

Cackling Goose (p. 9), A Dish With One Spoon (p. 16),  
One Stayed, One Strayed (p. 22), In the Hands (p. 30)

november 2021

canadian adventist  
*Messenger*

A  
Lighthouse  
ON  
CANADA'S  
EAST COAST



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\$130

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“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”

—Jeremiah 31:3 ESV

# Everlasting Love

Love is something every one of us needs. The security that comes from knowing that someone loves you brings security; it brings peace. Too often around us, what we see are broken promises and the remnants of trust betrayed.

I like this short verse from Jeremiah. It portrays God as He really is. He cares for us permanently, shows us what real love looks like, and sees us through the lens of unconditional love even on our “off” days and even though there are some who, through anger or mistrust, would have us believe otherwise.

So when God speaks through the prophet about His love, He speaks of the everlasting quality that it has.

When I think of everlasting, I think of the Canadian Rockies out in Alberta. I think of the majestic scenery of Arctic Canada. I think of Niagara Falls with the endless supply of water. And ... I think of God.

Periodically, I hear people around me speaking of ways in which they feel God has somehow let them down—for example, not being with them during some calamity when they counted on His presence.

Or perhaps life circumstances make it difficult to meet God in the familiar setting of a church building that we’ve come to associate with a warm, comfortable feeling.

Whatever the case, it’s exactly why this verse is valuable to each one of us. It reminds us that in every circumstance, God still loves us. When we’re all alone, God in His love is present. On a Sabbath day when we’re home alone, God is present and His book reminds us of His enduring love.

God is faithful to His commitment. Elsewhere He says it this way: “I won’t leave you or forsake you” (Heb. 13:5; cf. Josh. 1:5; Deut. 31:8).

That’s God. Loving, dependable. Always present. During difficult days. When things are hard. When we feel alone. God promises, “I’ll still love. I’ll be faithful.” His love will see each of us through all of life.

How about it? Have you discovered that about God? ■

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





MAMAWI ATOSKETAN  
NATIVE SCHOOL

# LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD



Photo by Dean Ward Highview Photo

Thank you for helping MANS students like Joshua build skills, character and a healthy, brighter future.

Read Joshua's reflections on MANS at the Maskwacis Outreach page of this issue.

## Joshua's always had dreams.

As a 10-year old walking MANS' halls, the son of now Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation, he dreamed of graduating from MANS (then terminating at Grade 9). He dreamed of excelling in high school and at athletics, and going on to university—which he did.

Now Joshua wants to help the next Indigenous generation get a healthy start in life.

Joshua wants his girls and other Res kids to have the special MANS experience, and he's pitching in to help ensure that their MANS education includes something his didn't: a level outdoor playing field.

Because a level playing field isn't just a luxury dream. It's a way to change the course of a life.

To receive a special copy of *Alberta Adventist News* featuring Joshua's family and other MANS and Maskwacis news, ask for "Joshua's Field of Dreams"

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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## November 2021



**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.

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**WHAT'S COMING** In next month's issue, read the story of Nella Mwamuka, who endures the frigid Arctic cold to bring warmth to the Inuit community during the Christmas season.

### FEATURES

- 22 **FAITH OF OUR FATHERS** Alvin and Frank Campbell
- 24 **COVER STORY** A Lighthouse on Canada's East Coast
- 38 **EDUCATION FEATURE** Excellence in Education Awards

### IN EVERY ISSUE

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





# FREEDOM OF RELIGION



**Q:** *During the pandemic, governments have shut down churches seemingly without much concern for the spiritual health of members. I thought we live in a free country. Does Canadian society no longer value religious liberty?*

**A:** Last month I started answering your question by providing a summary of my views on why organized religion, and Christianity in particular, has become socially unacceptable in parts of modern secular society. That background informs any consideration of the extent to which freedom of religion is protected in Canada.

For a number of years, I was invited to guest lecture on religious liberty in a constitutional litigation class at one of Canada's pre-eminent law schools. The professor, who is very knowledgeable, always started the class by explaining why freedom of religion is protected in Canada. She did this through a quick historical overview, explaining how this hard-won right arose from the battles fought between different Christian groups following the reformation.

This left me with two uneasy thoughts.

First, that the students need a history lesson as a justification for the protection of religious belief and practice is disconcerting. These are already highly educated adults, each having earned an undergraduate degree and completed two or more years of law school. I would have thought that the importance of protecting religious belief and practice as a fundamental right needed no explanation. What is happening in our educational system?

Second, this explanation for the origin of religious liberty in western thought focuses on the intolerance of different Christian groups toward one another. That is very unfortunate. It contextualizes freedom of religion almost exclusively as the need to protect individuals from Christian intolerance. The logical extension is that freedom of religion is primarily useful to ensure freedom *from* religion.

While freedom from imposed religious observance

is critical if we are to enjoy a right to choose our own theological beliefs and sacred practices, it is insufficient to ensure robust religious liberty. If freedom of religion is promulgated primarily as a means by which citizens are free from compelled religious observance, state restrictions that have a *secular* purpose but nevertheless impinge on the beliefs or practices of a religious minority group will not be seen as constitutionally problematic. This perspective negates protection when it is now most needed.

Equality rights are also taking a front seat in Canadian constitutional law. Equal benefit of the law is essential to a free society, but it is not enough to ensure freedom. Individual liberty must also be strongly protected. A law that punishes certain discriminatory speech may create a sense of equality, but it still diminishes freedom. To the extent that equality is the pre-eminent principle, individual freedom suffers. In order to be free, we must accept the risk that some citizens will cause offence to others. A search for truth is severely impaired if certain avenues of thought, belief, and practice are restricted in deference to majoritarian views.

These social and legal developments are causing us to lose sight of the importance of protecting another person's rights, even if we strenuously disagree with them. They are also making freedom of religion less important in the minds of many.

Next month I'll address how we can respond to these trends. ■

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



# A Vision of the Invisible

“Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”—*Proverbs 29:18, ESV*

**I**n the Bible we find stories of men and women who left a mark on their times. They became role models of faith whose experiences never lose relevance despite the centuries that have passed.

When I consider the end of the life of Moses, this great leader of God’s people, I sometimes feel frustrated. He had a childhood many of us would have dreamed of: growing up in the court of the king surrounded by the solicitude of his adoptive mother and fed by his biological mother. But all this turned into difficulties.

First he revolts and risks losing everything when he discovers the dark, miserable future awaiting his people. He realizes that life in the palace is not his destiny. He tries to take freedom by force, but he fails.

What follows is a long sojourn in the desert, far from his family, culture of origin, and adoption. How hard forced immigration is! But God reminds us.

Here he is, returning to Pharaoh after an extraordinary encounter with God at Sinai. He must free the enslaved people. But what a disappointment when his people show disbelief! No prophet is welcome at home, they say. What a life of ups and downs! Throughout his entire life leading up to the promised land, he faces continual criticism and death.

As a reward for all this work, God offers him a visit—a virtual one, as we might say nowadays. “And the Lord showed him all the land. ... And the Lord said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there” (Deut. 34:1–4, ESV).

Talk about a disappointment at first sight! The account ends with “Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated” (Deut. 34:7, ESV).

One aspect of this man’s life strikes me: Moses’ sight had not weakened. Other translations say, “His eyes were not weak” (NIV), “His eyes were not dim”

(NKJV), “His sight was unimpaired” (NRSV). He had a vision of the extent of the land to be given as an inheritance to his people. Joshua will tread the land seen from afar by Moses.

The author of Hebrews says of Moses, “By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible” (Heb. 11:27, ESV).

If this man held out in the midst of the greatest difficulties, it was because he had a vision of what the future represented for his people. He didn’t focus on the situation that was immediately in front of him, but on the greater objective of God’s promise and provision.

*Here [in the desert] Moses gained that which went with him throughout the years of his toilsome and care-burdened life—a sense of the personal presence of the Divine One. Not merely did he look down the ages for Christ to be made manifest in the flesh; he saw Christ accompanying the host of Israel in all their travels. When misunderstood and misrepresented, when called to bear reproach and insult, to face danger and death, he was able to endure “as seeing Him who is invisible.”*

*Moses did not merely think of God; he saw Him. God was the constant vision before him. Never did he lose sight of His face.<sup>1</sup>*

Do we have a clear vision of what we want to achieve? Do we have any idea who we want to become? What about our families, churches, schools, ministries? Had Moses taken stock of the situation shortsightedly, he would have surely given up. ■



Ngoy Kyala is the president of the Quebec Conference.

1 Ellen G. White, *Education*, 63, [https://egwwritings.org/?ref=en\\_Ed.63.3&para=29.277](https://egwwritings.org/?ref=en_Ed.63.3&para=29.277)



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## Cackling Goose

Three long months after the Canada geese have returned to our area to nest in the spring, strings of migrating cackling geese fly over our home on their way to nest along the Arctic Ocean. They can't head north any earlier in the spring because they have to wait for Arctic ice to melt. Some birds may fly more than 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles). But they have little time to rest when they arrive at their nesting grounds. They must hurry to raise their families before winter comes in late September.

If they arrive in the Arctic at the beginning of June as the lake ice melts and get right to work with egg-laying and setting, goslings will hatch at the beginning of July. The goslings may take their first flight by mid-August. As soon as they're skilled enough and strong enough, they make the long fall migration to their wintering grounds in the southern United States.

### Think about it.

Cackling geese can't afford to waste time. If they did, some goslings wouldn't be ready on time to leave. It's that way for Christians in these last days too. Jesus is coming! We've got important things to do: get to know and trust Him, tell others about His wonderful love, and help them get ready too. The enemy's working overtime to get as many on his side as possible so they'll be lost. Shouldn't we get to work?

### Do it!

Trade in a time-wasting activity for one that will help you and others get ready for Jesus' return. Try enrolling in Bible studies, giving out tracts, sharing God-messages with friends online.





Gina in the flourishing school garden consulting with the ADRA agriculturalist. Photo by Frank Spangler.

**T**he elementary school property rings with the sounds of children. Three hundred and forty children can make quite a happy din. Gina sits with a smile while the daily commotion swirls through the hallways and around the grounds. Gina's job is to help make sure the children are as active and engaged as possible. As the school's nutritionist, she ensures this through the school feeding program.

Three years ago the EMBRACE project approached Gina's school with an idea to support their feeding program. Over four years, the EMBRACE project worked to save the lives of mothers and children from preventable deaths in Rwanda, Cambodia, Myanmar, and the Philippines. One of the threats to young children in these countries is malnutrition. To lower malnutrition rates, Gina's school in the Philippines partnered with EMBRACE to establish a school garden.

This school garden is not merely a minor experiment temporarily conducted by a class or two. It is large, lush, and flourishing with home-grown crops. It is bountiful enough to feed the school's 340 students, as well as some of the community members. It is also sustainable, as seeds from half of the plants are preserved for future plantings.

The caretakers are students from Grades 4 to 6, and the garden acts as a science and life skills lab.

Gina explains, "The garden gives them the opportunity to do practical work, to identify the tools and plants, to immerse themselves in the garden. They aren't only learning from books; they're also learning by experience."

The students learn to plant and to harvest, to start seedlings, and to preserve seeds. They will carry this knowledge and experience with them throughout their lives and even

teach it to their children.

The garden's indigenous vegetables were abandoned a long time ago in favour of packed, processed foods. "None of the teachers or students knew the vegetables that were introduced in the garden," shares Gina. However, after watching and learning about the growth cycle of each plant, the students and their teachers can quickly identify them and their nutritional value. With a beaming smile, Gina says, "The garden has made everyone very happy. They've come to know indigenous fruits and vegetables. There is a song that everyone can sing about vegetables. No one knew what those vegetables were. But now, with this garden, they can see what those vegetables are."

The garden is not only for the school. It is a place of learning for all in the community. Community members are allowed to come and observe all facets of gardening, from planting to harvesting. They can also receive seeds so that they can begin their home gardens.

Although the EMBRACE project has ended, the school garden and seed saving remain. The knowledge and skills that were shared through the project continue to make a positive difference in the lives of teachers, students, and community members.

"It's been a big help for the community and the school," says Gina. Several of the community members echo her gratitude, and the smiles of the children speak volumes. We appreciate your support of this truly life-changing work. ■

*Heather Grbic is a writer for ADRA Canada.*



# 35 & UNDER

# FRESH FAITH

In 35 words or less, who is the most important person in your life and why?

## Beauty and Art

by Alannah Tjhatra



For David Kapiniak, art has always been a means to relax, reflect, and spend time with God. Born on Vancouver Island, David grew up appreciating the beauty of British Columbia and the tranquil waters surrounding it. From the time he was homeschooled in Abbotsford, B.C., to when he attended Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Aldergrove, B.C., and then Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ont., David always had an affinity for the beauty found in art and music.

Interested mostly in traditional pencil art and sketching, David explains that his passion for this expression form expanded largely when he decided to take a break from electronics

around 2018. "The time that I used to spend playing games and watching movies needed to be filled with something else, so I took up drawing again. I started watching art YouTube videos and learning from different artists' styles. ... I realized that my art was something that I could be proud of."

Now studying at Burman University, David uses his art to connect with others. He brings fun to his artwork, creating digital work such as Jesus in a superhero pose and doing various cartoon sketches. He also runs a YouTube channel, *The Davidic One*, where he posts videos detailing his various illustrations. Most recently, David was commissioned to do an art piece for his church to go along with its theme song. He continues creating art through music, too, singing on praise teams and playing the guitar.

As he continues his journey with art and with God, David hopes to continue playing on more praise teams in the future and making art and YouTube videos. He'd like to keep doing biblical illustrations and perhaps take more commissions from churches and individuals.

"I think art can inspire love and passion for God in terms of how we think about the art we look at. All art is the creation of the artist, and we are all art created by God, the Artist," David reflects. When he makes art, he is often reminded of the Creator who made him in the first place.

"Art is something you don't necessarily have to be good at to enjoy," says David. It's a form of beauty gifted to us by God, and we can appreciate it in all aspects of life: from nature, to drawing, to the people who surround us, shaped and painted so lovingly by the original Artist. ■

### Andrew Pak

The most important person in my life right now is me. While that sounds egotistical, I've spent too much of my life neglecting myself to please others. It's time I made myself a priority.



### Cheryl Anne de Guzman

My mother. Just remembering all the struggles she went through and how much she cares for me—I'm reminded of my gratefulness to her. My life would be completely different without her.

### Jaden Leiterman

My parents, for supporting me and for helping shape me into the person I am today. They help me strive to do my best and I am very proud to be their son.



### Elianna Fisher

My mom. Just last weekend, we drove seven hours just to drop off soup for my grandma that my mom made. She takes every chance she gets to help her family and others.

### Jhoana Mortera

My parents. They give me a lot of spiritual support. Whenever I'm struggling with school or anything related to life problems, they always bring me back to the Bible and to God.



### Karena Lee

The most important person in my life is my mom because I know she's always there for me.





# Ask Me Anything

**Q:** How should Christians make faith-based decisions about entertainment?

**A:** Great question! When people think of entertainment, they tend to limit their definition to movies or TV shows. But entertainment in today's world encompasses so much more.

It includes the stints we spend in a Tik Tok bender, the doomscrolling through Instagram, as well as the hours upon hours playing 2K, Fortnite, Among Us, FIFA, or other videos games. Yes, it includes our favourite YA book series too, as well as K-pop. There is a lot—and I mean multiple industries—that exists to keep us entertained!

Entertainment is not just about “what,” but also importantly, “how much.” Consuming even good things past a reasonable amount can be toxic. Everything in balance, friends.

So, yes to making choices that enrich your mind! Yes to not polluting your mind toward illicit and violent actions and images that aren't helpful as you prepare

for your ginormous life journey and purpose you have been called to. Protect your most important assets: your mind, your time, your heart, your eyes.

I am obsessed with the way Philippians 4:8–9 in *The Message* Bible puts it: “Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.” ■

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



# Growing Up

# Millennial



*"When we're upset and angry, it's normal to be questioning where God could be in everything that's happening."*

## Bad Luck and Wisdom from Job

**I** am pretty sure I have terrible luck. In the span of two months, my dog had to be put down; my passport, laptop, iPad, and backpack got stolen; I got the flu; my friend booked the wrong hotel date for us (and we had to pay double the price for the correct night); my stress levels were off the charts due to work, school, and helping with my brother's wedding; and I got mono for the second time (do you even know how rare that is?!). And those are just some of the highlights.

For a couple months, I couldn't catch a break. Every time it looked as if things were turning around, I'd get sick again, find out something heartbreaking, or miss something important. It got really hard to feel positive and happy about stuff when it seemed like I couldn't do anything right.

So I started wondering why things like this were happening. Why were things falling apart? What could I have possibly done wrong?! I know that's not how those kinds of things work—we don't get "punished" for doing something bad, and I know there's no, like, existential karmic power ruling our lives. But it feels irritating when nothing is going your way.

All that being said, things could have been a lot worse. But that perspective alone won't really help us get through hard times. You can't just shrug things off by saying, "Others have it worse," even if it's true. Even though I know that so many people experience things that are so much worse, shoving all of that down doesn't actually allow you to process all of these feelings. I had to allow myself to be frustrated at the situations I was constantly finding myself

in. I had to allow myself to actually put myself first to get better (those of you who've had mono even once know how easy it is to get burnt out) and getting over certain things (having your passport stolen, for example, while not living in Canada is an awful feeling).

So I did some research on the book of Job. I know that some people believe that this book in the Bible is a parable, but whether that's true or whether Job was a real person, there are some important things to learn. For example, that it's normal to be upset and it's normal to be angry when bad things happen. Also, that Satan works against us, and it isn't fair. But that no matter what, God will still be there for us. God will still hold us close, even when we cannot seem to handle all the tribulations we're handed.

Jesus Himself repeated Psalm 22:1 while on the cross when He said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Matt. 27:46), showing us that it's hard. When we're upset and angry, it's normal to be questioning where God could be in everything that's happening.

But we have to come back. We have to allow ourselves to be upset and to process all that is going on, and then we have to come back to God. Come back to the One who loves us and who knows us better than we know ourselves. We can be angry and upset and sad, but remember that in all of that, God is going to be there. In all of that, we are not alone. ■

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



# The Importance of Graphic Design in Church Media Ministry (Part 1)

**W**e live in a visually oriented society, so it comes as no surprise that graphic design plays a major role in digital advertising, marketing, and business. As a result, we're constantly bombarded by digital content on all our devices.

A recent study showed that two-thirds of consumers' buying decisions were directly influenced by the image of a product.<sup>1</sup>

As a church, we are not in the business of selling products, but we *can* and *should* use graphic design as one of the tools to effectively share the gospel.

Colossians 4:6 says, "Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions" (CEV). The Word of God urges us to communicate in an engaging and compelling manner so that the message appeals to our audience. But in conveying our message, we cannot neglect the visual component of what we are presenting.

## Design Exists to Communicate Effectively

Visual content has the power to communicate complex concepts better than text. Studies have shown the human brain processes images faster than it processes text. Therefore, graphic design in the context of church ministry has the power to communicate the gospel in a very effective way.

Though it's important for our audience to read and study the Word of God for themselves, graphic design can help us explain the truth in a clear and concise way, whether it's a digital slide presentation, a printed publication, or a social media post.

## Graphic Design Is Important Because It Draws Attention

Ministry is all about communicating the gospel. If you cram text on a plain white piece of paper without colour, margin, or graphics, it won't catch or hold people's attention. People are attracted to and will spend time looking at a visually appealing design.

With the prevalent use of social media, our society is filled

with large volume of streaming content. People generally lose focus after eight seconds—which highlights the impact that our digitalized lifestyle has had on the brain. With the click of a mouse or the tap of a finger, people can easily jump from one piece of content to another. Therefore, using a well-thought-out design can hold their attention a little longer, allowing them to spend more time absorbing the information you are trying to convey.

## Graphic Design Has the Power to Evoke Emotion

In the context of church ministry, design can also be used to appeal to the emotions of the target audience.

Design is more than aesthetics; that is, it's more than how something looks. However, it's hard to deny that how something looks greatly influences how we feel about it.

Research consistently supports the idea that aesthetics can evoke emotion. For example, different aspects of colour have different emotional attributes:

- Cool colours are calming.
- Warm colours are energetic.
- Lighter colours are associated with positive feelings.
- Highly saturated colours are felt more intensely.
- Darker colours are associated with negative feelings.

To wit, a concert poster using the right colours, images, and other graphical elements can depict a time of enjoyment and fellowship, target the right demographic, build anticipation, and encourage attendance.

Bottom line, the graphic designs you use can affect how people relate to your church and the message that you're trying to share.

Next month, in Part 2, we'll take a closer look at how you can improve your church's graphic designs and discuss some useful design tools that are available to non-profit organizations. ■

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*Troy Clarke (Troy@sawweb.com) is head of the media team for the Scarborough church and has been working for Sandy Audio Visual (SAV) for the past four years.*



# Eugene's Coca-Cola Stocks



EUGENE CLARENCE GLANZER lived a lifetime of joy by always looking on the bright side. He also experienced great happiness in helping others. It is therefore easy to picture him smiling to himself as he included some surprises in his estate plan.

Eugene was born in Tripp, South Dakota, in 1912. Ten years later his family moved to Alberta, where he attended school until his graduation from Canadian Junior College (CJC) in 1934.<sup>1</sup> Like a lot of young men, Eugene enjoyed adventure—jumping trains to sit on top for a great view of the Rockies, working in logging camps, driving from Alberta to Florida for a one-week vacation, and finding his place in the world by hitchhiking to Washington, D.C., in the Great Depression year of 1936.

Eugene's first job in Washington, D.C., was installing insulation at 40 cents an hour. "Man, you thought you were rich!" he exclaimed to a *Washington Post* reporter 67 years later.<sup>2</sup> However, his good fortune did not last, and he found himself walking New York Avenue on the lookout for another job. It was there that he spotted a man in a drugstore window painting a Coca-Cola sign on the glass. *I can do that*, Eugene thought to himself. His enthusiasm and artistic talent landed him a job in two days, but it took up to five years to master the trade. "For one thing," he told his college alumni magazine, "signs are painted backwards from the inside so they can be read correctly from the outside to passersby. Once you get the hang of it, it's very simple, though."<sup>3</sup>

Eugene calculated he painted 4,000 to 5,000 signs over his 40-year career with Coca-Cola. One of the largest was a sign in the window of Whalen's Drug Store on Pennsylvania Avenue downtown, completed for US President John F. Kennedy's inauguration. During his years with Coca-Cola, Eugene bought into the company's employee stock purchase plan. This was very helpful years later when he set up his estate trust that resulted in a legacy gift for Canadian University College (CUC, now Burman University).

The funded scholarships made possible by Eugene's legacy donation to CUC will keep on giving for years to come. So far, there are four \$3,000 annual scholarships established in Eugene's name for CUC, as well as two \$2,000 annual scholarships in his name for Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA), which is on the campus of CUC. The criteria for these scholarships are similar: (1) students returning the next school year, (2) academic standing considerations, (3) financial need considerations, (4) participation in campus leadership, and (5) for CUC only: one of the recipients must be a married student.

Imagine Eugene's delight in heaven when his scholarship students tell him what a difference he made in their lives! ■

*Reprinted from the July 2014 Canadian Adventist Messenger. Carolyn Osmond is a retired trust services officer for the Alberta Conference.*

- 1 Over the years Canadian Junior College (CJC) became Canadian University College (CUC) and is now Burman University.
- 2 Patricia Sullivan, "Like His Sunflowers, He Cheered Others," *The Washington Post*, January 25, 2009.
- 3 *Ibid*.

2014 Eugene Clarence Glanzer CUC Scholarship recipients, Cara Boyce (top left), Jysicca Delpêche (top middle), Anthony Kern (top right), and Ivah Lumalang (bottom left); 2013 Eugene Clarence Glanzer PAA Scholarship recipients, Angela Barritt (bottom middle) and Christian Belinsky (bottom right).



# Looking Beyond the Horizon



## A Dish With One Spoon<sup>1</sup> Lessons in Peace and Reconciliation<sup>2</sup>

*Friends,* family, and adversaries gather around a table. A meal is situated between everyone. The aromas inform everyone present of the great possibilities ahead. Only one challenge: one dish, one spoon.

What ensues? Chaos? Calamity? Selfishness? “I want my portion even if you go short”? One dish, one spoon, more than enough food for all—how does this work?

“A Dish With One Spoon” is an ancient concept known to First Nations peoples in the Great Lakes area for hundreds of years, predating first contact by centuries. The Iroquois and Algonquin Peoples, bitter enemies for years, see this fertile, resource-rich meal (i.e., the Great Lakes Region) as “one dish.” The “spoon” signifies the nations involved in the Great League of Peace—the Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, and Mohawk Nations, and then the Ojibwé, Odawa, Potawatomi, Saukteaux, Mississauga, and Algonquin Nations.

*Gdoo-naaganinaa*, Ojibwé for “our dish” or “a dish with one spoon,” is a legal concept (think common and civic law) recorded with the use of a wampum belt for all nations involved to avoid or reconcile conflict for lasting peace. The *Dish With One Spoon Treaty* is still recognized and often included in land acknowledgments in the Great Lakes region. Its core principles come from the visual of the wampum belt and what it signifies.

Within this treaty practice, we find what we need today for lasting peace and, where needed, reconciliation.

**We take only what we need.** We may have rights, but we also have responsibilities in society to all, including those we don’t get along with.

**We leave some for everybody else.** An economy of reciprocity highlights that all we have is from Creator and is there to bless and share with others.

**We keep the bowl/land clean.** Because the Creator’s first choice was to make us stewards for now, and seven generations in the future.

There is *no knife* at this table, no violence is done, and weapons of violence are set aside. The bitterest of enemies are now adopted into the same family. Everyone’s *equality* under Treaty recognizes the distinctness of each individual and the sovereignty of nations. These principles will result in an *ongoing peace*, where each new treaty builds on the ones before.

Over it all sits the generosity of Creator and his children sharing. We are all eating out of the one dish. Peace and reconciliation mean we all have both rights and responsibilities.

If one didn’t call it a *Dish With One Spoon*, that same person might not have to look too hard to see striking similarities to the teachings of Scripture. I can’t help but think with the world as it is today, what would happen if we lived a covenant between Creator and His people in our neighbourhoods? A covenant where we recognize that all we have, even eternal life, is from the Creator and that all we have is to be shared for the blessing and good of others.

We once were known as the People of the Book. If we honoured the principles of Indigenous treaties like a *Dish With One Spoon*, we would be living by the Book.

We are all treaty people. Peace and reconciliation today, personally and as a country, will come when Treaty/Covenant is honoured. ■

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

1 A shorter version of this article was published in *Burman University Magazine* Vol. 4, No. 1.

2 I am indebted for parts of this teaching to Harold Johnson in *Two Families: Treaties and Government*; and Leanne Simpson in the *Wicazo Sa Review*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Fall 2008.





# Who Is Talking Behind Your Back?

*“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”—Jer. 29:11, NKJV*

The news spread very fast; we were moving from one district to another. I had mixed feelings. On one hand, I was happy to move and see where God was leading us next. On the other hand, it was hard to say goodbye to all the people who had become our family for the past five years.

It was our last Sabbath, and I was busy preparing for a full church, potluck, and taking care of the kids. There were so many things happening at once and so many people to talk to.

At the beginning of the main service, I rushed to the washroom, hoping there wasn't a lineup. As I entered the washroom, I overheard someone say, “I agree. It was time for them to move.”

Suddenly, I didn't have to go to the washroom anymore and rushed back to the church. My day was ruined, and I felt so discouraged and questioned my calling. Were they talking about my family? Did I jump too quickly to that conclusion?

How do you feel when you hear that someone is talking behind your back? Uncomfortable, angry, upset, discouraged? I think most of us have felt some or all of these feelings.

Do you know that God talks behind your back? How do you feel about that? Remember Job? God was clearly talking about Job when he was not present. You can read about it in Job 1:6–12. When we read this account, we generally don't feel upset or angry that God is talking behind Job's back. Why is that?

In Jeremiah 29:11, God assures us of his intention toward us: “For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (NKJV).

Isn't this amazing? We can be sure that if God is talking behind our backs, His thoughts and intentions are just, pure, and in our best interest.

The other day I was talking to my husband about our son, when he walked in. We told him we had just been talking about him, and surprisingly he didn't get upset. In our family we talk about one another all the time, and no one gets upset (for the most part, anyway).

What's the difference between these three scenarios? Why do we easily get upset sometimes but not other times? It all depends on who is talking behind your back, doesn't it? It also depends on what the conversation is about, how well you know the person, and what their intentions are toward you.

Unfortunately, our sinful nature often leads us to assumptions, negative thoughts, and false conclusions. It turned out that the conversation I had overheard in the washroom that day wasn't about my family after all! I had fallen for one of Satan's simple tricks, and it had ruined a part of my day.

In our families we love and trust each other. We affirm our family members that our intentions are positive, even though they may not always look that way. Despite all of this, we unintentionally hurt one another.

The good news is that we know God's thoughts and intentions toward us. We can trust Him fully, even in times of tribulation. ■

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*Brankica Sremac is the prayer ministries director for the B.C. Conference.*

# Where Are They Now

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

*Interview by Ken Wiebe, Messenger Staff Writer*



David and Jean Streifling

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

**David Streifling:** I was born the third child of a closely spaced family of four siblings. It was a frugal existence on the family farm just 16 miles (25 km) southeast of Lacombe, Alta. There were early mornings feeding cattle and chickens, long summer days piling hay bales, mostly home-grown meals, and lots of love to go around.

Our parents, Harold and Jean Streifling, were faithful Seventh-day Adventists who, by word and example, encouraged us to dream big and above all else to be true to Jesus Christ. Adventist education really only became an option once we were old enough to drive the family car to CUC (now Parkview Adventist Academy).

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

**D:** My first years were in public school, but I had the privilege of completing high school at CUC Academy. After my first year of college at CUC, it was off to Walla Walla College, where I earned a bachelor's degree in religion in 1968, and the following year I completed a "fifth year" in education, which qualified me as a school teacher.

It was in summer school in 1985, at Loma Linda University (La Sierra campus) that I completed my MA in education administration. Ten years later I earned a PhD in educational administration from the University of Alberta. More recently, in 2003, because of a strong personal interest in school facility design, I earned a certificate in educational facility planning and design from the University of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia.

**M:** *What led you to choose a ministerial and educational career?*

**D:** As far back as I can remember, my Uncle Albert (A. G. Streifling) was always an inspiration to me. I saw Jesus in him—in his role as pastor, administrator, and personal friend; and it was my desire to be like him. He clearly loved the Lord, who long ago became my best Friend and whom it has always been my desire to serve and to help advance His Kingdom.

**M:** *Where and in what capacity have you served in ministry and education?*

**D:** I served 35 years in Adventist education and, subsequently, 10 years as a church pastor. About 20 of these years were served in smaller church schools mostly as head teacher in western Canada, three years as education director in Pakistan, six years as education superintendent in Newfoundland, and six years teaching at the graduate level at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines.

Pastoring for a number of years in the Hanna-Drumheller-Loyalist [church district], Alta., and finally in North Sydney, N.S., completed my salaried service. But in retirement my wife and I continue to serve the One who is ever faithful.

**M:** *What has been the highlight in your career or what has brought you the most satisfaction in your career?*

**D:** Seeing church buildings and academy and university campuses whose design I have helped to shape has been a thrill in almost every place where we have served. Teaching at the graduate level in the Philippines, because it drew on every skill I had ever developed and every experience I had ever had, was certainly very high on the satisfaction list. But, after completing a series of Bible studies, to stand in the Red Deer River with a young man on his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and have the privilege of baptizing him there—what can be more satisfying? God is so good!

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

**D:** It was in June 1974 that I married Jean Gay, and since that day I have often said, “That was the best day’s work I ever did in my life!”

We have two adult children. Our son, Jeffrey (married to Serrina Douglas from Boise, Idaho), is currently employed as a senior electrical engineer with New Brunswick Power in Fredericton, N.B. And our daughter, Julianna, (married to Bill Parsons of North Sydney, N.S.) is working as a veterinarian in North Sydney. Between them they have given us six wonderful grandchildren!

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

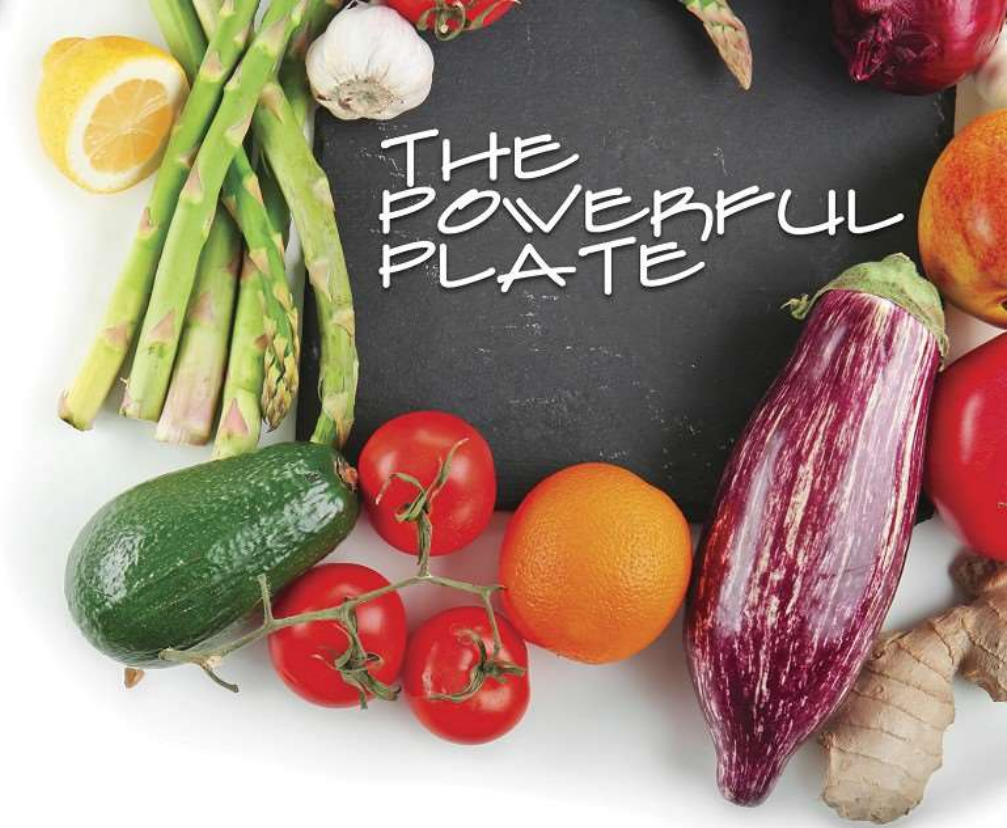
**D:** We presently reside in Truro, N.S., where we continue to be involved in church-related activities. Our first major responsibility in Truro was to lead out in the renovation and expansion of our church facility (with the help of Maranatha International in September 2017). This was very fulfilling as we watched a dream become a reality.

With the involvement of the Pugwash and New Glasgow churches, Jean and I are very involved in a district-wide quilting ministry. Together, every year we have made and distributed approximately 100 quilts, which we call “hugs,” for people who are hurting or celebrating. My chief role in this ministry is to keep our long-arm quilting machine running and operational, although I have also designed and personally sewn a number of quilt tops.

I am also privileged to be serving with Gospel Outreach as regional director for the Philippines, where we have some 85 front-line workers sharing the love of Jesus under difficult and often dangerous conditions.

With all of this, plus our love of music, teaching, and preaching in the local churches, occasional winter months in Florida, and regular visits with our children and their families, our lives are full and fulfilled. But who said that retirement should be boring? And the best is yet to come—when all God’s children get home! Heaven is real!

As with everyone, our lives have included some challenges and disappointments, but we have also experienced enough of “heaven” here to make us look forward to that grand homecoming! ■



## Fruit Parfait

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups (1 L) fresh mixed berries (organic if possible)
- 1 cup (250 ml) granola
- 1 cup (250 ml) non-dairy whipped topping

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Set out 4 glasses. To the bottom of each glass, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup (125 ml) of mixed berries. Add 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of non-dairy whipped topping of your choice. Then add 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of granola.
2. Add another  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of fruit on top, then another 2 tablespoons of non-dairy whipped topping, and top with another 2 tablespoons of granola.
3. Serve immediately.

*Makes 4 servings.*



### NUTRITIONAL INFO:

Serving Size 234 g  
Calories 262  
Total Fat 9.9 g  
Saturated Fat 3.3 g  
Cholesterol 0 mg  
Sodium 8.5 mg  
Total Carbs 39.2 g  
Dietary Fibre 7.8 g  
Sugars 12 g  
Protein 7.5 g

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





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Seventh-day  
Adventist Church



# FAITH – OF OUR – FATHERS

One  
Stayed,  
One  
Strayed



**The Campbell brothers: Frank, Nestor, Nills, and Alvin.**

Both boys stood at the solemn baptismal service, excited as they contemplated the step they would soon take. But what would eventually cause Alvin, the older, to stay and Frank, the younger, to stray?

Pastor Riley S. J. Caesar Sr. was conducting a series of evangelistic meetings in a tiny rural community in Guyana, South America. Alvin and Frank were invited. It was late 1959, and Alvin remembers vividly that it was a Wednesday evening. The young men, now aged 79 and 75, tell of the fervor with which the pastor delivered the Sabbath message that still tolls in their mind like an old resounding church bell.

Frank remembers the lucid message that distinguished Seventh-day Adventists from Christian Brethren, the congregation he had been attending at the time. Seventh-day Adventists observed Saturday as sacred. This message intrigued him.

Why did Alvin remain a Seventh-day Adventist? "I was well prepared for the Adventist life," he says. Alvin fondly remembers Caesar's undying efforts to ensure that prospective members were given a thorough theological perspective of this new church. Although Alvin was now beginning his new walk, he had previously encountered the Sabbath teaching in an extremely uncanny manner.

When asked where he first learned about the Sabbath, Alvin responds amidst a hearty outburst, "My Sunday School teacher." He had run home to report that a Sunday keeper was teaching the seventh-day Sabbath during Sunday school. The response he received from his aunt confused him: "He's right!"

Confused because his aunt was also a devoted Sunday keeper, Alvin was left with a myriad of questions. Why would these two role models in his life encourage him to keep the seventh-day as the day of rest, while they faithfully continued worshipping on Sunday?

His aunt once received an invitation from "the Adventists"



and decided to send all the children, but that Saturday morning Alvin deliberately tied one of the stronger cows with a rotten rope. Learning from Alvin himself that there was a “runaway” cow that could damage farmers’ crops, his aunt sent him to locate the cow.

“I knew where the cow was. Ruby was right near the house,” Alvin recounts. Alvin had spent Sabbath school time watching Ruby chew contentedly on some fresh grass. He was confused because of the mixed messages he was receiving, and that’s how his teen brain responded.

On Saturday, Dec. 26, 1959, both Alvin, who is my father, and my uncle Frank, were baptized. With no aesthetically designed church pools back then, they were immersed in a canal.

What caused my dad, Alvin, to stay? Dad remembers how he and his brother were allowed to take on important roles in the church. He became Adventist Youth leader at 18. “Pastor was supportive and lent astute guidance to new converts,” he says.

In addition, Dad talks about having conducted Bible studies with prospective members shortly after his baptism, which promoted in him a love for the Word and reinforced the biblical doctrines he had studied during the new members’ class. Inviting persons to evangelistic series was encouraged, and Alvin collected friends from villages far away and transported them on his bicycle. Pastor Caesar had convinced him that the Great Commission of Matthew 28 was not only to be memorized but also to be lived.

One day 18-year-old Alvin tried lifting up Pastor Caesar’s small daughter in church. To Alvin’s surprise, she felt much heavier than her frame would suggest. Her family was vegetarian, and since he had been led to believe that vegetarians were weak and scrawny, he was taken aback. Learning vegetarianism and strength were not mutually exclusive, Alvin, at 18 years old, purposed to revert to an Edenic diet. Though he was faced with many challenges to sustain it, he remained vegetarian.

Uncle Frank, too, did Bible studies with new converts and participated in the activities the church held. However, he drifted away into a life of prodigal living and refrained from visiting some family members for fear that he would be lectured about his self-indulgent lifestyle.

What caused Frank to “stray”? While Uncle Frank drifted away from his newfound faith, he gained academic prowess and became involved in politics. He became the youngest ambassador of his native country, and the first resident ambassador to Cuba. He would also become the Minister of Information representing the then president of Guyana, Forbes Burnham, at many diplomatic gatherings. During these years he attended church only for funerals, weddings, and baby dedications. He had lost

that first love spoken of in Revelation 2:4.

By the time I was born in 1979, Uncle Frank had reached acclaimed status, and as I grew older, my admiration for him grew equally. I fondly remember the villagers relating tales of his helicopter trip back to the village and landing in the middle of a nearby playfield. I heard the story being retold several times, but with each retelling, my pride and joy surpassed the previous one. Blossoming into a young woman, I began to understand the truths about Christianity, and my heart developed a burden for Uncle Frank. I was not alone; Dad prayed for him during family worship.

The Holy Spirit was intervening in Frank’s life, and he began to read his Bible and sing hymns from a hymnal he had received from my mom. The Spirit impressed his heart, and he began looking for a church. Strangely, he decided against a Seventh-day Adventist or Brethren Congregation. His aim—find a church where he didn’t feel any pressure to live holy all week.

Uncle Frank’s job at that time as chief correspondent/United Nations bureau chief of Inter Press Service took him to live in New Jersey, and there he found a Presbyterian church. He experienced rich music, sermons, and delicious snacks, all of which enticed him to eventually become a weekly visitor. He was convinced to get baptized as a Presbyterian, but circumstances, divinely orchestrated, caused him to rejoin his family in Canada.

Though he attended many churches in Canada, he felt comfortable only at the Adventist church. As he solicited discernment from God, each time he heard, “Stay where you are!” He made the bold step to rededicate his life in baptism. This news enveloped my heart with joy. Subsequent to his rebaptism, he received material that helped him to thoroughly comprehend the truths about the Sabbath. He speaks of having received a book, from a friend, on answers to difficult Bible questions.

Today, Frank, apart from writing for a number of Adventist publications, has written the words for a hymn that God had impressed upon his heart as he walked in an Ontario park one Sabbath afternoon. This hymn, “I Ask Myself,” has impressed many renowned musicians and inspired many Seventh-day Adventist congregations. The fact that he has never been known to have the gift of music is evidence that those lyrics were a gift from God. This is noteworthy to me, since Uncle Frank had been told at a young age that singing was not one of his talents.


Aside from that, Frank Campbell is an elder at the Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario and spends time interceding for family members. Frank “the Stray” has now returned to stay.

The faiths of these two fathers have impacted my faith! ■

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*Blondelle Campbell has been an educator for 25 years and is the principal of the only Seventh-day Adventist school in Guyana. She has two young adult children and loves serving her local church.*

# A Lighthouse ON CANADA'S EAST COAST



*Stephen and Jennifer\* regularly listened to Lighthouse FM, enjoying the messages of Christian speakers on the faith-based radio station. When they heard that Saturday was the Sabbath, they decided to study the Bible and research it for themselves. Convinced of the Sabbath truth, Stephen and Jennifer wrote a note to Lighthouse FM asking how they could find and attend the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church.*







Lighthouse VOAR FM's original location on Freshwater Road.



Brian Matthews (current chief engineer) as a teenager with his father, Pastor Ray Matthews, in the opposite studio.



The tallest free-standing structure on the island of Newfoundland, is the 350-foot, 100,000-watt Lighthouse FM tower.

Station manager Sherry Griffin helped Stephen and Jennifer connect with Pastor Fred Nahirny and the Conception Bay South Seventh-day Adventist Church. This young couple and their two small children now attend church regularly. Like so many other listeners over the years, their journey began by tuning the dial to Lighthouse FM.

Lighthouse FM, formerly known as Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR), is a local, listener-supported Christian radio ministry—one of a rare breed these days! The station relies on the listening family to help cover operating expenses. God has blessed this station abundantly as He has used it to bring light into the darkness for over 90 years.

### A Growing Influence

Lighthouse FM has deep roots on the rocky shores of Newfoundland and Labrador. Did you know that this radio station on the east coast of Canada is actually the oldest media ministry of the world Seventh-day Adventist Church? It started in 1929 as a small radio

station called 8-BSL in the Adventist pastor's living room in St. John's.

This radio ministry has seen a lot of change over the years. One of the most significant transitions came in 1991 when the station, then known as VOAR, erected twin AM towers, upgrading the signal to 10,000 watts of power. Another leap forward came in 2019, when VOAR received permission from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to move from AM to FM, increasing the power to 100,000 watts. This improved sound quality and expanded coverage. With the new FM signal came a new name—Lighthouse FM—reminding listeners of the station's mission to share the light of God's love with everyone in the listening area.

That listening area has grown so much! Not only does the new FM tower cover far more of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, but the station also has over 40 repeater towers across Canada. The Lighthouse signal is also carried on the Bell satellite service around the country. Wherever it goes, Lighthouse FM shares

the gospel and makes friends for the Adventist Church.

"Time after time, faith leaders from different communities share with me how much they appreciate the radio station's ministry," says Ken Corkum, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Their members are encouraged by the programming and music."

### New Ways to Listen

God's work is ever moving forward, taking advantage of new ways to reach people. The first Seventh-day Adventist radio stations and radio programs, like that little 8-BSL station in St. John's, began because people were excited about using a new technology for outreach. The same is true today as the internet, social media, and smartphones keep people connected at every moment of their lives.

In addition to FM radio and satellite, listeners around the world can tune in to the livestream by visiting [lighthousefm.org](http://lighthousefm.org) or downloading the Lighthouse FM app. With the app, you can listen anytime, anywhere. You can access an archive of past programs, and you can even choose the genre of Christian music you want to listen to.

Lighthouse FM's website offers more than just livestreaming; it's a source to find information about the station, check the program guide, and share prayer requests. On the website's Guestbook page, you can

read comments shared by listeners—people like a Roman Catholic listener from British Columbia who thanks the local Adventist church for sharing Lighthouse radio with them. "It is truly amazing to have such strong Christian brothers and sisters in this world," this listener writes. "Keep up the good work and God bless!"

The website guestbook also reminds us of the global reach that this shining light on Canada's East Coast has. "I love your radio station. It is truly a blessing. I am listening all the way from Montego Bay, Jamaica," writes another listener.

### An Adventist Message

Though this Lighthouse shines for all people of faith, as well as for those who are seeking the Lord, the message has a distinctly Seventh-day Adventist flavour. Our church's teachings are shared through Adventist-produced programs. The following are just a handful of examples: *The Five Pastors*, *More Abundant Life*, *It Is Written*, *Faith Out Loud Canada*, and *Sounds of Worship*.

And there are more. Adventist speakers featured on Lighthouse FM include Dave Jamieson (Langley, B.C.), Jamie Joseph (St. John's, N.L.), Jeff Potts (College Heights, Alta.), John Murley (Edmonton, Alta.), Etienne Harushimana (Marystown, N.L.), Geoff Patterson (Boulder, Colo.), Mike Tucker (former speaker of *Faith for Today*), Michael Lemon (*It Is Written Canada*), and Shawn Boonstra (*Voice of Prophecy*).

Lighthouse FM's communication director, Tina Taylor, with a Sharathon volunteer—a Major with the Salvation Army.



Newfoundland and Labrador Mission administration and VOAR staff signing the new FM contract.



## Big Dreams

With all the growth Lighthouse FM has experienced over the past 90 years, it's not surprising that this station has big plans for the future. These plans include expanding to more FM tower sites across Canada so that Lighthouse can shine into more communities. If Adventist radio isn't a reality in your community yet, it may be in the future! With a prayerful investment from listeners, this message of hope and faith can reach into even more corners of the country.

Another big goal for the future involves relocating Lighthouse FM's headquarters from its current small space in the basement of the conference office to a new, fully accessible, modern building on the new tower site. The building will not only provide a home for state-of-the-art broadcasting technology but also include event space for an outreach to the community.

"We're building a growing audience," says Sherry Griffin. "We also need to focus on building a quality product to share with that audience, and new studio space will allow us to do that."

## Keep the Light Shining

Lighthouse FM doesn't shine alone. It relies on donors and prayer warriors across Canada to keep its light on. "You have no idea how important *you* are as a ministry partner who stands alongside us as we

continue to share the message of the gospel," Sherry Griffin reminds supporters.

"Christ's message is needed more than ever in this turbulent world we live in today. Without His promise of hope, we can't imagine how people can go on facing each day bombarded by so much destruction. Praise God we know there is more. We know He is faithful," adds Sherry. She challenges Lighthouse FM's supporters across Canada to prayerfully consider what they can do to help keep this ministry growing.

Unlike so many players in the media business, Lighthouse FM isn't in it to make money. It's a non-profit, listener-supported ministry. "Lighthouse FM is a service offered by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador to the membership and the broader community across this great nation," says Pastor Corkum. "It is a ministry that is impacting decisions for Christ on our island and beyond. Lighthouse FM is helping listeners to have a relationship with Jesus Christ and bringing people to our Adventist churches. We praise God for those who first had the vision of using radio to reach out, and we are so glad to share this blessing with you." ■

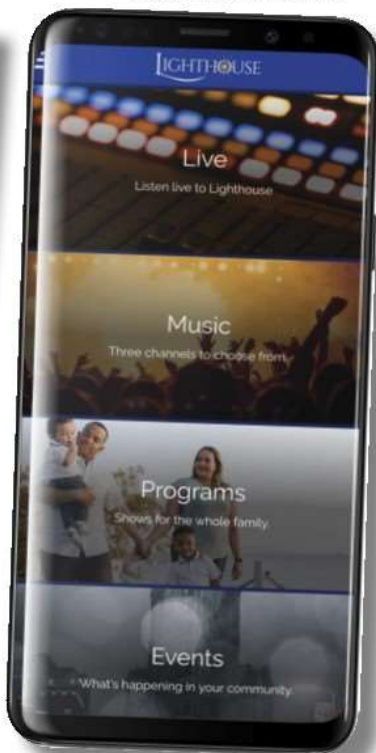
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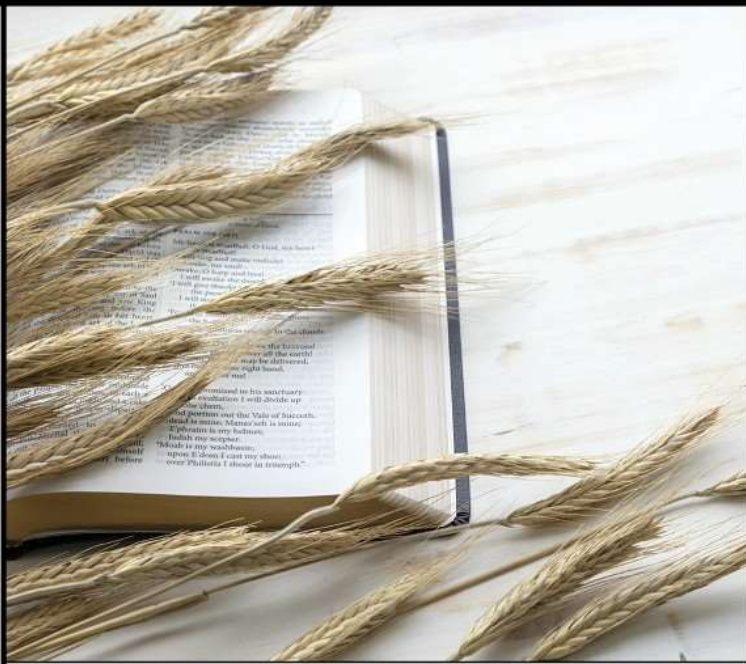
*Sherry Griffin is the station manager of Lighthouse FM radio, headquartered in Mount Pearl, N.L.*

**Official groundbreaking ceremony for the new FM tower with local dignitaries.**



**A mockup of the new Lighthouse FM mobile app.**





# A Plentiful Harvest

*“Rather, like the rain that is sent to water the earth and nourish the seed, His word will accomplish the purpose for which He has sent it.”*

**I**magine. A farmer turns on his radio and hears forecasters announcing that this year, the conditions will be ideal for a plentiful harvest. Bumper crops! Incredible yields! Excited, the farmer sits back and waits for the incredible harvest that is soon to come. He sits back while his field remains unplowed, his seed remains unsown, and his land remains unwatered. He just sits back—and waits. Waits for a harvest that will never come because in the planting season, he did not do what was necessary to make the harvest possible.

The book *Evangelism* cites an interesting statement: “More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.”<sup>1</sup> One thousand people converted in one day sounds unbelievable in today’s secular age. But no one can really imagine what it will be like when the Holy Spirit will be poured out in latter rain power, leading many to respond to the gospel invitation.

That being said, the interesting reality is that most of the thousands who will be converted will be able to trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications, received a year, two years, or maybe even 20 years before that time.

Many people who read our literature do experience conviction, but most will do nothing about it until the closing events of earth’s history. Assuredly, it is God’s word presented in the pages of our publications that has power to change lives. Therefore, God has promised that when His word goes out, it will not return to Him empty (Isa. 55:10, 11). Rather, like the rain that is sent to water the earth and nourish the seed, His word will

accomplish the purpose for which He has sent it. His word—that seed—is sown by you and me. And how effective that word can be when shared from a heart filled with compassion, seeking to meet felt needs.

Some time ago I met Shirley.<sup>2</sup> Her story began over 20 years ago when she bought a book called *Your Bible and You*, published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She initially kept it because of the beautiful pictures but soon discovered it offered much more. “That book touched my life,” she said. “It gave me hope when I was down and lonely.”

Shirley eventually joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The word of God, not only presented in *Your Bible and You* but also exemplified in the life of a Christian friend, made all the difference in her life.

It’s obvious that before a farmer can harvest a crop, he or she must plant the seeds. Likewise, we, too, are called to sow seeds in God’s field today, waiting for the plentiful harvest of precious souls. There’s a popular Chinese proverb that says, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” The more you sow, the greater the harvest. So how much seed will you plant today? ■

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

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, 693, <https://bit.ly/3hUNU3v>  
<sup>2</sup> Name has been changed.



**GREAT**  
teachers  
♥ **DO MORE** ♥  
than  
**TEACH**



**W**hen my parents first enrolled me at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy (FVAA) in kindergarten, they thought that they were simply helping me get a better and more personal education, where the teachers could help guide me onto the right path. As I continued through my elementary years, I knew I was gaining a better understanding of who God is, since I didn't grow up in an Adventist home.

Moving from elementary to junior high, I started to see the pieces connect to reveal how God had been leading the way for me to see all that He had been doing for me. After having Bible lessons with Pastor Mike and during my first FCA volleyball tournament in Grade 8, I gave my life to God in front of everyone at the tournament. I was able to see the full picture as to why I was meant to be at FVAA. During my final years at FVAA, I was able to reflect on how all my teachers had taught me something different. That created a beautiful mosaic of what it meant to be a Christlike individual.

At Burman University, I got to experience all the aspects of what it means to be an educator. There was always a list of things to get done, but all these things that I got to listen to, experience, and reflect on have prepared me to be the best educator I can possibly be. Dr. Buttler emphasized the very fact that everything we did in the program wasn't "just hoops to jump through"; rather, everything played an essential part in our growth as educators.

Another professor, Dr. Darko, whose sentiments I will always remember and continue to reflect on, taught us to first show humility by continuously going in knowing nothing in order to come out knowing

something, and that the best and most meaningful lessons are the ones that students can apply to the real world. I will always remember and continue to reflect on these sentiments.

Christian education is believing that the grander purpose of teaching is for my students to recognize the value of learning academics and moral values so that they can apply what they have learned to the real world. I am a firm believer that while it is essential to teach students what is found in the academic curriculum, it's also vital to teach them the value in being able to use their education to positively impact the world by showing God's love through their words and actions.

From kindergarten to Grade 12 and all the way through university, I attended Adventist institutions. Being a student and now a teacher, at a Christian school, has opened my eyes to recognize all the efforts my teachers put in to show God's unwavering character.

When I was a student, I could see and feel how my teachers cared not only for my education but also for my whole well-being. Whether it was a simple conversation to see how I was doing, an offer to pray with me when I had a problem, or having a one-on-one chat to lend a listening ear, they did it all. It was at FVAA that I discovered my passion for teaching through my teachers. I am currently working at this school because I truly believe in the Christian education I received, and I want to be able to be a bright light in my students' lives as my teachers were for me. ■

---

*Katelyn Agustin is a first-year Grade 3 teacher at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Aldergrove, B.C.*

# THE BURMAN EFFECT

BURMAN ALUMNI  
IMPACTING THEIR COMMUNITIES

## In the Hands

*"I knew he was right where he  
should be: safe in the hands of Jesus."*

**M**ore than 75 years ago, in 1944, Wilford Tetz left Canadian Junior College, now Burman University. He had completed his high school requirements, and he had met his lifelong sweetheart, Anne Krause. He was ready to move on to prepare for a career in medicine.

After Wilf completed medical studies, the Tetzes (now Wilf, Anne, and baby Beverly) returned to Alberta for internships in Edmonton and Ponoka. Then they made the momentous decision to move to Lacombe—momentous not only for the family but also for the college, the town, and surrounding communities.

For 46 years Wilf delivered babies; performed surgeries; set bones; stitched up cuts in heads, knees, and other body parts for accident-prone children (and adults); prescribed medications; gave gentle counsel on physical, relational, emotional, and spiritual issues when opportunities presented themselves; and generally did whatever was needed. That included house calls (24/7) and holding office hours (at no cost to the school or the students) every Sunday morning.

Service was a way of life for Wilf. Now, at age 97, Wilf is asleep in Jesus. Eric Rajah, one of the students Wilf served and mentored, shares the following tribute:

### Wednesday Night, Aug. 19, 2021

I sat in a chair in the hospital, looking down at the bed beside me. I was right where I should be.

My hand was linked to the hand of my friend, Dr. Wilford Tetz. In the quiet room, with his breath coming slow, I thought of his hands. He had delivered hundreds of babies, treated thousands of patients. His hands had helped and healed.

He had written 75 Valentines cards to his beloved wife, Anne. He had swung his daughters and sons up onto his shoulders. His hands had shown his heart.

I rubbed his index finger gently and thought of Dr. Tetz as my mentor. His hands had held minutes for the College Heights Church Board and the Board of Trustees for Canadian Union College. His insightful observations had pointed the way forward.

The room was hushed and darkened. I ran my thumb across his knuckles and thought of the day we had started to renovate the church, 24 years previously. Dr. Tetz, then 73, had been present—not to oversee the process, but rather to wield tools. His hands had been skilful and hardworking.

His eyes were closed, and I looked again at his hands—hands had held books as he eagerly discussed their contents with friends, his eyes sparkling with the delight of knowledge, humour, and hospitality.

I sat in silence, keeping a vigil with my friend, my mentor. With Dr. Tetz, I was right where I should be.

### Thursday Morning, Aug. 19, 2021

I received a phone call a few hours after leaving the hospital. Dr. Tetz had just passed away. I felt a deep loss, but I knew he was right where he should be: safe in the hands of Jesus. ■

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*Eric Rajah is chair of advancement and donor relations at Burman University, and Renate Krause is editor of Burman University Magazine.*



*Left: Wilf clasping Eric's hand—even on his last night; Right: Anne and Wilf Tetz*





# Let Your Heart be Light!

Join us **Sabbath, December 11 at 6:00 pm EST/3:00 pm PST** for a virtual concert to help ADRA improve lives.

Featuring songs and stories from around the world!

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# Former Firewood Carriers Knit Their Way Into the Lives of Schoolchildren



**Beatrice Limo gives out new sweaters to appreciative students. All the students at Ndanai Primary School received new sweaters.**

For a child walking to school in Kenya, 20 degrees Celsius is by no means comfortable. It feels cold for Kenyans in general. So when Beatrice Limo observed many schoolchildren with either ragged or no school sweaters on, she took action. Limo devised an income-generation venture where women are paid to knit sweaters for students. As part of the business plan, Limo bought two loom machines used to knit threads together.

The employed women are from very low-income families in the Kericho area located in lush tea country. In 2018, A Better World Canada partnered with Limo after witnessing a demand within its sponsored schools.

“It was already a fairly successful business when we got involved,” says Julie Stegmaier, director of operations and donor relations co-ordinator for ABW.

This year’s fundraising for the project, pegged at \$20,000, is almost complete. Since schools can range from 300 to 600 students, the program was unable initially to give these heavy, wool sweaters to everyone.

“We started with schools in the Kericho area where Beatrice lives and where the sweater project is located,” says Stegmaier.

Thirty students received a sweater at each of these schools. Classmates helped choose them based on need. ABW then fanned out the program to support greater numbers of students. The entire student population at Ndanai Primary School received a sweater, for example.

“As our budget allows, we will be able to give more students a new sweater at each school,” Stegmaier says. “We found that the need was too great to just give to 30 students.”

The Sweater Project benefits children in several ways,

including lifting their self-esteem and further decreasing school absenteeism, says Stegmaier. “There are very rainy days in Kenya, and when the temperature goes down to 20 °C, that’s cold to them.” She was told some students wear their sweaters to sleep at night because they have no blanket to keep themselves warm.

It’s also an important project for women. The knitters used to carry large loads of firewood from the forest, hauling them to the road to sell to passersby.

“It was a whole day of hard labour to earn a dollar,” says Stegmaier. “Now these women are in a shop, and they’re paid a fair wage.”

As many as 10 women come at one time to knit sweaters at a shop in Kericho. Each sweater is done in four stages, such as the body, collar, sleeves, and waistband. Limo also ensures the sweaters are done to exact school colours.

In Kenya, parents must supply the school uniform for the year, and in the event that they can’t afford to pay, the student doesn’t have one. With the help of a group of dedicated women, these children feel validated amongst their peers.

Limo helps distribute the sweaters at schools where she has watched children’s reactions firsthand. Last count shows that 1,664 sweaters have been given out.

“She has seen kids cry because they have received their first new sweater they have ever owned,” says Stegmaier, who hopes to see the Sweater Project personally in 2022.

To support the Sweater Project, please contact us at [info@abwcanada.ca](mailto:info@abwcanada.ca) for further information. ■

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







**Brianna**  
BEd 4-yr Elementary



**Christopher**  
BEd 4-yr Elementary



**Morgan**  
BEd 4-yr Elementary



**Monique**  
BEd 4-yr Elementary



**Catherine**  
BEd (After-Degree) 2-yr Elementary

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**BURMAN**  
UNIVERSITY

# The EPIC Dream

**T**he EPIC Global Heli Tour had turned into a wild, out-of-control rollercoaster ride—a nightmare, not the epic dream they had envisioned. The howling heavens roared in their faces, kicking their aircraft around as if it were a soccer ball. Visibility dropped dramatically, and when the fog ceiling forced them closer to the surface of the sea, the wind eased up momentarily, and their instruments said they were a mere 12 metres (40 ft) above the waves, cruising at 100 knots.

Instead of cresting whitecaps and surging seas, the ocean turned into one monstrous rolling mass of water undulating ever closer to their craft. Acid flowed through Ruben's veins, and Mischa's grip tightened onto the cyclic. At any second a 100-metre (300 ft) iceberg could suddenly appear from behind the veil of fog, and it would be impossible to avoid a collision. Dozens of thoughts raced through their minds one after another, each micro-decision almost suffocating them.

Although originally from separate countries on different continents with contrasting cultures and customs, the innovative entrepreneurial minds of Ruben Dias and Mischa Gelb shared an epic dream, a passion for flying helicopters. On May 1, 2018, they united their interests, launching the EPIC (Empowering People & Inspiring Change) Global Heli Tour, which would carry them over 60,000 kilometres (37,000 mi), with 107 stops, traversing at least 45 countries on five different continents. Their objective, besides the quest to set a new world record for the fastest equatorial antipode circumnavigation in a helicopter, was to host a series of open-for-all conferences at venues along the way in an effort to principally motivate young dreamers to embrace entrepreneurship and healthy living.

From the tropical beaches of South America and the Philippines to the frozen tundra of the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Alaska, from the lenient flying regulations of North America to the strictly regulated skies of Europe, from the confusion and chaos of Pakistan and India to the efficiency of Japan and



Read about Ruben and Mischa's remarkable story in *The EPIC Dream* (inset), available now from *It Is Written Canada*.

Canada, from the first-class hotels of the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia to the rundown hovels of Russia—Ruben and Mischa leaned heavily on the power of nice and risked their lives repeatedly for the reward of realizing their EPIC dream.

When Ruben and Mischa asked Mike Lemon to write the story of their around-the-world helicopter adventure, he jumped at the opportunity to work with these two innovative Christian entrepreneurs. God's presence saturated every element of this true-life adventure story. Forced to face one menacing obstacle after another, Ruben and Mischa became increasingly attuned to their reliance on divine guidance, wisdom, and fortitude to succeed.

If you'd like to receive your free copy of *The EPIC Dream*, call *It Is Written Canada* at 905/404-6510, email [information@iiv.ca](mailto:information@iiv.ca), or write to *It Is Written Canada*,



Box 2010, Oshawa, ON, L1H 7V4.

You can also watch Ruben and Mischa share their remarkable story on *It Is Written Canada* this month on CTV. Afterward, go to [itiswrittencanada.ca](http://itiswrittencanada.ca) or *It Is Written Canada's* YouTube channel and click on the program titled "The EPIC Dream" (Parts 1 and 2). ■

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

 **It Is Written**  
Canada



# Chief's Son Walks MANS Halls—Again

## Joshua Saddleback Enrols His Daughter in His Alma Mater



**The Green Grass of Home**—Having seen “the other side of the fence” as a university student in Edmonton, Joshua is happy to play with his seven-year-old daughter Kiya (Grade 2) and 10-month-old daughter Zuya on the grassy hills of the MANS campus, which Joshua and his partner, Dakotah, hope will soon overlook a MANS athletic field where their girls can play baseball and learn to love outdoor activities.



**A Special Sabbath Morning Live Guest**—Joshua made a special trip to the campus of Burman University to record an interview with Pastor Lyle Notice for Alberta's 2021 virtual campmeeting. His interview is part of the July 10 SML campmeeting event at [www.albertaadventist.ca](http://www.albertaadventist.ca) and is a standalone video at [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca).

Joshua Saddleback is a well-known figure in the Maskwacis community. The son of Chief Vernon Saddleback of the Samson-Cree Nation and a recent graduate of MacEwan University's Police Investigative program in Edmonton, he is also a Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) alumnus. He's happy to be home and to have his daughter, Kiya, sitting in the same classrooms he did at MANS.

MANS was a smaller place when Joshua was a student. At the time, it only went up to Grade 9, and there were only about 200 students enrolled. He describes his MANS experience as “really good” and credits the school with teaching him what Christianity is. “We had all kinds of students. The teachers there modelled the same patience and respect for all the kids. They showed nothing but genuine care.”

Joshua's transition from MANS to a 1,200-person high school was a culture shock. Leaving Maskwacis for a university with a student count of thousands was even more jarring. “But,” he says with a smile, “I pushed through the hard times and continued to show up to classes and try my absolute best.”

Now, diploma in hand, Joshua applies his perseverance and positive attitude to his work in group care—work that's deeply important to him. “I can't get into too much detail, given confidentiality,” he says. “All I can say

is I work with all kinds of youth. Specifically, with kids within our community.”

Did his time at MANS help prepare him for this role? His answer is a resounding yes. “I try to model the same patience and respect towards the kids I interact with in my workplace. In a way, MANS taught me to be there for the kids and to continue to show that genuine care.”

Quality, genuine care is just one of the reasons Joshua decided to enrol his daughter at MANS. He is also excited about MANS's high school and *Miweyihtowin*, the sculpture commission created by MANS high school students at the request of the City of Lacombe. The fact that the sculpture is connected to university grounds is particularly impactful for him. But perhaps the biggest surprise of his return was seeing so many familiar faces.

“It adds a level of comfort knowing that [Kiya is] going to get the same positive experience that I had,” he says. “I love that most of the teachers I had when I went there, she will have too. I know that she's going to enjoy it. She already is.” ■

*Myken McDowell is a master printmaker and communications specialist living in Edmonton, Alta.*

See more about Joshua on page 4.





**Before**—Alphonsina and her granddaughter’s home had a tarpaulin roof that leaked when it rained and it could not be secured to protect against thieves.



**After**—Now Alphonsina has a brick home, complete with latrine and energy-saving stove, and she is able to focus on her two business ventures.

# Alphonsina’s Smile

**I**t’s been an emotional rollercoaster annual leave getting to Vancouver and then leaving Jaden and Onyx as boarding students at Auburn Adventist Academy (Auburn, Wash.). This is our first trip back to Uganda without the kids. Tired of feeling the emptiness in their rooms, the lack of chaos during dinner time, missing the sounds of conversation and movement around the house, we dive into the work set before us.

A week after our return, a field visit to Kyaka II refugee settlement is scheduled. When the kids were home, I wasn’t able to go on field visits, but now I’m available to accompany Charles on such activities. It’s the perfect remedy for empty-nester blues.

I’ve heard so much about the different ADRA projects at the Kyaka II refugee settlement. One in particular is the building of semi-permanent shelters with innovative interlocking sun-dried bricks for persons with special needs (PSNs).

PSNs are the most vulnerable individuals in the refugee settlement. They could be minors who are the head of their household, individuals living with chronic disease, individuals who have a physical or intellectual disability, or seniors with needs.

Here is the story of Nyrabuseruka Alphonsina. She is 78 years old and a recipient of one of the shelters built by ADRA.

For many years Alphonsina had a good life in Burundi. She was surrounded and supported by her family. She also maintained a small store as her primary source of livelihood. However, when tribal conflict and war became too intense (leaving most of her relatives dead), she left for Uganda with her granddaughter.

The journey to Uganda took more than three months for Alphonsina and her granddaughter. Along the way, they faced many dangers. They were robbed by thieves and abused by armed men who took advantage of their vulnerability. The pair slept in the bushes away from the road or in

abandoned buildings. They sustained themselves by asking for food from people with gardens.

When they finally reached Uganda, they were registered as refugees and resettled in Kyaka II. Having been an entrepreneur in Burundi, Alphonsina started a small business of moulding stoves out of clay and sold them to her fellow refugees. This gave her a little income.

One of the many challenges that Alphonsina faces every day is the house they currently live in. The tarpaulin roof leaks when it rains, and the structure is not secure to keep her belongings safe. When she goes to the market with her granddaughter, thieves steal her clay stoves from her home.

When the ADRA team conducted the needs assessment, Alphonsina asked, “If ADRA can help me with decent shelter, not only will I have a good night’s sleep, but I will also be able to fend off thieves from stealing my stoves.”

Alphonsina’s wish has been granted. The interlocking brick shelter replaces the tarpaulin roofed, mud-wall structure. A brick latrine is also constructed, and an energy-saving stove is installed. She has managed to buy two ducks and two goats from her clay stove business. She now focuses on these business ventures instead of the labour-intensive job of moulding clay into stoves. She looks forward to expanding her business and supporting her fellow refugees.

In the house that ADRA built, Alphonsina feels safe, rests well at night, and is hopeful of a brighter future for her and her granddaughter living in Kyaka II. Undoubtedly, Alphonsina’s smile says it all—thankful and blessed for the house ADRA built.

As for me, witnessing God’s hands and feet in action through ADRA and Alphonsina’s smile are the perfect remedies for empty-nester blues. ■

*Charles and Elizabeth Aguilar, along with their children Jewel, Jaden, and Onyx, are missionaries from beautiful British Columbia.*





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Shawn and Jean Boonstra  
Speaker/Director, Associate Speaker

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## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA

# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN the cartoon that circulated on social media for a while, especially during the height of the pandemic. It depicted a teacher in a doctor's office reviewing the results of her recent X-ray. The caption was the doctor's words: "Your heart is slightly bigger than the average human heart, but that's because you're a teacher."

These words are so fitting for our teachers across Canada, and we are grateful for their commitment to Adventist education and to their students. Once again, the selection of recipients for our annual Excellence in Education awards has been difficult because all the nominees deserve this recognition. We are pleased to present to you the five educators who have been selected for 2021.

### TEACHER AWARDS:



Viktoria Brunets

**VIKTORIA BRUNETS** is the junior primary/primary teacher at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA) in Bedford, N.S. Originally from Ukraine, Viktoria says that Christian education is very important to her because she can see the difference that attending an Adventist school makes.

She loves creating an inclusive environment that brings children of all ability levels and cultural backgrounds together. Her greatest joy is guiding her students to know Jesus as a friend. Viktoria was instrumental in beginning the pre-primary program at Sandy Lake back in 2014 and was responsible for developing

the curriculum, networking with parents of prospective students, and preparing the classroom.

"The development and success of this program and its contributions to the school as a whole would not have been possible without her skills, dedication, and faith," says the SLA board chair. Colleagues and parents alike describe Viktoria as a teacher who exemplifies Christlike love and kindness. An accomplished musician with a music education degree, Viktoria's example has also inspired several young people to learn violin.



Patricia Ferreira-Lopez

**PATRICIA FERREIRA-LOPEZ** currently serves as the Grade 1 teacher at College Park Elementary School in Oshawa, Ont. After completing her master's degree at the University of London in the United Kingdom and teaching for several years in London, Patricia came home to Canada, where she has taught various elementary grades and served as a teaching principal.

Parents value the community and family atmosphere in Patricia's classroom and her commitment to innovative teaching. The school's principal credits Patricia for

expanding love for the arts and language among both students and staff through various drama performances and reading and writing activities. Her pastor agrees, saying that she has "a powerful gift of creativity" and "profound wisdom."

Most importantly, Patricia recognizes her responsibility of "not only preparing citizens for the planet but also for the kingdom." Her goal is to keep striving for Godly excellence in her own life as well as in her classroom and to inspire students to do the same.



**EMILE NDEKEZI** teaches the social sciences at Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) in Lacombe, Alta. A graduate of the University of Alberta, Emile says he chose a career in education because he wanted to help instil in students the passion he has for social studies.

Colleagues describe Emile's classes as energetic and engaging, saying that he has "an uncanny ability to connect with his students," challenging them to "think critically about the world around them." He does not shy away from difficult social topics and tough conversations

but encourages students to know what they believe and why they believe it.

"He inspires his students to have engaging conversations about not just their parents' beliefs but about making their relationship with Jesus their very own," said one parent, adding, "Any time a teenager returns home excited to talk about Christianity and their beliefs and how they are exploring that in the classroom and in day-to-day conversations is a good moment from a parent's perspective."



**Emile Ndekezi**

**ERIN SUTHERLAND** completed a degree from the University of Victoria and currently serves as teacher and vice-principal for West Coast Adventist School (WCAS), the first Adventist distance learning school in Canada. Erin is a master of online teaching. In her principal's words, she is "a shining example of best practices in online teaching" and one who, in a parent's words, "navigates the virtual portals effortlessly."

When the COVID-19 pandemic demanded that all teachers move to an online environment, Erin played a pivotal role in supporting

teachers across Canada, sharing curriculum and resources and assisting her principal in providing training sessions for teachers.

Erin says that connecting with students online fills her with great joy and that she loves both the day-to-day routine and "the thrill of taking the show on the road to push the limits of online teaching." What she loves most of all is "witnessing students growing their talents and skills and developing their understanding of how they can shine their light into the world through our *Encounter* [Bible] classes."



**Erin Sutherland**

#### ADMINISTRATOR AWARD:

**MICHAEL WILLING** says that his favourite teaching experiences "always include the outdoors, inclement weather, and unexpected difficulties that are overcome by teamwork and kindness."

Michael completed his degree from Burman University and serves at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) in Ponoka, Alta., where he has recently moved from Vice Principal to Principal. Michael's colleagues describe him as "incredibly hard-working," "an impressive leader," and "an absolute joy to work with."

A Grade 12 student who describes himself "as a big fan of Mr. Willing" says, "[Mr. Willing]

goes out of his way to help me feel safe and like I belong."

As an administrator, Michael has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of school operations and is always open to new ideas and suggestions from his staff. He is not only quick to recognize a need but is also ready to go out of his way to meet it. He helped students plant a garden and made homemade French fries for them with the potatoes they had grown. He took welding courses so that he could teach MANS students how to weld. Michael's goal is to continue working with Indigenous Peoples to further the work of reconciliation.



**Michael Willing**

**ALL OUR AWARDEES** would tell you, I'm sure, that God has blessed them so that they can be a blessing to others. We ask once again that you keep these teachers, and all our educators across Canada, in your prayers as they continue to inspire a life of faith, wisdom, and service in every student enrolled in our schools. ■

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.

## Newfoundland & Labrador

### Newfoundland and Labrador Mission Holds 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Constituency Meeting



President Ken Corkum presenting a plaque to Jack Baier commemorating 30 years of church service before his retirement. Photo credit: Xenia Capote

The 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador was held on Aug. 1, 2021. This year was different for our Mission, as delegates from across the island came together virtually via Zoom.

Ken Corkum, mission president, stated, "How fitting we met using Zoom, as for the last one and a half years it has been the primary way the membership has been coming together across the island."

The session required secure entrance into the meeting, precorded video reports, the ability to vote on items, special guests

from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) online, and breakout rooms for visioning sessions. Keith Chant from the SDACC provided IT support, with Cathy Anderson assisting.

Following our 2021 campmeeting theme, the constituency meeting also held the theme "Hope for Better Days." This was a timely theme for our province as we look forward to better days of gathering again in person, especially at Camp Woody Acres where

constituency meetings are typically held.

The meeting consisted of reports such as administrative and departmental, Camp Woody Acres improvements, pastoral services, mission programs, financial positions/projects, planning, and future endeavours.

During the session, a special presentation to Jack Baier recognizing his retirement during the quinquennium was a welcome break. On Nov. 1, 2019, Jack Baier officially retired from service at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador. Jack has been an integral part of the Lord's

work in the N.L. Mission and a blessing to those he meets. For 30 years, Jack diligently and unselfishly served this field in the Treasury Department and Camp Woody Acres. Jack spends his time serving as a volunteer in his home church and as a camp superintendent at Camp Woody Acres.

The meeting also included appointing departmental directors for the next term, 2021–2026. Jonathan Gascoyne was voted in to continue as Youth Ministries director. Kaitlynn Harushimana was also elected to continue serving as Youth Summer Ministries director.

Ken Corkum said, "For our first-time adventure of running a Zoom constituency meeting, this was favourable, and for most of us it was an experience of a lifetime. Hopefully, never again will there be a health crisis that would prevent us from gathering as delegates to do the work of the N.L. church, but this time around, it leaves a memory to tell our grandchildren."

The members of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to trust in the Lord as we continue His work. ■

—Kaitlynn Harushimana,  
communications,  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador Mission





## Ontario

# Second Virtual Workers' Meeting Helps Ontario Conference Workers Connect Like Jesus

At the Ontario Conference's second virtual workers' meeting (Sept. 13–15), Bible workers, pastors and teachers gained timely tools for our theme of "Connecting Like Jesus."

Each morning a conference leader provided a spiritual framework, followed by training. New this year, Bible workers and pastors met with their regions each afternoon to share ministry struggles, best practices, and how to apply the day's presentation to their contexts.

Teachers, who were present on Sept. 13, split into two groups to discuss their ministry, the return to school, and COVID-19 policies. One group ended with a 30-minute season of prayer.

### Spiritual Framework

Each devotional thought offered a different angle on "Connecting Like Jesus." For example, Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, spoke on connecting with Jesus on Sept 13: "Being connected to God clarifies our true identity, drives our purpose, and orders our priorities."

On Sept. 14, Jakov Bibulovic, executive secretary, described seeing his father outwork day labourers on childhood visits to his grandparents' farm; likewise, we should labour not as day labourers but as children of a loving Father.

Finally, on Sept. 15, Halsey Peat, assistant to the president, noted what connecting like Jesus looks like by depicting the depth of Christ's compassion (Luke 7:11–17) as He resurrected the only son of a widow in Nain. We should never be satisfied with the thought that someone could die without receiving Jesus.

### Home-Grown Presentations

All presenters were "home grown," which increased engagement and camaraderie.

Monday's presenter was Orville Parchment, former Ontario Conference



Teachers, pastors, Bible workers, and directors enjoying Workers' Meeting.

minister, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada president, and General Conference assistant to the president. Parchment shared biblical principles for spiritual leadership. He listed traits of spiritual leaders, like being watchmen/watchwomen, making time for their families, exercising self-control, and recognizing their dependence on Christ. "Mercy!" workers responded as he called out leadership issues like prejudice or lack of humility.

Tuesday's presenter was Ida Smith, associate pastor at Willowdale church and licensed psychotherapist. Smith shared the importance of maintaining your spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health. She shared many gems, including the importance of gratitude, self-care, and reaching out for support. Then, touching on healthy leadership culture, she noted that leaders must be transparent and shift from "know it all" to "learn it all."

Wednesday's presenter was Philip Baptiste, Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) secretary/treasurer, who spent his formative years in Ontario.

Baptiste presented proven business success principles for ministry development, including embracing feedback, developing a growth mindset, asking the right questions, leveraging digital communication, developing and keeping a healthy staff, and creating direction, alignment, and commitment as a leader.

Raul Gonzalez, pastor of Brampton Spanish and Spanish Bet-el churches, expressed a common sentiment when he said, "Thank you, administration and Ontario Conference leaders, for these three days of training, motivation, and inspiration."

### Moving Forward

In a powerful final charge, Edwards reminded workers of the church's two purposes—ministry and mission—then concluded, "Lean on Jesus, connect with Him afresh, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might." ■

—Christelle Agboka,  
communication director,  
Ontario Conference



## Quebec

# Quebec Conference Holds 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Constituency Meeting



Newly elected president, Ngoy Kyala, with re-elected executive secretary, Lucian Stefanescu.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Constituency Meeting of the Quebec Conference took place on Sept. 24–26, 2021. It was the first virtual session facilitated by a well-prepared and dedicated technical team formed by office staff, pastors, and volunteers from the Quebec Conference and the SDACC.

The three business sessions on Friday afternoon, Saturday evening, and Sunday were well attended by the delegates. The session was prepared in a spiritual atmosphere of prayer and seeking the Lord according to the theme “Christ, Our Hope to the End.”

The Sabbath before the session was a Sabbath of prayer with the SDACC president, Mark Johnson, addressing the delegates and churches of the conference. On the session weekend, inspiring

messages were delivered by Elden Ramirez, North American Division (NAD) associate secretary; Claude Richli, General Conference (GC) associate secretary and a former president of the Quebec Conference; and Paul Llewellyn, SDACC executive secretary. On Sabbath afternoon a special program focused on mission allowed all participants to watch video testimonies from different churches and projects of the Quebec Conference.

The delegates elected Ngoy Kyala to serve as president, Lucian Stefanescu to return as executive secretary, and referred the position of conference treasurer to the incoming Board of Directors.

Pastor Ngoy Kyala has served as the conference’s ministerial director and as the pastor of the Quebec Seventh-day

Adventist Church, where he has led the centre of influence project *Meilleur Chemin*. A Belgian citizen born in Congo, Kyala is married to Thérèse and father to Jérémie and Milcah. After his theological studies and business administration in Congo, Rwanda, France, and Switzerland, he worked on three continents (Africa, Europe, and North America) in different pastoral and administrative capacities, as well as for ADRA. He has served as the president of the Belgium-Luxemburg Conference before his arrival in Quebec in 2011. He is passionate about reading and meeting people where they are so that he can talk to them about faith in God.

The Quebec Conference is one of the fastest-growing conferences in North America. It is the only conference in the NAD where the main language is not English. It has a diverse constituency with people coming from all over the world, but especially the French and English Caribbean. Their common goal is to reach all the 8.5 million inhabitants of Quebec, which is not easy given the secular mindset and size of territory.

The administration is aware that this mission can only be accomplished by God’s Spirit, so a Sabbath of prayer was declared on Oct. 9, 2021. All members were invited to ask for unity and wisdom as we make plans that will allow the Quebec Conference to continue to consolidate and grow to the glory of God. May the Lord bless God’s work in Quebec, in Canada, in North America, and throughout the world. May Christ be our light and hope until our eyes shall see Him! ■

—Lucian Stefanescu,  
executive secretary,  
Quebec Conference





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## Announcements

### PROCESS:

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

## Obituaries

**Terence Alfred Graham** was born Sept. 25, 1941, in Vernon, B.C., and died June 24, 2021, in Lacombe, Alta. Terence dedicated his life to teaching. He was a professor of history at Burman University for 30 years and also taught in Denmark, where he lived for 11 years. He was predeceased by his parents, George and Gladys; brother, Ronald; stepbrother, Patrick McDonald; and sister, Patricia Graham. Surviving: spouse, Britha Muderspach Graham; stepmother, Edna Graham; son, Glen Allan (Rhanda Bonet-Graham) of Lacombe; brother, Barry (Peggy); sister, Fay (Ken) Lindsay; stepsister, Michaelan (David) Bowers; and one grandchild.

## Tributes

Peacefully, on June 13, 2021, at the age of 74, Beverley Jean Thorne (née Lennox) now rests and awaits her Saviour's return. Cherished wife of John Thorne for 54 years. Loving mother of Damon (Sheri), Dana (Jim) Chant, and Dustin (Suzanne), all residing in Courtice, Ont. Devoted

sister of David of Saskatoon, Sask., Stanley of Edmonton, Alta., and Ron of St. John's, N.L.



Wonderful Nanna to Madison, Macy, Liam, Landon, Tiegan, Keeli, Tristen, and Nolan. Beloved sister-in-law of Peter (Anu), Wendy (late Arthur) Paley, Adair (Doug) Prentice, and David (Gloria). Auntie Bev to Tyson, Sarah, Holly, Celeste, Matthew, Ryan, Amanda, Tyler, Sean, Derek, and Jonathan. Lovingly remembered by extended family across Canada and the United States and dear friends from Willowdale, Kingsway College, and College Park Church in Oshawa.

Funeral service was held from College Park Church in Oshawa on June 16, 2021. Shepherded by Pastor Glenn DeSilva.

Bev dedicated herself to caring for her family and raising her children to respect others and love the Lord. After her three children graduated from Kingsway College and Andrews University, Bev enlarged her horizons. She developed her natural abilities by enjoying part-time shared duties as the receptionist and insurance records assistant at the SDACC headquarters in Oshawa.

Bev faithfully served her College Park church family by assisting the church treasurer and sharing Sabbath school secretarial duties and supporting the funeral luncheon committee. Jesus Loves her, this I know, for her smile always told me so... Till we meet again.

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**>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of Sept. 30, 2021, there were 376 depositors with a total deposit of \$31,895,571. There were 90 loans with a value of \$28,896,755.

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



# 2021 OFFERING SCHEDULE

## NOVEMBER

Local Church Budget..... November 06  
 World Budget (GC)\*..... November 13  
 Local Church Budget..... November 20  
 Conference Advance..... November 27

## DECEMBER

Local Church Budget.....December 04  
 Adventist Ministries of Compassion\*.....December 11  
 Local Church Budget.....December 18  
 Conference Advance.....December 25

\*Special materials provided.




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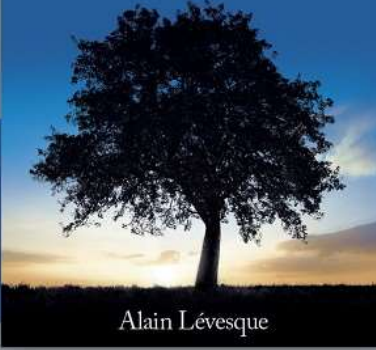
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**WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED** to give seminars for ShareHim (sharehim.org), I came across so many who only felt comfortable speaking with their friends, mostly church members, and felt awkward trying to start conversations with new people. So we put together a short workshop with practical examples of how to do this. (For some, this has never been a problem.)

One of the examples I used was how to start short conversations with checkout or customer service clerks at the store and the principle of trying to chat with the same one every time. Often these front-line workers are so accustomed to people talking with them that there are no awkward moments, and it makes good practice.

Many other professionals—nurses, flight attendants, barbers, hair stylists—are just used to having conversations with strangers that they think nothing of it (i.e., you're not bothering them). Many of them even appreciate it because it adds some life to their job. You can find all kinds of easy conversation starters, as a quick Google search proves.

I recently ordered takeout from a restaurant, and when I arrived to pick up my pizza, I thought I recognized the appearance and voice of a person. I asked him if his family heritage was from a certain country, to which he responded "yes" with a warm smile, and we exchanged a few pleasantries.

The next time I was in, I asked him if he had found a local mosque that he liked. His answer was "I am a Christian and I go to the local large Catholic church." He went on to tell me how friendly they were and how quickly they'd made him feel at home. I was glad to hear that, but what he said next struck me: "When I grew up in Pakistan, my whole family went to the large church at the Seventh-day Adventist seminary."

This wasn't the first time I was paying for my wares and met someone who, after a few conversations, told me about their Adventist background or familiarity with the Adventist faith.

The *Messenger* now publishes two additional magazines: one to help Adventists understand and converse with South Asians and a new one to help us befriend and connect with our Muslim neighbours and friends. This is all done without being confrontational.

I encourage you to try and converse and mingle with people outside of the Adventist community so that we can share the three angels' messages. ■



from the editor

## Creating Conversations, Not Confrontations

P.S.: To subscribe to these new magazines, email [resources@gcamr.org](mailto:resources@gcamr.org) for the one on Adventist–Muslim Relations, and [messengerSA@adventist.ca](mailto:messengerSA@adventist.ca) for the one on "Understanding My South Asian Neighbour." There is a very nominal charge to cover printing and postage.



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