

Connected! (p. 3), Refuge for Refugees (p. 22),  
Faith is the Victory (p. 34), That's All There Is (p. 36)

april 2022

canadian adventist  
**Messenger**



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“According to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

—2 Pet. 3:13, ESV

## Connected!

Shortly after Creation a condition more terrible than any disease infected the human race. That problem—sin, or rebellion—resulted in measures that isolated our world from all the rest of God’s creation, everywhere and everyone. Only heaven remained in contact with humanity.

To remedy this condition, heaven permitted the Son of God, Jesus, to physically enter human space and live among us, the infected population. And through that life on an infected planet—earth, God provided a way through which we will be able to live eternally, outside of quarantine. Good news! There will be no waves of the condition of sin. The condition which isolated us will be gone forever!

Our future is bright! “According to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:13, ESV).

The quarantine is lifting soon! No more need for distance. No more painful consequences of sin and rebellion.

But as we are waiting, we can connect. God is available to each of us. No need for an appointment. Prayer connects us instantly, from wherever we happen to be, to God. There are no areas of weak signal strength. God hears. God responds. That connection builds deep inner peace for each of us.

Here’s God’s service commitment: “Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear” (Isa. 65:25, ESV).

When we are in touch with heaven, there’s no need for “Can you hear me now?”

Through the medium of prayer, we can be instantly, seamlessly, in contact with God. Wherever we are. Whatever the crisis. Any time of day or night.

So when we notice something that worries us, we can talk it over with God. If we notice a symptom of the condition of sin or rebellion, God is there. He will help. If we feel lonely or out of touch with family or friends, we have family in heaven! God will hear and answer.

And it gets even better! God has a plan. Somewhere I’ve heard God’s promise that this trouble with sin and disease will not happen again.

I can’t wait! God has solved our isolation.

How about you? Are you ready for Jesus to come? ■

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



# CANADA YOUTH CHALLENGE

*A Student Missionary Work Opportunity in Canada*

Watch the videos at: [LifestyleCanada.org/CYC](http://LifestyleCanada.org/CYC)



Sarah, a CYC student, says, *"I met an elderly lady who was standing at the door as if waiting for me. As we talked, I discovered she was originally from Poland. Her father was a Seventh-day Adventist, but she had not been to church in many years. All along, she had been keeping the Sabbath alone! She invited me in and I left some books with her. After praying together, she confessed that she had been praying for someone to come to her door. She had been praying that prayer for five years!"*

This summer, you can learn effective leadership, communication, how to teamwork, and other essential skills that will help you for the rest of your life. Above all, you can gain the personal satisfaction of taking on a challenge that has eternal results!

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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## April 2022



**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:** Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) should contact their local church clerk directly for *Canadian Adventist Messenger* address changes. Contact information for each conference is listed on page 3. If you are a member but are not receiving this magazine, please request it through your local church clerk or conference office. Non-members receiving this magazine in error should contact the *Messenger* office listed below.

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**WHAT'S COMING** Canice John was driving to work when the truck beside him hydroplaned into his vehicle. Nurses said he was paralyzed and would never be able to walk again, but Jesus said otherwise.

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# FREEDOM OF RELIGION



**Q:** *What are some ways the Seventh-day Adventist Church has worked to defend the religious freedom of church members through the years?*

**A:** The Seventh-day Adventist Church strongly believes in religious freedom for everyone, regardless of whether they are Adventists, Christians, or adherents of another faith community. For over 100 years, our church has advocated that a person's conscience, not the government, should determine one's beliefs and worship choices.

The church's advocacy has taken several forms. The church maintains a Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department that directly interacts with governments and other organizations, including the United Nations. PARL also sponsors the International Religious Liberty Association, which is a non-sectarian organization supporting religious freedom around the world.

Closer to home, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) also has a PARL department, which addresses matters of freedom of religion in Canada. Local conferences also have religious liberty departments. Our Canadian institutions are strong advocates against laws that would restrict the individual's ability to worship and practise as he or she believes.

One of the instruments of the church's advocacy is *Liberty Magazine*, which has a circulation of almost 200,000. This magazine is distributed within Canada to thought leaders across our country, many of whom are identified by leaders in each of our congregations.

Additionally, the church becomes directly involved in cases that impact the rights and freedoms of individuals, and entire communities.

In appropriate cases, the church has directly supported those who are being discriminated against because of their religious beliefs. These cases have involved Sabbath accommodation issues, workplace and educational discrimination concerns, union membership cases, and

many more. While the details of these cases are personal and often confidential to those involved, I have seen many instances in which our church's support has resolved very difficult situations in favour of religious freedom. Sometimes all that is required is creating better awareness of the important issues at play or educating decision-makers on their legal obligations.

The SDACC has also been a regular intervener in cases before the courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, on important cases involving freedom of conscience and religion. Interveners are permitted by the court to make legal arguments that may not be highlighted by the parties most directly involved, providing invaluable assistance to the judges who must make difficult decisions. Our PARL department in Canada has been very effective in identifying those cases and ensuring that the best legal arguments are before the courts, highlighting when certain outcomes will have serious detrimental impacts on our fundamental freedoms.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not also mention the many Adventist lawyers and advocates in Canada who have directly contributed to protecting freedom of religion in Canada. Our church's concern for this issue is well known among those who pay attention to religious liberty in Canada. I am very thankful for their leadership and efforts, almost always under the radar.

I can confidently say that freedom of religion is more robustly protected in Canada than it might have been but for the efforts of Seventh-day Adventists. ■

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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).*



# Rely on the Pinions of His Wings

“He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.”—*Psalm 91:3, 4, NASB*

**W**e all have fears and even live with them daily. But our greatest fears are of the dark, the unknown, the invisible. This may be part of the reason so many are stressed over COVID. None of us can see it.

But other things are equally invisible to our understanding—like things in the future. And so we wonder, “What if I lose my health ... my job ... my family?” While as Christians we understand the need for trust and faith in God, sometimes we can’t seem to escape those questions and thousands of others like them, which haunt our subconscious and even our waking thoughts.

What we need is an ever-present reminder that God is with us, that He’ll never leave us or forsake us. To that end, one of the most important purposes for which our Bibles should be put to use is to determine not only what is *truth* but also Who is *trustworthy*.

Deuteronomy 32:10, 11, says, “He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions” (NASB).

“In 1937, shortly before the Golden Gate Bridge was completed, I climbed the catwalk to the top of one of the 746-foot bridge towers.”<sup>1</sup> Writing of this experience years later, Kenneth Wood recalled the fog and wind as he looked down at San Francisco Bay and wondered, “How could anyone work up here? ... A man’s chief concern would be with his own safety.”

“Later,” he wrote, “I learned that fear had indeed been a problem. The workmen knew that for every million dollars spent on building a bridge, one workman was likely to lose his life.

The Golden Gate Bridge was to cost \$35 million; hence, 35 lives might be lost. Each workman was obsessed with the fear that he might be one of the 35. Construction was being hindered by this immeasurable but very real factor.”

“Then someone suggested that a mammoth rope net be hung under the full length of the bridge so that if a man fell, he would be caught. The idea was tried. It cost \$80,000 but proved to be an excellent investment. Almost at once the men worked faster and more efficiently. Now they had a reassuring answer to their question ‘What if I should fall from the bridge?’”

It’s unlikely that you or I will ever be asked to build a bridge—over San Francisco Bay or any other body of water. But God *has* called us to play a part in bridging the yawning chasms that might exist between us and our neighbours, between the factions in the church, or between our communities. Accepting such a challenge can be frightening, but what if we *knew* we could rely on the pinions of His wings to support us, should we stumble or fall in the effort? Wouldn’t our labours be carried out more easily and with more efficiency?

Consider this promise of Psalm 91:3, 4: “He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark” (NASB). May this be our experience today, by God’s grace. ■

Michael Collins is president of the Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference.



<sup>1</sup> Kenneth H. Wood Jr., *Meditations for Moderns: Three-Minute Devotional Readings for Daily Inspiration* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1963), 20.



# You Can Help Rebuild Lives

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In 2021 Canada was faced with an unprecedented number of disasters.  
This year we are preparing to face even more challenges.  
On May 14, 2022 please give to the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering  
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Charitable Registration # 13205 6813 RR0001





# Creation Corner for Kids

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

—Luke 10:19

## Grasshopper Mouse

The grasshopper mouse doesn't look very special, not too different from any mouse. It's only about as long as your little finger and weighs about the same as 8 to 20 pennies. But this little rodent has superhero abilities. It's a super-biter, with super-strong jaws.

A jaguar has the strongest bite among the big cats and could crush a coconut with one chomp. But if the grasshopper mouse were the size of a jaguar, it could crush a 6-inch slab of cement!

The grasshopper mouse is also a super-jumper. If the grasshopper mouse were as big as a human, it would be able to leap over a power pole!

But perhaps the most impressive thing about the grasshopper mouse is its super-sized attitude. It has no fear! In its desert habitat it takes on prey larger than itself. It captures lizards and fights deadly scorpions—and wins.

### Do it!

Pray that Jesus will change you and give you courage to live for Him—to fight sin in your life and love Him enough to fearlessly work for Him. If you'll do this, God's power will be on your side.

### Think about it.

All it took for the whole world to learn about Jesus was a few followers with courage like that of the grasshopper mouse. Where did they get that courage?

On their own, the disciples didn't have superpowers. They weren't brave or perfect. But they had the Holy Spirit, and with Jesus on their side, the devil and all his demons couldn't stop them.

**BOING!**

**KA-POW!!!**

**YIKES!!!**

**GRUNCH!**

## Channels of Hope

How do we make a positive spiritual impact on our community as leaders? In a season where people seek answers to life's challenges, leaders are called to provide hope, support, and empathy.

As leaders we should be authentic in our service to the community and to one another. Being authentic means (1) remaining humble, (2) living in Jesus' light, and (3) being a conduit of hope.

Remaining humble entails living like Jesus, being aware of our emotions in different environments, and understanding God's grace in people's lives. Leaders should recognize that we are all God's children; thus we need to give others, as well as one another, grace as we journey with them.

Living like Jesus means talking about your struggles in ways that shed light on the darkness of others' lives. Ellen White entreats us "never to utter one word of complaint, but to cherish feelings of gratitude and thankfulness. Weave into your experience the warp and woof, the golden threads of gratitude."<sup>1</sup>

Finally, we are called to be channels of light and hope in a world groping in the darkness. We serve as beacons of hope when we share how God is at work in our lives despite the



challenges, when we emphasize that He gives strength when we are weak and fulfills His promises of eternal life.

The Apostle Paul blesses us, saying, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:13, KJV). ■

*Damson Oppong is the ministerial liaison for the SDACC.*

<sup>1</sup> Ellen G. White, *Manuscript 9*, 1883.

## The Heart of the Health Message

Growing up Seventh-day Adventist, I often heard people speak about the health message as the "right arm of the gospel." I became intrigued as it piqued my interest to explore a career pathway in health. I was keenly moved to understand our health message more fully, citing the first comprehensive health vision given to Ellen White on June 6, 1863.

James and Ellen White were visiting Otsego, Mich., to support the evangelistic tent meetings conducted by R. J. Lawrence and M. E. Cornell, scheduled to commence on June 6. James struggled with depression resulting from overwork and, at the cost of his personal health, continued to focus on the expansion of God's work. This would become a case study for him to realize what mattered most. In fact, Ellen White wrote, "I saw that now we should take special care of the health God has

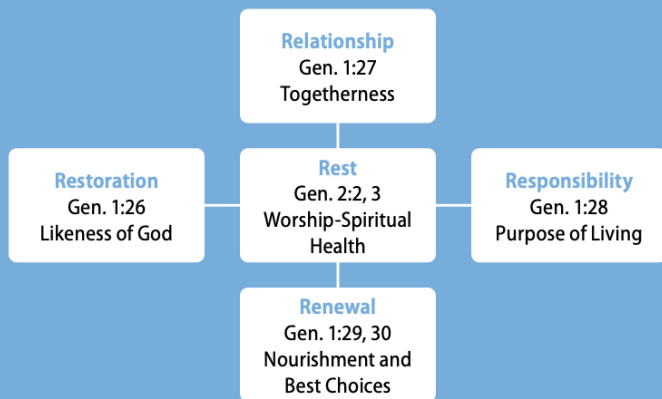


given us, for our work was not yet done"<sup>1</sup>

God intended for us to have life more abundantly (John 10:10) and experience optimal health, including spiritually (3 John 2). If we go back to the Garden of Eden, we find the original lifestyle plan consisting of a plant-based diet, which is trending in the world today. God designed us to experience renewal, restoration, relationship, and take responsibility.

Let us keep sharing the health message that God entrusted us with so we can advance the cause of the everlasting gospel, reveal His character, and hasten His soon return. ■

*Daniel Saugh is a registered psychotherapist and the health ministries co-ordinator for the SDACC.*



# FRESH FAITH

## 35 & UNDER

In 35 words or less, what do you wish you had more time for?

### Social Work in Newfoundland

by Alannah Tjhatra



Sarah-Kay Joseph always had a talent for guidance and leadership. Born in Jamaica, Sarah-Kay moved to Canada at the age of seven. Here, she spent her time as a member of the Scarborough Adventist youth and was involved in Pathfinder ministries. She loved trying new things as a child, a trait that carried over to her adult years.

As Sarah-Kay got older, she enrolled in Burman University, where she became involved in extracurricular clubs, ministries, and sports.

"I was able to meet my husband [at Burman], [make] lifelong friends, and be surrounded by like-minded people," says Sarah-Kay. She kept

busy, graduating with an undergraduate degree in behavioural science. Specifically, she was interested in social service. Sarah-Kay explains she always had a desire to understand human behaviour and apply this understanding to help individuals improve their quality of life. She grew interested in social service after volunteering with the Maskwacis community in Alberta, working at soup kitchens in various provinces, and being involved at Venture Academy, a program for troubled teens.

In 2018, Sarah-Kay and her husband were called to serve in Newfoundland and Labrador. They were warmly received by the St. John's church and community, soon growing accustomed to the water, landscapes, and friendliness of the province.

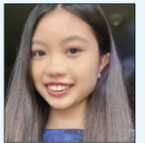
Now Sarah-Kay works as a child- and youth-care worker, where her specialties involve advocacy, mental health, and addictions. She interacts with families and cares for children and youth who have been placed in alternative living arrangements.

Although there are some challenges to overcome in her line of work—compassion fatigue and learning to work with deferring temperaments, for example—Sarah-Kay explains that it has ultimately been a rewarding experience. "It gives me the opportunity to build trust, provide empowerment approaches, and model love, care, and humility to help young people navigate seemingly insurmountable obstacles to attain their goals."

When she's not at work, one may find Sarah-Kay serving alongside her husband in pastoral ministry or taking in Newfoundland's beauty while hiking or kayaking. She also writes for Grace Guided, an online ministry created by God-fearing women, where topics of health, marriage, personal development, and motherhood are explored. As Sarah-Kay continues to follow where God leads, she maintains her passion for reflecting the body of Christ in serving others and helping them reach their full potential. ■

#### Caralynn Chan

I wish I had more time to read my Bible, to interact with other individuals outside of class, and more time to de-stress from school.

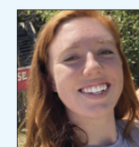
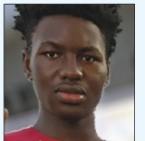


#### Elianna Fisher

I wish I had more time to learn stuff that I could specifically choose to learn—maybe specialize in random topics.

#### Malachi Petittos

I wish I had more time for accomplishing my personal goals and making others around me happy.



#### Siobhan Conyne

Anything creative. Painting, drawing, writing. Pursuits I used to be into and no longer have time for.

#### Callan Lewis-Balfour

I would prefer to have more time doing things that I enjoy.



#### Erica Shin

I wish I had more time to relax. In college, there's always something going on—whether it be school, events, or church—so having time to unwind without missing anything would be nice.





# Ask Me Anything

**Q:** Is everything in the Bible important to me?

**A:** The Bible is more than a story book or a historical narration. The Bible is the living, breathing, applicable word of God. Because of this, everything that is written has purpose and reveals to us a clear picture of who God is.

The Bible is organized into 66 books and divided into two sections, the Old and New Testament. The 27 books of the New Testament were written after the death of Jesus. The Old Testament contains stories from the beginning of Creation and chronicles all the adventures and experiences of some of the early followers of God.

Romans 15:4 says, “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope” (NIV). The Old Testament is filled with accounts of the nation of Israel’s shortcomings and their subsequent recommitment of themselves to God, and eventual exile. The Old Testament also chronicles the patriarchs and prophets who often came from humble beginnings but who, nevertheless, through courage and faith, did phenomenal things in God’s name. Yet it also chronicles how many struggled and repented and renewed their faith with God, such as David, Moses, Joshua, Esther, Isaiah, Elijah, Elisha, Ruth, Noah, Jonah,

and Samson. All these amazing life stories are inspiring and remind us how God seeks to journey through life with us.

The Bible was written by 40 writers over a period of nearly 1,600 years. Scripture is *inspired*, which means “God breathed.”<sup>1</sup> It guides us to truth, so we are not led astray. These writers prepared their materials, writing in the language of their day. God inspired their minds and thoughts. God inspired these scriptures to reveal His character—what He is like—in the context of how we see Him act in the lives of others and through what He says about Himself through Jesus and His life, which communicates comfort and hope.

We need to be focused and diligent to study the Bible. This gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to speak directly to us and lead. As Paul mentored his beloved Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right” (NLT). ■

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



# Growing Up

# Millennial



*"Who doesn't want to read an awesome tale that reflects stories told thousands of years ago?!"*

## Six Books Everyone Should Read in 2022

**S**o, the first thing to note is I love to read and to learn, and I recognize that a lot of people aren't as avid of readers as I am. That being said, if it's the act of sitting down and reading that gets you, you always have the option to consume these books in other ways, such as audio books.

I recognize there are lots of lists on the internet about what books people feel are important to read, and I'll probably share some of those here, but what's included in this list are books that I have personally read that have impacted my growth as a person. Here they are:

- 1** *Shake Hands With the Devil*, by Romeo Dallaire. OK, I know how this looks. Its title seems kind of concerning. It's a non-fiction work about the genocide that occurred in Rwanda and the failure of the entire world to stop it or intervene. It's important to read because of the historical impact that this genocide had, and it serves as a warning for the future too.
- 2** *Les Misérables*, by Victor Hugo. First of all, I know I'm biased, because this is just my favourite book of all time. I love the story, the historical implications, and honestly, more than anything else, it's a fantastic and well-written read that outlines romanticism in the best way possible. This is historical fiction.
- 3** *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, by the Gawain poet (i.e., we don't know who wrote it). This is a book written around the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, and it tells the story of bravery, shame, and courtly love. It's originally written in middle English (so yeah, I don't recommend, but you can find good resources online and translations in modern English!). But it's a great story, not too long,

and with a ton of interesting metaphors that correspond between what a court looked like, how evil interacts with us in the world, and doing what's right or wrong.

**4** *The Body Keeps the Score*, by Bessel van der Kolk. This book is all about how trauma impacts the body and mind, and that it isn't just an experience that one or two people go through. Trauma impacts millions of people and it impacts their happiness, ability to cope, etc. It also goes into different research and therapies that are being done to help trauma survivors.

**5** *Mudbound*, by Hillary Jordan. This is a novel based in the early 1940s that deals with racism, prejudice, and societal rules in the deep South. It made me cry four times because of the impact it had on me. Plus, there's a Netflix movie version.

**6** *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. This book was likely written sometime around 2100 BC, so we don't know who wrote it. What's so cool about it is the fact that it is one of the first written books ever found in the world. Another factor is that around 12<sup>th</sup> century BC the Babylonians wrote the most complete version of it (that we've found), and who doesn't want to read an awesome tale that reflects stories told thousands of years ago?! Also, you'll see lots of ties to Christianity, especially the book of Genesis.

This list is not conclusive, but it's a great start for a variety of genres and topics, and it can definitely impact personal growth and learning. Happy reading! ■

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





# Tech SAVvy

BY SANDY AUDIO VISUAL

## How to Avoid Death by PowerPoint (Part 1 of 2)

*“As the speaker, you are the guest of honour, and people want to feel that you’re speaking to them directly.”*

**H**ave you ever attended a program where you felt overloaded with presentation slides and struggled to stay focused? You may have been a victim of a phenomenon known as “death by PowerPoint.” It’s when a presentation is so overstuffed with text and data that it’s hard to connect with the speaker or the message.

If you design your own presentations, here are a few tips to make sure you don’t become a PowerPoint offender.

### **Contrast text and background colours.**

Using contrast helps people to see text more clearly, especially when they are reading your slide from a distance. If your background is dark, use lighter text. For a light background, use dark text.

### **Avoid too many bullet points.**

When you add too much text to a slide, people become confused about what to do. Their attention is divided between reading all the words, or listening to you speak. A good rule of thumb is to add only four bullet points per slide and each line of text should be six words or less.

### **Don’t read from the slide.**

As the speaker, you are the guest of honour, and people want to feel that you’re speaking to them directly. Otherwise, they may start to wonder why you showed up at all if they could have just read the slides without you. If you must use notes to stay on track, print them out for yourself, but don’t display them all to the audience.

### **Use modern images and graphics.**

If your images are not current, the audience may wonder if your information is outdated too. Be sure to use high-quality, current images of people, places, or brands, unless the image relates to a story that happened a long time ago.

### **Give Scripture its own space.**

Scripture is the most sacred text we read, and it deserves its own space for maximum impact. Avoid adding Bible verses to a slide that has lots of other text on it.

Be sure to read the next issue for Part 2 of this series, where we’ll share more about how to structure effective slide presentations that will help capture the attention of everyone in the room. ■

---

*Antoinette Burrell is a presentation designer and the founder of Burrell Creative. She helps businesses create captivating presentations, and training documentation. For more information, visit [www.burrellcreative.ca](http://www.burrellcreative.ca).*



# You Can Help Save Lives



Photo: © 2022 ADRA | ADRA Romania

Ukraine is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis. Over one million people have fled to escape violence.

On May 14, 2022 please give to the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering to help us respond quickly and save lives to disasters like Ukraine.

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# Prepare, Respond, Recover

Pastor John Scott (far right) with volunteers supporting Ontario wildfire evacuees. Photo credit: ADRA Canada | Rebecca Marcos | 2021

**T**he year 2021 has been eventful. The ongoing pandemic, fires, floods, volcanic eruptions, and violence have caused widespread devastation. But we have also seen and experienced God’s mercy. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the help of our volunteers, we have rescued more than 1.8 million vulnerable people, some in the worst of circumstances, with the help of God’s loving care and compassion. Lives have been saved; others have been transformed.

The year 2021 also began with strict new health measures to quell the rising number of COVID-19 cases. Many countries and regions were confined again, plunging the most vulnerable into significant suffering.

Beginning in 2020, ADRA responded to the pandemic at home and abroad and continued to meet the needs of the most vulnerable throughout 2021. At home, this response has included food security support for families who have lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), and psychosocial support. Many of the churches and local groups that ADRA supported during the first wave of COVID-19 continue to work even as the Omicron variant threatened to cause further disruption across Canada.

Also in 2021, British Columbia experienced one of its worst fire seasons. More than 1,600 fires burned nearly 8,700 square kilometres of land, ravaging property, disrupting livelihoods and forcing the evacuation of thousands of people.

In partnership with the B.C. Conference, local churches and volunteers, ADRA provided shelter, food, and water to

those affected. It also managed in-kind donations on a province-wide basis. But it was the churches that made the difference, reaching out directly to hundreds of disaster victims.

The fires of the summer gave way to the floods of the fall. Surprisingly, some of the people evacuated by the summer fires were forced to move again. Once again, in partnership with the B.C. Conference, ADRA provided support to evacuees through local churches and volunteers.

But British Columbia was not the only province beset by wildfires. While the conference and ADRA were responding to emergencies in the West, another group, led by Pastor John Scott, director of youth ministries at the Ontario Conference, was en route to northern Ontario to support another wildfire evacuation effort. And once again, thanks to ADRA volunteers, the immediate needs of the evacuated members of the Pikangikum First Nation were met.

As we continue through 2022, we have every reason to believe that the same challenges that hit us in 2021 will come up again. Now more than ever, we are called to heed the words “Prepare, prepare, prepare!”

Sabbath, May 14, 2022, is dedicated to ADRA’s Annual Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. All donations will enable ADRA to be ready for the next disaster and respond quickly to save lives. ■

*Peggy Caesar is ADRA Canada’s communication specialist.*





# Oh, To Be Lovesick!

*"Do we know His love for us in our very being? Does it fill our hearts and flow out of us into the hearts of others ...?"*

**H**ow much do you *enjoy* your devotional time?

Is it a time of stress? *I need to get this much read or prayed for and I only have this much time.* Or is the craziness of life burdening you so much that it seems like that's your only focus when you're with Him, and the burden is never really lifted?

I often contemplate the words of the old, familiar hymn:

I come to the garden, alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own...  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known!

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet, the birds hush their singing!  
And the melody that He sings to me  
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him,  
Though the night around me be falling.  
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling...

When was the last time you experienced that with Him?

I spent so much of my life believing that I had to do things for God and that He was watching to see if I'd done enough. I believed that if I didn't do things exactly right, He wouldn't pay any attention to me or my requests. I also thought I needed to beg Him—that if I nagged enough, He'd either be convinced or get tired of listening and do what I wanted in order to get me "off His back." Not a very complimentary picture, was it ... and certainly not what's described in the hymn.

Our picture of God has so much to do with how we experience Him. Are we content to just sit and watch a sunrise together or listen to the birds sing, knowing that those are His special messages to us and He's experiencing them with us?

Do we always come with our list and recite it off, and have nothing of interest to talk with Him about? Do we even bother to ask Him what He'd like to talk about today? Do we take time to listen for His impressions on our heart, or do we just recite the list and leave?

Do we *know* His love for us in our very being? Does it fill our hearts and flow out of us into the hearts of others—particularly those who don't yet know how incredible He is? Is our relationship a real one? Or do we just have lists for each other and believe that those lists are the only things that really matter?

I'm so glad I asked Him to woo me. It has made such a difference! I'm still growing into that love relationship He longs for, but I'm so much farther than I used to be. I hope you ask Him to grow your opinion of and love for Him too! ■

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



# Where Are They Now

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

*Interview by Ken Wiebe, Messenger Staff Writer*

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

**Donauvin Krause:** I was born in Lacombe, Alta. I have four sisters: Anne Tetz, Ardyth Cornforth, Ruby Huether, and Arnetta Reilly. When Anne was in high school, my parents, Frank and Myrtle, moved from the farm at Wimborne, Alta., to Rosedale Valley, located between Lacombe and Canadian Junior College (now Burman University). We were all blessed to have parents who sacrificed so we could receive a Christian education.

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

**D:** Both my elementary and secondary education were completed in College Heights, now part of Lacombe. After high school I entered the two-year education program at Canadian Union College (now Burman University) before transferring to Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) where I earned both a bachelor of business administration and a master's degree in school administration.

A few years later, I enrolled in graduate courses at Andrews University for a few summer sessions before transferring to Loma Linda University to complete a doctorate in leadership and administration.



Donauvin Krause



**M:** *What led you to choose the educational career?*

**D:** I intended to enroll in courses at Canadian Union College, which would transfer to a business administration degree at Walla Walla College. But it was Dr. George Graham who, on registration day, wisely guided me to consider the education program. That, he said, would allow me to teach while I continued to pursue my business courses during summer school sessions. That sounded reasonable, because upon completion I could choose to make either education or business my career. As it turned out, it proved to be an excellent combination.

**M:** *Where and in what capacity have you served in the church's education system?*

**D:** In the Alberta Conference I served as teacher/principal at Stettler, Fairview, Calgary, and Peoria. At Burman University I served as professor, Education Department chair, dean for the Division of Professional Studies, and vice-president for Academic Administration.

In the Upper Columbia Conference, I taught at Rogers Elementary School in College Place, Washington and then served as business administrator at Walla Walla Valley Academy. While in the Southern California Conference, I was associate school superintendent.

When we were in the Northern California Conference, I was the principal at Pacific Union College Academy. My last posting was in the Southeastern California Conference as business administrator for the Loma Linda University Church.

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

**D:** This is a toss-up between working at Burman University during the years Malcom Graham and Victor Fitch served as presidents and working with Randy Roberts, senior pastor at the Loma Linda University Church. Malcom and Victor were both outstanding church leaders. I held them in high esteem. Both seemed to have such a genuine connection with their Lord, and that's what I desired too. It was an honour to work alongside these men of God. In addition, I simply enjoyed my administrative role and the support I received from the faculty and other administrators.

Working at the Loma Linda University Church was such a joy! Randy Roberts and I joined the University Church team in 2000: Randy as senior pastor and I as business administrator. Even though Randy had full responsibility for the church, he was always supportive

of the decisions I made. The working relationship was simply wonderful, and our close friendship continues now even though I have retired.

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

**D:** Renate and I were married in the chapel at Canadian Union College in 1961. We have three children—Brian, Gerald, and Karen. Brian and Gerald have chosen to exercise their skills in the trades industry. Both live near us in central British Columbia. Our daughter, Karen, is a school principal living in Riverside, Calif. We have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

**D:** Even though we maintain a "winter residence" in southern California, our intent upon retiring in 2015 was to spend a couple summers remodelling and landscaping the Salmon Arm, B.C., property we had purchased several years earlier and then sell it. However, there are still a few more improvements to complete.

We enjoy living in Salmon Arm, so our current plans have been modified and we plan to remain here for the time being. Furthermore, we have made many new friends. In addition to our sons living near us, there are other relatives who reside in the area as well as a few of our high school classmates and former students who live nearby, all of whose company we enjoy.

Since retiring we have enjoyed taking two European cruises and visiting New Zealand for six weeks. Because COVID became an issue, I keep active by improving our Salmon Arm property and also serve on various church committees.

Renate continues using her many talents to make the house our home, and she, too, volunteers on several church committees. She is the editor of a local charity's periodic report, writes Burman University articles for the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, and is editor of the *Burman University Magazine*. Renate's profile will be featured in a future issue of the *Messenger*.

We still enjoy travelling and look forward to visiting various parts of this country as well as other countries when COVID is no longer such a concern. In the meantime, the Salmon Arm area is our home, and what a beautiful place to be living! ■



## Lentil Stew

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup (250 ml) green lentils (dry)
- 1 cup (250 ml) chopped onions
- 1 stalk celery, diced (organic if possible)
- 1 carrot, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- ½ cup (125 ml) diced tomatoes
- 3 cups (750 ml) water
- ½ tsp (2 ml) salt
- 1 bay leaf

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a medium saucepan, sauté onions and celery in olive oil for about 5 minutes.
2. Add garlic and sauté another minute.
3. Next, add diced tomatoes, bay leaf, water, and lentils. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and simmer for 25 minutes.
4. Add carrots and simmer another 15 minutes or until lentils and carrots are tender. Add salt and taste for seasonings, adjusting as necessary. For a thinner soup, add a little more water. Top stew with avocado if desired.

*Makes 5 servings (approx. 1 cup per serving).*

### NUTRITIONAL INFO:

Serving Size 260 g  
Calories 164  
Total Fat 6.0 g  
Saturated Fat 0.9 g  
Cholesterol 0 mg  
Sodium 252 mg  
Total Carbs 21.6 g  
Dietary Fibre 8.0 g  
Sugars 2.5 g  
Protein 6.8 g



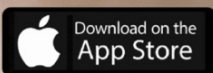
*The late Afa Donkor was a passionate health advocate. The Powerful Plate is available for purchase online at [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com) or by phone at 800/765-6955.*



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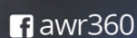
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# RAINMAK



## Refuge for Refugees

“**M**ama Donna!” Little Yasmin shouts gleefully as she runs to greet Donna Rose, her newly adopted grandmother. Yasmin knows there is a delightful treat tucked in Donna’s purse. Yasmin’s mother, Fawzia, happy and grateful for the visit, welcomes Donna fondly. The two women have become good friends since Fawzia and her husband, Diaa, along with their three children, arrived in Kelowna, B.C., from Syria several months ago.

Donna and Dwight Rose are there to deliver a hamper of food and fresh produce to this refugee family who had left behind everything familiar in their quest for a better, safer future in Canada. Donna and Dwight are well-suited for this ministry, given their 17 years of overseas mission in Lebanon and Egypt.<sup>1</sup> In reminiscing, Donna states, “When our three daughters were still quite young, we felt impressed that an overseas experience would give them a sense of mission service among people of a different culture, as well as being an educational experience for them. Since then, they have thanked us many times over for that rich experience.”

For Donna and Dwight, the time spent overseas heightened their own desire to be involved in some kind of outreach back home where they could still use their talents and experience. Several years after their return to Canada, Donna became director of iServe, the community services outreach at the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kelowna. Donna recounts, “In addition to our many and varied iServe outreach projects in the community, we became

aware of the growing number of refugees, mostly Syrian families, who had fled their war-torn country. Because of our interest and familiarity with Middle Eastern culture, we wondered if there might be a way of assisting them as they settled into Canadian culture and society.”

Indeed, God had a plan, and so began iServe’s collaboration with Kelowna Community Resources, which now depends on iServe for help with furniture and household items as these new families arrive. “Amazingly,” says Donna, “the necessary items seem to show up from church members and folks in the community at precisely the time they’re needed! To us this is evidence of God’s blessing on this work. As we look back at our overseas experience, we can see how God was preparing us in little ways to work for Him in this capacity. For example, because of our mission experience, we find we can more easily adapt to those of another culture; as well, our limited knowledge of Arabic enables us to greet these people in their native tongue and to make them feel comfortable in new and unfamiliar surroundings.”

Let’s go back a few years, though, to two of several events that prepared the way for this ministry. “In 2017, a new mosque was built just down the road from the Rutland Church. That provided some wonderful opportunities for reaching out in friendship to these neighbours of ours. As a gift to mark the grand opening, a large framed picture with a quotation in Arabic, including a small engraved plaque that stated this gift was from their friends in the Rutland

Seventh-day Adventist Church, was presented to the leaders in the mosque. The gift was graciously received and hung in their main meeting room. Shortly thereafter, the Rutland Board granted permission for them to use our church parking lot for their overflow attendance on a busy Friday when their weekly meetings were held. These gestures were well received and much appreciated.”

“The Lord your God ... defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing” (Deut. 10:17, 18, NIV). This scripture was one that compelled the members of iServe to reach out with love. And the stories that followed are truly inspiring.

Donna recalls Ammar, Badra, and their six children (now eight!) who arrived in 2018:

“We were able to provide them with a houseful of furniture. Initially, we were just involved in driving them to appointments, and the children to school. No one spoke a word of English, but it wasn’t long before the older children spoke fluently and even began translating for the parents. Over the years our friendship has deepened to the point that they consider us their ‘Canadian family’ and we are included in birthday celebrations and invitations to share delicious Syrian food.

“In fact, at one point they, along with several other families, responded to our invitation to be interviewed for a worship service at the Rutland church. In spite of halting English, they shared with us their experience of fleeing from their home in war-ravaged Syria. Just recently,

# ERS



Dwight and Donna Rose with their young Syrian friend Heba.

Ammar and his brother found a way to sponsor their sister and her family back in Syria through the Mennonite Central Committee. As part of the application process, a team of Canadians had to be part of a Settlement Team to help the family assimilate into Canadian society. It was only natural that they turned to us for help, and we quickly were able to assemble a group of mission-minded individuals in the Rutland church who were willing to help."

Then there's Nader and Keefa and their family of 10 children who arrived in the midst of a harsh Canadian winter. "They, too, were helped with furniture and household items, along with winter clothing. Their determination to learn English and do well in school and to find good jobs has given us reason to be proud of them. They have become very

good friends whom we visit regularly. With 10 children ranging in age from 4 to 18 years, birthday parties seem to crop up often and we've been invited to many! Their eldest son is finishing high school and has simultaneously held down several jobs while studying, enabling him to save enough money to buy a used BMW, which he now uses to deliver for DoorDash. He's quite a go-getter, as they all seem to be!"

Another lovely story is that of Medhat and Dalal. "We helped them when they first arrived, and recently, they were able to sponsor their daughter and her family, including four little girls. Because it was a private sponsorship, they had little outside help, and the parents implored us to assist as we had done for them. Just at that time, we became aware of an elderly woman who was

moving to assisted living, and she had a houseful of lovely furniture to donate to iServe. We filled a U-Haul with everything they needed to set up their new home in Canada. They have thanked us over and over!"

There are so many more heartwarming stories, but in summary, Donna and Dwight agree that "being the hands and feet of Jesus is an exciting and rewarding venture. Each of these families that have been helped are children of God, created in His image. They are our brothers and sisters, and we are obliged to help them without discrimination. That's what Jesus would do!" ■

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*Beverley Edwards-Haines is a nutritionist and farmer in beautiful B.C., who is passionate about sharing God's message of healthy living with the world.*





An employee from the Emergency Situation Inspectorate soothes the crying baby of a family fleeing the conflict from neighbouring Ukraine at the Romanian-Ukrainian border, in Siret, Romania, Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022. Romania, which shares around 600 kilometres (372 miles) of borders with Ukraine to the north, is seeing an influx of refugees from the country as many flee Russia's attacks. (AP Photo/Andreea Alexandru)

# HELPFUL, NOT HELPLESS

BY HEATHER GRBIC

*On Feb. 24, 2022, we watched in horror as brutal conflict erupted throughout Ukraine. As the violence unfolded, our hearts broke for those in Ukraine who lost all security, stability, and safety to the war that—in a moment—changed everything.*

We heard reports of the mounting humanitarian needs, both from within Ukraine and increasingly from the hundreds of thousands of refugees streaming into neighbouring countries for safety. The United Nations estimates that 12 million people within Ukraine will need support and protection. It also estimated that over four million refugees in host countries will also need

assistance.<sup>1</sup>

We saw images and heard testimonies of people sheltering from missiles raining down on Ukrainian towns. Basements and subway stations became bomb shelters. We heard of refugees' harrowing journeys to safety, only to be separated from husbands, fathers, and sons who were banned from leaving the country.<sup>2</sup>

Mariia and her family are one of the

thousands of families who fled to Poland in the early days of the conflict. Mariia, her husband, and their two sons, aged 11 and seven, live in a town outside Kyiv, the capital and most populous city in Ukraine. When the war broke out and deadly shelling began, they grabbed what they could, loaded it into their car, and headed for the Polish border. The road to the border is 620 kilometres and





shouldn't take more than a day to drive. Mariia and her family were on the road for four days, driving through artillery fire. They travelled the last 12 kilometres to the border on foot.

Just when safety and shelter were in sight, Mariia ended up being separated from her husband. Martial law had been enacted in Ukraine, requiring all men between 18 and 60 to remain in Ukraine and fight. Suddenly, Mariia and her sons faced the reality of not knowing when or *if* they would see their husband and father again. They would face the realities and uncertainties of refugee life without his presence and protection.<sup>3</sup>

With a population of 44 million, Mariia's story is one example of the unimaginable trauma, distress, and anguish that the people are enduring. You may be saying, "I want to help. I don't want to sit idle while such suffering is taking place." But from the distance of thousands of kilometres, you may feel powerless to make a difference or bring comfort, relief, and hope to those suffering.

### We Can Do Something

In 1 Samuel 25, Abigail also faced a crisis and may have felt powerless to turn the tide.

David, anointed to be king of Israel, was being hunted as a traitor by Saul, who was driven by a murderous envy. As David fled from sanctuary to sanctuary, he came to Paran. Low on resources, David appealed to Nabal for support and supplies. With a few mocking and selfish words, Nabal denied David the help he needed and plunged his household into danger.

When Abigail heard of her husband's actions, she surely understood their possible consequences. She understood that her husband's life, her home, and even the lives of her servants and herself were in danger. At that time, there were not many options available to women to help avert disaster. But Abigail rejected helplessness. She looked at what was before her and discerned what was hers to do. She saw the needs of David and his men, and she met their needs with generosity and God-given wisdom.<sup>4</sup>

Like Abigail, there is something we can do. We can ask the Lord for discernment and direction. Like Abigail, we can meet the needs that are revealed to us—and in ways that God impresses upon us.

This is what the church and ADRA are doing right now for those affected by the war in Ukraine. ADRA offices the world over are rallying in solidarity and support. ADRA and the church are working in close collaboration to meet the needs before them. In Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Moldova, and even Russia, ADRA and the church serve those in need regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or nationality. That's part of the beauty of believing in Christ: distinctions can melt into the background as we become one with Him. We are each created in God's image, and we are each saved by His unfathomable love and sacrifice. Each one of us is of infinite and eternal value. Knowing and experiencing this spurs us on to show God's love through service to the least of these.



Mariia and her sons received much-needed supplies upon arrival in Poland.  
Photo credit: ADRA Poland

Refugees, mostly women with children, arrive at the border crossing in Medyka, Poland, on Sunday, March 6, 2022. (AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu)

### What Service Looks Like<sup>5</sup>

As hundreds of thousands of refugees, many of whom are women and children, pour over the borders of neighbouring countries, ADRA and the church quickly mobilized to provide support.

In Romania, with ADRA's support, the church immediately offered shelter to 3,000 refugees with all its health and youth centres and church members offering their homes. ADRA Romania perceived the needs for food, hygiene kits for children and adults, additional warm clothes, and more shelter. It also aimed to offer the intangible but profound compassionate service of trauma counselling (also known as psycho-social support) to help refugees process their experiences, grieve, and build on their resilience to continue facing the unknown.

In Hungary, ADRA and the church prepared church facilities and estates to welcome refugee families. They also provided food and necessary non-food items such as mattresses and blankets.

In Slovakia, ADRA built a reception

tent for refugees. In this tent, refugees received help with registration, refreshments, and trauma counselling opportunities.

In Poland, which has received the most refugees at the time of writing this article, assistance was also provided. Mariia and her sons received some of this help at the border in the form of a welcome package. These packages contained much-needed hygiene products and snacks to sustain them as they registered as refugees and decided what to do next. ADRA Poland also offered psychological support through a unique online platform.

These are just a sampling of the initial efforts of the church and ADRA to meet the needs. Plans are ongoing to scale up the response. The needs are enormous. We know that homes must be rebuilt, shattered lives put back together. These things will take time, but it is our hope that by the time this article is published much more will be underway.

Since the Crimean War in 2014, ADRA has been in Ukraine. Over the

years, ADRA supported Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with cash assistance and trauma counselling through various projects. Mothers and children, separated from husbands and fathers who remained behind to protect their homes, received the support they needed while waiting to return home. Children, whose eyes were shadowed by horrifying experiences and worry over loved ones, began to talk again, to engage in the life around them. The elderly and those with no other place to go who remained behind in bombed-out villages and towns received assistance to help pay rent, medical care, and cover the costs of home repairs.

ADRA has been in Ukraine, and ADRA is still there. Building off expertise and experience, ADRA has launched a network-coordinated response to support IDPs within Ukraine and the refugees in host countries. The needs of those affected by this crisis are astounding. ADRA is meeting the greatest needs in this initial ADRA network humanitarian response.



## What We Can Do

You may feel powerless to do much in this, or any, crisis. But we are not helpless. We have been given a task to do, even from our distance of thousands of kilometres. The Bible resounds with God's call to justice, compassion, and love. In Isaiah 1:17, He commands us, "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow" (NIV). Just as Abigail saw the needs before her and met them, we can do something about the suffering we see. We are never powerless to help, to make a difference. "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (Phil. 2:13, NIV).

What, in this case, can we do? Here are three practical suggestions.

We can support through our prayers. Jesus assures us in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (NIV). We know that there is power and comfort in prayer.

We can support through our gifts. During emergencies, you can help ADRA

and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground through your donations—which allow teams in Ukraine and host countries to respond immediately to the specific needs of each community.

We can support through our influence. We can share what ADRA and the church are doing to meet needs with those in our circles. We can engage our families, friends, and co-workers to support this life-saving work. Through our network of people, we can pull together to provide even more support than what we could give on our own.

What a humbling and profound responsibility it is to participate in God's plans of justice, compassion, and love for the people of the world, and right now for the people affected by this crisis. Evil, and the immense suffering it causes in our world, seems to have the upper hand. But the clock is ticking on evil. We know that it will not ultimately win. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Cor. 13:7, 8, NIV). Love

wins. God wins. In the meantime, He has made our mission clear and given us power to do it.

Thank you so much for your compassionate concern and care. Your prayers and various acts of support are touching hearts and saving lives. We invite you to learn more about ADRA's work at [www.adra.ca/ukraine](http://www.adra.ca/ukraine). ■

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*Heather Grbic is a writer for ADRA Canada.*

- 1 "UN Seeks US\$1.7 Billion as Humanitarian Needs Soar in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries," March 1, 2022, UNHCR, <https://bit.ly/3HywsSU>
- 2 Aditi Sangal et al., "February 24 2022 Russia-Ukraine News," Feb. 25, 2022, CNN, <https://cnn.it/3hChAsc>
- 3 Story shared by Piotr Nowacki, country director of ADRA Poland, from a visit to the Polish border.
- 4 Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 667.
- 5 Information in this article is dated to its writing on Feb. 28, 2022. For more up-to-date information, please visit [www.adra.ca/ukraine](http://www.adra.ca/ukraine).

*Just as Abigail saw the needs before her and met them, we can do something about the suffering we see.*

*Photo, right: Refugees from Vinogradnoe village wait in a bus to get to the meeting point, organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Donetsk People's Republic, in Bezmyannoe village, DPR. Ilya Pitalev / Sputnik via AP*





# Ripples

*“A life that is changed by the power of God is then used by God to reach others.”*

**W**hen a rock is thrown into the water, it makes an impact, which then causes ripples. The fascinating thing about ripples is that they can affect something that is quite far from the point of impact. Ripples can teach us a lot about how God works. A life that is changed by the power of God is then used by God to reach others. The effect can be felt as far as the other side of the globe.

For many, the situation around the world currently looks grim. But there is still a work for you and me to do. We may not be able to preach a sermon, but we can share God’s word with others. If God has impacted our lives, we should allow Him to work through us—producing ripples through our words, actions, and gifts.

I am so thankful for the literature that is being shared across Canada by so many church members. Some produce ripples, while others produce waves! Although so many of us were under lockdown, over 200,000 GLOW tracts were shared across our provinces last year. This has led to many of the emails and phone calls we receive every week. Praise God for that!

As for recent highlights, at the start of 2022, we received 7000 *Signs of Hope* books to share throughout our different programs. Thousands of these books have already been shared—many distributed by church members at large events.

I recently received a call from a woman who found a GLOW tract titled, “Why I Go to Church on Saturday.” She was excited to discover this truth and asked that someone study the Bible with her. We were more than happy to get her started in learning about God and His blessing of true rest.

The week before that, a retired church elder and I were conversing, and the elder mentioned he would be willing to study the Bible with someone. It just so

happened that I had received a card from Melanie.<sup>1</sup> She had received a book from our *Power of Hope* Facebook campaign. Unlike most people who request Bible studies to be online or by correspondence, she wanted them by phone. I was able to connect the two, and they started to study the Bible, even though they lived in different provinces! She was very thankful and asked if her sister could join! The Bible study went from two to three. (Actually four, as we must acknowledge God’s presence!)

Last week we responded to a gentleman who not only requested a copy of *The Great Controversy* but is also asking to study the Bible. And then, there is Shirley who also responded from a book received through our *Power of Hope* Facebook ads, requesting someone to come to her home and pray with her.

These are just a few examples of how God is working through the literature shared by you and me. We are told, “In the miracle of feeding the multitude with a few loaves and fishes, the food was increased as it passed from Christ to those who accepted it. Thus it will be in the distribution of our publications.”<sup>2</sup>

So let’s produce ripples for God. Together, we can work to make a difference in thousands of lives while there is still time. ■

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

<sup>1</sup> All names have been changed.

<sup>2</sup> Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1953), 151.





## A Part of the Family

**I am proud** to be part of the Adventist school system because I have seen how lives have been changed. Here is just one of many stories.

Edward is already in Grade 5 at Greaves Adventist Academy–Sartigan Campus. But we still remember the day his parents first came to visit our school. They were not very sure that our school, in the basement of the Adventist church, would be able to respond to his needs. Edward had been attending another private school in the region, but he had become anxious and stressed. His parents noticed that he had lost any motivation to go to school and discovered that their son was being bullied. Edward felt he was not good enough. He was constantly saying he had a stomachache or a headache. He was not the joyful child he used to be.

Almost four years have gone by since that first visit and the decision those parents made to send Edward to Sartigan. Now Edward's parents constantly thank our school for what it has done for their son. He enjoys coming to school to learn new things, being with his friends, and sharing with the younger students what he already knows.

It had not been easy for Edward at first. For the first month, he spent the least time he could at school. He even asked his mother to take him home for lunch and he left school as soon as classes finished. All this changed when the other students asked him to join their games, especially soccer. Edward began to feel that he was part of the Sartigan family. Soon he asked his mom not to come for him at lunch time. Then he learned to pray for the food. It did not take him long to start praying at home.

Edward became more and more interested in knowing about

Jesus. He asked his best friend at school to teach him more about the Bible. He wanted to know who God was and had many questions about spiritual things. The older he grew, the more he participated in the spiritual activities at school. This year he preached during the week of prayer. His parents were present and told us how proud they were of their son.

But the story doesn't end there. Edward has a sister, Élizabetha, who now attends our school because of the impact it has had on Edward. Élizabetha is in Grade 2.

Our school is blessed to have this family as part of our school family. These parents not only give their time to participate in school activities but also support the school financially. In a letter addressed to the Ministry of Education, Edward's parents state, "This school has changed the lives of our children. Personalized quality teaching characterized by the teaching of essential values and the development of autonomy are only a few words that describe this school. Educating our children is fundamental for us, and this Adventist school is the answer to anybody's needs."

*Yes, I am proud, and thankful, to know that as part of the Adventist family, I can also play a part in the lives of many students. I thank God for these opportunities and praise Him that many of these students, like Edward and Élizabetha, will in turn share the message of Jesus' love with their own families. ■*

Luz Ahumada is the head teacher at Greaves Adventist Academy–Sartigan Campus.

# Supporting an Occupational Therapist's Dream



**Daril Mbewa recently received a higher diploma in community-based rehabilitation from a college in Nairobi, Kenya.**



**Registered occupational therapist Daril Mbewa treats a small child as part of his health-care services in western Kenya.**

In a photo taken in December 2021, Daril Mbewa smiles as he clasps on to his latest educational achievement, rolled and bound with gold ribbon. The 32-year-old married father of four received his higher diploma in community-based rehabilitation during graduation ceremonies at Kenya Medical Training College in Nairobi.

It was a proud moment, not only for him and his family, but for A Better World Canada (ABW) too. After seeing his dedicated work to help patients at Kendu Adventist Hospital and elsewhere, ABW decided to support his goals for a higher level of education. After all, ABW aims to bring sustainable change in Kenya through staff development and training. With an investment of about CA\$2,000, Mbewa was able to pay his school and accommodation fees.

"I cannot explain how thankful my heart is to God and to ABW," said the registered occupational therapist, "because they have empowered me to move from a diploma to another level of learning, which has been my dream of continuing to press on."

To earn this higher diploma, Mbewa researched the daily challenges that caregivers face in looking after individuals with disabilities. He discovered they faced a lot of similar difficulties as those they care for, including financial. His ultimate goal is to obtain a doctorate in the field of occupational therapy and to see rehabilitation improve and be accessible for all.

Karen Leung, rehabilitation services co-ordinator for ABW, said they are keen to see staff flourish like Mbewa. "He's done a lot in building up the therapy services at the hospital and he partners with ABW therapists a lot," said Leung. "We keep in touch with him quite regularly." Part of ABW's vision is to

build facilities, but also to empower health professionals in their field, she added.

Mbewa's one-year program was online, so he could stay home in Western Kenya for his courses. He already held a diploma in occupational therapy.

The college recently started this higher diploma within its occupational therapy department. "It's almost like doing a master's degree here," said Leung, referring to the higher diploma program. "It's our way of supporting our partners, so they can upgrade and have more skills in their area of interest, and help them to achieve their professional goals."

Leung described Mbewa as someone who has been so faithful and efficient in helping with ABW's programs, plus he's well-respected by his patients and in the community-at-large. "We wanted to see him taking those skills higher."

Mbewa said he has "wider thinking and reasoning in the rehabilitation field" from his recent education. He was recently appointed as head of the hospital's rehabilitation department.

ABW hopes that by sponsoring individuals such as Mbewa, they too will stay committed to all that the organization is doing. It's also a big win for the community.

"They become the specialists in the community and you're helping them build up their skills and what they can offer in their communities," Leung said.

An occupational therapist in Narok, Kenya, is now taking the same higher diploma with ABW's financial support. ■

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



# Construction Tech Class Designs and Adds Needed Building to Campus

When asked about the unique programs Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) has to offer, recently appointed principal Mike Willing speaks with palpable enthusiasm. He has several reasons to be so cheerful—the welding, construction, agriculture, and after-school sports programs are all highly popular with students. The skills they develop as a result are practical and multifaceted. A case in point: the new Agri-Barn that stands between the main high school building and the newly enlarged school garden. The hybrid greenhouse/shed/barn was designed by the Construction Tech class using computer drafting technology and stands at the framed stage.

The 12-by-20-foot Agri-Barn links hands-on building and technology skills with another class—Gardening—and a vision for an expanding agriculture program at the school. “Of course, we have struggled in the last year due to COVID,” says Mike, referring to mandated online-only instruction periods, “but nevertheless, we are very excited to put some of those good skills to use, and our students are excited to help out with some of our major on-campus projects that tie different aspects of what we do together.”

Each year, students and faculty have come together to grow an on-campus garden as part of MANS’s agricultural program. With a formal Gardening class now a regular academic option, a place to store gardening tools and to start seedling vegetables became crucial. The answer was to design a building that could accommodate a greenhouse section, tool storage, as well as livestock, which Mike sees as part of the future of MANS’s agricultural program.

The construction class students were enthusiastic about being part of the campus expansion. As a bonus, they learned how to mill their own lumber for the project, bringing the cost of the building way down.

“We’ve gone out and received donations of reclaimed trees, and we brought them in, cut them up using an Alaskan Mill chainsaw, and we stacked them up,” says Mike. “Given current lumber prices, we have about \$5,000 worth of wood that we’ve been able to accumulate this year—enough to support our woodworking and construction projects for the next three or four years.”

Additional funds from the Ptarmigan Foundation allowed staff to purchase all the materials necessary to frame the structure. Time on campus being short due to COVID, construction was paused at the frame stage, and volunteers from Seniors in Action for God with Excellence (SAGE), an Alberta Conference volunteer ministry, painted the exterior in August to protect it from the elements.



Principal Mike Willing, who began the Agri-Barn as MANS’s construction technology teacher last spring (*far right*), stands inside MANS’s newest structure this past fall with some experienced construction students and some new enrollees who are looking forward to finishing the job this spring.

With help from students of the second-semester Construction Technology class, the Agri-Barn should be complete by the end of the school year. Just talking about it brings an infectious smile to Mike’s face. He is especially thrilled that a growing number of female students have expressed interest in learning construction. Young women form half of the filled-to-capacity second-semester class. Mike sees this as a sign of a more diverse, equitable future in a traditionally male-dominated field.

The Agri-Barn exemplifies the type of project Mike hopes to see more of in the school’s future. This student-designed addition to the campus will help buttress the MANS agricultural program while building important skills and supports for the students, and an expanded vision of what they can accomplish. ■

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

See students in action in “The Construction Tech Experience” video at [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca).



# Jesus Has Our Back Before We Think We Need Him

“It was a normal morning. The kids were jumping on our bed,” Tammy Hebert recalls, “so when I walked into Kienan’s bedroom and couldn’t find him, I checked every place in the house I thought a three-year-old would hide. My heart started racing; we couldn’t find him anywhere.”

“Within a few hours, thousands of people were involved: police dogs, helicopters, and experts in child kidnapping cases—who admitted to us the brutal reality that it is virtually unheard of for a child to be returned to his parents unharmed,” Paul Hebert remembers. “So, we prayed and watched God do the impossible.”

Tammy confesses, “Although I was filled with lots of emotions, I hoped for a miracle.”

Three-year-old Kienan, one of Paul and Tammy Hebert’s eight children, was abducted from their home in Sparwood, B.C., and on the fourth day after the kidnapping, when his father went on national television requesting the kidnapper return their son to a safe place, within hours they found Kienan in their house, curled up in his blanket on the living room floor—calm, unharmed, and happy to be home.

Later, Paul Hebert sat down with the kidnapper and forgave him.

What was that conversation like, and how had God been preparing Paul and Tammy to deal with this crime in a way that caught the attention of people around the world?

Looking back to the years prior to the kidnapping, Paul remembers, “I was a tough guy, in the Canadian Armed Forces, and I didn’t need anybody, but when Tammy and I separated, I was in a pretty dark place. I was addicted to alcohol and pain medication. My family and friends were upset with me, but I found that when nobody was there, God was there for me. I knew He loved me regardless of who I was; it was either Him or suicide. I had nothing to live for: the world never gave me anything; it just took everything away. In the meantime, Tammy found God, and she was baptized and was praying for me during our separation. I’m a stubborn man, so it



Hear Tammy and Paul Hebert’s tale of how God protected their son, Kienan, on *It Is Written Canada*.

took a long time for God to chisel through the rock to get to a soft heart.”

“Caleb, Kienan’s older brother, was born with half a heart, and we saw God perform a miracle at that time,” Tammy expounds, “so our faith grew, and that prepared us to depend on God when Kienan was kidnapped. We surrendered everything, trusting God to work another miracle if that was His will.”

“So we prayed for the search and rescue teams, that Kienan would be found unharmed, and for the kidnapper to be convicted that what he was doing was wrong,” Paul recalls.

“When we found Kienan alive and unharmed in the house, we just melted,” Tammy says, weeping. “My legs were like Jell-O, and I grabbed Kienan and wouldn’t let him go.”

“My heart was racing when I went to meet with the kidnapper,” Paul acknowledges, “so I prayed with an

RCMP officer. And when I walked into that tiny interrogation room, a calm came over me, and I was able to forgive [the kidnapper]. Our questions and prayers were answered. All the officers were choking back tears as they sensed the divine presence. It was so beautiful!”

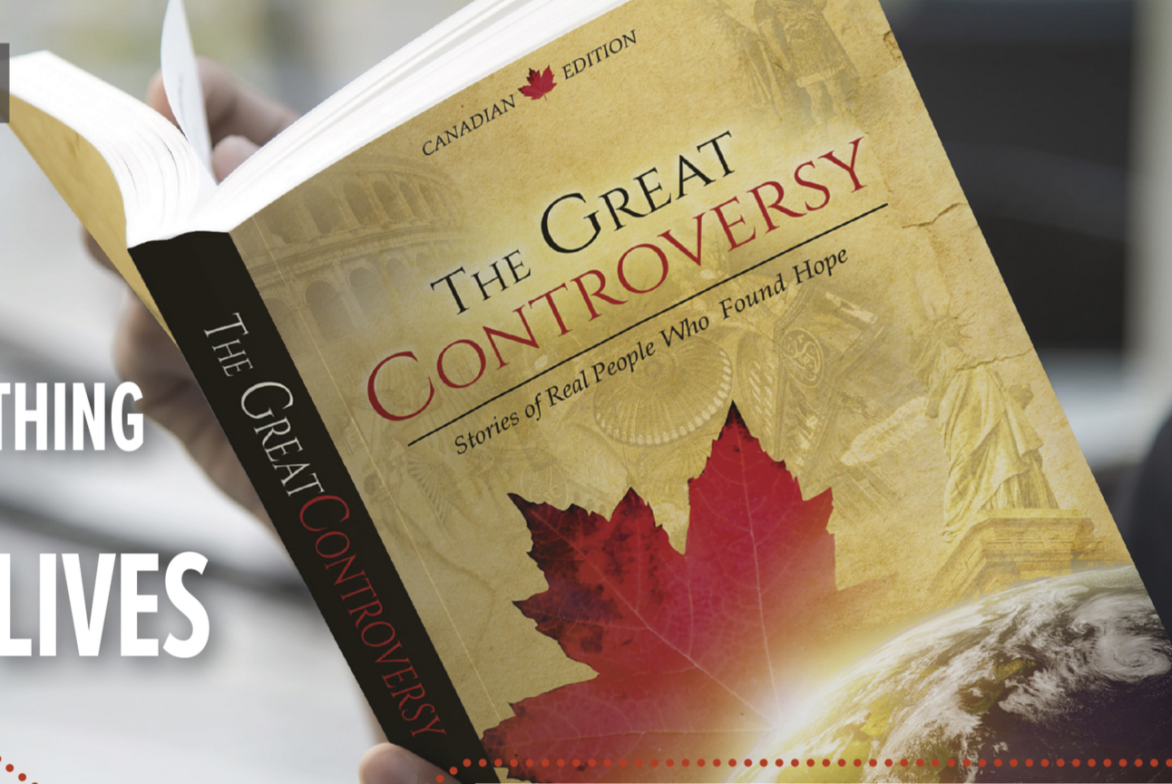
You can watch Paul, Tammy, and Kienan’s entire story and how their “Servant’s Heart Initiative” is giving hope to hundreds of people. Simply go to [itiswrittencanada.ca](http://itiswrittencanada.ca) or *It Is Written Canada*’s YouTube channel and click on the program titled, “Jesus Has Our Back Before We Think We Need Him.” ■

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





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*“The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth’s history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written.”*

Colporteur Ministry, p. 127

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# Faith Is the Victory: Choosing God in the Face of Persecution

**S**arah Thomson<sup>1</sup> tapped her freshly polished black shoes against the cement ground as she forced her mind to resight the lines again. The seams of her white kameez (shirt) paired with a black dupatta (scarf) lined with white lace were freshly pressed for the occasion. Her sweaty palms created permanent creases in the paper as she desperately tried to steady the script. Once she welcomed everyone to the school and introduced herself, she would be able to return to a state of calm.

Around 200 students sat in straight lines on the rooftop just 10 metres away, fidgeting in their seats in anticipation. Sarah just needed to count to 60 three times, as the assembly began at 8 a.m. sharp. The 13-year-old straightened her shoulders and forced a smile as she watched a classmate approaching her. The classmate wore her hair in a tight ponytail to match her intimidating personality. She confronted Sarah, criticized her harshly for her Christian faith, and said she would personally remove Sarah from the class presentation. She continued to insult Sarah's religion until Sarah complied.

"I tried to stay strong, but I still care a little bit," says Sarah. "Sometimes I wished I was not Christian."

At 13 years old, Sarah learned that her religion would always differentiate her from her classmates.

Sarah grew up in South Asia in a country where most of the population identify as Muslim and less than 1 percent are Seventh-day Adventist. Her family clung firmly to their faith and attended church each Saturday despite being in the minority.

"My siblings and I were the only non-Islamic people at our school," says Sarah. "Some teachers and students

respected our religion, but many did not."

Sarah recalled unwanted encounters with the teacher who taught her Islam religion class. Every time Sarah saw the teacher approaching, she would immediately suck in her breath in anticipation. Using her right hand, she would give a quick wave and a smile hoping to receive a similar response. In return she was always greeted with the same sneer and look of disapproval. As she continued to walk down the halls, Sarah tried to ignore the students taking a step back as she approached; Christianity seemed to be a contagious disease.

"My Islamia teacher did not like me no matter what I did because I was a Christian," says Sarah in a low voice. "She used to tell students to stay away from me."

Sarah was constantly bullied for her faith. Girls from her school would call her unholy and inappropriate because she dressed differently. Other students would omit her from games and call her religion garbage. Sarah struggled to build a foundation for her beliefs.

"The most challenging part was not being able to practise my own faith peacefully or safely," says Sarah.

However, she was not alone; Christians in certain areas of the world have become a target for discrimination and violence.<sup>2</sup>

At 13 years old, Sarah learned to put her trust in God.

One day she found herself surrounded by smoke. She could barely breathe. Her legs propelled her body forward as her mind staggered behind trying to make sense of it all. The time was 9 p.m.

"I heard someone yelling, 'The Thomsons' house is on fire!'" says Sarah. "My mom went downstairs to see one of the rooms fully engulfed in flames."



1 Name changed to protect privacy.

2 "The 50 Countries Where It's Most Dangerous to Follow Jesus in 2021," *Christianity Today*, Jan. 13, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3HsGIS4>.

Sarah's father placed a reassuring hand on her back and led her through the front door, followed by her mother and siblings. It was no longer safe to stay inside. The smoke just kept growing thicker by the second. The kids on the street gathered around and clapped in applause as the smoke rose high into the sky. Sarah tried to stop them, but they just laughed in her face. It felt like hours before the firefighters finally arrived on the scene. Her mind kept repeating the same question over and over again: *What is happening?*

Thankfully no one was seriously injured in the fire, and only one room of the house suffered significant damage.

"I am so thankful that God protected and provided for us," says Sarah. "People in our area were willing to open their houses to us while ours got repaired."

The Thomson family does not know who was responsible for starting the fire. And what's worse, shortly after the attack, they started receiving threat letters in the mail.

"The letters would say, 'The fire was just a teaser,' 'We know where your kids go to school,' 'Something bad is going to happen to you,'" says Sarah.

Her parents decided it was no longer safe for their family to remain in their country and started contacting people abroad in search of a place to stay. Soon her father received an invitation to stay at a house in Canada, where he worked and started the immigration process. But the process was long. Sarah lived without her father for five years.

"I cherish my family. It was hard living away from my father, especially with everything that was going

on," says Sarah. "There were times when we had to stay locked in our house."

Sarah and her family found the strength to persevere. Each Friday evening they looked forward to a visit from their church pastor, who would worship and pray with them. They continued their weekly worship sessions until the day Sarah's mother and siblings were finally able to fly to Canada and reunite with her father.

In Canada the Thomson family became members of a Seventh-day Adventist church, and in 2017 Sarah decided to get baptized. The following year Sarah attended a Seventh-day Adventist high school in Ontario. There she was able to freely learn about God and profess her faith. At 15 years old, Sarah learned to love Jesus.

Looking back on her experiences, Sarah says there's nothing she would change. She is thankful for all the good and bad in her life.


"Even though what happened to me was horrible, I knew there was a God who was listening to my prayers," says Sarah. "As people always say, God has a plan."

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11, NIV).

Today as a young adult, Sarah is learning to lean on God for direction and support regardless of what lies ahead. ■

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*Clesha Felicien is a member of the College Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oshawa, Ont., and a journalism student at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ont.*



*"I heard someone yelling, 'The Thomsons' house is on fire!' My mom went downstairs to see one of the rooms fully engulfed in flames."*

# That's All There Is

On Christmas Day in 1979, Balwant Mann, his parents, and his younger brother arrived in Canada to be greeted by his older sister, who had sponsored them. Balwant was unbaptized when he arrived, but the religion and traditions of his family had ingrained three principles into his heart and mind: honest living, sharing with others, and a focus on God.

In 1981, he married Rajinder Brar. Their families knew each other well. Over the years, they raised four children: a daughter, Preeti; a son, Kavan; and then two more daughters, Sandeep and Nishi.

Also from Punjab, Rajinder had been educated in England before coming to Canada to marry Balwant. There came a time when finding answers to her questions became a passionate pursuit. She began to find those answers in the Bible. The stories she read reminded her of stories she had heard during her religious studies in school. Now she had more questions.

"People would come to our door to talk to us about God," she said. "I would always ask them to tell me what they knew about the Sabbath. I wanted to find people who kept it." However, no one seemed to be able to add to what she already knew. She continued to pray for answers because she wanted to know more about God; she wanted to honour Him.

Then one day a pamphlet advertising a seminar to be held in her city came to their door. It said that it would answer every question from the Bible. She went gladly. Among the truths she discovered was *who* kept the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment. Now she had even more questions! She started to go to church. She studied. Soon she was baptized as a member of the New Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church in British Columbia.

A few years later, another seminar was being offered by the same church. This time Rajinder was volunteering during the seminar and invited Balwant to attend. He went with her.

"My wife is very intelligent," he said. "I saw no reason to oppose her searching for answers, her attending church, her baptism. When I went to that seminar, I understood her motivation. I wanted to learn more too."

Two main truths captivated his attention. Growing up, Balwant was taught that there was one God who was responsible for both the good and the bad that happens to us in life. In contrast, the seminar introduced him to the involvement and influence of Satan. Now he could see that it was Satan who influenced us to do bad things, and that God was our protector.

Balwant is not an angry person by nature, but from the time he was a child, there *was* an area of his life that contained anger and, when provoked, would cause him to instantly contemplate revenge. He found it difficult to understand why anyone would do or say something that hurt him. He took things personally and, when triggered, he would immediately think of revenge without knowing why someone acted toward him the way they did.

When Balwant Mann became a new creation in Christ, his old way of being provoked to anger and thoughts of revenge disappeared. From that day to this, when something similar happens, he stops to think. He looks for reasons why someone would act that way. "We're here to help each other," he said, "not hurt each other."

As the owner of a landscaping company that worked each Saturday, he faced a challenge. He wanted





Balwant and Rajinder Mann

*“Would you want to be in heaven if Jesus wasn’t there?”*

to care for his employees, but closing the company on Sabbaths would reduce their income. He prayed about it. When he told his employees the company would be closed on Saturday, they were happy; now they would have more time with their families. God answered his prayer in an unexpected way.

Balwant always knew that God created, but he didn’t know that God had created humankind, that God had created him. He found the Creation story in the pages of the Bible. When asked why he believed the story, he said, “When we talk to each other, we generally tell the best things about ourselves, but the Bible tells the good and the bad. In my mind, that gives it credibility. The Creation story tells me where I come from, and I’m blessed to know it.”

Balwant and Rajinder believe that God gave them new hearts just as He said He would in Ezekiel 36:26, 27: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (NIV).

When the Manns moved to Vancouver in 2007, they began to attend the Oakridge Adventist Church. Pastor Rhoda Klein Miller knows about the goodness of their hearts. “While I wasn’t here when they arrived,” she said, “I’ve heard the story of the church’s finances being in the red and Balwant taking the measures needed to stabilize the finances and keep the church in the black. He’s served as treasurer off and on since 2010 and was later ordained an elder. Sometimes finance officers have a reputation for being tight-fisted, but I appreciate how supportive he has been in allocating funds for creative initiatives that benefit our community. Our members

are mostly young professionals and young families, and the financial management coaching he offers is particularly valuable to them. He and his wife, Rajinder, are caring, supportive leaders, involved in a close-knit small group where the couple are parental figures to younger members. I hope and pray every church would have a treasurer as capable, generous, and ministry-minded as he is.”

Rajinder has a new question that she asks now: “Would you want to be in heaven if Jesus wasn’t there?” Not Rajinder. “He is my joy, my peace, my hope,” she said. “He’s my survival kit in a world suffering from the forces of nature, shootings, fires, people dying. I’m often asked why I believe I am in the right place. It’s an easy answer. I prayed and asked and asked what I should do, and God led. I’m still asking and He’s still leading, and I intend for that to be my way of life as long as I live. I can’t imagine heaven without Jesus.” Rajinder has started a WhatsApp group to provide fellowship and Bible studies online.

Balwant and Rajinder, during their separate interviews, both made the same statement: “There isn’t much to my story. In fact, that’s all there is.” When you speak to them it becomes clear that the “all” in their statements flows from their relationship with God who is their All in all.

Thank you, Balwant and Rajinder, for saying that’s all there is. Thank you for reminding us that God is our All in all, too. ■

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*Annie Warner Donnelly is the founder and president of Taking the Next Step Corp. ([www.takingthenextstep.ca](http://www.takingthenextstep.ca)).*

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## Ontario

### Worship that Connects Summit Dispels Myths and Sheds Light on True Worship



Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president



Really Living's praise team

Held Dec. 10–11, 2021, Ontario Conference's Worship That Connects Summit redefined worship, dispelled myths, and facilitated a worship renewal. Its thesis was that true worship is not a weekly event; it's a lifestyle. Moreover, worship is foundational to "Connecting Like Jesus" (Ontario Conference's theme). As Ontario Conference president, Mansfield Edwards, explained, "The God we encounter in worship is the One we take out in service to the community."

The summit was livestreamed from Hamilton's Really Living Centre. It re-examined individual, family, and corporate worship via Friday and Sabbath worship services, a multigenerational panel, testimonies, and workshops. It culminated in the conference's first ordination service since 2019 (see next page for more).

With humour and heart, speaker Joseph Kidder—

professor of pastoral theology and discipleship at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary—corrected myths about worship. Here are his major points:

- God accepts a variety of worship styles because it's not about style but about whether the worship is conducted in a spirit of honour toward God.
- Good worship isn't dependent on the sermon or music.
- We must worship God in spirit and truth.
- Worship is not a spectator event but a life-changing experience.
- Worship is our imperfect response to a perfect, loving God.
- We can worship anywhere—even in the belly of a whale!



He concluded, “Always insist on meeting Jesus [in worship]. If you do, your life, your home, your church, and your community will be changed.”

Following a panel defining worship as a gift, the incredible testimony of Pastor David James (Berea church) and his wife, Kerry-Ann, inspired many. Their world collapsed in 2019, when their two-year-old daughter, Jaina, lost the ability to walk or sit up, Kerry-Ann got into a car accident, and David’s health also deteriorated. Yet through it all, they worshipped God as a family and continued ministering to others. Eventually, Jaina’s and David’s conditions improved, the Jameses found resources for Jaina, and today Jaina can stand and walk short distances thanks to the family’s lifestyle changes. David encouraged viewers, “As we praise, thank, and seek God [in our pain], there’s healing. And it’s a witness to those observing that there is a God.”

Afternoon seminars covered worship lessons from the sanctuary, acceptable vs. unacceptable worship, children’s worship, and worship design. Speaking on worship design, Edwards asserted that praise teams must have a worshipful attitude. That weekend, Really

Living’s praise team could be seen praying before each session.

Member Ingrid Lowe explained the need to be worshipful, as “we’re conductors for people, bringing them to an adoring God.” Thus, their presentation of hymns and contemporary songs was Spirit-filled.

“Beautiful singing. Imagine what heaven will be like,” responded Mich Nanton.

By the end of the summit, several viewers expressed a commitment to worship renewal.

“[Prof. Kidder’s message] reminded me that worship is not about me; it’s all about God. That was huge for me. I was almost at the point of tears,” said Shae Gowdie.

“Thank you, Dr. Kidder! Such an inspiring thought. True worship is recognizing that I am a sinner, but He is a wonderful Saviour,” said Tina Douville.

Blue Ocean concluded, “If God’s church worships Him in spirit and truth, the world will change.” ■

—Christelle Agboka, communication director, Ontario Conference

## Ontario Conference Holds First Ordination Service Since 2019



Ordained pastors and their families

On Dec. 11, 2021, an intimate group of friends, family, and colleagues gathered at Really Living Centre in Hamilton for Ontario Conference’s first ordination since 2019. Bad weather did not prevent them from supporting Pastors Andrew Thomas (Ruth church), R. J. Becbec (then-Scarborough, now Barrie church), Rui Oliveira (Niagara and St. Catharines churches) and Kirk Dunchie (Toronto Central).

Beyond the in-person attendees, thousands of well-wishers tuned in to the livestream on YouTube.

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada administrators Mark Johnson (president) and Paul Llewellyn (executive secretary), and Ontario Conference administrators Mansfield Edwards (president) and Jakov Bibulovic (executive secretary) participated in the service. Several conference directors were also present.



**Pastors' quartet members, Evaldo Vicente, Carl Cunningham, Andrew Thomas, and Francis Douville**

This pandemic-era ordination was unique, marked by elbow bumps, masks, and limited in-person guests. Yet, being surrounded by their closest associates felt personal and special for the ordinands.

Thomas later mentioned the cozier ordination prayer circle as a highlight. “Pastor Paul Llewellyn laid hands on me. He was my high school Bible teacher at Crawford, a year after I’d become Adventist. It was a nice full circle for me.”

Among other highlights, a newly formed pastors’ quartet—consisting of Carl Cunningham, Evaldo Vicente, Francis Douville, and ordinand Thomas as the lead—delighted attendees with their spirited rendition of “Over the Hill Is Home” (Take 6). “A recording of this rendition is a must,” said Pastor Errol Lawrence (Toronto East), to much agreement.

The heart of ordination was a challenging message by Pastor James Black (North American Division prayer ministry co-ordinator) titled “Assignments That Make No Sense.” He noted that as the Lord sent out the 72 disciples in Luke 1:1–3, He warned them that their assignment wouldn’t be easy.

Black then alerted the ordinands to four assignments, in this order: (1) self-care, (2) family, (3) community, and (4) church. First, he warned them not to neglect caring for their temples. Then he reminded them that family is the highest priority. Next, Black shared that pastors are not called to churches but to the surrounding communities. Finally, he underlined that, in Luke 10:17,

the 72 returned with joy from their challenging assignment, and it was only then that God gave them authority (ordination in today’s context).

Finally, Black encouraged the pastors not to despise assignments that made no sense to them but to view them as part of their foundation and testimony. “I want to challenge all four of you and your families. Go out and let God [use you] to make a new Canada. When you take care of self, family, cherish your community and church, there is a reward—your name written in the books of heaven.”

His message inspired everyone in attendance.

“What a charge!” said Georgette Powell.

“What a relevant, powerful word!” said Audrey Milford.

“What a great way to end this worship summit! Congratulations to our newly ordained pastors and their respective families. May the Lord increase your influence, fruitfulness, and authority as you continue serving,” concluded Pastor David James. ■

—Christelle Agboka, communication director, Ontario Conference

**>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of Feb. 28, 2022, there were 371 depositors with a total deposit of \$31,881,134. There were 87 loans with a value of \$28,436,776.

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



## Quebec

# New Executive Secretary and Treasurer for the Quebec Conference



**Marc Bouzy, executive secretary**



**Lucien Stefanescu, treasurer**

The Quebec Conference's Board of Directors voted, during its January 16 meeting, to appoint Pastor Marc Bouzy as the conference's executive secretary.

Currently completing a doctor of ministry degree at Andrews University, Pastor Bouzy has served the Quebec Conference for 28 years as a Bible worker, chaplain, pastor, and education superintendent consecutively. His most recent position placed him at the head of the conference's two school campuses, Greaves and Sartigan, and gave him the opportunity to develop and display his management skills as well as his knowledge of technology.

Bouzy has four children with his wife, Myriam, who has been actively involved in the Shepherdess Ministry of the Quebec Conference.

With his open and analytical mind, Pastor Bouzy reveals himself willing to learn and ready to take his new secretarial responsibilities to heart.

"I thank you for [your] trust in me and [ask] the Lord to equip me beyond expectation, that His name be glorified through my service to the church. Thank you for your continuing payer."

This nomination follows Lucien Stefanescu's appointment as the Quebec Conference treasurer, a

position left vacant for more than a year following the resignation of the previous treasurer, Abiola Arthur, in November 2020. With the help of the SDACC treasurer, Paul Musafili, and the conference accounting team, which received the support of an additional certified accountant, Stefanescu, assisted by the conference president, oversaw the treasury's activities during that time.

Stefanescu has had a passion for mathematics and statistics since his youth. In 2020, he started working on obtaining an MBA, rounding up his current skill set in financial management.

"I thank you for your trust," said Stefanescu. "It is a great challenge, but I am secure in the fact that the One who calls us has the power to grant the appropriate skills to His children, in order for them to fulfill the task before them. If my abilities can better serve the Quebec Conference at the treasury level, I will do it all for God's glory and to accomplish His work."

Please pray for the conference officers as they fulfill these newly assigned positions. May God bless the Quebec Conference! ■

■ **Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

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

**Notice is hereby given** that the 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Constituency Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (**British Columbia Conference**) will be held virtually on Sunday, July 31, 2022, 9:00 a.m. The agenda of the Regular Meeting will include: (1) election of officers for the ensuing term, (2) appointment of the board of directors, (3) appointment of the standing constitution and bylaws committee, and (4) transaction of other business as may properly come before the Regular Session. The Constitution provides for representation from each church within the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) on the basis of 1 (one) delegate for each church without regard for membership, plus 1 (one) additional delegate for each 50 (fifty) church members or major fraction thereof, based on the membership as of Dec. 31, 2021.

*Wesley Torres, President  
Abrick Watson, Vice-President  
for Administration*

■ **Obituaries**

**Dennis Bozak** was born Dec. 31, 1943, in Hudson Bay, Sask., and died Nov. 10, 2021, in Saskatoon, Sask. Dennis faithfully contributed to the mission of the church and bequeathed a portion of his estate to his local church. He was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Annie.

**Ralph William Ellison** was born July 16, 1959, in Stettler, Alta., and died Dec. 7, 2021, in Red Deer, Alta. He served 21 years as a pastor in the Manitoba–Saskatchewan and Alberta Conferences. His passion was evangelism, and he and his wife conducted their own series or teamed up with IIW Canada. As a skilled building contractor, he renovated several churches where he served. Ralph was predeceased by his parents, John and Delores; his stepfather, Daniel Neufeld; brother, Allen; and sister, Linda Ellison. Surviving: spouse, Sharon (née Greenhough); sister, Mary Johnson; and stepsisters, Carolyn Hoffman and Melody Bennink.

**Dola (née Hasso) Farag** was born Sept. 30, 1931, in Baghdad, Iraq, and died Nov. 24, 2021, in Walla Walla, Wash. In 1970, Dola and Wadie moved to Lacombe, Alta., where Wadie served as pastor of College Heights church. In 1979, they moved to Calgary, where Dola taught at Chinook Winds Academy for 20 years. Dola was loved in life and will be cherished in memory. She was predeceased by her parents, Nasif Hasso and Ida Schlegel; spouse, Wadie; son, Wafa. Surviving:

daughter, Wafia (Jeff) Kinne of Walla Walla; brother, Anton Hasso of Oceanside, Calif.; sisters, Ella (Edmond) Haddad of Loma Linda, Calif., and Serena (Sigve) Tonstad of Oslo, Norway; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Brenda (née Kneller) Ilchuk** was born Nov. 29, 1958, in Hamilton, Ont., and died Dec. 16, 2021, in Stoney Creek, Ont. Brenda enjoyed working with the Pathfinders. She loved singing, playing the piano and trumpet. She will be deeply missed by the family she loved so much. Surviving: spouse, Lenard; daughters, Jennifer (Greg) Hewitt of Lacombe, Alta., and Julie Ilchuk of Rossland, B.C.; sisters, Darlene (Ron) Budai of Hamilton, and Marylyn (John) Lungul of Ancaster, Ont.; and three grandchildren.

**Caroline (née Melnechuk) Kiehlbauch** was born Jan. 20, 1925, in Beauvallon, Alta., and died Dec. 20, 2021, in Calgary, Alta. Caroline was a teacher, business owner, and mother. Caroline and Adolf were charter members of the Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church and were very supportive in ministry at this church. Caroline will be missed by family and friends, all looking forward to the second coming of Jesus so that they may see her again. She was predeceased by her spouse, Adolf. Surviving: son, Milton Ross Kiehlbauch of Calgary; daughter, Eldene Colleen (Alexander) Ragenovich of Bozeman, Mont.; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Gordon Kingsfield** was born Jan. 23, 1931, in rural Saskatchewan and died Oct. 24, 2021, in Oliver, B.C. Gordon was healthy and active until the last three months of his life, which were spent in hospital and a care home. He was predeceased by his parents, Fred and Lena; wife, Jean; stepdaughter, Gillian (née Kingsfield) Fisher; a younger brother; and a granddaughter. Surviving: spouse, Mary McCarty; son Rodney; daughter, Kathy (Paul) Chapman of B.C.; and 13 grandchildren.

**Alan Raymond Munson** was born Aug. 27, 1929, in Stoneham, Mass., and died Jan. 20, 2022, in Kelowna, B.C. Alan was a devoted husband and family man. This consummate educator made learning fun and engaging for students from grade school through university. Wilderness survival author, teacher, and mentor, his sense of humour, wit, and ready, cheerful song were signature traits. He was predeceased by his parents, Howard and Muriel; spouse, Lorraine; and brothers, Howard and Harold. Surviving: son, Bryan J. (Ater) of

College Place, Wash.; daughters, Lita Y. (Ernie) Ford of Medford, Ore., Nadine Munson of Kelowna; and Sharla M. (Richard) Visscher of Kelowna; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Lorraine (née Stansal) Munson** was born Aug. 10, 1930, in Saskatoon, Sask., and died Dec. 10, 2021, in West Kelowna, B.C. Loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Lorraine was a compassionate, caring, and dedicated Christian who was always ready to help and support those in her family and church. She loved to participate in special music, especially with her daughters. Lorraine was predeceased by her parents, Orin and Frances Stansal; brother, Clifford R. Stansal; sisters, Verna Rose, Pearl Nickel, Dorothy Smith, Mona May, and Marjorie Morwick. Surviving: spouse, Alan Munson; son, Bryan J. (Ater) of College Place, Wash.; daughters, Lita Y. (Ernie) Ford of Medford, Ore., Nadine Munson of Kelowna; and Sharla M. (Richard) Visscher of Kelowna; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Floyd Penstock** was born March 21, 1929, in Lethbridge, Alta., and died Oct. 8, 2021, in Apopka, Fla. He served his church as a teacher, principal, educational superintendent, missionary, and pastor in Liberia, West Africa. Surviving: spouse, Fern (née Sandness); daughter, Sierra (Charles) Koerting of Kemblesville, Pa.; brother, Herbert of Courtenay, B.C.; and two grandchildren.

**Norma Joyce McGilvray Pierce** was born April 6, 1923, in Swift Current, Sask., and died Feb. 11, 2021, in Abbotsford, B.C. Norma served her church as church treasurer. She also worked for a Christian doctor for many years. She was predeceased by her spouse, Edgar. Surviving: son, Leonard (Joan) of Bozeman, Mont.; daughter, Donna (David) of Abbotsford; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

■ **Tributes**

**Madge Edwards is humbly proud**



to announce that her daughter, Dr. Melanie Edwards, a thoracic surgeon,

■ **Announcements**

**Notice is hereby given** that the 35<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the **Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference** of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held virtually by Zoom on Sunday, April 10, 2022, commencing at 8:30 a.m., CST (Sask.); 9:30 a.m., CDT (Man.); 10:30 a.m., EDT (Ont.).

The session is called for the following purposes: receiving reports, election of officers and departmental directors, election of Board of Directors, amendment of bylaws, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session at that time.

As provided in the current Bylaws, delegates to the session are chosen as follows: one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each thirty-five (35) members or major fraction thereof.

Delegates who are members of the Nominating Committee are asked to meet virtually for all of their meetings as scheduled by the Chair. The final one will be held on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., EDT (Ont.); 8:00 a.m., CST (Sask.); 9:00 a.m., CDT (Man.).

*Manitoba–Saskatchewan  
Conference of the Seventh-day  
Adventist Church*

*Per: Michael Collins, President  
Christine Bergen, Secretary–Treasurer*



has recently been appointed as second vice-president of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. Melanie presently practises at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. She received her MD at Loma Linda University, her general surgery residency at Beth Israel Deaconess/ Harvard, her cardiothoracic surgery residency at St. Louis University, and a fellowship in minimally invasive thoracic surgery at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. I solicit your prayers as she continues to work tirelessly to serve and to help advance the cause of humanity.

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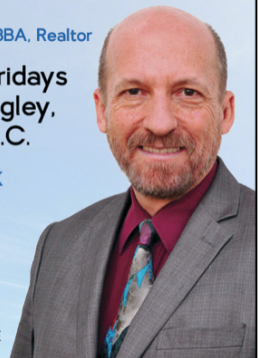
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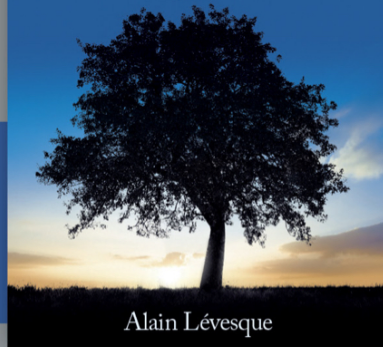
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### APRIL

Local Church Budget .....	April 02
Hope Channel International* .....	April 09
Local Church Budget .....	April 16
Local Conference Advance .....	April 23
Local Church Budget .....	April 30

### MAY

Local Church Budget .....	May 07
Disaster & Famine ADRA Canada* .....	May 14
Local Church Budget .....	May 21
Local Conference Advance .....	May 28

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## Step Back

**D**rawing illustrations from the world of sports and from the military, the Bible declares, “The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong” (Eccl. 9:11, NIV). In other words, just as completing the race is not the privilege of the fleet-footed, winning the battle is not something that only the mighty can accomplish. I know that seems to go against common sense, but those words are not mine, and I wasn’t the one who came up with the concept. Indeed, biblical wisdom often points in a different direction when it comes to dealing with the issues of life.

Let me also draw an illustration from the world of sports. In basketball, there is a technique called the “step back” move. It is used by a player with the ball, when closely guarded by their opponent, to create space for their shot. It is generally performed by a player who is running and dribbling toward the basket and then suddenly but strategically steps away from the basket (and their opponent) to create the necessary separation for the shot. Keywords here are *space* and *separation*.

I believe there is wisdom in the idea of stepping back—pausing, taking a broader look, creating separation, giving yourself some space—before moving forward. Jesus invited His disciples to come away by themselves to a secluded place (Mark 6:31), because they were so busy helping people that they did not even have time to eat.

What about you and I following Jesus’ invitation to step back, to come away? This doesn’t mean becoming cool and distant to the needs of our fellow human beings, by the way. In fact, if there was ever a time when we should be most active and generous with our service to humankind, it is now. But stepping back is a life-saving act as well—to step away from our own emotions, to create the needed space and separation to make spiritually sound and wise decisions.

As I begin this journey as editor of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, I want to honour all my predecessors, as they all have contributed their God-given gifts to make the *Messenger* the effective communication vehicle it is today. In particular, I want to thank Stan Jensen for his invaluable work over the last decade, taking this publication to new heights. Editors do not work in isolation, and I feel privileged to be joining a team of great writers, designers, copy editors, translators, and support staff. These are the people who actually get the job done. We trust that God will provide us with everything necessary to do the work.

Finally, I want to thank you, the reader, for allowing me this space. I look forward to being back in touch with you next month. Until then, let us keep looking up. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evaldo Vicente".

Evaldo Vicente, editor  
vicente.evaldo@adventist.ca

A photograph of a baby crawling on a green mat. A toddler is crawling on the baby's back, wearing a grey t-shirt and yellow pants. The scene is set in a room with a window in the background.

# Plan for the Unplanned

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Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

# Adventist Education Sabbath 2022

*...to inspire in each student a life of faith, wisdom, and service*



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
CHURCH IN CANADA



**ADVENTIST EDUCATION**

Journey to Excellence

FAITH • WISDOM • SERVICE