

Go Home... (p. 3), The Reality of Toxic Positivity (p. 13),
The Triumph of Love (p. 32), The Spirit Still Leads (p. 40)

may 2021

canadian adventist
Messenger



Let Your Light Shine

Helping People Navigate Life
With Christ Through Branding

PM40069337



Indigenous Awareness Training: 4 Seasons of Reconciliation



Online Industry-Leading Training Course for all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada



4 Seasons of Reconciliation is an engaging multimedia course which promotes a renewed relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians. This bilingual course is in use across 8 provinces in major education, government, and private sectors. The course, purchased by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, is a self-paced foundational 101 for Indigenous awareness training. It provides a concrete tool for building a more inclusive church which actively meets and responds to the TRC Calls to Action. Engaging and inspiring videos, award-winning films, slides, quizzes, a final certificate, and a national bonus video library created with Indigenous authors provide you with ready-to-use reconciliation strategy tools.



Modular Course & Final Quiz & Certificate:

<p>Pre-Module Quiz</p> <p>7m</p>	<p>Module 1 Watch the film</p> <p>30m</p>	<p>Module 2 Colonial Lens</p> <p>14m</p>	<p>Module 3 Pre-Contact</p> <p>16m</p>	<p>Module 4 Treaties</p> <p>15m</p>
<p>Module 5 Residential Schools</p> <p>14m</p>	<p>Module 6 UNDRIP</p> <p>5m</p>	<p>Module 7 Indigenous Relation</p> <p>14m</p>	<p>Module 8 Reconciliation</p> <p>12m</p>	<p>Module 9 Restitution</p> <p>14m</p>



Coming late April 2021 to All Adventist Church Members in Canada
A First for All Church Denominations in Canada
Pre-register for this FREE course with Indigenous Ministries
4Seasons@adventist.ca

May 2021 Vol. 90 No. 5

Communication Director/Editor Stan Jensen
jensen.stan@adventist.ca

Art Director Aimee Perez
perez.aimee@adventist.ca

Secretary, Writer/Ad Liaison Adrianna Lewis
lewis.adrianna@adventist.ca;
messenger@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Miroslavjevic
messenger@adventist.ca

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.



Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Paul Llewellyn
llewellyn.paul@adventist.ca

VP Finance Paul Musafiri
musafiri.paul@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5,
phone 403/342-5044

British Columbia Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S
4P5, phone 604/853-5451

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1004 Victoria Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

Maritime 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E
1A6, phone 506/857-8722

Newfoundland and Labrador 1041 Topsail Rd.,
Mount Pearl, NL A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

Ontario 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H
1H8, phone 905/571-1022

Quebec 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H
3M3, phone 450/651-5222

Submission Deadlines

July issue **May 1**

August issue **June 1**

September issue **July 1**

>> View this issue online at 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

“Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

—Mark 5:19, ESV

Go Home...

One day as Jesus travelled, He encountered a man so wild and unruly that he lived among tombs, breaking the chains made to protect him and then harming himself. Jesus saved that man's life and sanity. When other people in town asked Jesus to leave, this previously demonic man was ready to leave town *with* Jesus. But Christ had other plans for him. He said to the man, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you” (Mark 5:19, ESV).

That man's mission was in the community where he was best known. The people next door were in a much better position to understand what Jesus had done for him and was capable of doing. The witness of a man with a troubled past was more effective to the folks down the street who could see how miraculous the transformation truly was.

Early Christians and early Adventists were people with active, living stories. But today we tend to repeat stories that are 25 years old. God has a different plan.

What would it be like to have neighbourhood “Adventist houses”? Wonderful, kind members inviting the folks next door or down the block to spend a few minutes thinking about Jesus, what's next, and how to live.

Creating a co-operative network of lay-based, living room or, in the milder weather of summer, backyard conversations about faith, creates a walkable pathway from the neighbourhood into a community of faith and trust in difficult times.

In a smaller context than an urban congregation of any faith often provides, faith is nurtured. And authentic life, a life that doesn't inflict harm on others, shines in beauty.

What if, in these days of limited assembly, we recognized the gift we've just received? Gather together, neighbouring Adventists, but remember this is also for sharing a very *real* gospel. From the home, with shorter, deeper, more interactive conversations, the Bible, largely lost in our secular society, can become the guide, the light that it really is.

What if we go home and tell our friends? ■

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



One Vision

The will to do, the faith to endure

"The best thing about Maskwacis Church is the people."

Carmelia Soosay, MANS Alumna & Licensed Care Giver

The Maskwacis Congregation is all about people. Though they've been meeting for years, that's all the congregation has—people. There's never been an Adventist church building.

Among the MANS kids who attended was a pre-teen, Carmelia.

Now as a mother with children who look forward to Sabbath School each week, Carmelia works at the Wetaskiwin Hospital and looks forward to becoming a nurse. She wants to be part of healing her community.

Carmelia wants a place where practical as well as spiritual needs are met. A multi-use church where her neighbours can drop in for church services or health classes and feel at home.

A place where it's good to be a First Nations Adventist. That's Carmelia's dream.

**The Maskwacis
Congregation**
& Mamawi Atosketan
Native School

Imcdowell@albertaadventist.ca
(403) 342-5044 ext. 233



WHAT'S INSIDE

May 2021



24



40

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS: Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) should contact their local church clerk directly for all *Canadian Adventist Messenger* address changes. Contact phone numbers and mailing addresses for each conference are listed on page 3. If you are a member but are not receiving the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, please request it through your local church clerk or conference office.

PAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: Paid subscribers should contact the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* office for address changes. Individuals outside of the SDACC may subscribe by contacting the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* at 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8, or messenger@adventist.ca. Annual subscription price: US\$20.

WHAT'S COMING In our next issue learn more about how our church is working with and for the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Get to know Campbell Page, director of Indigenous Relations at the SDACC.

FEATURES

- 24 **COVER STORY** Let Your Light Shine
- 21 **FEATURE** Home Church, Pt. 1
- 32 **FEATURE** The Triumph of Love
- 40 **FEATURE** The Spirit Still Leads

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 **HEART TO HEART**
- 6 **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**
- 7 **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- 8 **AGUILARS ON A MISSION**
- 9 **CREATION CORNER**
- 10 **ADRA CANADA**
- 11 **FRESH FAITH/35 & UNDER**
- 12 **TEEN TALK**
- 13 **GROWING UP MILLENNIAL**
- 14 **TECH SAVVY**
- 15 **CONNECTED CHURCH**
- 16 **LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZON**
- 17 **PRAYER LIFE**
- 18 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
- 20 **THE POWERFUL PLATE**
- 22 **RAINMAKERS**
- 28 **LITERATURE EVANGELISM**
- 29 **EDUCATION**
- 30 **THE BURMAN EFFECT**
- 31 **IT IS WRITTEN CANADA**
- 34 **A BETTER WORLD**
- 35 **MASKWACIS OUTREACH**
- 36 **NEWS**
- 42 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADS**
- 46 **FROM THE EDITOR**





FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Q: *I have recently joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church and feel very blessed to be part of this church family. I am a nurse and have always been a member of the nurses' union. I have recently been told that Adventists do not join labour unions. I'm not sure why that is. What should I do?*

A: I'm so glad that you have made a commitment to Jesus and have joined our church family! Your question is a good one, but I am going to need to answer it in two parts. This month I will explain the church's teaching on labour unions. Next month I will discuss the legal issues related to being a conscientious objector to labour union membership.

I want to be clear that your salvation is not dependent on whether or not you remain a member of the nurses' union, but rather on your relationship and commitment to God.

As Adventists, we recognize that the dignity of individual personhood means that we each should have the freedom to exercise our own moral and ethical judgment. This biblical teaching is important to what you personally decide about your union membership. It is also a reason that Adventists have traditionally objected to joining labour unions. We teach that our allegiance to God should permeate all of our actions, attitudes, and decisions, and that all other sources of authority should be treated as subordinate to that commitment. If another obligation is not complementary to and supportive of our relationship with Jesus, it is not safe or reliable.

The workplace should be based on mutual service and respect. We should avoid adversarial relationships based on self-interest, which undermine our ability to adhere to the biblical commitment of selfless love for others. Employers have an obligation to treat employees well, pay a fair and just wage, and engage in genuine discussion about matters of common interest.

As employees, Christians should support these goals but also refrain from coercive means that are incompatible with biblical ideals. We also need to maintain our ability to personally decide how we will interact with and treat our employer to ensure that we are modelling Christ's love. As such, we need to maintain spiritual autonomy, protect against allegiances that may compromise our Christian witness, and steer clear of supporting organizations that use violence, coercion, or any other methods incompatible with Christian ideals.

As a result of these principles, and a concern that membership would require the surrender of individual autonomy, Seventh-day Adventists were among the earliest objectors to labour union membership. Again, I am not saying that you must become a conscientious objector to union membership. Neither am I making any specific comment about your union, since I don't know which it is or what activities it has undertaken or promoted on behalf of its members.

However, I encourage you to prayerfully consider whether you believe that your membership creates obligations or requires you to participate in actions or tactics that are incompatible with your commitment to Jesus and His teachings. Study the matter carefully with your pastor. Then come back next month to this page, and I'll address the legal position of a conscientious objector to union membership. ■

Kevin Boonstra is a lawyer in British Columbia. Send your religious liberty questions to 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.



The Rewritten Life

"God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes."

—2 Samuel 22:25, *The Message*

This year I started reading the Bible the whole way through again. This time around I chose the paraphrase by Eugene Peterson, titled *The Message*. As I was finishing the story of King David's life found in 2 Samuel, I came across a wonderful rewording of chapter 22 verse 25, which goes like this: "God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes."

The rendering of this verse caused me to reflect for a while. The words are so encouraging and life changing. King David is at the end of his life and sharing his last words with his people, Israel. His message is reminiscent of the final words of Moses or Joshua. As they reflect on their God-directed lives, they want to share the summation of their wishes for their people Israel going forward.

As David reviewed his life, I'm sure there were many things he was happy with and didn't see any great need to change. He must have been happy that God had chosen him to be the new king of Israel, since he was not a likely candidate at the time. He was young and inexperienced. He came from humble beginnings, as his family was not prominent in Israel. He was the youngest of his brothers, and they would all feature more prominently in his family. However, David did use his time of solitude in the mountains looking after his sheep to good use. He spent much time in prayer and getting to know God better. He wrote psalms to and about God. He composed and sang his songs of praise for God's leading in his life. He also practised using his sling to overcome the predators that threatened his flock.

The encounter with Goliath was one of the experiences that David would have reflected on with satisfaction at the end of his life. God had given him the courage and confidence to overcome this giant in battle. David would have been pleased that he had spared the life of King Saul on two notable occasions. He would have been happy remembering the times that he didn't take things into his own hands but let God work everything out. He would have been glad that he followed Abigail's counsel to spare Nabal

and his household. He would have been content about having shown mercy to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan.

Nevertheless, looking back from the mountaintop of a long life, he must have looked upon many of his actions with deep regret—episodes in his life that he wished he could rewrite. Looming large was the incident with Bathsheba. The adultery was bad enough, but then added to that were deception and murder. Uriah had been among David's 30 special soldiers, a man renowned for his loyalty and bravery. How David wished this segment of life could be rewritten.

When confronted by God through the prophet Nathan, David condemned the man in Nathan's parable and thereby himself. David pronounced a judgment on the man in the parable, stating that the man should have to repay fourfold (2 Sam. 12:1-7). Tragically, this would become his own punishment. David would lose four of his sons. The child with Bathsheba would die in infancy. His son Amnon would be killed by his son Absalom. Absalom would be killed by Joab, and then Adonijah would be killed by Solomon.

Yes, when it comes to his past, there was much that David was satisfied with but equally as much he wished could be rewritten. I think the same could be said about most of us, although perhaps not as extreme. When looking back on their lives, most people see things they wish they could change. They wish their relationship with their parents or children could have been better. They wish they hadn't gone through that divorce. They wish they could have chosen a more meaningful career. They wish they had been more honest. Etc.

Let me leave you with the promise expressed by David: "God rewrote the text of my life when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes." ■

Gary Hodder is president of the Alberta Conference.



My Friend Sam



Onyx and Sam

This is a picture of me and my friend Sam. I first met Sam at church. He was an Adventurer then, but he always tried to sneak into the Pathfinder meetings because he wanted to be a Pathfinder so badly. He wore a smile from ear to ear the day he turned 10 and was inducted into the Pathfinder Club.¹

Sam is generally smaller than most boys his age, but that never stopped him from getting involved in the various activities.

At campouts when it was time to fetch water, he was one of the first to volunteer. When a chore needed to be done, he willingly accepted the task even if it meant washing dishes or building the latrines. Fetching water and washing dishes usually meant great conversation time with friends and leaders, but knowing he was contributing to the overall well-being of the club made him even more proud of the latrine he and his team had constructed. He was just so proud to be part of the Pathfinder club!

Sam has a generous heart. During our Sunday meetings he'd pack a small bag of popcorn and never hesitated to offer me some, even though there wasn't very much to begin with. He shared whatever he had with whoever was around. Sometimes it meant he was left with only a mouthful for himself. But he was resourceful, as there were always plenty of guavas

or mangoes around the compound that could be picked for a quick snack.

Sam's generous heart, big smile, and zeal to get involved are common characteristics of most of my Ugandan friends. But the following recent story makes him stand out above the rest.

Schools have been closed since the COVID lockdown. Only certain classes have been allowed to return to school. Most children were sent to the village (rural areas) to be with their grandparents. This was also the case for Sam, but he saw this as an opportunity to share what he loves.

Sam and his friend Reuben started a drill squad. It attracted some other kids who wanted to join, and now they are a squad of 40. They were given permission to hold their club gatherings at the local church. Sam asked the children's leader to teach the Pathfinder classes. Unfortunately, they are not familiar with the program. He continued with what he knew. He taught them the Pathfinder pledge and law, took attendance, and delegated devotionals and prayer. Then they would march. This was their club meeting.

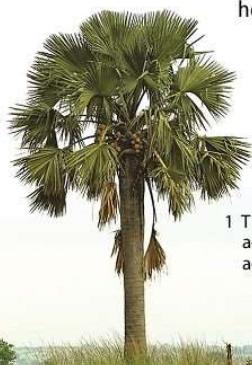
Sam realized he needed help. He asked his mom to message his Pathfinder leaders in town. He wanted his friends to have a club and learn about Pathfinders. In anticipation that school would resume, Sam has returned to the city, but he has been pestering his mom to send him back home because he is needed at the village Pathfinder meetings.

When I asked Sam what made him decide to start a Pathfinder club, he simply answered, "My village needs a Pathfinder club. Pathfinders helped me learn so many things like marching, camping, and especially how Jesus loves me. I want my friends to learn these things too."

With the faith of a mustard seed, Sam has taken what he loves and shares it with others. His excitement to share soon becomes theirs too. When it's more than he can handle, he asks for help and presses on. Sam may be small in stature, but he stands above the rest in taking initiative and leadership. ■

The Aguilars are a missionary family from beautiful British Columbia. Onyx is Charles and Betty's youngest child.

¹ The Adventurer Club is for younger children (under the age of 10), whereas the Pathfinder Club is for the subsequent age group.



Creation Corner for Kids

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.—Matthew 25:31, KJV

Indigo Bunting

Think about it.

When a young male indigo bunting makes his first migration to his family's winter home, he arrives wearing drab brown. He doesn't have a song to sing, and he doesn't get much attention. At his second migration, however, the indigo bunting comes in his glory—bright blue feathers and a sweet song that makes you sit up and listen.

Isaiah prophesied that when Jesus would come to earth the first time, people would not recognize Him as the Saviour. Instead, they would think, "There is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isa. 53:2). But when Jesus comes the second time, He will come in His glory. That day is fast approaching. Are you watching? Are you ready?

The adult male bird named Indigo Bunting is known for its bright blue colour with a richer blue colour on the head, but it was not born that special colour. A small brown bird hops back and forth among the lower branches of a little shrub. She carries fine grasses to a fork in the branches and pushes leaves and bits of bark into the little nest she's building. When she's finished shaping her nest, she carries strands of spider silk and wraps the silk around the nest to give it strength.

She lays three tiny white eggs and keeps them warm for two weeks. When her babies hatch, they're naked and their eyes are closed. They don't look promising, but with care, they soon grow into little brown birds. By the end of summer, they're ready to migrate with their parents. But at that point there's still nothing special about them, and nobody notices them.

Do it!

Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:8 to find out what Paul said about how to get ready.



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



The faces painted on Mario and Medalit's house represent the stages of their life. Thanks to ADRA, it now includes a happy face.

High in the mountains of Peru lies the community of Chilca. Remote and unforgiving, at 4,100 to 4,700 metres (13,500 to 15,500 ft.) above sea level, the temperature can quickly drop to -5 degrees Celsius. These freezing cold temperatures bring rain, snow, and blustery winds that negatively affect the local inhabitants' health. The harsh conditions exacerbate vulnerabilities, especially for the very young and the very old.

With their precarious economic condition made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, few have adequate warm clothing. The breeding of South American camelids such as llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos is the main economic activity. But each year, thousands of animal deaths are reported due to the extreme cold or a shortage of forage, which is their primary food. As a result, few families are able to break the cycle of poverty.

Mario is 32. He and his 30-year-old wife, Medalit, 10-year-old daughter Lucero, and one-year-old daughter Abigail live in a small house in Chilca.

Before ADRA Canada's Peru Warm Houses project, Mario and Medalit's home had no proper floor, heating, or electricity. They did not have clean drinking water or a toilet. Their stove was a traditional oven, which did not have a vent to the outdoors. Each time they cooked, their home would fill with smoke. As a result, their health was seriously affected by acute respiratory infections and pneumonia.

With the arrival of the Warm Houses project, Mario saw the bright light of hope. ADRA's team of specialists worked

to substantially improve their home by installing a wooden floor, a second roof, a solar heater, and a Trombe' window in the bedroom. ADRA also installed a new kitchen stove with adequate ventilation. These changes have made their home warmer. The temperature in the bedroom, where Mario's entire family sleeps, has increased by up to 10 degrees Celsius.

"Before the project, we used six to seven blankets in our beds, and it was still difficult to get warm," Medalit explains. "But now, as the solar heater works all day long, it heats the whole room, which is very airtight, allowing us to use only three or four blankets at night. It is also wonderful to have light in the house and to do our activities safely at night. Before, we used to light the house in an artisanal way using grease in a jar with a little alpaca wool as fuel. This was very harmful to our eyes. The solar panel system that was installed has solved this problem. Now my daughter can read her picture book and do her homework. My husband and I can continue hand-knitting a sweater, a poncho, and other things to keep the family warm."

Today, Mario's house has many faces. Mario says, "These faces represent the different stages of my life. They represent sadness and anger before the project, and now, after the project, a happy face. Thank you, ADRA." ■

Peggy Caesar is a communications specialist for ADRA Canada.



FRESH FAITH

Letting God Lead

by Alannah Tjhatra



Born and raised in Langley, B.C., David Bakker has always been enthusiastic about sharing the love of God with others. As a sixth-grader, David decided to transition from public school to Adventist education at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy (FVAA)—something he considers a pivotal division that changed the path of his life. By the end of the year, David had become part of a new Adventist community. He also received the opportunity to attend Mountain View Summer Camp (MVSC) in Hope, B.C., where he spent the next seven summers.

As a young man, David started off at Burman University in Alberta to pursue a biology

degree. As with many incoming freshmen, David tried to take the same approach to university as he did with high school.

"In high school I was able to do almost everything. Coming from that state of mind, I figured the same strategy would lead to success at BU," says David. But that didn't go too well. On top of seven courses per semester, David was also involved in choir, drama, intramural sports, and work. Although he loved everything he was doing, he realized that this approach to university wasn't sustainable. He burned out by the end of the year, feeling pressured and hopeless.

"Looking back, I would have done less so that I could adjust to the fast pace of university, but instead I had to deal with the consequences," says David. After this hectic first year, David decided to take a break from university. Fortunately, he had begun his first summer as a staff member at MVSC, his childhood camp. It gave him the spiritual uplift that he needed, and eventually, with ample guidance from mentors and God, he was able to overcome his disappointment.

David is now studying biology and theology at Trinity Western University. He aims to earn an MD degree and treat communities in developing countries. When he's not studying, he runs the kids' program at his church—the same one that helped him grow closer to God when he was young.

Looking back, David reflects that it is amazing to see how God has worked in his life so far: "There are ups and downs in life, but with God you can reap the greatest rewards. And with the right people encouraging you, you can do anything He asks of you." ■

35 & UNDER

In 35 words or less, what makes a good friend?

Dennalia Fray

A good friend is someone who is trustworthy. [A friend is] also someone who respects, loves, and supports you, even from far away.



Phil Honest

The ability to be dependable and available in times of need. To give the honest truth even when it may hurt. Someone who brings out the best in you and helps you grow.

Lilly Toop

Good friends will stand by you in difficult times. They are honest, caring, and trustworthy. They will listen to you without judgment and help you when you need it.



Joyce Quiambao

A good friend is transparent, constant, and honest, [who] loves on you, prays for you, and listens to you. Someone who is safe, full of grace, and compassionate. Who laughs, cries, and just gets you.

Stephen Ly

What makes a good friend for me is someone who is loyal, trustworthy, kind, and just overall a good person. A good friend is someone I can rely on no matter the situation.



Travis Francisco

I think honesty and trust make a good friend. Go-to people we consult when facing problems are God and friends. These types of friends help us express our feelings and provide support when overcoming trials.





Ask Me Anything

Q: How do we minister if we're already in a Christian school?

A: I love and appreciate that you have a burden on your heart to minister. Going to a school where you're surrounded by believers is a wonderful privilege. This can often lead us to assume that because we're in a Christian school, we're all at the same place in our relationship with Jesus. But a major consideration in our Christian journey is personal growth.

In our teen years, we're exposed to a lot of high-risk behaviour that can tempt us away from our connection with Jesus: substance abuse, gambling, dysfunctional family relationships, aggression and fighting, self-injurious behaviours, and mental health struggles. Knowing this, we can practise sharing our personal experiences with God. And experiencing an intimate relationship with Him helps us navigate a lot of life struggles.

Christian schools provide an environment where we can develop the courage to talk to others. Growing up, I found it difficult to talk with people, especially those I didn't know. But going to a Christian school, I was able to gain courage by sharing my testimony of how I've

seen and experienced God in my life. Over time this made me bold and allowed me to see how God can change our lives and to learn how to support others. Ephesians 4:32 encourages us by saying, "And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ministering to others isn't solely telling others about our beliefs. Our ministry to others includes emotional support, being prayer partners, or possibly starting a Bible study. Apart from being involved in school, ministering outside of school looks like being a tutor providing after-school tutoring free of charge. It can also look like babysitting or volunteering with a food bank, soup kitchen, or animal shelter.

May God bless you as you discover various avenues of ministry. I pray that God continues to lead your heart toward ministering to others. ■

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

Growing Up

Millennial

TBH

"Sometimes all people need is a listening ear, a hug, or a bit of empathy."

The Reality of Toxic Positivity

The subject of toxicity has become something of a trend over recent years—discussions about toxic relationships, toxic workplaces, even the controversial topic of toxic masculinity. The one I see as particularly harmful, though, is toxic positivity.

Toxic positivity refers to the overgeneralization that life is good and that we should always strive for positive vibes. As someone who has struggled with depression and anxiety, I remember people telling me to just "focus on the good." This statement alone invalidates human emotions.

Imagine this. You've just lost your job. Your car broke down. Your siblings aren't talking to you. It's been the worst week imaginable, and things have only gotten worse. You finally tell somebody. Their response? "It's not that bad! Look at the good things in life! You have SO MUCH! Focus on the positive!"

What this person has demonstrated is toxic positivity. It dismisses the way a person is feeling; it fails to look at how someone has been impacted by things that are upsetting in life. It's a lack of empathy. It totally minimizes your experience of life, and that's not OK.

It's not OK for a few reasons: for one, you feel invalidated, leading to possible depressed feelings and irritation. It makes you feel like you're alone and may make you feel guilty for feeling the "bad," negative feelings that you're feeling. It might cause you to decide to just hide your true feelings from other people, widening the distance from others and the support that you might need.

The reality is life isn't perfect. There are a lot of bad things that happen to a lot of people. People experience trauma, anger, disasters. They experience bad days and horrible events. Treating these things as insignificant invalidates the person's experience and is detrimental to their mental health.

I really like Psalm 43:2–4. It highlights that the author is feeling rejected by God and wants God's love. I love this because it's so honest: sometimes we do feel hurt and rejected. We feel upset and angry. And these are completely normal emotions that should never get glossed over! Not by an "It's not so bad," not by the statement "Don't worry," not by an injunction to be grateful for what we have.

The Bible itself recognizes that the negative emotions we feel are normal. No, they're not perfect, but until we get to heaven, they're reality. And that is OK. It's not necessarily our job as humans to make other people see the bright side when they've had a bad day. Sometimes all people need is a listening ear, a hug, or a bit of empathy.

Acknowledging someone's hurt is more beneficial, in many circumstances, than simply quoting a positive verse or telling them to be happy. Life isn't that easy, and recognizing that we're allowed to feel angry and upset is comforting. Jesus wasn't always comfortable—I mean, He died for us! What if someone had said to Him, "Oh, it's not that bad! You're the Son of God!?" Jesus suffered for us and for our sins. He showed us that not feeling good all the time is a part of the human experience.

We need to talk with God about learning more about being happy and positive and finding joy in life and accepting our negative emotions. As soon as we can accept the bad feelings we're having, can reject toxic positivity, and learn from our past mistakes and experiences, the sooner we can recover and help one another. ■

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





Worship or Production (Part 1): Are They Mutually Exclusive?

“The question of the day is, ‘How big is your virtual space?’ The size of your building is no longer the only indication of (or opportunity for) growth, but the size of your virtual space is.”

It has been more than a year now since the Adventist Church collectively began to experience a sudden upswing in the use of technology in our worship services and to get the word out to members, friends, and seekers.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, many churches were, of course, already using the internet to deliver content to their members who were unable to attend church physically. Most of these members had a history of regular attendance but, due to illness or circumstances beyond their control, were unable to continue. Others were regular visitors who knew the members and the culture of the membership. They knew what to expect and sought the in-church experience in a virtual way. But the virtual audience since the pandemic has grown significantly since then.

After one year of virtual services, we learned that a church’s viewership can change drastically from one week to the next as online worship-shoppers look for programming content that addresses their needs. Right now, congregants who used to worship in the same location week after week have options that extend beyond their city limits.

The drastic change in the way we now worship caught many churches off guard, while other churches seemed to be in a state of readiness, evidenced by an increase of at least four times their normal viewership. They continue to grow and meet needs and appear comfortable in that sphere. Some even assert that this new norm has given them a chance to grow their ministry in the same way many of the larger churches have experienced growth because of their physical space. The question of the day is, “How big is your virtual space?” The size of your building is no longer the only indication of (or opportunity for) growth, but the size of your virtual space is.

So then, why are some churches doing extremely well in a virtual space, experiencing numbers they never thought possible, while others struggle to maintain a mere 50 percent of their

base? The answer lies in the perceived controversial thought of worship versus production.

Once your church makes the decision to enter a virtual space and deliver content, the leadership should discuss some basic questions to determine what the church’s content must look like and what the experience is going to be for congregants and visitors. Remember that your regular congregants might, at first, be willing to overlook certain deficiencies in content because of their emotional connection to the church body; however, over time that emotional connection may wane as they begin “visiting” other congregations and forge new relationships. With visitors, there is no loyalty; therefore, that first visit is critical—it will either encourage them to come back or dissuade them from ever returning.

It is better to have no virtual presence than to have one that is detrimental. It is best for some churches to keep their services private, in a Zoom-type setting, and give access to members only if they want to continue the pre-COVID-19 worship experience. It can be damaging to a brand to broadcast services without first determining the true purpose of an online existence. Once church leaders are able to make that determination, they will be better prepared to build a plan to support that direction.

Unfortunately, many churches fell into a virtual environment that forced them into an experience they were not prepared for. They quickly realized that an online presence goes beyond 4K cameras and the latest sound equipment. Though these tools can help to position you to deliver pristine sound and beautiful images, they can also help to highlight how poor and ineffective your content might be. ■

Karl Hutchinson (Karl@savweb.com) is a premier gospel playwright and producer and has worked with Sandy Audio Visual on numerous occasions. For more about Sandy Audio Visual (SAV), go to www.savweb.com.

FIVE THINGS YOUR CHURCH CAN DO TO REACH THE

COMMUNITY

Have you noticed that we are still wandering in no man's land when dealing with the coronavirus? We are living in unprecedented times. There is no road map on how to navigate back to normal. As leaders decide how to reopen safely, people are starting to feel frustrated. How can your church offer support to the community that is already feeling isolated?

1. Begin to offer online bereavement support groups.

By now, most people have likely been affected by COVID-19 personally—having lost a friend or family member to the disease. They're hurting and need support.

Most therapists I have spoken to are completely booked and have a waiting list for openings in their schedule. Your church can meet this great need by launching a grief support group, thereby offering compassion and healing in your community.

2. Pray for your community every day at noon.

I call this "noontime prayer" and offer it once a week on my social media channels. I know of some churches that are purchasing airtime for 45 seconds to pray for the city via the airwaves. You will quickly become known as the church that is praying for the community.

3. Start a food pantry for the community.

Some churches have opened their doors seven days a week to confront the food disparity many families are experiencing. Even if you opened a pantry in your church lobby once a week, you'd be meeting a considerable need in the community.

4. Start a community garden in your parking lot.

Consider taking a few parking spaces and installing raised beds. You could invite your neighbours to become active participants in this endeavour.

The purpose is twofold. First, you can grow produce that can be donated to local shelters. Second, you're creating an environment for neighbours to meet outside and build relationships.

5. Adopt a school faculty.

As many schools are reopening to student populations, the administration and faculty are overwhelmed with anxiety. Many teachers are scared for their health, and mental health has become a serious concern. Imagine if your church adopted a school and provided lunch once a month. What if each of the teachers received handwritten notes from your prayer team, letting them know they are being covered in prayer every day? ■

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



Looking Beyond the Horizon



Let's Go for a Walk

“Let’s go for a walk.” I can’t think of a time when going for a walk with someone didn’t lead to an interesting conversation. Sure, “Let’s go for a walk” can mean “Let’s get some oxygen into our lungs and some tone into our muscles,” but it usually comes across as an invitation to more, doesn’t it? In fact, I would suggest the motivation often goes beyond physical movement to something else entirely.

Isn’t it an encouragement to journey together? It’s a metaphysical summons saying, *I need someone beside me right now. There are some things I need to work out. Would you join me?*

I’ve been invited on such journeys and, on some occasions, never said a word; while other times, shared deeply of my vulnerability. However, as a psychotherapist and health care chaplain, I have invited people to “go for a walk” metaphorically, where we never lifted a foot or moved from our seats. And yet we experienced journeys that were so powerful that I was honoured to be a part of something so sacred.

This call to something deeper leaves paths and patterns in our own journeys where the Creator meets us, and where those sacred relationships with others help us to move toward balance in the integration of heart, soul, mind, and strength God has designed for us.

I’m reminded of a movie from a few years ago, *Matthew*. Just as the series comes to an end, you see Jesus walking away, and He looks back over His shoulder with a smile, turns away, and then turns back with a huge smile and this welcoming arm movement as if He is reaching back to pull you with Him, beckoning passionately, “Come, follow me.” A continuous reverberation across the cosmos of the relentless gift from our Saviour: “Friend, child of God, let’s journey together.”

I cannot explain to you this gift of journeying with others. If you’ve done it before, you know it.

You will hear it if you read the *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* (1996),¹ *The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report* (2015),² and *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (2019).³ These are modern voices from the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, offering the same gift as from first contact with Europeans and the treaties to share a land together. “Walk with us” as we make this land what the Creator always intended it to be.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada has listened to our Indigenous brothers and sisters and entered into a partnership with First Nations University and Cazabon Productions to help you begin to walk this journey, to answer that request to walk together, with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, and heal a relationship long broken.

The Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples of Canada need to walk together. *The 4 Seasons of Reconciliation* Indigenous Relations course from First Nations University in Regina was recently purchased for all members in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada to have access to as an online course.⁴ It became available to members on May 1, 2021, in both English and French. It will be an extremely helpful tool in assisting you to begin to understand your Indigenous neighbours across this country. We are all treaty people.

Next month the *Messenger* will have much more information on this significant partnership. If, in the meantime, you would like to get a head start on the course, email your request to 4Seasons@adventist.ca, and Chris and I will get you set up. ■

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

1 <https://bit.ly/3m08bvK>

2 <https://nctr.ca/reports2.php>

3 <https://bit.ly/3szuQBM>

4 Preview: <https://vimeo.com/299774118/5a39fa9a8d>





Standing!

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."— Galatians 5:1, ESV

Isn't it frustrating to realize you've fallen back into old things that you wanted to get rid of for good? Maybe it's old thought patterns or attitudes. Maybe it's some old addiction or relationship cycle. It happens. But why does it happen?

When one repeats the same dysfunction again and again, always needing to go back and ask for forgiveness, it gets very discouraging. We may start justifying ourselves in one way or another so we don't "have to" apologize anymore, or we give up and assume God can't really change us—the list goes on.

John 8:36 says, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (ESV).

What part of "free indeed" doesn't work? Does God fail us? Or are *we* failing in some way? What's going on here, and why don't we ever talk about these things? Are we afraid we're the only ones not experiencing "free indeed"? Does it seem like everyone else has it all together and we're the only ones struggling?

Galatians 5:1 says, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (ESV).

I believe there is a part of freedom that we may have missed. Only in recent years have I come to notice that God promises to *keep* us from falling. This is an important thing to claim. If we believe that we can't change ourselves and that God is the One who can do that work in us, then how can we possibly assume that *we* would be able to keep ourselves in the freedom He gives us?

One time I was impressed to pray for the failed marriage of a couple. They weren't Christians, so I knew they weren't praying for themselves. I asked God to remove the issues between them and fill their hearts with love for each other. Sure enough, several months later I heard that they were back together and more in love with each other than they had ever been before. Things were amazing—go, God!

After receiving the good news, I didn't hear from the couple for quite some time, as they lived on the other side of the country. But when I finally did, I was extremely disappointed to learn that they were separated again and that this time it was final. What had gone wrong? God had heard my prayers and answered abundantly, but I hadn't thought to continue asking Him to keep them in that love for each other. It was a tough lesson to learn but one I needed to.

We also need to ask God to keep us in the freedom He gains for us. Again and again, situations will present themselves tempting us to return to that state of bondage we used to be in, whether anger, bitterness, hatred, lust, substance abuse, laziness, gossip, criticism, or ... you name it. But Romans 14:4 says, "And stand he will, for the Master has power to make him stand" (MNT).

What more could we ask for? ■

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



Where Are They Now



Messenger catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. In this issue we talk with Rick Harwood.

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



Rick and Sharlene Harwood

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

Rick Harwood: I was born in Tisdale, Sask. My childhood years were spent on a farm in Craven, Sask., where I lived with my parents, Gerald and Evelyn; older sister, Brenda; and younger brother, Dennis. For a short period we moved to Maryfield, Sask., on the Manitoba border. From there we moved to Regina, Sask.

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

R: Scott Collegiate, in Regina; Canadian Union College for a bachelor in theology; Andrews University for a master's of divinity in 1984 and a master's in family counselling in 1997.

M: *What were the factors that influenced you to choose the gospel ministry as your vocation?*

R: First of all, I must thank my mother, who is a diligent reader of the Word of God and a theologian without the papers to prove it. It was her desire to know God's Word that led our family to become Seventh-day Adventists.

I thank God for leaders in the Strasbourg and Regina churches who guided her and our family in the early beginnings of our walk with God.

Another strong influence on my decision to go to CUC to study theology was an evangelistic series held in Regina by Bob Hossack, our pastor in the Regina church at the time. I was overwhelmed, at the time, to see God's leading as such a large number stood for baptism during an altar call given by Pastor Hossack. I knew without a doubt that God was calling me to prepare myself to help others to accept Jesus and learn the Seventh-day Adventist truths that I accepted then and hold dearly to this day.



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

R: I received my first call to pastoral ministry from Don MacIvor to the Man-Sask Conference, where I started out as pastor of the little Filipino and Ukrainian church in Winnipeg and the River Hills company, and as chaplain of West Park Manor. I also interned under Ron Bissell at the Henderson Highway church, who guided me through that busy first year of my ministry. I was very fortunate to learn from such an experienced and God-filled mentor.

I then attended the seminary at Andrews University in Michigan, then returned to the Man-Sask Conference to the Quill Lake/Nipawin/Melfort district, followed by the Silver Heights and Charleswood (now called West Park) churches in Winnipeg.

I then pastored the Hill Ave church in Regina, where I had attended as a teenager and now came back as the pastor! During my time there, I felt a strong desire to take a degree in family and community counselling to better equip me in my ministry, so I went back to Andrews University to take the master's in counselling program, which did prove to be a tremendous help and blessing to my ministry throughout the years.

Following that we received a call to the Dakota Conference to the Williston/Watford City/Stanley district. From there we went back to Canada, to the Maritime Conference, to pastor the Fredericton, Zealand, and Harvey churches in New Brunswick, where I was privileged to have my first intern, Harold Chin, who now pastors in North Dakota. We very much enjoyed the amazing scenic beauty of New Brunswick and the Maritimes.

After my time of service there, my wife and I felt the need to go back west to be closer to her aging mother, so we accepted a call to Pierre, South Dakota; then later back to Man-Sask to the Brandon/Erickson, Dauphin district in Manitoba.

I was then called to pastor the company in Biggar, Sask., and the Saskatoon Central church, out of which the Pinehouse church was organized. An existing church building was purchased through God's miraculous intervention, and renovated under the direction of hardworking members and the invaluable direction of Ralph Ellison, who pastored with me for a time. This was truly a highlight in our ministry as we saw God's leading, from the purchase of the building to the growth of the church, in such a short time.

I was then asked by the conference to be the ministerial director part-time and pastor the Yorkton, Canora, Hudson Bay, and Swan River churches, with Liviu Tillihoi as my assistant. Our last district was in the Alberta Conference in the Olds and Mirror churches.

Unfortunately, my ministry was cut short in April 2020, when I lost my voice due to a thyroid cancer that left me with just above a whisper. After my surgery in August, the surgeon and endocrinologist told me I would not get my voice back, as two scopes revealed my one vocal cord as dead.

But praise God, a third scope done in November by the voice specialist showed my vocal cord as revived and healthy, just sluggish! He told me that my voice should return to normal in six to 12 months. All glory be to God with thanksgiving for the faithful prayers of God's people! As I said to each doctor and their staff, "Doctors can treat, but only God can heal."

I am humbled that God is healing me when so many others who struggle with cancer or other diseases are not. For those dear ones who are struggling in pain waiting for Jesus to come, hang on my brothers and sisters; Jesus is coming! For many who were not healed but were and are tormented by Satan in this life, the message of Hebrews 11:38 rings true—of them this world was and is not worthy.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

R: I am thankful for my wife, Sharlene (née Koleada), my prayer warrior and minister in her own right who has faithfully shared God's ministry with me. I praise God for two wonderful daughters, Amber and Brittany. Amber and her husband, Alex Rocca, and their daughters—Kiara (8) and Kyla (6), and newly born Arelli (the greatest granddaughters on earth); and Brittany and her husband, Michael Matiko, are all faithful and involved in God's remnant church. Singing together with our girls, and now our grandchildren, as my wife plays the piano has been a real blessing over the years and will continue to be a part of our ministry.

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

R: We have retired to Lacombe, Alta., to be near our daughters and granddaughters. We are especially enjoying our newest baby granddaughter, Arelli Emerald. As I reflect on our 35 years of ministry, I am so thankful that Jesus has always been with my dear wife and me. He has never forsaken us. He is our dearest and closest friend.

And as I recall the many moves we as a family have made during our ministry, I can echo my daughter's words, "We couldn't afford to go on many exotic or far-away vacations as a family, so the Lord just moved us." In our retirement years we look forward to travelling south and east once COVID restrictions lift, and to do our part in hastening the coming of the Lord as He opens His treasure of service possibilities. ■





Very Berry Smoothie

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 banana
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen berries (organic if possible)
- ½ cup (125 ml) unsweetened soy milk

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Dice up bananas and freeze for at least two hours or overnight.
- Add soymilk and frozen banana to a blender and blend.
- Add frozen berries to the soy/banana mixture and blend until smooth. Depending on your blender, you may need to add the berries a little at a time to ensure the fruit blends smoothly. If you still have trouble, add a little more soy milk to help the process along.

Tip! Remember that the recipe can be doubled, tripled, even quadrupled as needed. *Makes 1 serving.*



NUTRITIONAL INFO:

- Serving Size 388 g
- Calories 223
- Total Fat 2.4 g
- Saturated Fat 0.5 g
- Cholesterol 0 mg
- Sodium 22 mg
- Total Carbs 49.5 g
- Dietary Fibre 7.1 g
- Sugars 29.8 g
- Protein 5.4 g

The late Afia Donkor was a passionate health advocate. The Powerful Plate is available for purchase online at adventistbookcenter.com or by phone at 800/765-6955.



Lessons From *Il Est Écrit* on How to Start a Small Group Ministry in Your Community

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. . . Likewise greet the church that is in their house.”—Romans 16:3–5, NKJV

Among the major projects that God put on the heart of the *Il Est Écrit*¹ team for 2021 and beyond was this: to launch a network of small groups that could welcome IEE viewers and people who are spiritually open, and accompany them on their journey.

We have put this concept to the test, and it works! In the few groups that have been operating for about two years now, God is working a wonderful transformation in the hearts of all who participate—viewers as well as church members.

What is an *Il Est Écrit* Small Group?

An IEE Small Group consists of five to, at most, 12 people who meet on a regular basis in a home or virtually for a moment of sharing.

Non-Adventist Members are Fundamental to the Group

They can be viewers of the *Il Est Écrit* program, friends, or people whom God puts in our path and who have an openness to faith and spirituality. These people are prioritized in the group, and everything is done to help them move forward. Mission must be our goal. We never start a group with only Adventists.

The Bible is Always Present

Whether it is a group of men, women, young people, intergenerational, whether the group’s main objective is to study the Bible, or whether the group’s focus is on health, relationships, overcoming addictions, or the like, the Bible is always open and we study it in a simple yet profound and practical way.

A Group that Shares and Prays Together

During each meeting, a time is set aside to share experiences, needs, burdens, projects, and we pray with one another. No one has to speak up, but everyone can.

Shared Values

The values of the group are not only stated and recalled regularly, but the leaders of the group make sure that they are lived: love and respect toward each one, listening, acceptance, non-judgment, confidentiality, mutual service, and community service.

Oriented Toward Spiritual Progress

The objective is not a casual conversation where we simply discuss ideas and opinions, but a spiritual exchange that helps us to grow, each at their own pace, in our relationship with God and with others.

Here are testimonies from a few of our participants:

“I went out of curiosity, thinking to myself I’ll see if it’s interesting or not. . . I’ve been participating every week for a year and a half! Now the group is like a second family.”—Francine

“In the small groups there is a lot of love, a lot of respect. You feel comfortable. You can talk without being judged. What more could one ask for? . . . Through the small group, I understood how to approach and trust God. My life has taken a different turn.”—Pierre

“What I liked was never feeling pressure, being able to move freely with God and with the group. After several months of journeying, I made the decision to join the Adventist Church.”—René

What about you? Don’t you think you should experience a small group too? ■

Rémy Ballais is the program director for Il Est Écrit. For more information about Il Est Écrit, go to www.ilestecrit.tv.

¹ French-language *It Is Written* television ministry based in Quebec.

RAINMAK

A Still Storm, a Quiet Haven

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a haven is defined as “a place of safety: refuge.”

Nina Lim, founder of Haven Counselling, holds a B.Sc. in psychology, health, and anthropology from the University of Toronto and an MA in marriage and family therapy from Trinity Western University. She is a Registered Clinical Counsellor with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors, the place she now calls home.

She works at a crime prevention agency for the city of Langley, collaborating with law enforcement and families who have children or youth at risk of going into crime. Reducing recidivism—the revolving door of arrest—and incarceration is a critical area of her focus.

Nina is also in private practice, working with mostly adults and some teenagers. She gives support to help people overcome anxiety, perfectionism, people-pleasing and to foster emotional well-being.

As we chat, she gives warm smiles, a calm laugh. Listening to the playback, I realize I’ve done more talking than her—strange for an interview.

“There is a lot of research that shows certain factors found in childhood could lead to a higher risk of future trouble with the law. Things like acting out, cruelty to animals, truancy, aggression, violence, and so on can all be indicators of troubles ahead. We try to address these things early on, working with children as young as five who exhibit these ‘acting out’ traits. But children can also ‘act in,’ and that would look like

depression, suicidality, focusing harm on the self as opposed to outwardly in the other case.”

Perhaps because of the crime prevention aspect of her work, Nina works primarily with children who act “out,” rather than “in.”

“That’s not to say that children who act out do not struggle with depression and suicidality, for example. It just manifests itself differently.”

“Five-year-old children,” she explains, “have difficulty regulating emotion. Sometimes it is hard for them to stay within boundaries, like hitting other kids when they’re angry, or running out of the classroom or focusing. But we have to be very careful not to categorize behaviour. It may be normal development, or it may be an issue. If a parent is challenged by the behaviour, we are here to help. It’s not so much that we target a child acting out, thinking this child will be a criminal. At the community level, we are working to prevent future issues, just as we prevent cancer or any other illness.”

In 2003, before the Youth Criminal Justice Act was passed, Canada had one of the highest youth-incarceration rates among western countries. Today, the latest Statistics Canada data reveals that the number of youth in the correctional system continues to decline. I suspect it is due, in part, to work being done by Nina Lim and other psychologists and counsellors focusing on prevention.

But statistics also indicate that Indigenous and Black youth continue to be overrepresented in the correctional system, indicating a more significant

underlying problem.

“So we are happy to work with families,” she says.

When asked what she thinks is the biggest issue plaguing people today, Nina unhesitatingly says it’s anxiety. “Therapists today are so busy. There is such a high level of anxiety out there. People were already kind of revved up. Now this added layer of unsafety with COVID-19 has people calling 20 therapists just to find one. And it’s significant to know that anxiety is our nervous system in fight-or-flight mode. This response is necessary because it initiates a whole series of physical and behavioural changes that ultimately protect us.

“But if you feel tense and anxious all day long, it can be debilitating. And anxiety will manifest itself internally and externally. Some studies show that you cannot rely on an external manifestation of anxiety as proof that it exists in the body. Internally there could be a ton of stuff going on that people never see. This is why it is sometimes hard to identify and treat mental health or mental illness. On the outside you can present very well and inside can be very different.”

“There is also such a stigma around mental health,” she continues. “There is the stigma we get from society, the fear of being judged for seeking help and support. We think, ‘Why should I talk about the way I feel?’

“There is also the stigma that is found in Adventism. I’m often asked whether I know any Adventist therapists. And we have our own reasons for that, but to me, it’s also like saying, ‘I only

ERS

want to work with an Adventist dentist or an Adventist physician.”

Nina thinks the issue is a lack of clear understanding of what a therapist is and does. She is not a guru sitting on a mountaintop with all the answers. Nor is she there to tell you what to do. She won't even give you good advice, and here she laughs out loud. “Some people think that the work of a therapist is to give good advice. And so people think, ‘Hey, I want good Adventist advice!’ But when I think about emotional well-being within Adventism, I think of how far behind we are. God has given us the health message for a good reason. Yet when we think of the health message, we think of diet, sleep, water, exercise, sunlight—but very little about emotional well-being.

“And Ellen White wrote that ‘nine-tenths of diseases begin in the mind.’¹ When I was first studying, I was confused. I thought, ‘What in the world does that even mean? Did I think my way into getting cancer?’ And then, in *Ministry of Healing* chapter 18, we read about the mind–body connection, that ‘the relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes.’

“We are told we need to study the connection between the two. And this has stuck with me. Interestingly, studies like the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACEs) have come to support this mind–body connection. Yet we continue

to put the mind and body into two separate categories, therapist and physician. So when we work with people with diabetes in Adventism, what do we do? We target their physical health. People will go to our lifestyle centres, have this incredible experience. When they come back, they often return to their old patterns and habits. In my mind, Adventism has the missing link. If we could understand the mind–body connection, we could really then be effective with our health message. Then we could help others identify why they are emotional eaters or stuck in old habits, for example.”

If you struggle to make good decisions, want to understand yourself better, shift anxiety, and find calm, Nina Lim and other dedicated therapists are here to support you in that journey.

Find Nina on Instagram (@wholehearted.growth) and online at havencounselling.ca. ■

Peggy Caesar is a communication specialist for ADRA Canada.



Nina Lim

1 Ellen G. White, *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 1, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1999.





Let Your Light Shine

Helping People Navigate
Life With Christ Through
Church Branding

by Eric Ollila



A little over 10 years ago, on a flight in the United States, I sat next to a middle-aged woman who worked for a large multinational beer company. The encounter was incredibly impacting, and we conversed with each other almost the entire two-hour trip.

The conversation went something like this: “Wow, a beer company! What company do you work for, if you don’t mind my asking?”

“Molson Coors,” she replied as she proudly straightened her posture in her seat.

“What do you do for them?” I asked.

Already aware at that point that I was a pastor, she quipped, “I sit in bars all day and talk to people,” adding a big grin on her face.

I laughed and then responded, “Well, that sounds like it could either be extremely depressing or very enlightening about the human experience.”

“I love my work, and I have a lot of fun,” she clarified.

“Tell me,” I said, “why would anyone pay you to sit in a bar and talk to people?”

“I’m a researcher,” she replied with a smile. She studied beer and people. That was the entire purpose and focus of her work.

“What do you do with your research findings?” I inquired.

“Oh, wow,” she said. “That’s a huge question. The research that my team and I conduct contributes toward all kinds of things.”

“Oh yeah, like what?” I inquired.

Branding, marketing, product positioning, sales, and customer experience were a few of the areas she indicated the research contributed to. When I asked for an example, she said, “OK, here’s one. Our research revealed that there is a specific temperature the majority of our customers prefer to drink their beer.”

I laughed, “OK, go on.”

“Yeah, right,” she said with a smile. “Most people think that all the customer wants is a cold beer. But we discovered that ‘cold’ isn’t always enough. There is a specific level of coldness that is desirable and measurable. When a beer drinker opens the cooler to reach for a beer, they see all these bottles or cans. They reach for one. It seems cold to the touch. They grab it, thinking it is going to be delicious. But when they taste it, perhaps it’s still room temperature. It hadn’t been in the fridge long enough. Or maybe it’s too cold. It sat near the back, so it’s starting to turn slushy.

“Either way, it’s a bad experience for them. And what’s worse is that negative experience is associated with our brand and beer. And sometimes it spells a wasted beer. Worst case, they might not pick up another one of our beers and instead reach for another beer that happens not to be our brand.”

“So what did you do with this research?” I questioned.

She went on. “The research data we collected was taken and used with brand and marketing.

Marketing developed a label and a can with ink that changes colour when the beer reaches the ideal temperature. So, now on our bottles, like Coors Light, you have brand labels where the mountains change colour when the beer is ready to drink. Customers love this feature. It helps them have a more consistent and positive experience with our beer, which translates to a more positive association with our brand. So that was an exciting result we have seen come from our research,” she concluded.

As I listened to her explain the work in which she engaged, I was impressed by how the Molson Coors Beverage Company uses and protects its brand image through continuous research of its customers and customer experience with their products. It demonstrated how they addressed customer needs and desires through informed marketing coupled with good branding.

One takeaway from the conversation was that customer experience with an organization’s product and brand directly impacts the success or failure of accomplishing its mission. For Molson Coors, if customers had a positive experience with their beer, they would associate that positive experience with the Molson Coors brand. That positive impression would translate to more Molson Coors beer purchased and consumed by that customer. The company’s sales and distribution would increase accordingly, thereby affecting the accomplishment of the company’s mission and purpose.

I couldn’t help but reflect on ministry within the church. I realized that our brand is a critically important component to spreading the gospel to the world and meeting people’s needs and desires. The accomplishment of our mission and our message’s distribution can be accelerated or hindered by proper or improper use of our brand.

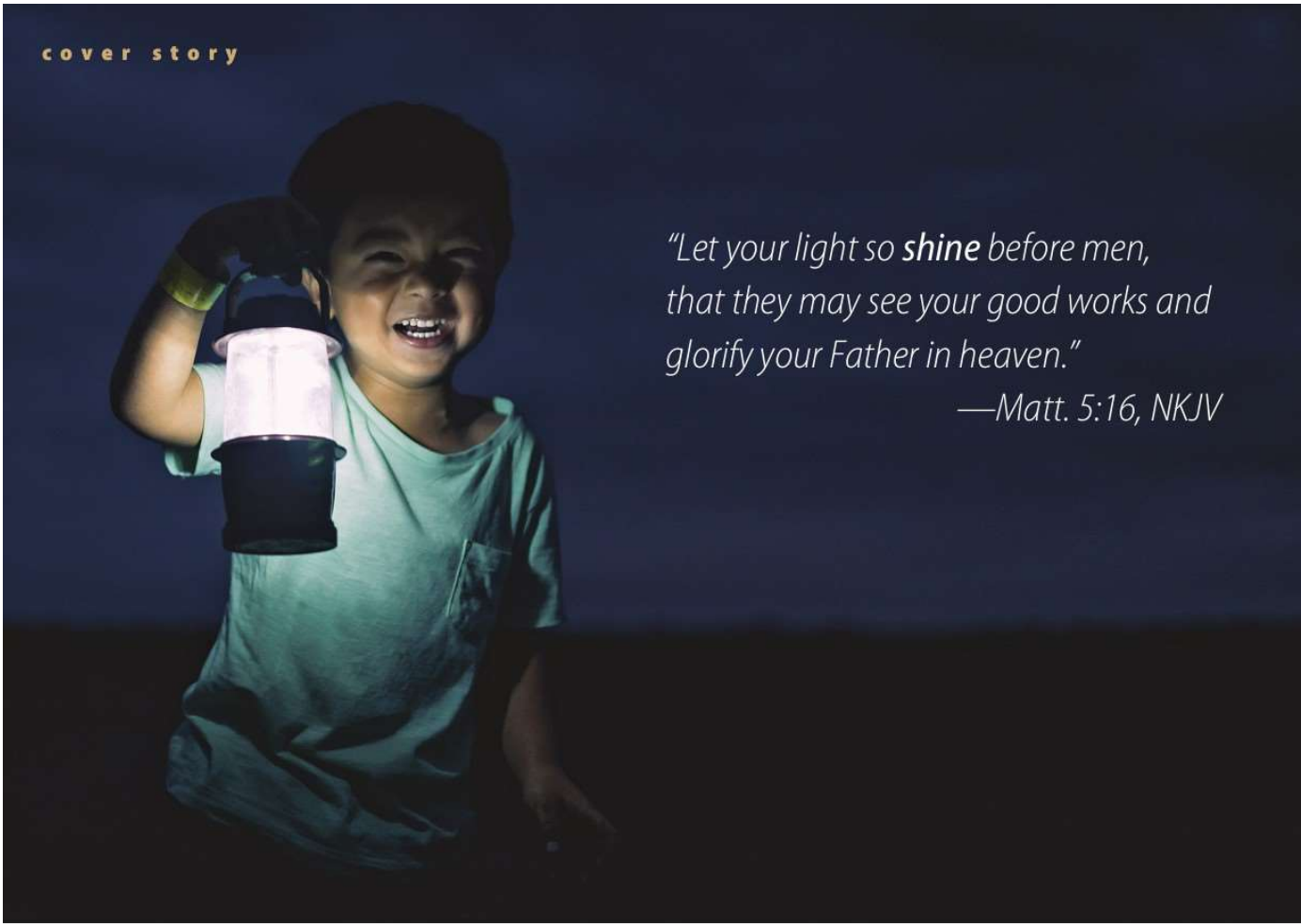
I realized how people’s experiences with us directly impacted their impression of our community (symbolized by our name and brand). That, in turn, would translate to a gained connection or lost association with our community (i.e., the church). Simply put, if people come away with a negative impression of us, they will not connect with us and will not likely accept the message we have to share.

Questions flooded my mind. What experience do people have with our church and its brand? Is it positive? Negative? Is it lukewarm? Is it icy cold? I asked questions like, do we have a brand? Is that brand linked and identified with our mission and message? Is our branding consistent? Does the average church member know what our brand is? Do people the world over know who we are and what we stand for when they see our symbol?

Branding the Alberta Conference

Fast forward to the year 2019. Stan Jensen, the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and I discussed branding in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We





*“Let your light so **shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

—Matt. 5:16, NKJV

spoke about the church’s challenges with implementing the new branding in all the various institutions and ministries. The General Conference, North American Division, and Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada had all voted to adopt the new branding. However, complete implementation hasn’t happened to the extent we need to get the kind of traction we need, especially in the Canadian context.

After offering my opinions on the matter, I remember at one point during the conversation Stan said to me, “Eric, I’ll tell you what. If you can successfully rebrand the entire Alberta Conference, then we’ll have something to talk about. Until then, talking about it isn’t going to accomplish what needs to happen. What we need across Canada is for every conference, every church, every school to adopt the brand and start using it in their context.”

I said, “OK, Stan. I accept your challenge. I’ll get to work.”

So for the last year and a half, with the blessing of the president and administration of the Alberta Conference, my team and I have been working on rebranding the Alberta Conference to be in harmony with the General Conference, North American Division, and Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

What Do People Really Need to Navigate Life With Christ?

Whenever we talk about Branding, the conversation must include a discussion about purpose, mission, values, and message. Furthermore, it has to be empathetic to what people want and need.

Over the last 20 years of ministry, a few things have become clear to me about what people want and need as it relates to the church and navigating life with Christ.

- 1** They need an example: People need a clear and consistent example of what it means to be a Christian.
- 2** Accurate information: People need and desire accurate information about who God is, what He is like, how much He loves them, how they can have a relationship with Him, how to obtain forgiveness, and how to be ready for heaven. And they need to know where to go to find that information.
- 3** Opportunity to respond: People need clear and unmistakable opportunities to respond to God and His invitation to follow Him. And these invitations need to be given by trustworthy and reliable sources.
- 4** Community: When people respond to the invitation and accept Christ into their lives, they need a nurturing,

caring, trustworthy community to belong to that is easy to identify and consistent with its message and witness.

Branding has a critical role to play in meeting all four of these needs. Signs or symbols are necessary to represent complex ideas, beliefs, ideals, culture, and values succinctly. They are also required to distinguish identity.

Think of Apple, Amazon, Disney, Google, McDonald's, Microsoft, NASA, Nike, SpaceX, or Tesla. It doesn't seem to matter where you go. Those brands are recognized. Specific images, feelings, and emotions are evoked when people see the symbols or hear these names. All these companies embody a complex array of products, services, philosophies, and values. But when you hear the name or see the logo, you can grasp all that stands behind it. And you don't easily confuse one with the other.

To be effective at taking the gospel to the world, Seventh-day Adventists need to be identifiable. People need to know who we are, what we stand for, what we believe, and they need to see what difference it makes in our lives and the lives of those around us. We must differentiate ourselves from everyone else. It does no good if people confuse us with other religious denominations or organizations. That sends mixed messages.

Our name and brand are critical to helping us achieve that monumental task. Jesus' command is to let our light so shine that others may see it and give glory to the Father. Applying that command to the church says that we need to have a consistent, clear, unmistakable identity, just like a light. It also says that our witness and message need to be clear, consistent, and reliable, just like a beacon of light shining from a darkened hill.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a brand. But I've realized we have much work to do in this regard. Between the competing voices that teach our members to hide the Seventh-day Adventist name, the anti-organization, anti-denominational beliefs that some espouse, the fear and cowardice of being ridiculed, and the ample supply of ill-informed conspiracy theories and false theologies (that create skepticism, prejudice, and fear of symbols), I acknowledge we have an enormous undertaking in front of us.

Seventh-day Adventists need branding in place. That is why the Alberta Conference has undertaken the task of getting the updated branding created for every subsidiary owned by the conference. We need more leaders and members who understand the Seventh-day Adventist brand's importance and are not ashamed of using it to accomplish the mission. Because people seeking answers about how to navigate life with Christ need to know the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the place to go to get their needs fully met. ■

Eric Ollila is the director for communications, IT, and media at the Alberta Conference.

Stages of Implementation

1 Get administrative buy-in. The communication director submits rebranding proposal to administration and receives official voted approval to proceed. Consult with appropriate union, division, and GC personnel to assist your church/conference with your rebranding project.

The Alberta Conference Administration (Gary Hodder, Wayne Williams, Keith Richter) and their direct support staff have been incredibly supportive, patient, understanding, and helpful. Likewise, Stan Jensen from SDACC, Dan Weber and Georgia Standish from NAD, have also been extremely helpful.

2 Select your team. You should cover these roles: team leader, executive secretary or support staff, conference eAdventist co-ordinator/director, graphic designer, web developer, and conference IT support.

The Alberta Conference team consisted of Dorothy Falesau, Nanette Quines, Scott Nischuk, Mishell Raedeke (omnidesign.ca), Brent Wilson (rockyviewweb.com), and Crystal Hatcher (www.simpleupdates.com). Eric Ollila, the conference communications/IT/media director, was team leader.

3 Plan. Create a timeline. Budget. Identify milestones or phases. Map out core elements. Take a comprehensive approach.

It took the Alberta Conference one year to complete Phase 1 of a two-phase project.

4 Execute your plan. Consider starting with the type of media your conference or church uses the most. Make sure not to leave anything out.

5 Promote, advertise, educate. Help constituents/subsidiaries access and use the new brand assets. Offer support to other churches/conferences with their rebranding efforts.

Teamwork and collaboration are essential in the rebranding process. The Alberta Conference has been helping the Quebec Conference begin its rebranding process. Be sure to share your lessons learned with others.





Please Use My Hands

*"But Lord, even if
you choose not to
heal me, can you
please use me still?"*

I met Stefan one day while working as a literature evangelist. It was evening, and I was knocking on doors in an apartment building. Stefan answered the door but told me that he couldn't stand very long because of a problem with his legs. He did, however, want to know what I was doing.

As we started to talk, I discovered that along with many other problems, he also had a terminal illness. The medication he was taking was so strong that many of his teeth had fallen out. His wife had left him, taking their child with her. To make matters worse, the doctor told him that he wouldn't live to see his son graduate from elementary school. He was stuck at home, just waiting to die.

He was a sorry sight, and I felt pity for the man after hearing his whole story. But in spite of his problems, Stefan could still smile with the few teeth that remained! You see, Stefan had found Jesus.

He told me, "I praise the Lord even for my sickness. If it wasn't for me getting sick, I probably would never have gotten to know Jesus."

He decided to purchase a book called *The Great Controversy* because prophecy was something that really excited him. Before leaving, I asked if I could pray for him. Stefan was happy to have me pray, and after I finished praying, he started to pray! I don't remember everything he prayed for, but I will never forget how he ended his prayer. As I listened, tears came to my eyes. He said something like this: "Lord, I pray for healing that I may serve you like this young man. But Lord, even if you choose not to heal me, can you please use me still? You took away my legs, my health, my family, and my future, but Lord ... I still have my hands. Here are my hands, Lord. This is all I have left. If you can, please use my hands to do something more for you."

As I drove home that night, my heart was sad. I thought of Stefan in contrast with the thousands of young people in our church who have their legs, their hands, and a future but resist doing more for God. Since then, I have asked God to use not only my hands but everything I have for His service.

Some time later I saw Stefan at an evangelistic effort our church was having. I was so surprised and excited to see him. He recognized me and told me that prayer really works. He said that God had been healing him and he was now able to serve Him more. He said, "Tell your church that God answers prayers!"

Today, why not pause a moment to think of all the talents and gifts God has given you. Write them down and think of ways you can use those entrusted talents for His glory. As you think of Stefan and of Christ's sacrifice, won't you make a commitment to give your hands and more for His service? ■

Jonathan Zita currently serves as the director for the Lifestyle Canada ministry. Lifestyle Canada is Canada's literature evangelism ministry.





Rock Solid in an Ever-Changing World

THE YEAR 2020

marked a significant milestone in the history of Sylvan Meadows Adventist School (SMAS): 45 years of providing Adventist Christian education to the community of Sylvan Lake in Central Alberta. Though we were not able to commemorate the event as we had originally planned, we have had time to pause and reflect on the ways that God has led us and enabled us to be rock solid in an ever-changing and, at times, challenging world.

The Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to be our primary foundation for support and financial commitment. During 45 years of operation, the school has never had to close its doors for lack of students or finances. This is in part because a large percentage of the monthly church budget is allocated to the school, and we receive those monies whether the budget is met or not.

Additional private donations, combined with our provincial funding, have made it possible for SMAS to be a tuition-free school for more than a decade. This allows students to attend our school who might not otherwise be able to because of financial difficulties. We praise God for placing visionary leaders in our past who stepped out in faith to make education available for anyone who wanted it.

A few years ago, Alberta Conference

leadership undertook an initiative to hire a full-time principal who was shared amongst the four smaller Adventist schools in Central Alberta. This has proven to be a tremendous blessing to our school. It has enabled many administrative duties to be accomplished in a timely manner and has provided ongoing mentorship and guidance in a collegial manner to our teachers. We thank God for the amazing support of our education superintendents at the Alberta Conference.

Our school board's dedication and commitment to ensuring the continuance of our school is also reflective of God's leading. Some years, the decision to stay open despite very small projected student numbers was definitely a result of much prayer and faith. And yet when September came, God would miraculously provide.

Of all these blessings, our teachers and support staff have perhaps had the greatest influence on shaping students' decisions for Jesus. Their kindness and patience will have a reward that only eternity will reveal, but we praise God for the blessing of our godly teachers. A few testimonies from students, parents, and alumni sum up this truth: Miika, Grade 3, says, "I like my school because everyone is nice to me. Mr. B is a very kind and good teacher."

Whitney, parent of three students, says, "My kids have been able to excel due to a more personal atmosphere of a smaller

school. Learning in a school where God is the foundation has taught them more about their relationship with God. The staff is always there for every family for any situation."

Kalee, alumnus and parent of two students, says, "I attended SMAS for nine years, almost 20 years ago, and it has always held an extraordinary place in my heart. The love of God and family-oriented presence shown each day through the teachers, support staff, and students reminds me of the character of Jesus Christ."

Chay, parent of three students says, "We decided to send our children to SMAS for many reasons. First, God is in the classroom. The teachers pray with the children and teach them about Jesus. Second, the classroom sizes are small. This gives the opportunity for the children to form a relationship with the teacher. Third, the peers of this school work together like a family which builds great community. From kindergarten to Grade 9, the kids help one another grow and learn through the year."

In summary, we may not know what the future holds, but we certainly know *Who* holds the future. God is with us! ■

Fay Cherepuschak is the chairperson of the Sylvan Meadows Adventist School Board.

THE BURMAN EFFECT

BURMAN ALUMNI
IMPACTING THEIR COMMUNITIES

Growing in Grace

How does a Christian move from a rules-oriented faith to a relational one? For Morley and Wendy Kutzner, the answer seems clear. They see God reaching out through the lives of others: their parents, their teachers, their friends, and their faith community. Morley writes, “Our lives would have been very different had it not been for Christian education in our formative years.”

When Morley arrived at CUC (now Burman University) in 1968, he was apprehensive and lonely, but also excited. This campus, teeming with students close to his own age, was very different from his small, close-knit farming community. For the first time he was attending a Seventh-day Adventist school. That alone was daunting.

By the time Wendy arrived on the hilltop a year later (also from a small northern Alberta community), Morley felt more comfortable. He was meeting academic expectations. He was also growing spiritually. During daily worships, residence hall dean Gordie MacDonald spoke of spiritual values and gave them practical applications. Morley recalls, “This was at a time when our religion tended to be more of a didactic exercise rather than an experiential experience with Jesus. Gordie gave us insight into a relational world.”

Wendy and Morley also learned practical Christianity from their teachers. Wendy remembers Mr. Bowett and Mr. Ford as genuinely caring people with great concern for each of their students. Morley recalls Mr. Seland’s generosity. A humble individual, he was always ready to give of his time to ensure student success. And Mr. Fitch, a “walking mathematics encyclopedia,” practised grace at the same time that he expected excellence.

God also spoke to Morley and Wendy through the Week of Prayer programs. One memorable presenter was Ed Teranski. He talked about God working in the world and in each of his listeners’ lives. Ed started his meetings with “A good, good morning to you!” Then he proceeded to explain why it was a good, good morning: “Jesus is alive and at work in your lives.” Morley remembers getting into Spirit of Prophecy books at that time—a new world to him.

When Wendy and Morley left CUC to continue their

studies at Walla Walla College (WWC), their foundation for continued academic and spiritual growth was firmly in place. God was clearly leading in their individual lives.

Although they had been classmates at CUC, they had not started dating. Now their shared Canadian roots, high school memories, and common faith in a loving God drew them to each other. Wendy noticed that Morley was kind, capable, and motivated. And Morley was attracted to Wendy’s winsome and unpretentious personality. Wendy graduated with a nursing degree from WWC, and Morley earned his medical degree at Loma Linda University. He completed an ophthalmology residency at the University of Alberta (U of A).

The Kutzners write: “God had our vineyard in mind before we even knew it. Our message is simply that, as we observe our life’s journey, the Lord was leading, even when we could not perceive it.” ■

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



The Kutzners attend the Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Edmonton, Alta. Morley holds a faculty appointment at the U of A. His clinical practice is focused solely on cataract surgery. Wendy is Morley’s surgical co-ordinator and provides patient education.

The *It Is Written* Canada Challenge: Pray for Our Children and Grandchildren

I cemented my 10-year-old feet to the floor at the side of my big brother's coffin. They told me he was dead, but I had watched enough cartoons to know that death meant nothing. I had witnessed Wile E. Coyote time and again attempting to capture the Road Runner but dying repeatedly: crushed by a falling boulder, plummeting from a cliff and striking the deep canyon floor, flattened by a steamroller, smashed by a train, pulverized by a wrecking ball, exploded by dynamite, you name it; nothing could finish him off. He always came back. The scoundrel was alive and well in the next episode.



However, when the lid of that oak box was sealed shut and the black Saskatchewan soil covered my brother's casket, a cold knife stabbed deeply into my heart. I grew up overnight and stopped watching cartoons.

Everyone who has ever experienced the death of a loved one knows the feeling. God Himself knows, for He lost His own Son to the cruel clutches of death.

Even though "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" one day, it still hurts. That said, I have discovered something that hurts even more than death: watching a loved one walk away from God.

René and I receive one prayer request more than any other, and it is this: "Please, pray for my children." These parents would rather be crushed by a falling boulder; the impact would hurt far less.

Why are we losing so many of our children and grandchildren? What can we do to stem the tide of young people leaving our churches?

Since we have worked with youth most of our lives, René and I know that only God can raise the dead. We are like Ezekiel standing in a valley of dry bones.

In Ezekiel 37:11, the Lord identifies these dry bones as His people, who say, "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!"

He replies, "O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves. . . . Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, . . . Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it" (Ezek. 37:12–14, NKJV).

It's now time for action.

We're tired of powerless, theatrical religion that merely entertains, like a misleading cartoon.

It's time for God's people to pray, for He has promised: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14, NKJV).

Jesus knows what we're up against. "As the world's Redeemer, Christ was constantly confronted with apparent

failure. He, the messenger of mercy to our world, seemed to do little of the work He longed to do in uplifting and saving. Satanic influences were constantly working to oppose His way. But He would not be discouraged."¹

Do not be discouraged. Jesus relentlessly pursues each one who is "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1, NKJV), working to break the spell of the evil one and set the captive free.

René and I challenge you to commit time every day to praying for those who have given up on God, for He has not given up on them. He loves your children, and He is on your side. He assures you, "For I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children" (Isa. 49:25, NKJV). ■

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



¹ Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, 679, <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/130.3257/toc>.

The Triumph of Love

María Luz Dary Zuluaga was 23 years old when she married John Jairo Martinez in 1993 in Medellín, Colombia. With her daughter, Yuliana, the three of them became a family. Soon a new little person would join them.

Three nightmares and a hospital stay due to a possible miscarriage made the pregnancy a difficult one for Luz Dary. The nightmares had similar themes: a baby with a monstrous face, the need to keep the baby's face covered when they were outside, and people being repulsed by the appearance of her baby.

Luz Dary asked other mothers if they had nightmares when they were pregnant. They all said no. Her doctor told her that everything was fine. She listened to her baby's heartbeat. It sounded strong and healthy. She was comforted and went home happy. It was after the third dream that she began to attend a nearby Catholic church every day.

John was in the United States when a team of specialists helped Luz Dary birth her baby. "They forced the baby out," she says. "When they put him in my arms, I remembered what I saw in my nightmares. I started to scream: 'I don't want him! I don't want to see him! Take him away!'"

They took the baby and put him in an incubator.

Yuliana and her grandmother were taken to talk to a psychologist. When the little girl, aged seven, was asked to draw a picture of her brother, she drew a little baby with arms and feet, even hair. The psychologist told her something was missing, and drew a little ball. "Your brother was born with a problem called frontal encephalocele," the psychologist said to her.

An encephalocele is a rare birth defect caused by the failure of the baby's skull to close during its development. Part of the baby's brain, the membrane that covers the brain, a portion of the spinal cord, and the cerebrospinal fluid may extend through the hole in the skull. Skin or a thin membrane will cover the sac outside the skull. Yuliana's baby brother's encephalocele marred his handsome little face.

Luz Dary's pain was intense. "I cried so much," she

says "There was a time that my mind was blank. I was desperate and feeling crazy. I didn't know if my husband would want the baby, or reject both of us."

She refused to feed the baby. She told them she couldn't. She thought she would hurt him if she held him; however, all that changed when John arrived from the United States.

"When we saw each other," Luz Dary says, "we hugged, but we didn't say a word. We went to see the baby. I was astonished when John held the baby and talked to him with such a sweet and loving voice. He told the baby, 'I'm your father and I love you! I'll always take care of you.' It was then that I was able to hold the baby. John put him in my arms, and I was able to feed him!"

Luz Dary fell deeply in love with her precious little boy. They named him John Esteban. He was a sweet baby who was growing little by little. Time passed pleasantly. Luz Dary learned to keep him covered when they went outside. She protected him from people who would stare and say hurtful things about his appearance. In his home, John Esteban was free to be himself and to enjoy being with Yuliana. "She dressed him, played with him, watched videos with him, even fought with him," says Luz Dary. "Yuliana loved John Esteban. He was the spoiled baby!"

Spoiled maybe, but needing special care? Yes. Many medications were prescribed for his convulsions. Each time he had one, he had to be taken to the hospital. "Sometimes, I passed weeks sitting on a chair at the hospital," Luz Dary says. "But, I never lost hope!"

In 1997, when John Esteban was four years old, the family started to seek help. Generally, surgery is performed during infancy to place the protruding tissues back into the skull, remove the sac, and correct the associated craniofacial abnormalities. Because of his medical condition, this would be a dangerous operation for the little boy.

"I felt like I was a bad mother because I wasn't helping my baby get better," recalls Luz Dary. "We couldn't afford the surgery. I started praying to God about it. One day I called the news channel and told



TAMPA & STATE

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2001 ■ THE TIMES

Family's hopes embrace risk



Held by father John Jairo Martínez, John Esteban Martínez, 7, is kissed by his mother Luz Dary Zuluaga Wednesday after being assessed by physical and occupational therapists at Tampa Children's Hospital at St. Joseph's Hospital. The boy's brain is now a grapefruit-sized mass on the front left quarter of his head. Today's surgery to fix the problem could leave him dead or paralyzed, but his parents decided that doing nothing was worse. They think surgery is his only chance for a normal childhood. PLEASE SEE STORY, PAGE 3B



A clipping from the local newspaper in Tampa, Fla., before John Esteban's surgery.

Luz Dary with John Esteban.

them about my son's problem. I told them I wanted to find a doctor who could help him."

And that's how the news spread. Reporters interviewed Luz Dary. John Esteban's story was on all the news channels in Colombia. But nothing worked out. That's when Luz Dary decided her last hope was in the United States.

It took time and prayer, patience and perseverance, but finally a doctor in Tampa, Fla., agreed to perform the surgery for free. Before the operation the little boy, now seven years old, said, "Mommy, Baby is scared. Let's go to our little house."

"I told him he would be fine," she says. "I went to the little church inside the hospital and asked God to allow him to live only if he was going to be OK."

When the operation ended, the doctor told the family that the surgery was a success. "When we saw John Esteban, he was beautiful!" says Luz Dary. "He looked like a normal child!"

On the third day of recovery, however, the little boy suffered an irreversible stroke. Before the life support systems were unplugged on March 13, 2001, the family donated John Esteban's organs. "I wanted to donate his organs so other children could live," his mother says.

The Bible's story of Hannah and her son Samuel was familiar to Luz Dary, so when she and John decided to have another child, she prayed. She asked God for a

healthy baby boy and promised to dedicate him to His service. "I thank God every day for my son Santiago," she says. "I told my son the story of his brother. I remind him that he is a miracle child. I ask him to help me fulfill the promise I made to God."

The Martinezes' story overflows with the triumph of love: the enduring love of our Father in heaven for a mother and her child; the unconditional love of a father and a mother for their son; the loving sacrifices made by health care professionals in the hope of providing a healthier future for a little boy; and the kind, caring love of those who look beneath the surface to find the beauty in every human being.

"When I came to Canada and studied the Bible, I learned I would see my son again," says Luz Dary. "I cannot wait for the day when we all will be together, reunited in heaven. John Esteban showed us true love."

Once again, our heavenly Father poured His love into the lives of parents who passed His love on to the child in their care. Little John Esteban could show those around him true love because he had been receiving it all his life. ■

Annie Warner Donnelly is the founder and CEO of Taking the Next Step Corp. (www.takingthenextstep.ca).



Creating Lasting Change in Kenya Leaves Nova Scotia Couple Forever Changed



Karen and Earle Illsley on a trip to Kenya in 2003.



Karen assisting in surgery on a polio patient in 1994.

For years, Earle Illsley desired to help people living in poverty. And then he and his wife, Karen, found a tangible way to do that on two trips with A Better World Canada. Their journeys from Kentville, N.S., to Kenya solidified a caring to help less fortunate communities, particularly in health care. While enrolled in seminary, Earle was particularly interested in God's concern for the poor and how to "respond to a world that's hurting and ... make it a better place."

Years later, retired physiotherapist Dr. Ken Hill, initially a volunteer with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada, entered the picture. After listening to Hill's "very good presentation" of his volunteer efforts in Kendu Bay, Kenya, the Illsleys took a trip to the region in 1994.

The couple remembers seeing children with polio crawling around on the ground. The children were not receiving any treatment until Hill stepped in with a physiotherapy program in conjunction with surgical treatment.

"One of the things that [drew] me in [at] the very beginning was Ken talking about a lot of these kids having polio—and my dad had been infected with that back in Canada," says Earle.

Karen, a physiotherapist at the time, worked alongside rehabilitation assistants who were treating children following surgery. She also supervised physiotherapy students from overseas. Earle built playground equipment and hired locals to refurbish school dormitories as well as water tanks. Their seven-week trip had brought so many wonderful improvements to children's lives. And yet that first journey to Africa was distressing, too, with a genocide unfolding in neighbouring Rwanda.

"I remember we were listening to the actual events on the radio," says Earle. "It had an effect on Kenya because people

were running out of Rwanda and into Kenya."

When the Illsleys returned to Kendu Bay in 2003, they saw some changes, good and bad. They observed that there were fewer children with polio, thanks to large-scale vaccination programs; however, HIV and AIDS were more rampant.

Hill's community-based rehabilitation program had blossomed with more qualified staff. Karen was also greatly inspired by the children, who, despite their health problems, seemed happy. They even took up offerings during worship services for those less fortunate, even when they were so poor themselves, she says.

Both Earle, who has worn glasses since he was seven, and Karen had learned how to perform simple eye tests. They took about 1,000 pairs of donated eyeglasses and equipment to Kendu Bay and worked with trained hospital staff to screen children and set up an ongoing clinic. They also conducted eye clinics in Lamu as part of their work with ABW. "We were doing what God had put in our hearts to do," says Karen.

The couple was living out their favourite Bible passage, which tells us to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, NIV).

"That seems to be a guiding light, and it seems to be what A Better World is all about," Earle says.

The Illsleys have seen how important it is to enable and equip poor communities to help themselves. "We don't need to go over there and do everything for them," Karen adds. "It's best to work with them." ■

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

The Third Angel: A Story of Blessing for Our Times

We may feel pressed down and collectively shaken by our times, but God has turned the “pressing” and “shaking” we feel into unexpected blessings. People who had not heard of Adventists before they encountered MANS are being impressed by the inclusive, caring character of the church as displayed at MANS and have been inspired to make major contributions.

There’s no question that these are challenging times for all of us. A year ago when COVID sent many of us home to work remotely, I thought I’d be back at my desk by September. Instead, newscasts featured reports of a struggling economy and new COVID variants.

Perhaps I can be forgiven, then, for how surprised I was by the generous response of Alberta Adventists to the call to help MANS keep all its students and continue accepting new ones as they flocked in unprecedented numbers to MANS after September 30.

The downside to having so many new students was that under federal government policy, MANS would not be getting any money for these students. No government money was forthcoming for extra expenses occasioned by COVID requirements, either.

What to do? Eileen Firingstone (Class of 2022) and Tessa Potts (Class of 2020) made a significant contribution from their sculpture commission¹ to offset costs related to pandemic safety. But the cost of educating the record number of students who applied to MANS after September was well beyond what the two young philanthropists and the concerned families could contribute.

So an appeal was made to the members of the Alberta Conference.

Nearly \$45,000 was raised by the November/December appeal, which was matched by two generous donors—two angels, in my opinion—for a total of about \$90,000.

But that’s not the end of the story.

A third donor who received the appeal letter was troubled by the lack of education funding for 29 students. After the MANS appeal accounting was done, the concerned donor, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, came forward with more questions. In February, this



MANS student/welder/philanthropist Eileen Firingstone was featured in the MANS 2020 Appeal Letter as an example of a student MANS would have had to turn away a few years ago if government funding was MANS’s primary consideration for admission. Photo credit: Pattie Reasor

individual considered

- all that has been accomplished at MANS,
- constituency support,
- the conference’s prudent management, and
- the church’s acceptance of students despite the government’s position.

After considering everything, this third, concerned donor gave enough to cover the 2020/21 academic year deficit that COVID and government policy had created.

What can we say to such generosity? “Thank you” is a start.

Thank you to all who looked beyond the discouraging newscasts and responded. Thank you to all who see the promise in students like Eileen and hear, “What you’ve done for them, you’ve done for Me.”

As in Malachi 3:10, His blessing has been poured out—pressed down and shaken together—and we receive the gifts of many extraordinary people with humble gratitude. ■

Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy, including MANS donor interactions, at the Alberta Conference.

¹ See stories featured on the Maskwacis Outreach pages in the October and November 2020 issues of the *Messenger*.



Please note: Items in the "News" section may originate from various sources. The Canadian Adventist Messenger will give credit, via a byline, to authors of material submitted directly to us for first printing. Stories without a byline may have been written by Messenger staff, reprinted from other publications, or supplied to us by a general press release.

Ontario

Our Church is in Session! Come on in!



Marcia White, food bank leader, on hand during a delivery.

Henri Lacordaire wrote, "This is the true sign of love: whoever does not share does not love."¹ Love and sharing are two words that characterize this church of which I am a member. Love for our neighbours is the greatest of the commandments. How do we love our neighbours? Here is a concrete example.

Kendalwood Church, which has been established for more than 60 years now, has recently appeared in several local newspaper articles and even did a TV interview on Global. The food bank, under the leadership of Marcia White, is the largest food bank open in Ontario's Durham region today. It serves over 150 families a week, with boxes of food specially made for the specific needs of each family member. The pandemic forced several other banks to close their doors, but thank God, the bank in Kendalwood has continued to grow and has helped many families to date.

Kendalwood has not always been a household name. It all really started in 2016. The focus of the lessons at the Sabbath school was on community. The big questions were: *If the church*

doors were closed, would the community around us know? Would they miss it? Although the building was part of the landscape, the church building was not salt or light. This question disturbed Marcia. Every Sabbath the Holy Spirit reminded her of this question. What was to be done? A food bank, but how? Step 1: Pay attention to the Word of God. And when God speaks to you, listen.

Marcia got to work. After some time, members of the church joined her to form a team that would carry out this mission. This bank was to be opened, first, to people in the community who needed it. The registration process had to first respect the clients without prejudice and without violating their privacy. While praying and fasting, the team was able to find a referral system that accepted families according to their needs. The bank team went into every business, office, and grocery store in Whitby. The task was daunting at times, but the team did not let up. Step 2: Pray! And if necessary, fast.

For the past three years, Kendalwood has been offering first aid and food safety training four times a year. This makes it easier for subscribers to find jobs or get richer. During the summer the church holds health fairs for the community, offering health presentations and cooking classes, as well as games for children. The food bank has become a donor to many other Christian and non-faith-based initiatives by sharing the gift of service it receives. The vision of the food bank at Kendalwood does not stop at food. Step 3: Petition God's leadership.

Marcia White says, "Kendalwood church is still in session, even during the pandemic!"

The church must break down its walls to serve its community. The needs of the community must be sought out. We need to form concrete and authentic relationships with the community in order to have an authentic relationship, one that leads to the love of Christ, unconditionally. One must persevere and remember that with God nothing is impossible.

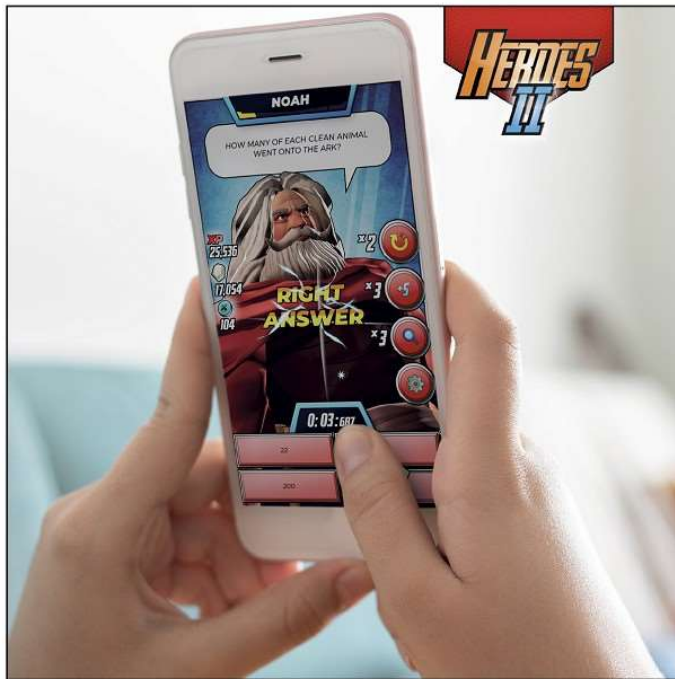
For more information on Kendalwood church, please visit <https://www.kendalwood.com/ministries>. ■

—Fadia Jérôme-Smith, Kendalwood
Seventh-day Adventist Church

¹ Le R. P. Henri-Dominique Lacordaire, *Eloge funèbre du général Drouot* (Paris, France: Sagnier et Bray, Libraires-Éditeurs, 1847), 41.

General Conference

Adventist Church Releases New Bible Trivia Game App: A Brand-New Digital Evangelism Tool for Reaching the World's 2.7 Billion Gamers



Heroes 2: The Bible Trivia Game aims to reach young people in a secularized culture.

Heroes 2: *The Bible Trivia Game* is an app developed by Hope Channel to share the three angels' messages with gamers and young people around the world. The app was made available on March 25 for Android and iOS on popular app stores.

Players start their journey with Adam and Eve in Genesis—the first heroes—and end in Revelation with John, the son of thunder. As these heroes ask factual questions about their lives, 12 per round, players accumulate “experience points.” The more experience points a player has, the more heroes are unlocked. The questions increase in difficulty as the game progresses, and players can challenge their family and friends by simply sharing a link at the end of each round.

Sam Neves, the project's director, believes that video games

are a great tool to creatively communicate the gospel with technology, a well-thought-out strategy to reach young people in a secularized culture. “The real challenge is that young people today know more about the comics stories than the Bible stories. Therefore, *Heroes* was born, to encourage them to familiarize themselves with the fascinating stories of the Bible, and to discover they are called to be God's heroes today, to become Christ's witnesses.

“From David, the giant slayer, John, the son of thunder, Samson, the legend, to Joseph, the dreamer, these characters introduced in the game are examples of courage and biblical masculinity. And Esther, the queen of courage, Ruth, the wise widow, and Mary Magdalene, nicknamed ‘tomb raider,’ are our ‘wonder women’ and they teach important lessons to girls,” says Neves.

The game has been released in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and more languages will be added shortly.

A Rising Market

The online gaming market grew considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching 2.7 billion global users by the end of 2020.¹ Among different game genres, Bible trivia games are getting more attention, like *Heroes the Game*, launched in 2013 as a pioneer Christian game, that paved the way for many other projects and developments. From the date it was released, the game generated over 10,000 minutes of interaction with its users. It is expected that *Heroes 2: The Bible Trivia Game* will carry the torch!

In addition to being available in several languages, *Heroes 2: The Bible Trivia Game* is completely free! For more information, email contact@heroesbibletrivia.org. ■

¹ Omri Wallach, “How Big is the World's Online Mobile Gaming Industry?” *Visual Capitalist*, Dec. 9, 2020, <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/how-big-is-the-global-mobile-gaming-industry/>.

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of March 31, 2021, there were 384 depositors with a total deposit of \$31,695,286. There were 91 loans with a value of \$28,069,490.

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





*Time to plant seeds
of Truth!*

**New
Steps to Christ
Magazine!**



Call today
888-402-6070
AmazingFactsMinistries.com

AMAZING FACTS

MINISTRIES

SOLID AS A ROCK

Through the turmoil of a pandemic, with God as our Guide, Adventist Education in Alberta remains strong...as solid as a rock.

*The Rock, His
work is perfect...*

Deuteronomy 32:4



Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church
ALBERTA CONFERENCE

albertaadventist.ca



The Spirit Still Leads

I am called “Iman” which, in Persian, means “faith.” Now I go by Safa Mokry. This is my family’s story.

I was born in a very religious Muslim family in the northwestern part of Iran. I always read the Qur’an searching for God, wanting a connection with Him, but I never felt God’s presence or peace in my life. In 1995, I graduated with an associate degree in mathematical physics and began to teach mathematics in Bukan. While there, I married Esther, and we had two sons, Diyar and Zhiar. Life was good—except I still did not have the peace that I was searching for.

While in Bukan, I met a Christian who saw that I was thirsting to know more about God, so he arranged for his friends to study with me. When I accepted Jesus as my Saviour, I experienced peace. But when my wife found out that I was a Christian now, she said, “You changed. I’m leaving!”

As she packed, I went to another room and, through my tears, prayed, “God, after searching for so long, I cannot lose You now! If I *must* choose between you and my wife, I choose You. I leave this situation in Your hands.”

My wife was asleep on the sofa when I returned. Putting my hand on her, I prayed. She suddenly woke up and said, “I had a dream. You spoke a name I’ve never heard before... *Holy* something.”

“The Holy Spirit?” I asked.

“Yes! That was it,” she replied.

I explained about the Holy Spirit, Christianity, and how Jesus lived and died for us. We spoke for hours, after which she sobbed, “I believe in Jesus Christ.” After Bible studies my family and I were baptized, and subsequent to more training I was chosen

to be a pastor. I worked as a math teacher, but my spare time was spent as a volunteer visiting and teaching people about God.

I was happy to share the good news of the gospel even though it was difficult and very dangerous in Iran. I was arrested many times. The last time I was tortured for 20 days and had to stand trial. I was sentenced to death but released on bail due to the Iranian New Year. During the holidays, on March 27, 2014, my family and I escaped across the border of Iran and illegally entered Iraq. Eventually, we made our way to Turkey and registered as refugees.

In Turkey we were blessed to meet a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Shahbaz Bakhshnia, and we studied the 28 fundamental beliefs. All four members of our family were baptized again, and I was asked by my new church to lead Bible studies for Iranians. I taught people around the world by internet and television broadcasts on Omid TV.

We were later relocated to Karaman, Turkey, where we found a small Christian group with whom I led Bible studies. Before long that group grew much larger, and we established a church there.

As refugees we did not carry passports from any country—a situation that was dangerous for us, especially since I was publicly preaching about Jesus Christ in a Muslim country. Our children’s future was our biggest concern. Diyar (now 21) would like to be a physician, and Zhiyar (now 17) has an interest in music. We prayed for a home where our sons would be allowed to study and nurture their abilities and where we could faithfully serve God in freedom.

After six long years God opened the doors for us to come



to Canada. We are located in Lacombe, Alta., having been sponsored by the Connect Sabbath School Class of the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of so many people who have followed the leading of the Holy Spirit to become the answer to our prayers.

Making Connections

We, the Connect Class at the College Heights church, had been studying the book of Acts for four years. That journey enabled us to discover how the Spirit led the early church as they learned how to *be* the church.

It has been amazing to see how the Spirit still leads His church. In November 2019, we met to discuss how we could be more intentional with service projects. One of our class members, Flora, suggested sponsoring a refugee family. Many years earlier her family had arrived in Canada as refugees from Turkey, so she knew the challenges and rewards firsthand. We watched as the Spirit opened doors to make this dream a reality.

Flora contacted the Adventist church in Istanbul to see if their pastor knew of a family that needed sponsorship. He did. Our leader, Bruce Boyd, learned that his son-in-law's parents had recently returned from the Middle East and they were able to validate this pastor's information.

After consulting with other organizations who had experience with sponsoring refugees, the Lacombe First Baptist Church offered to assist us with the application process and be our agent to receive, receipt, and disburse our funds. After several meetings, our class made the decision to sponsor the Mokry family if our small group could raise at least half of the necessary funds.

A very affirming indicator that the Spirit was leading was when

we counted the anonymous pledges and we had exactly half the funds needed to sponsor this family for a year! How thrilled we were! We excitedly shared our dream with friends and the rest of our church family and soon raised all the remaining funds.

God also led us to a former refugee in Red Deer who spoke Persian. She graciously offered to translate and help with the application/settling process. Their paperwork was quickly processed, and soon the Mokrys were given permission to get the necessary medical examinations, which they passed, and were issued the necessary documents that enabled them to travel to Canada and begin their new life. And then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and all travel to Canada was halted. We continued to pray that they would be kept safe until travel could begin again.

When foreign travel to Canada resumed, we received word that they would be arriving in a few weeks. November 10, 2020, arrived with a snowstorm and slippery roads, but that did not deter the team that made their way to the Calgary airport. Thankfully, they had a safe trip, and the Mokry family arrived! Generous donations enabled us to have a completely furnished and equipped townhouse ready for them to call home.

How thrilled and thankful we all are! The Connect Class members are humbled to have watched the Spirit continue to lead in so many ways, making our dream become the answer to their prayers. For us, it is a story that could be added to the book of Acts. The Mokrys' prayers for a country to call home where their children can be educated and where they can faithfully serve God in freedom have been answered. ■

Warren Kay is the communications leader of the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alta., and facilitator of the Connect Sabbath school class.



The Mokry family at their new home in Lacombe, Alta.



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 submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 13th Constituency Meeting (Quinquennial) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador will convene virtually (over Zoom) on Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m. NDT.

The Session is called for the purpose of: (1) Receiving reports covering the past five years of Mission operations, (2) Electing directors of departments (Mission officers are elected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, scheduled for next SDACC Board in June 2021), (3) Electing members of the Board of Directors for the next five years, (4) Electing the Standing Bylaws Committee, (5) Considering any proposed changes to the Bylaws, (6) Considering any other business that may properly come before the Session.

The Bylaws of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador provide that each Seventh-day Adventist church in the Mission is entitled to one delegate without regard to numbers and one additional delegate for each 20 members or major portion thereof. Regular delegates to the session are appointed by the local churches.

Each church is entitled to one representative to attend the Organizing Committee and one additional member for each 200 members or major portion thereof. The Organizing Committee is scheduled to meet

virtually (over Zoom) on Monday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. NDT. (The primary work of this committee is to recommend to the Session members of the Nominating Committee and members of the Standing Bylaws Committee).

*Ken Corkum, President
Xenia Capote, Secretary*

Anniversaries

Mike and Olga (née Zalaski) Trenchuk of Ardrossan, Alta.,



celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1, 2020. The Trenchuks have three children: Wendy (Morley) Kutzner, Linda Carpenter, and Gaylend (Marilyn) Trenchuk; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Carol (née Lockhart) Caston was born Oct. 24, 1934, in Windsor, N.S., and died Dec. 18, 2020, in Kentville, N.S. Carol was organist at the New Minas Seventh-day Adventist Church for 41 years. She loved music and will be greatly missed by members of the New Minas church. She enjoyed meeting, visiting people, and looking out for the less fortunate. She was predeceased by her parents, Carl and Blanche Lockhart. Surviving: spouse, Fred; and sister, Vivian Riley of Windsor.

Leonard Pye was born Oct. 15, 1923, in Lethbridge, N.L., and died Oct. 10, 2020, in Lethbridge. Leonard was a charter member of the Lethbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. He served as a deacon for many years and was always there to help when needed. He is predeceased by his parents, Samuel and Selina Pye; brothers, Alfred, Edgar, Cecil, Willis, and Robert; and sisters, Myrtice, Ethel, Delilah Guy, and Bessie. Surviving: spouse, Marion (née Bennett); sons, Donald (Patricia) of Wardsville, Ont., Clarence (Jean) of Lethbridge, Rayfield of Oshawa, Ont., Neil (Patricia) of Dodsland, Sask., David (Kay) of Musgravetown,

N.L., Evan (Glenda) of Chetwynd, B.C., and Lyndon (Sandra) of Calgary, Alta.; daughters, Mona (Clyde) Hodder of Lumsden, N.L., Bessie of Lethbridge; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Evelyn (née Perdue) Shipowick was born Oct. 8, 1921, in Richmond, Va., and died Feb. 20, 2021, in Spokane, Wash. For 35 years Victor and Evelyn Shipowick served in Adventist gospel ministry in the Maritime, Ontario, and Quebec Conferences. Evelyn is predeceased by her parents, Edward and Della Perdue; spouse, Victor; son, Larry; brothers, Edward and William; sisters, Helen Dougherty and Betty Dibert. Surviving: sons, David (Vanessa) of Spokane, Mark of Hinton, W. Va.; brother, Robert Perdue; sister, Jane Elbert; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Advertisements

We help Adventists marry Adventists. It's that simple: www.adventistdating.com. (10/21)

Canadian Adventist Messenger is looking for a new staff writer for the "Where Are They Now?" column. We are looking for someone who is retired and has worked for the church in more than one conference across Canada. Please contact messenger@adventist.ca for more info. (12/21)

NEW/USED Adventist Books: TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800/367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit www.LNFBOOKS.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases. (08/21)

Country home located near Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba on 80 acres (50 acres deeded farmland, 30 acres wooded). 4 bedroom bi-level, 2.5 bathrooms, full basement. 2-car garage separate from house. Aerial photo available on request. 204/835-2742. (06/21)

Maui Vacation Condo: Relaxing and affordable. Only a 3-min. walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king bed. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 4. Fully furnished kitchen, washer/dryer, and more! *Free* parking, Wi-Fi, and calls to Canada/U.S.! Friendly Kihei Adventist church nearby. Visit us at www.vrbo.com/62799. Email: mauivista1125@gmail.com or call Mark 909/800-9841 (USA). (11/21)

Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local church or conference approval.
- Payment must accompany your ad or it will not be published. Acceptable methods of payment are cheque (in the mail) or credit card (online via PayPal).
- Submission deadlines are 8 weeks before the date of publication (e.g. May 1 for the July issue).
- The *Messenger* assumes no responsibility for typographical errors, nor liability for the advertisements.
- Acceptance of ads does not constitute endorsement of the products or services by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

RATES:

Classified advertising—\$42 for 50 words or less; \$11 for each additional 10 words. *Maximum 250 words.*

For ad rates, sizes, deadlines, and more, visit: www.adventist.ca/messenger.

The Prayer of Faith, by Daniel O. Yeboah: A convincing guide to moving mountains, *The Prayer of Faith* is designed to help you understand the true heart for prayer, meant for building a meaningful relationship with God. Readers looking to develop their faith through communion with God will be greatly blessed by Yeboah's insightful experience and compassionate guidance. Daniel Owusu Yeboah is an elder of the LaSalle New Life Seventh-day Adventist church in Montreal. The book can be purchased at Amazon, Apple iTunes store, or Barnes and Noble. (05/21)

Rio Claro Fine Foods brings you delicious Caribbean and Filipino offerings. Partial menu: best roti skins in the GTA and homemade ice cream; veggie goat, curry goat; authentic black cake and coconut bakes; Filipino noodles and jerk chicken; red snapper and kingfish; personal ordering and catering. Call/text 647/510-7463. (12/21)



Alan Hamilton BBA, Realtor
 Working for YOU Sundays - Fridays
 in Abbotsford, Aldergrove, Langley,
 Surrey, Mission & Chilliwack, B.C.

RE/MAX LITTLE OAK REALTY
 cell 604-309-5729
 Alan@AlanHamilton.com
 AlanHamilton.com



Has intended to induce breach of agency




Seventh-day
 Adventist Church
 NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 CANADA

Download official Seventh-day Adventist® Church
 logos, fonts, stationery, and signage guidelines:

www.nadadventist.org/brand-guidelines

SDA Counsellor & Life Coach
Applying spiritual principles to everyday challenges!



Available across Canada via video chat.
 Biblical tools such as CBT & Ministry of
 Healing for depression, anxiety, stress,
 trauma, relationships, anger. Registered
 Professional Counsellor, TEAM-CBT,
 CBT-I for insomnia, certified life coach.

Free consult & resources:
www.AngelaPoch.com

invis Canada's
 Mortgage Experts™



Peter Prinz
 Lic. #M1002122
 Mortgage Broker #10801
 peterprinz@outlook.com
 647-280-2656
 Call or Email Me in Confidence

*I am more than just mortgages;
 I specialize in:*

- 1st & 2nd Mortgages
- Bank Declines
- Private Lenders
- Poor Credit
- Bankruptcy
- Mortgage Arrears
- Property Tax Arrears
- Power of Sale
- Self-Employment
- Loans for:
 - Residential or Commercial
 - Debt Consolidations
 - Construction
 - Home Renovations
 - Credit Card Debt
 - And More...

TOGETHER WE WILL FIND A SOLUTION!



**Better Food
 For A Better You**

Rio Claro
 FINE FOODS

Caribbean & Filipino Foods
 Homemade Ice Cream
 Personal Orders
 Catering Available

(647) 510-7463 info@rioclarofinefoods.com



YARA KAILY LIMA
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?

I am a Christian Real Estate sales representative
 working in Toronto, Durham and Northumberland areas.
 Please call me for a no-obligation consultation.

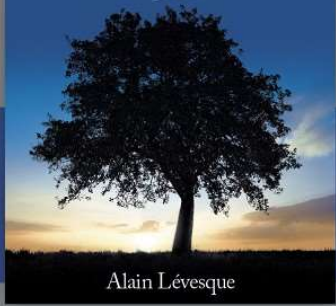
- ❖ Christian values and honesty
- ❖ Integrity and Professionalism
- ❖ Knowledge of the current market trends



905 442-0723 (Direct)
 905 897-1040 (Office)
yara.lima@remax.net

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA EDITION

GEORGE'S TREE
 The story of a *well* planned gift



Alain Lévesque

GEORGE'S TREE will teach you how to benefit from Canadian tax deductible policies when you make your current charitable donations, as well as charitable bequests in your Will. A financial specialist in Planned Giving, author Alain Lévesque uses an easy-to-read story format to demystify many preconceived notions. This special edition includes examples for Planned Gifts to Canadian Adventist charitable organizations.

To receive your **FREE** book of *GEORGE'S TREE*, please email legal@adventist.ca, or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078. Available in **ENGLISH** or **FRENCH**.

Also available in electronic format at www.willplan.ca

These are Extraordinary Times...



www.willplan.ca

email legal@adventist.ca or call 905-433-0011 ext. 2078



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Church is more than a .
Tithe is more than an .

Give. Online. Anytime.
adventistgiving.ca

Learn how to give at
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF6hmQG6iU0



 Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION | **ADVENTIST GIVING**

2021 OFFERING SCHEDULE

MAY

Local Church Budget..... May 01
Disaster & Famine Relief*..... May 08
Local Church Budget..... May 15
Conference Advance May 22
Canadian French Ministries* May 29

JUNE

Local Church Budget..... June 05
Women's Ministries NAD*..... June 12
Local Church Budget..... June 19
Canadian Indigenous Ministries*..... June 26

*Special materials provided.




Experience the Burman Advantage as You Pursue Nursing

Advantages of the first year and a half at Burman:

- Dedicated Christian professors sharing your vision for service
- Best tuition value among North American Adventist Universities
- Fully transferable credits for completion of the Bachelor of Nursing degree program at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio, U.S.A.
- Certificate in Health Sciences in recognition of your achievements at Burman University

Inquire about eligibility for student loans and scholarships

Visit www.burmanu.ca/nursing for more information, or call:
Admissions: 1.800.661.8129 x1
Student Finance: 1.800.661.8129 x2
Email: info@burmanu.ca

 **BURMAN UNIVERSITY**

THINK
BELIEVE
ACT



I AM ENCOURAGED by the Alberta Conference for their initiative to upgrade their branding and for the supportive role they are playing to help other SDACC entities get on board as well. I am aware that other conferences are not far behind them in the process.

What is branding? The first known usage of this word in a business context arose in 1913. According to Merriam-Webster, branding involves “promoting a product or service by identifying it with a particular brand.” Merriam-Webster’s synonyms for it are *engraving*, *etching*, *impressing*, *imprinting*, *infixing*, or *ingraining* to help understand what it is.

When our General Conference communication leaders requested organizations use one logo for all Adventist entities, the *Messenger* team was reluctant; after all, we liked the *Messenger* logo. After a while, we, like others, joined the initiative. Now we really like the new cover design. It could well be possible that we were the only ones to know that the *Messenger* logo had gone away.

We also added what is referred to as the Sabbath Bar to our front cover. You may have noticed that one-seventh of our cover page has a bar going down the side, featuring our official logo. This layout is often seen on Adventist books, websites, Sabbath School quarterlies, church stationery, and more. Well done, Team Adventist!

That being said, I still often see the church logo modified, even butchered at times—with strange colours added, shapes stretched, or unofficial fonts used. For your information, any modification of our logo must be approved by the conference that the church or organization answers to.

The General Conference has licensed the fonts in most known languages for church use. Every Adventist church within the North American Division can download the logo, fonts, letterhead, business cards, note paper, digital presentations, and other templates at <https://www.nadadventist.org/brand-guidelines>. When you see our logo, you can feel confident that the organization is managed as part of our church. Our official logos should not be used by private businesses and other ventures. Please let your conference know if you encounter these brand assets being used outside of approved parameters.

It is common for me to get questions about the origin of the logo. People often ask me why the old logo was done away with. My response, for some reason, seems to irritate those who are deep into conspiracy theories. The answer is plain: our church at large has never had, or voted on, a consistent worldwide logo before the current one was established. *And no*, it was not designed by Jesuits; it was designed by a Canadian and friend of mine, Bryan Gray.¹

I can only imagine the heightened awareness we would have if every official Adventist media ministry, every school, every church, every health-care institution, and every outreach program used our logo. It would make our organization more reflective of what it is: growing and worldwide. ■

from the editor

Team Adventist

P.S.: Elder Ted Wilson has emphasized that we should be proud of our name. I stand with him on that.



club

There's a new Club coming to town this summer!

Learn how you can be a Mountaineer
and listen to all-new content you won't
find anywhere else.

Learn more at DiscoveryMountain.com/Club



P.O. Box 2127 Oshawa, ON L1H 7V4



Sowing on the Hilltop

*harvesting for
eternity*

June 4-6
A virtual program

Weekend Highlights

- President's Virtual Reception
- Spiritual Programs
- Inspiring Music
- Awards Program
- Virtual Campus Tours

Alan Collins' The Sower reminds all who enter the Administration Building that the seeds sown on the hilltop can yield an abundant harvest for eternity.

Featured Speaker

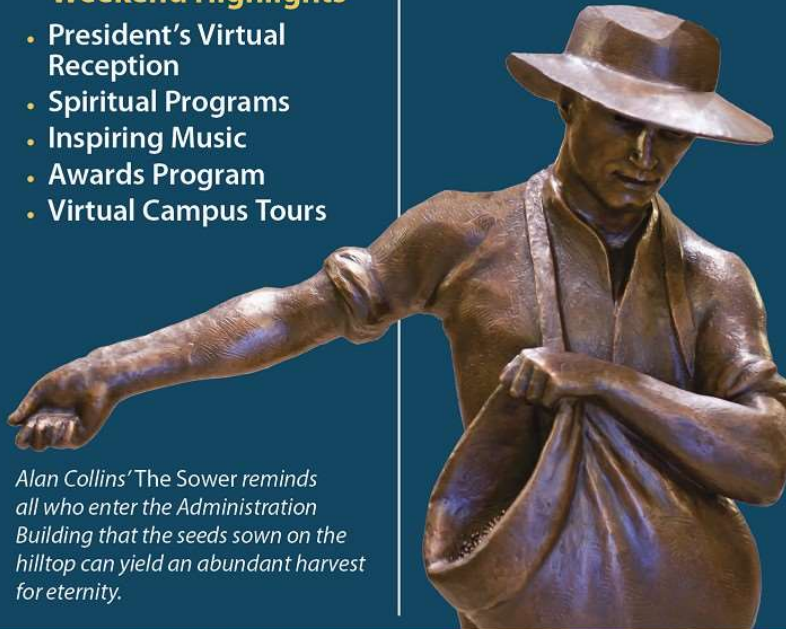


Wally Lyder | Lyder, pastor of the Voice of Hope Adventist Church in Lakewood, Washington, is passionate about worship and ministry. He not only shares the gospel in North America, the Caribbean, and Africa, but he also enjoys working with small congregations and growing them into larger churches.

Guest Artist



Preston Hawes | Canadian violinist Preston Hawes is hailed by the European Academy of Arts and Sciences as an "electrifying and virtuosic" performer. He has been heard as a soloist in over 35 countries and in venues such as Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and Windsor Castle. Hawes is associate professor of music and director of orchestral studies at Washington Adventist University in Maryland and artistic director of the New England Symphonic Ensemble.



Honour Classes 2020 & '21

2015 & 2016	1990 & 1991	1965 & 1966
2010 & 2011	1985 & 1986	1960 & 1961
2005 & 2006	1980 & 1981	1955 & 1956
2000 & 2001	1975 & 1976	1950 & 1951
1995 & 1996	1970 & 1971	1945 & 1946
and all classes prior to 1945		

Visit the Burman University website for times and links to online streaming of Homecoming programs.

www.burmanu.ca