I left, she signed up for Bible studies.

To my surprise, I saw her again in the neighbourhood later in the evening. She was standing by a tree just waiting for me. We walked back together to her house, where I prayed with her again.

I learned that day that it’s important to put others first. It’s important to listen to what people have to say. I learned that we should approach people with a desire to meet their needs, then point them to Jesus—and He will do the rest. ■

*Simonique Dietz shared her story with us while serving as a CYC literature evangelist. Lifestyle Canada is Canada’s literature evangelism ministry.*





# EDUCATION



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# A Vision for Service

Liam was five years old when a trampoline accident resulted in a stroke that left him a quadriplegic. A year later he started having spasticity in his legs because his bones—like all children’s—grow faster than muscles. Liam’s underlying problems caused his muscles to tighten up and to spasm painfully.

As they grow, children like Liam eventually need multiple surgeries to manage tight muscles and tendons and to correct bony deformities. To delay these surgeries, physicians use Botox injections administered under sedation in operating rooms.

When Corinne Huedepohl, a nurse practitioner at Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and Stollery Hospital in Edmonton, Alta., saw that physicians’ limited OR time meant long waits for children in pain, she determined to find a solution—one that would set a precedent.

Corinne proposed to add a new competency to her role of nurse practitioner. With the help of supervisors and colleagues, she would prepare herself to perform sedated botulinum toxin A (BoNT-A) injections for children in an operating room without a physician present.

Corinne writes, “We needed to somehow prove competency, both to reassure families and to satisfy colleagues in the OR. Thus, a two-year plan was developed to define the progression of skills over time. Top management at both the Glenrose and Stollery hospitals signed off on all documents. Dr. Yiu, CEO of Alberta Health Services, signed our Nurse Practitioner Role Description addendum.

“Our protocol is not yet standardized but certainly could be an example to other nurse practitioners attempting to change practice in the operating room or other environments. One advantage here in Edmonton is our access to the Stollery OR for doing these procedures.”

Today Corinne, the first nurse practitioner authorized to do so, performs and supports 50 to 60 percent of monthly Botox injections for children. No other programs in Canada confer this type of designation to nurse practitioners, nor is there an

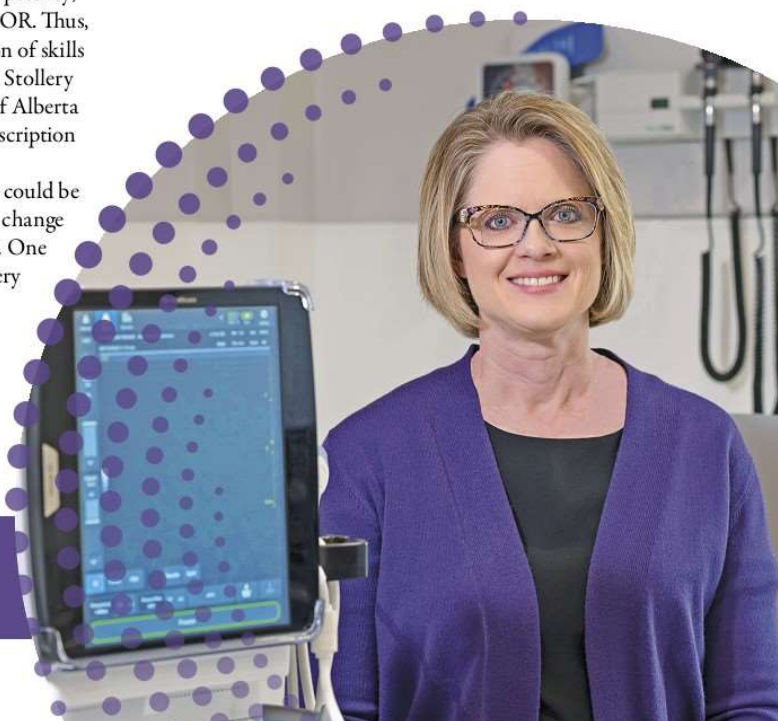
organization that grants permission or competency in injecting Botox.

One of Corinne’s patients is Liam. Since his injury, he has needed 10 sets of Botox injections. He also received an implanted pump in 2018 that delivers baclofen, an anti-spasticity medication, directly to his spinal cord. Recently, he had orthopedic surgery.

Corinne sees Liam frequently for pump refills, checkups, and Botox injections. She says, “He will never mobilize without a wheelchair, but the goals are to keep him comfortable and pain free and allow him to tolerate his wheelchair and braces.”

In recognition of her groundbreaking work, Corinne was recently nominated for Canada’s Nursing Hero award and placed second. But as meaningful as this award is, it’s not nearly as meaningful for Corinne as knowing that in northern Alberta, children like Liam who are in pain are no longer names on a waiting list. ■

*Renate Krause is the editor of Burman University Magazine.*



Corinne (née Hoidal) Huedepohl graduated from Parkview Adventist Academy in 1992. Pictured right, she holds an ultrasound machine used for localizing the muscles for injection with Botox.





# PACeS: A Perfect Fit

**I FIRST LEARNED** about Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS) almost 13 years ago. In 2007/08, I was teaching Grades 1 through 9 at Woodlands Adventist School (Ponoka, Alta.). Since it was a one-room school at the time, I thought it would be in the best interest for the only Grade 9 student to do some of her core classes through this new online school that had just opened.

When my oldest daughter reached school age, we thought PACeS was a good option for her education, as we weren't quite ready to "send her to school." It helped, too, that my high school roommate and friend, Kerry Sackett, was also the K-3 teacher, and I knew that everything she did was always done very well.

Growing up, I learned the value and importance of Adventist education. From Grade 1 through university, I attended Adventist educational institutions. My parents made tremendous sacrifices for me to get an Adventist education. Now, thanks to PACeS, my girls have access to Adventist education at home for K-12.

My husband, Richard, and I, along with our daughters, Kadence and Brooke, live on an acreage outside of Lloydminster,

Alta. Since there is no Christian—let alone Adventist—school in the area, PACeS is not just the *only* option but also the *best* option for our girls.

This fall, Kadence will be in Grade 10 and Brooke will be in Grade 7. Over the years we have usually chosen a "shared responsibility" type of schooling. This means that some of the classes are done online and others I am responsible for instructing. We chose this format because we saw how valuable it was for the girls to interact and learn with classmates online, while also learn from adults in their lives who care about them and want them to do well. This also worked well for our family because it fit our lifestyle, gave us the flexibility we needed, and allowed the girls to be involved in activities that are important to them.

Both girls take music lessons and participate in local homeschool activities and projects. Being part of local sports clubs, the girls have had opportunities to be witnesses and share their faith. Kadence swims competitively and Brooke does gymnastics. After many years Brooke finally got to compete in a couple of meets last winter; her coach

made sure the meets were not scheduled on the Sabbath, so that she could participate.

In addition to being involved in music and sports, the girls became shepherds last year when they began caring for a few bottle-fed lambs. Their flock has grown significantly since then. Shepherding is a lot of work, and it's a job my daughters wouldn't have had the chance to experience if it weren't for their enrolment in PACeS.

The impact that PACeS has had on our family grew a year ago when I joined the teaching staff as a part-time high school social studies teacher. It has been a rewarding experience teaching students not only from Alberta but also from other parts of Canada and around the world. Our social studies discussions are enriched by perspectives from a wide variety of student backgrounds.

Life has been busy and fulfilling, and being part of the PACeS community has been a blessing to our family. ■

*Lindsay Boscher is a PACeS mom and high school social studies teacher. She lives with her family near Canada's only border city.*

We want to hear what you have to say! Send a letter to the editor at [messenger@adventist.ca](mailto:messenger@adventist.ca).



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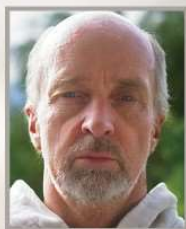


# SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA EXCELLENCE IN ED

THE SDACC OFFICE OF EDUCATION is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Excellence in Education awards. The selection committee was challenged to narrow the list of nominations, believing that each of the educators nominated this year was worthy of receiving this award. The selected recipients represent just a few of our outstanding educators across Canada.

The five men and women described below differ widely in their years of service, their educational backgrounds, and their areas of expertise. All of them, however, share a commitment to God and to Adventist education and are recognized both for their professional expertise and for their passion in ministry through education.

## ADMINISTRATOR AWARD:



Warren Friesen

**WARREN FRIESEN** says that Adventist education has always been important to his family. After 37 years he has decided to retire, most recently as principal of Cariboo Adventist Academy in Williams Lake, B.C., where he has spent the bulk of his career. "Mr. Friesen is a prime example of the best that Adventist education has to offer," writes his school board chair. "He has a deep love for education, a desire to see each student succeed, the respect of parents, and a focus on what is best for the school community."

One of Warren's Grade 11 students comments on his ability to reach each student

individually to help them learn, but also on how he "always manages to talk about the Bible in ways that kids can relate to it." He inspires students, she says, to want to build their own relationship with God and the church.

Warren says that the pinnacle of his career in education is seeing one of his former students come back to Cariboo to teach and now take over the principal position that he will be vacating. Warren will be deeply missed, not only by his school and community in Williams Lake but also by so many across Canada who have benefited from his wisdom and dedication to Adventist education.

## TEACHER AWARDS:



Ellen Bannis

**ELLEN BANNIS** says that she felt a strong desire to make a long-lasting difference in young people's lives and sees Adventist teaching as a calling. Ellen completed an M.Sc. degree in the United Kingdom and has 19 years of teaching experience. She currently serves as the principal and Grade 7 and 8 teacher at Grandview Adventist Academy in Mount Hope, Ont.

Colleagues describe Ellen as "involved and

invested in the people at Grandview." A board member praises Ellen's efforts to connect the school with the church and the community as well as her success in making educational and physical improvements to the school program. Most importantly, Ellen believes that her greatest responsibility is to help her students to understand the role that God has for them and that they can do whatever they set their minds to.





# EDUCATION AWARDS

**ANDREW BROWN** accepted the invitation to be the band director at Kingsway College, in Oshawa, Ont., shortly after he graduated from Andrews University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in music education. He, too, believes that God directed his path into teaching and is convinced that music has an important place in ministry. Andrew's colleagues describe him as humble, dedicated, creative, and hardworking. "His life demonstrates a personal relationship with Jesus," writes one.

In addition to his obvious passion for music, Andrew has demonstrated a willingness to serve in whatever capacity he has been called (including teaching geography and foods). Parents express heartfelt gratitude for his encouraging influence. One mother describes him as a positive role model and credits him for the transformation she has seen in her son. "I have always felt truly blessed that my son had the privilege to work with Mr. Brown."



Andrew Brown

**MEGHANN DIMINYATZ** says that she grew up noticing the difference that educators could make, especially in the lives of children and teens who came from tough circumstances. Teaching seemed like an obvious choice for her, providing an opportunity to be creative as she sought to make a positive impact. Meghann graduated from Burman University in 2014 and has taught elementary grades at Peace Christian School in Chetwynd, B.C., for the past five years.

Meghann's colleagues describe her as "a

leader of the highest quality." Her personal walk with Jesus is displayed daily in her connection with students, involvement in church leadership, and love for learning. The parent of a special needs child describes how Meghann made learning fun and meaningful for her son. "Mrs. D. does not see the disability; she sees the child and all the possibilities for him," she says.

According to Meghann, "I just happen to be lucky enough to show up each day to a job I love."



Meghann Diminyatz

**JEAN SEPTEMBRE** had originally planned to become a youth pastor but went back for a teaching degree when he recognized the ministry opportunity it provided for reaching students for Jesus. Jean currently has more than 31 years of teaching experience across Canada with the last 24 years at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in the community of Aldergrove, in Langley, B.C.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Jean leads the IT department, serves as school

registrar, and is a member of the admission and discipline committees, but he is "best known for his living faith." In the words of a colleague, "he lives and breathes his connection to God."

A Grade 10 student observes that "his thoughtfulness is a gift that his students will always treasure." Jean says that serving in an Adventist school environment is fulfilling and that he loves to see how God is always there to assist them in meeting challenges.



Jean Septembre

THESE WORDS FROM one nominator summarize well the ministry of all five recipients for this year's awards: Each one is doing "a fabulous job of preparing students for the future, both here on earth and in heaven." Thank you, educators across Canada, for your commitment to ministry as you seek to inspire in each student a life of faith, wisdom, and service. ■





aguilars in uganda

# God said, “Go!”

To help our children navigate career path options, Charles and I asked them, “What world problem do you want to solve?”

Jewel made an inventory of her interests and took personality tests to narrow down her options. We discussed the pros and cons of various careers. But despite the career counselling classes she took in high school, she was still undecided. I imagined the pressure she must have been feeling and continued to pray for guidance and direction. Throughout the process I could see Jewel was excited to embark on this next phase of life, and eventually she decided to apply to Walla Walla University (WWU), in Washington state.

Then came all the logistical questions. Would the WWU campus be open for face-to-face classes or remote learning with online classes? What measures did WWU have in place to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols? In the United States, COVID-19 cases continued to rise with no sign of stabilizing. In addition to pandemic-related uncertainties, we were also concerned about economic challenges and growing racial tension in major cities, not to mention the upcoming U.S. elections. Was I sending Jewel into a “lions’ den”?

I tried to convince Jewel to take a gap year, however, Jewel, with unwavering faith, was determined to begin studies at WWU in the fall. She reminded me how God had guided us in the past, and she was confident He would do it again now. But in my mind, there were too many red flags and I remained in doubt.

Then, in the middle of the night, the directive came in a decisive and clear but calm, quiet manner. “Go! Take Jewel to Walla Walla University.” In my doubt, I questioned, “How?” The Uganda border remained closed, and it made more sense to keep her home protected, near, and safe. But God’s ways are not always logical.



An excited Jewel arriving at Walla Walla University.

I concluded my dialogue with God by asking Him to open or close doors as He saw fit.

Doors flew open. The repatriation flight to Canada was arranged, and we arrived in Vancouver, B.C., at the end of July. WWU communicated that the campus would open with a mixture of face-to-face and online classes. However, in order to comply with COVID-19 protocols, they were allowing only one student per room in the dorms, with priority given to first- and fourth-year students. Jewel was assigned a room. Surprisingly, the student visa was issued with only minor challenges, and the next step was to physically get her to WWU.

The drive from Vancouver, B.C., to College Place, Wash., is about eight hours, but crossing the U.S. border by land had its issues—not for Jewel, but for me. However, not being present with Jewel to send her off was inconceivable for me; I *needed* to be there. Air travel to the States posed fewer challenges, so I booked a flight to Portland, Ore., where my brother-in-law and wife live.

Once we were in the U.S., it was a physically and emotionally draining seven days of shopping, driving, more shopping, moving Jewel into the dorm, and—especially for me—dreading that impending moment when I would have to leave my daughter behind.

When it was all over, I drove to Portland alone to catch my flight back to Vancouver. By then the “lions’ den” had become fiery and smoky as the wildfires raged along the West Coast. However, God had taken Jewel this far, and I was reminded, as I had been so many times before, that He would continue to be with her and keep her in His hands as she embarked on this next phase of her life. ■

*The Aguilars are a missionary family from beautiful British Columbia.*





# City Unveils Sculpture Commission

## Created by MANS Students and School VP



See a video of the unveiling at [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca).

**Miweyih towin** (Cree for "Affinity for Each Other"), a welded steel sculpture commissioned by the City of Lacombe, was created over the summer in MANS's Leon Ingraham Industrial Arts/CTS Building. It is installed at the intersection of the Calgary-Edmonton Trail and College Avenue, the major approach to Burman University. Photo credit: Todd Vaughan, City of Lacombe

COVID-19 couldn't keep well-wishers and the curious away from the unveiling of *Miweyih towin*, Lacombe's newest public sculpture on Sept. 26. Michael Willing, vice-principal of the junior and senior high school at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), was instrumental in facilitating the proposal that resulted in the sculpture commission and its production. Artists Eileen Firingstone and Tessa Potts designed *Miweyih towin* and were the primary welders. Willing gave the following speech at the unveiling.

Greetings. My name is Michael Willing. I'm proud to be here today to show you what Eileen, Tessa, and I have been working on for four months.

This work has been a blessing to us in many different ways. From offering a summer employment opportunity, to these two deserving and energetic youth, to ... the opportunity ... the three of us [had] to explore our creative sides, this project has manifested the best in us—and we are excited to showcase it.

In many ways, the best in us is exactly what this sculpture represents. *Miweyih towin*, or "Affinity for One Another," is a visual representation of the natural tendency of many creatures, both big and small, to seek out relationships that are warm, healthy, and close.

Animals, like humans, are attracted to each other for safety, security, and community, and this attraction is what we aimed to represent here. As artists, we would like to share a message

that coming together is our best quality, our prime directive, our goal, and our ambition. We hope that through kindness, familiarity, and compassion we can be a community bound by unfettered strength during times of hardship and separation.

There is no time for this in the future; the time for this is now. Now, during our uncertain days, it should be our goal to unite and commit to treat one another fairly and with an attitude of affinity for one another.

Through the over 450 hours that we spent building this project, we can attest that working well together is not simplistic, facile, or easy. It takes work to understand each other. It takes time to understand each other. But the one thing that has kept coming back to our minds is how this represents the challenges that we face as humans. We want this sculpture to speak to the necessity of not giving up, of continuing in the face of hardship and stress, and most of all coming to the end without losing what makes us human.

We are proud that this legacy will sit here and be a beacon for the opportunity that we have to make the world a better place for each other.

I am proud to present *Miweyih towin*. ■

Vice-Principal Michael Willing is one of the three creators of *Miweyih towin*.



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



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# Hospital Facelift Changes Lives

## of Students and Their Families in Rural Tanzania



**Mombo Health Centre's newly renovated exterior and interior.**



**A patient receiving blood work at the lab.**

**N**orth of the city of Arusha, in the heart of Tanzania's safari country, lies a health-care facility advancing the lives of countless students and their families. The Mombo Health Centre is a rural community hospital, and over the past three years A Better World Canada (ABW) has been helping with much-needed upgrades. The students who access the health-care centre attend one of seven schools that ABW has built in the region. "This is the main point where the children would access health care," says ABW co-founder Eric Rajah.

The Mombo region is filled with beautiful scenery, and most of the people who live there work in agriculture. Rajah describes them as hardworking residents but whose wages are very low. "The people are in need of these good basic services such as education and health," he says.

ABW employs about 50 Tanzanian locals year-round in construction, maintenance, and repairs. It first got involved in the region because this is where Tanzania project manager Rama Kaoneka hails from. He identified the need for specific projects, including the health centre. Working with the health centre was a natural fit for ABW, whose mission includes ensuring that students have access to health care and clean water.

A volunteer medical team initially evaluated the hospital so that a master plan could be created. Another medical team came to work and also to train staff. A list of priorities was drawn up. Since then a mortuary has been built and a surgical suite has been modernized and equipped.

ABW's most recent project involved renovating and expanding the outpatient department, including the waiting area, pharmacy, HIV training centre, and examination rooms. Prior to this, the

department was extremely dilapidated. Ceilings were coming apart, and the building had broken windows and doors.

"It was very crowded," adds Rajah. "It was not representative of a hospital."

The physicians were pleased to have rooms with additional windows. Fans were installed to bring comfort to patients and staff, Rajah says. ABW supplied equipment for the hospital lab as well.

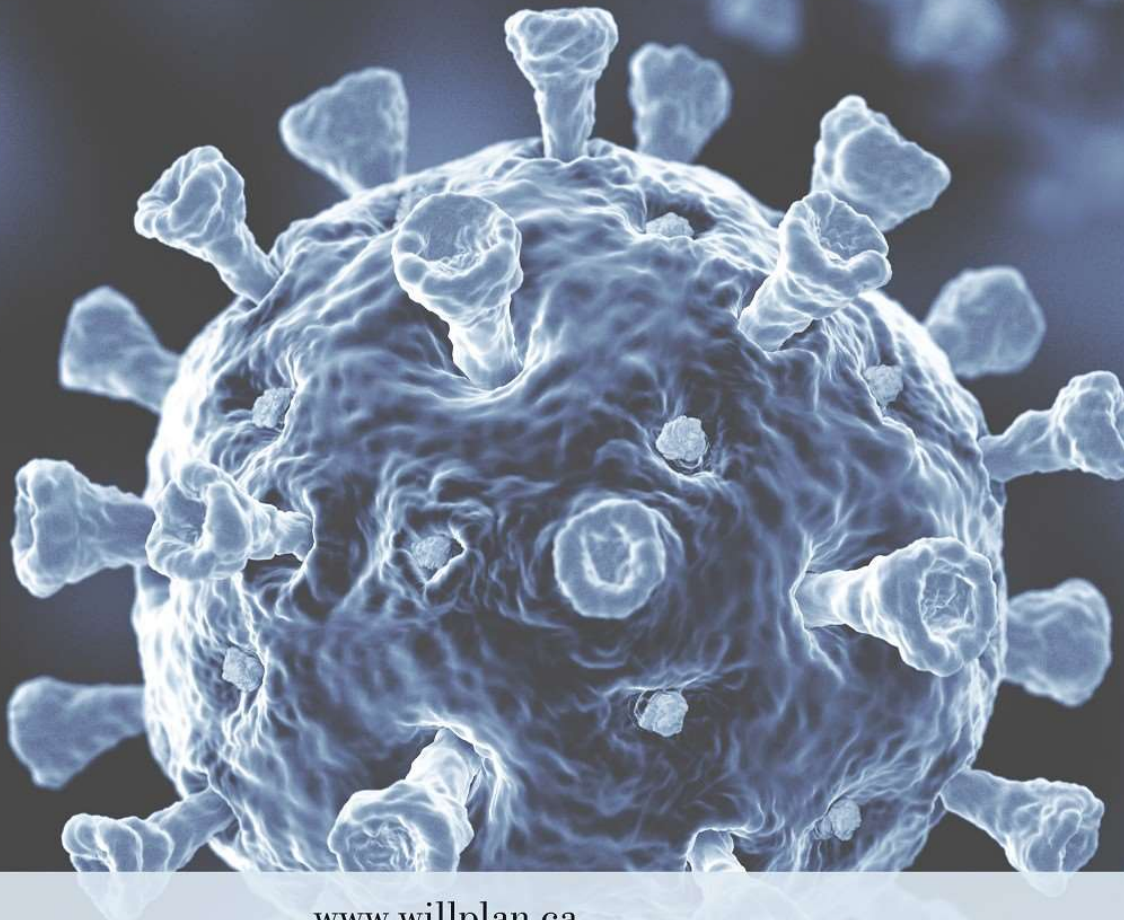
The outpatient department project was launched in September 2019 and finished in January 2020. It was completed in various stages so other operations at the hospital weren't disrupted. The maternity and delivery ward will be upgraded next—because for one thing, it's very crowded, Rajah says. Sometimes, if it's too busy with deliveries, the hospital staff may even have to put a new mother on the floor because there aren't enough beds, he explains. Project plans have been submitted to the government at the county level, and if it agrees to share expenses, then ABW will move forward with this project, Rajah says.

Kaoneka is pleased with how much ABW has improved the Mombo Health Centre. "Before ABW [came in], the Mombo hospital was falling apart. ABW has largely rebuilt the hospital, which now has a modern operating theatre, a mortuary that was badly needed, and a large outpatient centre where members of the community can come [to access] health care [services]," Kaoneka says. "Many babies are born at the centre. It is a busy health centre that benefits many people and children in this busy community." ■

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



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# Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

On June 15, Adrianna Joi Lewis joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) as the new secretary for the Office of Communication and writer/ad liaison for the Canadian Adventist Messenger. Now our readers can get to know the new team member who helps to put the magazine together every month.



Adrianna Joi Lewis

**EDITOR:** *Tell us a bit about yourself.*

**ADRIANNA LEWIS:** I was born in Los Angeles, Calif., at Adventist Health White Memorial, and I grew up in western New York, where my late father was a general and vascular surgeon. My parents, sister, and I moved to Toronto, Ont., when I was 13 years old. There I attended Crawford Adventist Academy for a few years. In 2010, I graduated with a master of arts in communication/media studies from Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Mich.).

**EDITOR:** *I understand you come from a family with a history in Adventism.*

**ADRIANNA:** Yes, I'm a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist. On my mother's side of the family, my great-grandmother, Juanita Neal Bland, was a student on the

Morning Star, the school on a boat led by James Edson White, Ellen White's son, that travelled along the Mississippi River to Vicksburg, Miss.



The Morning Star served as a floating chapel, mobile welfare centre, home for workers, and means of transportation in mission work. Photo courtesy of Ellen G. White Estate.



My great-grandmother's father was an Irish businessman, and her mother was Cherokee Native American. Her father wanted her to get a good education without adopting the religion of the Seventh-day Adventists, but James Edson White had a significant influence on my great-grandmother's life.

After my great-grandmother married Louis H. Bland, a Baptist, and had her first child, she decided that she wanted to raise her children Seventh-day Adventist. She played a role in her husband's decision to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After joining the church through a tent evangelistic effort in 1915, Louis H. Bland became a minister.

In 1944, Louis H. Bland was elected the first president of the Northeastern Regional Conference in the United States, and he served as president until his death in 1953. In 1966, his brother, Frank L. Bland, was elected as a vice-president of the General Conference.



Louis H. Bland circa 1953.  
Photo courtesy of GC Archives.

Frank L. Bland circa 1966.  
Photo courtesy of GC Archives.

On my late father's side of the family, my late grandfather, Alfonso Lewis, became a Seventh-day Adventist as a result of reading *The Great Controversy* on the island of St. Vincent in the Caribbean (my father migrated from St. Vincent to the United States and married my mother). My father's first cousin, Rick Bacchus, was a president of the Ontario Conference.

**EDITOR:** *How did your grandmother play a role in your life?*

**ADRIANNA:** My maternal grandmother, Doris Bland Arthur, has made a profound impact on my life! She was a chaplain at Adventist Health White Memorial, where her husband, the late Dr. Basil C. Arthur, was a heart surgeon. Along with my parents, she taught me about God and how to pray. She is a woman who loves to pray! And I grew up hearing stories about her father, Louis H. Bland, and uncle, Frank L. Bland, and their experiences working in the church. Her dream for me is to marry a man whose life is dedicated to the Lord.

**EDITOR:** *Why did you pursue a career in communication?*

**ADRIANNA:** My late father, Dr. Thomas Dugald Lewis, inspired the careers my sister and I pursued. He tragically passed away from a heart attack in 2003 when my sister and I were teenagers. He told my younger sister, Alana, that she should become a cardiologist. He told me that I should go into broadcast journalism, and I think that's the best advice he ever gave me!

I graduated from Hoover High School in Hoover, Ala., where I first studied broadcast journalism. When I was 18 years old, I created, reported, and edited a three-and-a-half-minute news story that aired on CNN on the show *CNN Student News* on Juneteenth, June 19, 2002. My story covered the progress in race relations in Birmingham, Ala., since the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s and how Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality was becoming a reality in America.

During undergrad, I attended Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) for a few semesters, and it was exciting to report on news stories in the capital of the United States, Washington, D.C.!

**EDITOR:** *How do you like working at the SDACC?*

**ADRIANNA:** I love it! It has been my dream to work in communication for the Seventh-day Adventist Church since I was 12 years old. I believe that media can be a powerful tool in helping to spread the gospel message. I have had several jobs in different fields over the past 10 years: non-profit, health care, politics (I was a constituency assistant for a Member of Parliament), and finance; I'm hoping all of these experiences have prepared me to work for the church in a very positive and meaningful way.

**EDITOR:** *Tell us about your home church.*

**ADRIANNA:** I have been a member of the Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church in Markham, Ont., where my stepfather, Seymour McPherson, is the treasurer, and my mother, Doris Lewis McPherson, is a greeter. I recently moved to Oshawa at the end of August to be closer to the SDACC.

**EDITOR:** *Do you have a favourite Bible verse to share with Messenger readers?*

**ADRIANNA:** "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11, NKJV). ■

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



# news

of Canadian Adventist members and churches in action

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## Manitoba-Saskatchewan

### Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Office Personnel Changes



**Marlon and Kryshna Hylton and family. Marlon has accepted a call with ADRA Canada.**

**W**e regretfully announce that the Hylton family will be leaving the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. Marlon Hylton, the current conference treasurer, has taken the call to join the ADRA Canada team as associate director of finance and will begin his role there on Dec. 1, 2020. His wife, Kryshna, who is the principal at Riverside Adventist Christian School in Saskatoon, and their children will join Marlon in Ontario in the new year.

"My family and I are truly grateful for the opportunity to have served this conference for the past three-and-a-half years," says Marlon. "We've been truly blessed to have been in an environment surrounded by such an amazing team. Our accomplishments were possible only because of your support and prayers, and we will forever be indebted. Please continue to pray for us as we journey into another chapter of His mission."

Michael Collins, conference president, states, "We have appreciated Marlon's dedicated and sterling service these past three-plus years."

The entire Hylton family will be greatly missed. They have added much to our conference's ministry here in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut. We pray that God will continue to bless the Hyltons as they move to Ontario and begin new ministries there.

In light of this departure, the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference





**Christine Bergen** was previously elected as executive secretary for the conference and has now accepted the added portfolio of treasurer.



**Joe Ann Taer** has joined the conference as associate secretary.



**Sandra Wall** has accepted the additional role of communication director to her current duties as youth director.

Board of Directors met on Oct. 8, 2020, to discuss the way forward and voted on the following office personnel changes:

#### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Christine Bergen has graciously accepted the role of secretary-treasurer for the Man-Sask Conference. She held this position in the Newfoundland Mission for eight-and-a-half years before moving to Saskatchewan in 2019. Her willingness to serve where needed is greatly appreciated. Marlon states, “It has been a great pleasure working with Christine for the past several months, and I’m delighted that she has now accepted this new role as secretary/treasurer at this conference. Christine has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team, and it’s evident the Lord has brought her to us at this time.”

#### **Associate Secretary**

Due to the need for additional support for Christine in the secretary-treasurer role, the Board of Directors decided to hire Joe Ann Taer as associate secretary, effective Oct. 16, 2020. “The Man-Sask Conference is happy to welcome Joe Ann Taer to the conference office,” writes

Christine. “Joe Ann comes to us with a master of business administration and over seven years of administration experience, including service in the Middle East and North Africa at the union level. She has a strong background in human resources and secretarial support that extends to keeping HR records and the development of HR policies. These skills will help facilitate much-needed policy updates and enhanced reporting for our field. She has successfully planned and organized numerous large events that will provide the expertise to help ensure that our upcoming session operates smoothly.”

“Joe Ann was born in the Philippines and has lived the last eight years in Lebanon before coming to Canada earlier this summer with her husband, Ryan, and their young son, Niall,” continues Christine. “They are settling in nicely with Niall attending Riverside Christian School. Her many talents and her warm personality will be a true asset to our office, and her family a happy addition to ours.”

#### **Communication Director**

On Sept. 16, 2020, the board also voted

to shift the role of communication director from Corinne Lindberg to Sandra Wall, and Corinne will fill the role of education director. With the additional challenges and provincial requirements placed on schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and the conference’s desire to see more Adventist schools established in our territory, the board decided to transition the education-director position to full-time, which will give Corinne more time to prioritize these developments. In turn, with COVID-19 restrictions, youth events are more difficult to plan, which enables Sandra to devote time to the communications department.

As the conference office adjusts to all these changes, we appreciate your prayers and support. We know that the same God who has brought us thus far will continue to guide and bless this conference and the people we serve as we seek to see His mission for us fulfilled. ■

— adapted from the  
*Manitoba-Saskatchewan  
Conference website*



## Maritime

# Maritime Conference Hosts 49<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Session Virtually



Re-elected officers of the Maritime Conference: Dave Miller, president; Teresa Ferreira, executive secretary; Ed Sharpe, treasurer.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, the Maritime Conference of Seventh-day Adventists hosted its 49<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Session via Zoom, the first time a session in Canada was held virtually. At 8 a.m. the Organizing Committee elected the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee represented the diversity of the Maritime Conference, which includes New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

“There was a great spirit,” says Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. The Nominating Committee began at 9 a.m. and continued until noon. All officers were re-elected. Delegates from around the conference voted Dave Miller as president, Teresa Ferreira as executive secretary, and Ed Sharpe as treasurer.

Dave Miller has a broad range of ministry experience. He has served as

youth pastor for the Henderson Highway Seventh-day Adventist Church in Winnipeg, Man.; district pastor for the Battleford and St. Walburg congregations in Saskatchewan; and pastor for the Hill Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Regina, Sask.

Teresa Ferreira has served Adventist education in varying capacities within the United States and Canada, as well as abroad in Asia. At the Maritime Conference she has served as executive secretary, education superintendent, camp ministries director, and mission-driven representative during the past three years.

Ed Sharpe has been treasurer of the Maritime Conference for 12 years and assistant treasurer of the Newfoundland Mission for six years.

“Moving forward we are excited to see how we—as a group of churches—

will become more missional as we serve in each of our communities,” says Dave Miller. “The traditional way of doing church is fading with COVID-19, and with that, we will be provided with opportunities to look at new ways of doing evangelism, both online and face-to-face; new ways of looking at hybrid churches with a mix of in-person and media [delivery]; and new ways to get our members involved. Now, more than ever, total member involvement is necessary.”

The Maritime Conference extends an honoured thank-you for entrusting the administrative calling of this conference to its administration team again! May God ever be before us, behind us, and around us.

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deut. 31:8, NIV). ■

**>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT.** As of Sept. 30, 2020, there were 391 depositors with a total deposit of \$31,996,069. There were 92 loans with a value of \$29,694,390.

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



## ■ Announcements

### PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries, and tributes) should be emailed to Adrianna Lewis (lewis.adrianna@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at [www.adventist.ca/messenger](http://www.adventist.ca/messenger).
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.

## ■ Birthdays

Rita Lowe-Hack of Dartmouth, N.S.,



celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 21, 2020, in a parklike setting at the home of her son Bill (Donna) Gay in Hammonds Plains, N.S. Because of COVID-19, the celebration had to be drive-by only with the exception of family. For two hours friends drove by waving, honking, and leaving cards while beautiful Rita sat waving back. She played the harmonica well that day. Rita has had the misfortune of laying to rest four husbands. She has four children.

## ■ New Members

**Kevin Ritchen** was baptized at Oakfield Park Lake in Halifax, N.S., on July 11, 2020, by Gary Belhomme. He studied with Pastor Belhomme and two elders, Ben McBeth and Roderick Trotman. He is now a member of the Halifax Seventh-day

Adventist Church.

**Lesley Uwitonze** was baptized at Oakfield Park Lake in Halifax, N.S. on July 11, 2020, by Gary Belhomme. She studied with Pastor Belhomme and two elders, Ben McBeth and Roderick Trotman. She is now a member of the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Aleshia Walters** was baptized at Oakfield Park Lake in Halifax, N.S. on July 11, 2020, by Gary Belhomme. She studied with Pastor Belhomme and two elders, Ben McBeth and Roderick Trotman. She is now a member of the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## ■ Obituaries

**Gerald Bellefontaine** was born on Feb. 26, 1947, in Halifax, N.S., and died on Aug. 3, 2020, in Lower Sackville, N.S. He was a faithful member of the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he served as a deacon. Gerald is predeceased by his parents, Albert and Mary Bellefontaine; brothers, Harold (Rosella) Bellefontaine and Adam (Gwen) Bellefontaine. Surviving: wife, Mary L. (née Dares) Bellefontaine; sons, Jeremy (Brittany) Bellefontaine of Porters Lake, N.S., Marcus (Sarah) Bellefontaine of Springhill, N.S., and Ray Anderson of Lower Sackville; daughters, Sheryl Bellefontaine of Leduc, Alta., Sandra (Tom) Lavoie of Mesa, Ariz., and Amanda Bellefontaine of Lower Sackville; brothers, Reg (Josie) Bellefontaine of Lawrencetown, N.S., and Billy Bellefontaine of West Chezzetcook, N.S.; sisters, Theresa Bellefontaine and Margaret (Doug) Wood of West Chezzetcook; and five grandchildren.

**Allen Clarence Kneller** was born on March 22, 1934, in Whitemouth, Man., and died on Aug. 2, 2020, in Kelowna, B.C. He attended Okanagan Adventist Academy (now Okanagan Christian School), Kingsway College, and Canadian Union College (now Burman University); worked at Branson Hospital; and served his church as a deacon with strong faith and a friendly spirit. Allen is predeceased by his parents, William and Hanna Kneller. Surviving: brothers, Mervin (Eloise) Kneller of Kelowna, and Ralph (Marie) Kneller of Kelowna; sister, Grace (Ron) Dublanko of Vancouver, B.C.; one nephew and six nieces.

**Eric Moore** was born on June 30, 1934, in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, and died on Aug. 6, 2020, in Edmonton, Alta. Eric was dedicated and served the church for more than

50 years in various positions, along with countless hours of volunteer labour. His services included building and renovating Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools, and campgrounds across Canada. Eric is survived by his spouse, Marie (née Stearn) Moore; sons, Neil (Yvonne) Moore of Sturgeon County, Alta., and Collin Moore of St. Albert, Alta.; daughter, Sherie (Todd) McCuaig of Edmonton; and four grandchildren.

**Sylvester Riffin** was born on March 11, 1930, in St. Vincent, West Indies, and died on July 19, 2020, in Edmonton, Alta. Sylvester joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Vincent and continued to share his faith as a deacon and friend when he immigrated to Canada. He was a founding member of the Lacombe Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sylvester is predeceased by his parents, Gerald and Adelia Riffin; brothers, Fred and Frank Riffin; and sister, Noreen Riffin. Surviving: wife, Ruth (née Moseanko) Riffin; sons, Trevor (Sandi) Riffin of Houston, Tex., Terry (Cheryl) Riffin of Abbotsford, B.C., and Lorne Riffin of Lacombe, Alta.; daughters, Cherry Riffin of Edmonton, and Lauren (Dwayne) Wilde of Abbotsford; brothers, Stanley (Pierrette) Riffin of Vaudreuil-Dorion, Que., and Larry Riffin of Fountain, St. Vincent; sisters, Carmen Crichton of Miami, Fla., Joan Kovacic of Ajax, Ont., and Rita (Peter) Stolper of Kitchener, Ont.; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Magda (née Rutova) Skrla** was born on May 6, 1944, in Brno, Czechoslovakia, and died on June 21, 2020, in Bruntal, Czech Republic. Magda served as the organist and Sabbath school teacher at the Golden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Golden, B.C. Magda is survived by her spouse, Peter Skrla; and son, Peter Skrla, of the Czech Republic.

## ■ Advertisements

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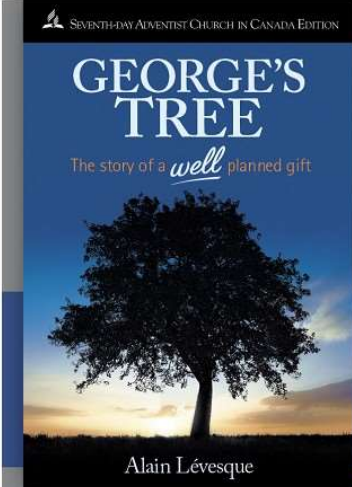
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## 2020 OFFERING SCHEDULE

**NOVEMBER**

Local Church Budget ..... November 07  
 Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)\* ..... November 14  
 Local Church Budget ..... November 21  
 Conference Advance ..... November 28

**DECEMBER**

Local Church Budget ..... December 05  
 Adv. Min. of Compassion Canada\* ..... December 12  
 Local Church Budget ..... December 19  
 Conference Advance ..... December 26

\*Special materials provided.



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from the editor



**AS A TEEN** I would don my Royal Canadian Air Cadet uniform and be part of the often crisp, sometimes frozen, November 11 celebration in my home of Whitecourt, Alta. A well-planned event included marching, saluting, and serving in the ceremony in various ways. Each year a war widow or mother of a fallen soldier was chosen to lay a wreath, followed by two minutes of silence to honour those who had given up their freedom for our continuous freedom. Let us never forget those who have faithfully gone before us. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

Growing up in rural Canada, I often felt as if we were living in the shadow of a more significant country just to the south of us. At the time, I never really had the Canadian pride that I have since grown into. My turning point was 1993, the year I visited the former Yugoslavia and learned of our peacekeepers’ amazing work. Citizens of this war-torn region have told me many times how great the Canadian soldiers were. These men and women in uniform cleared parks and playgrounds of landmines, so that the children could play safely, and provided other nonmilitary intervention to restore stability. (In light of that, it was quite a moment for me when I met and got to know Otto, whom we featured in this month’s cover story.)

The following year, 1994, I made an ADRA Canada–sponsored trip to Rwanda. I arrived after our Canadian soldiers had already established a presence there. I learned from the Rwandese that the Canadian soldiers had provided clean water in a city that had their water infrastructure destroyed. With Canada ranking among the top 10 countries for abundant freshwater supply, we find it hard to fathom what it would be like having no water available. I also learned that Canada, along with Australia, had put up the first field hospitals.

As a result, my family would now say I get irritated when I see Remembrance Day celebrated as a day for sales and consumerism rather than a day to honour those who have served our country now and in the past. I invite you to search for a song on YouTube that I listen to several times leading up to Remembrance Day—“A Pittance of Time,” by Terry Kelly.

Like many people I know, I would personally choose to take the conscientious objector status in a time of war and would not kill. And yet, I support those who, in an effort to protect the freedom of others, fought against armies who were commanded to attack and eradicate “our team.”

Sometimes I have trouble reconciling those two positions. But maybe these two concepts are not mutually exclusive, and preserving peace can take different forms. Let’s actively pursue peace, and support others who do, too. ■

from the editor

## Remembrance Day

P.S.: As always, I’m interested in your thoughts, so feel free to email me at [jensen.stan@adventist.ca](mailto:jensen.stan@adventist.ca).



# ADRA Canada's *Gift Catalogue*



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## Food Hamper

When the COVID quarantine began Sarah, a foster mother, was no longer able to buy enough food for her family. She was grateful when ADRA provided a food hamper. Your gift of \$150 can provide enough food for a family for two weeks.

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**\$25**

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**\$35**

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## Hygiene Kit

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