

Hope for the Cities (p. 10), Learning Self-Love (p. 13),
Coming Home (p. 32), God Rescued Me (p. 36)

may 2022

canadian adventist

Messenger

A Walking Miracle

Doctors Said Canice
John Would Never
Walk Again, But God
Had Other Plans

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Communication Director/Editor Evaldo Vicente
vicente.evaldo@adventist.ca

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

Art Director Aimee Perez
perez.aimee@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Miroslavljev
messenger@adventist.ca

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

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

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Paul Llewellyn
llewellyn.paul@adventist.ca

VP Finance Paul Musafili
musafili.paul@adventist.ca

Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.”

—Dan. 1:8, ESV

Daniel’s Heroic Faith

The Bible contains amazing stories of personal faith in action, stories of encouragement.

Daniel and three others were taken captive to Babylon. To integrate them into the government of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar provided new names, excellent education, and food from the palace—a “good deal” for anyone captive and away from home.

But there was a problem. Daniel and the others were men of faith. Even in far-away Babylon, they recognized the need to stay true to their convictions. The food and drink were a problem, king or no king.

“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself” (Dan. 1:8, ESV).

A small thing. Perhaps no one so far away from home would notice what they ate or drank, but the men from Judah were convicted in their conscience, through the work of the Holy Spirit, that consuming the king’s diet would be incompatible with God’s leading.

Thus, a counterproposal: *Let’s try living our convictions by faith and see how it works out.* A gutsy move ... but also an act that comes from confidence in God. Amazingly, in way less than a month, the young men were better off than all those who had gone along with the king’s program. And so, long ago and far away in a difficult time, courageous men stood for personal principle that they believed was God’s will for them.

Recently, I read through the whole book of Daniel in less than an hour. Throughout his captivity, Daniel was tested time after time on matters of conscience. Every time, God was right there beside him.

Is what I consume important? Is whom I worship important? How do I deal with decrees made by people in power who are far from the true God? What will happen if I spend the night with lions? In every situation Daniel chose God instead of the popular “out.”

Living in faith gave Daniel a witness that has remained relevant all the way to today.

What does a life of faith look like today? ■

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



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www.abwcanada.ca

WHAT'S INSIDE

May 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 Read about a champion of faith who is a certified holistic nutritionist passionate about helping her family and community learn more about God, and her energy is catching!

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FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Q: *What's the Freedom Convoy all about and why does it matter?*

A: This question came in during the height of what came to be known as the “trucker protest.” As I write this response, the police have finished clearing the streets of Ottawa and the government has now rescinded its invocation of the *Emergencies Act*. Despite that, the question is still important.

It is difficult to pinpoint precisely what the Freedom Convoy is about. Like many things, it undoubtedly means different things to different people. However, we can identify with reasonable certainty what sparked the protest: a federal government policy requiring truck drivers crossing the Canadian border to be fully vaccinated. While the U.S. government adopted the same policy (effectively making the Canadian policy moot) the federal government’s refusal to reconsider, even after announcing it would, broke the proverbial camel’s back.

Over the course of many years, individual liberty has increasingly taken a back seat to other concerns. The issues that have been attracting the most attention have to do with equality, social justice, climate change, and, more recently, preventing the spread of COVID-19. With the rise of each of these issues, individual freedom has had to give way, and the protection of personal liberties is sometimes viewed as downright selfish.

The problem with diminishing personal freedoms, including religious liberty, is that it lessens social cohesion. We become acclimatized to not tolerating the wants and desires of others, particularly if these might have some impact on us.

Benjamin Franklin famously once said, “Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Rules have been enacted during the pandemic that have not always been rational or consistent. Pilates classes have been permitted, while church

services have been banned. Exemptions from vaccination mandates have been permitted for medical reasons, but not for legitimate, sincerely held religious objections. These rules have been justified by the need to keep everyone safe.

But as we have discovered, we cannot possibly keep everyone safe. Worse than that, we have undermined our collective desire to tolerate and accommodate our neighbour whose beliefs are peculiar (if not weird). We need not understand the beliefs of our neighbours to respect and protect them. In fact, we may vehemently disagree with the religious beliefs of our neighbours, but we still need to proactively defend their right to hold such beliefs.

I do not understand the necessity of forcing truck drivers to be vaccinated. They do not work in a long-term care facility and are not closely interacting with vulnerable people. They sit alone in a truck. I believe in the importance of vaccination, but I also respect the right of Canadians to be protected from disproportionate government action (even if the policy objective is commendable). What triggered the Freedom Convoy was a questionable government policy that had widespread public support but which robbed a minority of people of their livelihoods. Many Canadians recognized this as a watershed moment, having felt their own freedoms ebbing over the years.

As Christians, we are (and should) be a peculiar people. We know that our own ability to practise Adventism will be impacted. You can disagree with the tactics and actions of those in the Freedom Convoy, but the motivating impulse is one that should make us all take careful note. ■

Kevin Boonstra is a lawyer in British Columbia. Send your religious liberty questions to messenger@adventist.ca.

The Fig Tree

"The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard him say it."—*Mark 11:12–14, NIV*

One morning for our conference office worship time, we considered and discussed the parable of the condemned fig tree found in Mark 11:12–14, which reads as follows:

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. (NIV)

My first reaction to this verse was that perhaps Jesus was a little harsh toward the fig tree. After all, maybe it would produce figs at another time. Upon further reflection and considering the context of the verse, I began to realize that Jesus was taking the opportunity to turn this into an object lesson.

Jesus continued His journey to the temple, and His first act was to drive out those who were carrying on a business within the confines of the temple. Jesus stated that this was to be a place of prayer and not a place of profit.

The Jewish people held the temple in great esteem. It was a place of national pride. But God intended that it be a place of prayer, a place where holiness was sought, a place where God's character could be seen in its worshippers.

Just as the fig tree advertised that it was full of fruit by the abundance of leaves, so the temple by its beautiful facade was advertising that this was a place of prayer where God could be found. But just as the fig tree was devoid of fruit, so, too, was the temple devoid of God's presence—by the

actions of those found there.

This parable has caused me to reflect deeply on its meaning to us as a church and to me personally as a Christian. By calling itself Christian, we as a church are advertising that we are carrying out the will of Jesus in our everyday lives. This means that we should be found doing the things that Jesus has asked us to do. In addition to being a place of prayer, this includes our acts of service such as visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, etc.

This parable extends beyond the things we do to the way we relate to one another. We are asked to be kind to one another, to show love toward one another, and to live our Christianity seven days a week and not restrict it only to times when we come together for church functions. This passage demands of me that I must be a Christian in all my dealings with others. It means that my Christianity must extend to seven days a week. It means I am expected to represent Jesus in the workplace and at the board meeting. It means I must show compassion and kindness to those less fortunate. It means I must give of my time and resources to lesson the burdens of others.

As I spend time with Jesus, may I be transformed into all that He wants me to be. I hope this will be your experience as well. ■

Gary Hodder is president of the Alberta Conference.





Keith and Ngaire Clouten in Sakkara, Egypt.

The Triple Surprise: How the Cloutens Used Planned Giving to Turn an RRSP Into a Scholarship, Gift to Their Conference, and More

(using their payments from a charitable gift annuity to pay the annual insurance premium), the Cloutens were able to multiply their contingencies fund money—their initial investment—three and a half times. At the same time, they receive an annual charitable tax receipt for the annual insurance premium paid by their annuity, which reduces their taxes and increases their refund (*diagram below*).

With more than three times the money available for good, the Cloutens began to dream of helping more than one charity—which they were able to do. When the Alberta Conference, which is the named beneficiary of the policy, receives money from the insurance company, the conference will distribute the funds according to the agreement made between the conference and the Cloutens to a variety of charities, including the conference.

In giving back to their community through the conference, Keith and Ngaire continue to be blessed. And they know that their Planned Gift will help ensure the future of the community and cause that's important to them, right here in their beloved Alberta. ■

SOMETIMES GOD BLESSES in ways that make you feel like you're just the custodian. That's how Keith and Ngaire Clouten felt about the "contingency fund" they never had to use in the 25 years that they headed Boomerang Tours—low-cost excursions for Adventist friends and acquaintances that took them to more than 30 countries.

The Cloutens felt God's hand had shielded them and everyone with them throughout the trips, so when Boomerang Tours wound down they decided to put the contingencies money, which they'd saved as a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, to work for a cause they believed in. The Alberta Conference topped that list.

Born in Australia and New Zealand respectively, Keith and Ngaire arrived in Alberta in 1979 and fell in love with Alberta's Adventist community. It had everything that really mattered to them, including numerous ministries and organizations sponsored by the Alberta Conference. It seemed natural to look for a way to give to God's cause in Alberta, and they invested in a Planned Gift that will benefit the Alberta Conference as well as other charities.

"Why did we make a Planned Gift to the conference? It was because of all the benefits I believe that we as Adventists receive from the Alberta Conference," says Keith, citing Alberta's week-long annual campmeeting as an example—a benefit that's become increasingly rare in the U.S. and Canada.

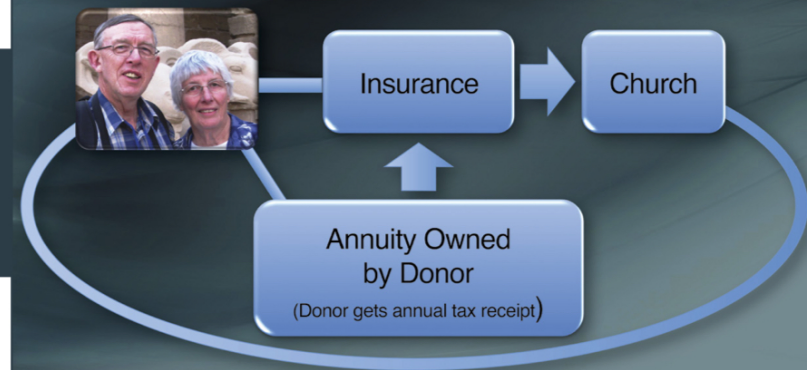
By purchasing and donating a life insurance policy with a fixed amount payout to the Alberta Conference

Reprinted from the September 2018 Canadian Adventist Messenger. Lynn McDowell is director of planned giving/philanthropy for the Alberta Conference. Sarah Wallace assisted in preparing this story.

DID YOU KNOW: Charitable Gift Annuities can yield a return on investment that far outstrips GICs in today's environment, especially for individuals over age 65.

THE CLOUTEN APPROACH

Gift of Life Insurance Funded by Annuity



Working with the Alberta Conference director of planned giving, a certified specialist in planned giving, and a financial planner who specializes in charitable gift tools (not all do) can result in a creative plan that increases what you can do for God's cause.

Creation Corner for Kids

I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

—2 Corinthians 12:10



Sand cat

As night falls on the Sahara Desert, the sand cat begins to wake up. It crawls out of its den and stretches. Its ears twitch and turn as it listens for sounds of movement. Crouching low to the ground, it slinks over the sand as it begins to hunt for something to eat.

The sand cat is the size of a small housecat, but unlike a pampered pet, this little cat is a wildlife success story. It thrives in the harsh desert where temperatures drop below freezing at night and are fiery hot in the daytime. Food is scarce and there's no water around for a drink or a bath. Untroubled by its difficult surroundings, the sand cat simply goes quietly about its business.

Think about it.

Christians should be that way, too. Though our surroundings are polluted by sin, and fiery trials come our way, we can go about our Christian duties without being troubled.

When people are hot and angry, we can stay cool. When others are cold and unfriendly, we can be warm-hearted and kind. No matter how bad things got, Jesus always did His Father's will. In His strength, we can, too.

Do it!

When life is hard, pray and surrender to Jesus. Learn to trust Him.



Pathfinders: Young but Incredible!

For 72 years now, Pathfinder ministry continues to train young people aged 10 to 15 to grow like Christ and be of service to God, His Church, and the community. From the ranks of Pathfinders have come missionaries, evangelists, pastors, teachers, doctors, and other professionals. Surely, "Pathfinding" is one of the best strategies for not only keeping our youth in church but also training them for effective leadership and Christian service.

Not Too Young to Lead

Teenagers and youth of yesteryears like Ellen Harmon and John Loughborough had contributed significantly in the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And youth of today, particularly Pathfinder teens, are no exception; by God's grace, they can also lead and make a big difference in God's work. Thus, the church needs to be intentional in supporting young people to reach their full potential and in providing the opportunity for them to lead today and for years to come.

Not Too Young to Serve

Back in 1879, Luther Warren (14) and Harry Fenner (17) pioneered the Adventist Youth Society. Young as they were, they believed that Jesus was coming soon and were eager to share this good news with other people. Likewise, Pathfinders in this digital generation do not have to wait to grow old in



order to serve. As they hope in Christ's imminent return, and as they are "rightly trained" through Pathfinder ministry, they will grow in faith, be more passionate in serving others, and do incredible things for God's glory. ■

Edwin T. Martin is the Pathfinder ministry liaison for the SDACC.

Pathfinder Camporees to look forward to:

- British Columbia Conference: May 20–23, 2022 | Theme: "Belong"
- Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference: May 20–23, 2022 | Theme: "True North"
- Maritime Conference: June 10–12, 2022 | Theme: "Faithful"
- Quebec Conference: July 28–31, 2022 | Theme: "Believe/Croyez"
- Ontario Conference: August 9–14, 2022 | Theme: "Overcomer"
- International Camporee: August 5–11, 2024, in Gillette, Wyoming | Theme: "Believe the Promise"

Hope for the Cities

The Global Mission Pioneer initiative in India is an initiative that focuses on connecting with local communities by providing answers to life's challenges. Some of the needs that are met within the community are in the areas of health, family counselling, and parental guidance. Our global mission pioneers are actively involved in health expos, door-to-door visitations, and prayer meetings.

One incredible story of God's workmanship through the pioneers is that of Mr. Pratap and Mrs. Sunitha Banerjee. Mr. Banerjee was a staunch Brahmin devotee. During a visit, Global Mission pioneers Risaf and Sandeep came to know about Sunitha's tuberculosis in her bones. Pratap informed the pioneers about the large amounts of money he had spent on her treatment and medicines, none of which were successful. Risaf and Sandeep shared their faith in Christ with the couple, eagerly telling them about the power of healing that only Christ possesses.

The pioneers began praying for Sunitha and visited the Banerjee couple regularly. After a month, Pratap took his wife for an X-ray, and to their incredible surprise, she had been healed! The tuberculosis had completely disappeared from her bones. The couple began trusting in Jesus and have become



strong believers of Christ, attending Sabbath worship regularly. Pratap shares his testimony about his wife's healing. Through him, others are now also attending worship and coming to know and love Christ. ■

Umesh Nag is associate director of the Center for South Asian Religions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



FRESH FAITH

35 & UNDER

In 35 words or less, when do you feel most connected to God?

There Throughout the Ups & Downs

by Alannah Tjhatra



Fred Nahirny's story does not start at a high point. A British Columbia native, Fred grew up in an Adventist home but stopped attending church when his parents divorced. He was 13 and feeling terribly lost. He spent the next decade of his life barreling straight for rock bottom.

"I lived as a prodigal son," says Fred. "I was turning [into an] alcoholic and wasting my youth."

Finally, he decided to turn to God for help. He accepted his father's invitation to attend Dr. Nedley's Depression Recovery Program, and his life was changed. Though he had not yet become a Christian, he was feeling a million times better.

Soon enough, Fred was invited to a seminar on Revelation. Though he initially went only because he knew Francis (who is now his wife) would be there, God had even bigger plans: with some convincing from Francis, Fred soon surrendered his life to God.

One year later, baptized and married, Fred and Francis were called to serve in Prince Rupert, B.C. But Fred began to struggle again. He was having a difficult time balancing his work life with his newfound faith and lifestyle. Here, God provided a mentor and a friend in the form of Abel Sitali, a seasoned pastor and professor of religious studies from Zambia.

"Abel refused to accept my poor excuses for failure," says Fred. "I only saw myself as a high school flunk. ... Abel saw in me unlimited potential."

Times were still hard: Fred lacked transportation, consistent employment, and a support system. His mental health was put at a strain, and by extension, so was his marriage. Fred hit rock bottom again. He was mowing grass on a golf course when he came to his wits' end. It was pouring rain, and his tractor had gotten stuck in the mud. Fred was angry with God, but he also realized he needed to surrender once again. It was only when he accepted this that his life's proverbial tractor became unstuck.

With the help of Abel, Fred signed up to finish high school. He then completed his studies in pastoral ministry at Burman University. He graduated with honours. After two calls, Fred and Francis were guided to Newfoundland. They have now been ministering there for three years.

"It's a challenge," says Fred, "but I'm not worried. God has provided everything for us. We were called for this." ■

Alannah Tjhatra

I feel Him when I'm driving. Nobody else in the car, no music. Just me and Him. It's when I talk to Him here that I most feel we're having a reciprocal conversation.

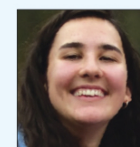
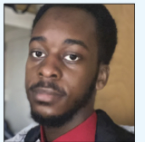


Anna Flores

I feel connected to God through music. The other day I was playing on the piano/singing "King of My Heart." Heavenly music has a way of bringing me to the feet of Jesus.

Caleb Calliste

I feel closest to God when I'm going through a difficult time. It compels me to communicate more with God, allows me to see His hand in my life, which strengthens my faith.

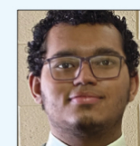
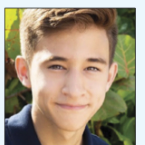


Elena Petrie

I feel closest to God when I am challenged to step out of my comfort zone. In the face of my fear, God reminds me of His faithfulness in protecting, guiding, and teaching.

Luke Drew

Alone in nature is where I find it easiest to know God's presence. I hear Him in the dribbling creek. I feel Him in the soft wind. He walks beside me on the rough paths.



Richard Powell

I feel connected to God and safe when I relinquish authority over my life and allow God to have full control. I feel especially close to God when I pray.





Ask Me Anything

Q: I don't like going to church. Can't I still be a really nice and good person but not go?

A: This is a such a great question that many of us struggle with. Thank you for being brave to ask it.

There are a lot of reasons people attend church. Some do so to grow closer to God, to become a better person, to be part of a faith community, or to find comfort in difficult times. Others attend out of a sense of obligation to please their family or to continue their family's religious traditions.

While all these reasons may be valid, there are also a lot of reasons people *don't* like church. Some people don't feel welcome, don't like the sermons, or don't have friends or peers who attend. They might also sense a difference between what is taught and how believers act, or they might feel that the church isn't involved in the community, engaging with social activism, or showing enough awareness of what is happening in the world.

The first point I will make is this: honour and respect your parents, especially if you are a minor. That is, you receive the benefits of living in the home that your parents provide and benefit from their efforts to clothe, feed, and educate you. It is my belief that while it's understandable for you to dislike attending church, it would do more damage to your relationship to disrespect their desire for you to attend church. They are the people who love you and deeply desire the best things for you.

One of those things in their experience is spirituality and the inclusion of church community.

Second point: attending church is the follow-up step in your process of developing a relationship with God. This means that attending church will be *more* meaningful if you are able to engage with God *outside* of church attendance.

While it may just be easier to disengage, we have the ability—as a part of a church community—to build change. It is up to us to personally commit to being the warm, welcoming person we wish to see. You may even find others who share this sentiment and are willing to join you in creating this change.

My last point is to study what it is you believe. Find persons you trust and relate with inside the faith and then explore the truths within our faith. Oftentimes we *think* we know a lot about our faith when in reality we might be familiar with only aspects of it without understanding the full scope and beauty of our faith and beliefs. Before you give up on church and faith, I encourage you to do your due diligence. I pray for your courage as you seek and for joy in community. ■

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

Growing Up

Millennial



"God's message to 'love your neighbor as you love yourself' assumes you love yourself and engage in self-care as much as you love and care for other people."

Learning Self-Love

In Christianity we learn early on to love others. We hear a lot of "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Mark 12:31, GNT)—a great and well-known message. We *should* love others well. There's no harm in that, and it's the best way to improve the lives of ourselves and others. But in all of this, I think people often forget that to make this verse true and to be able to stand by it, we have to love *ourselves* too. We can't love others the way we're supposed to love ourselves if we don't love ourselves for who we are! This means we need to take care of ourselves and put work into ourselves. We need to engage in self-care and positive self-talk.

But it's common to neglect loving ourselves, to place love for others above love for ourselves, and to try to pour from an empty cup. But the fact of the matter is that we can't properly love other people if we don't first learn to love ourselves.

So how do we even learn to love ourselves? As a Christian I've found this can be a sensitive topic sometimes, but there is a huge difference between narcissism or selfishness and loving oneself. Narcissism and selfishness neglect caring about other people. Loving oneself ensures that you can love who you are, as well as care for others in the same way. God wants us to love ourselves; He wants us to try our best and to continue to learn and develop and grow.

I believe it takes a lot of self-reflection to learn to love ourselves. If we find that we've spent most of our lives not

knowing how to love ourselves—which is more common than it should be—we must start somewhere. Often this requires therapy. A good therapist will help you incorporate your spirituality into therapy so you can learn to build your self-esteem and self-love.

Self-care, self-love, and self-esteem all have the word "self" in them, which I know repels a lot of us Christians because we fear becoming "selfish." But those three words don't create selfishness. Those three words don't mean that you don't love others, or that you put your own well-being ahead of others chronically. The reality is that we need to invest in ourselves to properly love others too. It's important. Without self-love, we can't love others. God's message to "love your neighbor as you love yourself" *assumes* you love yourself and engage in self-care as much as you love and care for other people.

So remember to engage in some self-care today. Do something small, because it is a process that takes time. Spend half an hour today doing something you feel confident doing. Give yourself a compliment. Go for a walk. Spend time in prayer. Because as we learn to love ourselves, we love others better, too. ■

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 2 of 2)

Remember that slides are to enhance the speaker's message, not take over the audience's attention.

This is a continuation of last month's article. If you missed Part 1, look it up in the April 2022 issue of the *Messenger* and have a quick read. You'll find lots of great tips for how to capture your audience's attention.

Here are some additional strategies to help keep your audience engaged while using PowerPoint as a visual aid. Keep in mind that *you*, as the speaker, are the centre of attention. Your presentation should always enhance your message and contain relevant words and images.

Avoid too many graphics. While graphics and photos add interest to your speaking points, too many may become distracting. For each slide, it's better to have one dramatic photo that makes an impact, instead of several small ones. Too many photos may cause your audience to lose focus on your verbal message.

Use consistent colours. Part of what makes big brands memorable is their consistent use of colours and fonts. Think of the signature purple of Welch's grape juice, or the universal red found on first-aid kits. It builds brand recognition and trust. Doing so will add to the professionalism of your content.

Use three fonts or fewer. Similar to using consistent colours, it's important to keep font styles to a minimum. Best practice is to use one type of font for headings and another font for all other text. This makes it easier for your audience to read at a glance. Quick tip: fonts with simple, clean lines are easier to read.

Have a clear structure. Good presentations have a

clear beginning, middle, and end. Structure your presentation so that your audience can easily follow your story. Use big, bold titles for each section. It may be useful to insert an introductory slide for each section, but be sure to use it for a slight pause, not to add unnecessary content.

Don't use too many slides. Remember that slides are to enhance the speaker's message, not take over the audience's attention. A good rule of thumb is to use one slide per five minutes of presentation time. That means a one-hour presentation should be accompanied by 12 slides.

Get your audience involved. Add two or three slides that ask your audience a thought-provoking question. This "wakes them up" and stimulates participation. It's possibly the best way to gauge whether your message is impacting them. As a bonus, you can get feedback on the spot to make improvements for future presentations.

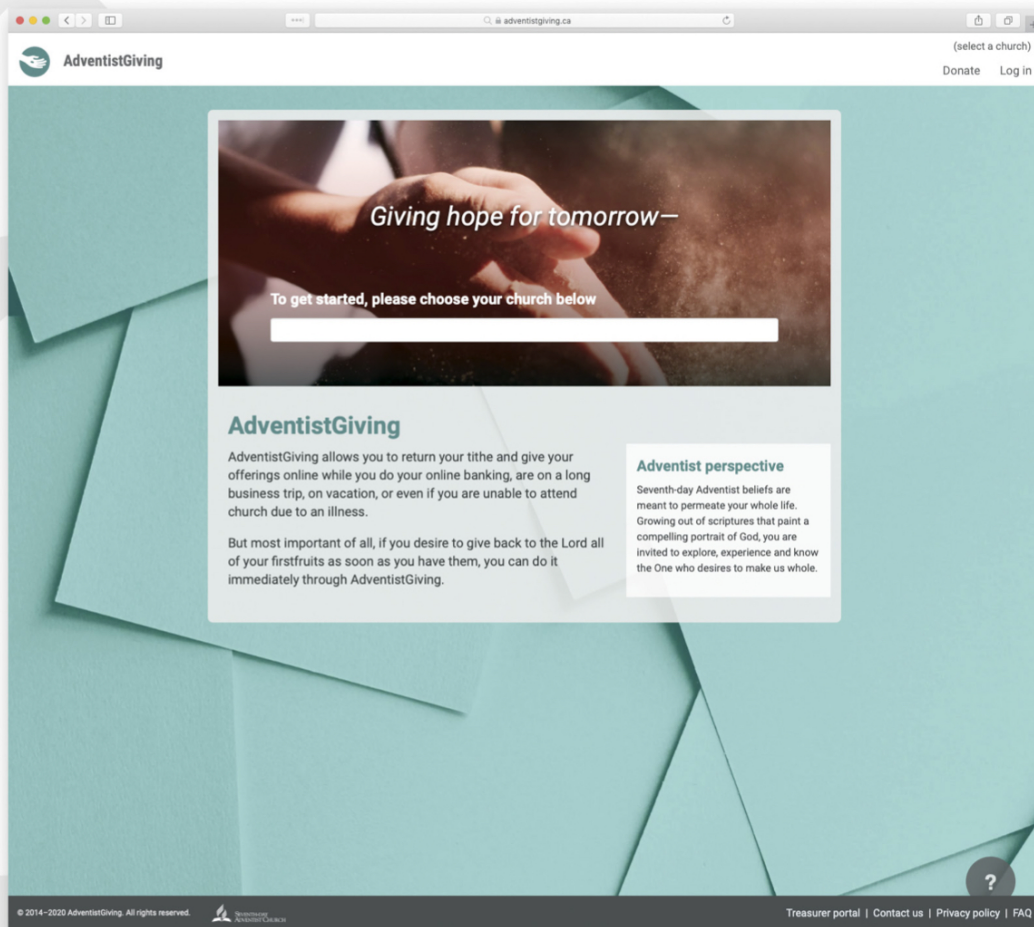
Whatever your preferred style for images and words, enjoy your interaction with the audience and keep things simple. Share relevant and stimulating information so they will come back in the future, wanting to learn more. Your objective should always be to make meaningful connections, while sharing God's Word. ■

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.



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Seventh-day Adventist[®] Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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GIVING



Looking Beyond the Horizon



You Have Heard It Said ... But I Say to You

“The people back then didn’t know what we know now.” Or “History is just that, history, and we shouldn’t be questioning history.” And, of course, “That was then; this is now. They didn’t know better.” I suspect people make such excuses for history out of fear of being blamed and/or losing power and control over the illegitimate but believed narrative concerning First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments by Canada today.

I disagree with the above statements.

Matthew 5 is known as the most quoted scripture in the first centuries after Jesus’ life on earth. It is His way of telling His followers that historical practice is not a good indicator of what we should do now, and history should be questioned, observed, taken responsibility for, and more accurately described. The six statements in Matthew 5:21–48 are the very core of Jesus’ message defining what a follower of God would look like. All six start with “You have heard that it was said ... but I say to you....”

Through them “Jesus told stories and asked questions that called into question the assumed order of things and the authority by which they had come to be that way. Jesus both modelled and called for a way of being in the world that exposed *truth* and nourished *life*.”¹

The Bible is not only a book of teachings. It is a historical document. It tells history. By Adam’s real historical sin, we are all sinful, and through a new real historical Adam (Christ) we are redeemed (1 Cor. 15). Do we ignore this because it means we take responsibility? Is the historical life, death, and resurrection of our Creator to be ignored because it might make us uncomfortable? I certainly hope not. That is not what

Jesus taught.

He is directly confronting the whole Jewish system—education, government, religion, et al. Revolutionists were among Jesus’ disciples because they heard Jesus questioning the Jewish government’s right to tell a wrong view of history. He questioned the seat of power’s right to define what people should think about the history of God. He talked about people who stood up at different times to correct the way things were going. He almost constantly was working to make sure the marginalized were given back their voice and agency. He was saying (1) the history you’ve been told is wrong, (2) they and you should know better, and (3) here is the new way—follow Me.

Canada’s telling of history is wrong. It is designed to keep non-Indigenous Canadians in the dark in order to enable the systematic eradication of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples’ inherent rights to this land—which are enshrined in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, are reinforced within our lifetimes by the Supreme Court Delgamuukw and Tsilhqot’in cases, and are instilled in our Constitution. It is time to live like Jesus would, heal this land, and nourish life until He comes.

If you want to join us, get access to our amazing free online course by emailing 4seasons@adventist.ca, or email me directly at page.campbell@adventist.ca. ■

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

¹ Randy Woodley and Bo C. Sanders, *Decolonizing Evangelicalism: An 11:59 P.M. Conversation* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2020), 41.



Lord—Save My Children!

“But the Lord says, ... I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children.”— Isa. 49:25, NLT

A some point, this is the cry of every Christian parent’s heart. The thought of entering heaven without one of the precious gifts God has given us to raise and influence for Him is frightening. As we watch them grow up and make mistakes and begin to resist our attempts to educate them in the knowledge of God, we fear they will reject Him altogether and be lost. We look back at how we dealt with them, and our hearts sink even further as we recognize our mistakes, or we’re mystified as to what we did “wrong.”

I think the hardest thing I had to learn, as a parent, was that my children’s salvation is God’s responsibility, not mine. Not to say I have no part in it, but in the end, I have to release them into the hands of a God who loves them infinitely more than I ever could and to trust Him to look after them spiritually. I needed to cut the spiritual umbilical cord.

Then I had to learn to trust God’s promises to save them:

“But the Lord says, ... I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children” (Isa. 49:25, NLT).

“They will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand” (Rom. 14:4b, NIV).

“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children” (Isa. 54:13, ESV).

For a long time I prayed with very little faith. I begged God to do what He had promised rather than praising Him for what I couldn’t see yet, knowing I would see it in the end. God reprimanded me, and gradually I chose to trust His plan rather than remain so stuck on what I could see.

The story of Samson gave me great insight and comfort (Judg. 13–16). He was going down an obviously wrong road—wanting to marry a Philistine instead of delivering Israel from them! Yet the Bible is clear that “his parents didn’t know that this was from the Lord” (Judg. 14:4, NIV).

I came to see that God knows exactly how far down any wrong road our children need to go in order for Him to capture their hearts. They don’t wander without His watch-care over them. They may make some huge mistakes and get themselves into some terrible difficulties, but His goal for them is eternal life, and He is more committed to seeing them through to that point than even we are.

“I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart” (Jer. 24:7, NIV).

When we choose to take God at His Word, we can spend our time praising Him for what He *is* doing that we can’t see, and for what He will continue to do in finishing the work in their hearts. Maybe it will take until after we’re dead and gone for Him to get them there, but we can rest knowing He is revealing Himself to them, even if they aren’t looking for Him (Isa. 65:1) and that when they see Him for who He truly is, they will be drawn to Him (John 12:32).

And in the meantime: “The Lord said to me, ‘... I am watching to make sure that my words come true’” (Jer. 1:12, GW).

It can’t get better than that! ■

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 Ern Brake.

Interview by Ken Wiebe, Messenger Staff Writer

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

Ern Brake: I was born, the oldest of four, in Halifax, N.S. Being part of an Air Force family, we lived in France and Germany, where we enjoyed travelling throughout Europe taking in many cultural celebrations. Eventually returning to Canada, we lived in New Brunswick and Newfoundland before settling in Halifax again. All this exposed me to different ways of viewing the world.

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

E: I went to Université Ste. Anne in Nova Scotia (French immersion), Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia (arts and science), and the University of Waterloo, Ont. (psychology).

I earned a theology degree from Burman University in Alberta and an M.Div. and a D.Min. from Andrews University in Michigan. My doctorate focused on how the Adventist Church can engage postmodern seekers.

M: *What were the circumstances that led to your conversion?*

E: At 20, I was working at VIA Rail Canada as a porter on overnight passenger trains while attending Dalhousie University. I was a postmodern atheist but longed for something more in life than merely work, study, and play.

I became intrigued when someone at a social event quoted John 10:10 saying that Jesus can give you an abundant life. After unmistakable providences, I contacted *It Is Written* when Lonnie Melashenko offered George Vandeman's book *Happiness Wall to Wall*.

Soon, a conference evangelist, Glen Corkum, knocked on my door, and introduced me to Tony and Betty Boutilier, members of the Halifax church, with



Ern and June Brake

whom I studied the Bible. After a second set of Bible studies with Pastor Ken Corkum, my friend Bruce Wentzell and I were baptized. It was April 1981.

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

E: After an agonizing battle of conscience over the seventh-day Sabbath, I resigned my position at VIA Rail for Sabbath reasons. Having no job and needing direction for my new Christian life, I took another leap of faith and headed to Burman University with one goal in mind: to know my Creator and His will for my life. This was based on a simple but powerful Bible principle in Matthew 6:33, which essentially says that if you put God first, He will take care of your needs. That led me to take theology classes.

I had no thoughts of becoming a pastor. But it seems when you make one big decision, many others fall into line. Based on a passion for seekers to know God's answers to their life's questions, and individuals identifying and affirming my spiritual gifts, I ventured forth, after graduation in 1985, to become a pastor with June, my new bride.

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

E: President Dave Crook in Newfoundland and Labrador took a chance on me since I had only been an Adventist for four years. But thanks to his direction and under Pastor Larry Hall's mentorship, I grew in ministerial ability. First, in Botwood/Cottrell's Cove, then in Glovertown/Cape Freels, where we experimented with creative health outreach and traditional evangelism. June and I also published a popular monthly health newsletter for our town. After going to Andrews University for our masters' degrees, we returned to Newfoundland, this time to the Conception Bay South/Bay Roberts district.

We moved to British Columbia in 1997 to first pastor in Port Hardy/Port Alice, then Mission/Maple Ridge, and finally to Rest Haven church while serving as chaplain at Rest Haven Lodge.

In 2010, I served as the B.C. Conference ministerial director under President Gordon Pifher. This also included supporting roles in various church ministries. Four years later I became assistant to the president for REACH, working with President Wayne Culmore in strategic planning. I presented training seminars around the B.C. Conference, in Canada, and in the United States with the aim to make it easier for pastors and congregations to succeed in fulfilling the mission of reaching our territory with the Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness.

The last five years, 2017–2021, I served as vice-president for administration/executive secretary in the British Columbia Conference, working with President Wesley Torres.

M: *Tell us about the seminars you developed.*

E: Coming from an atheistic background, I developed

several evangelistic seminars to reach postmodern seekers, and several training seminars for Adventists. These included a six-hour training seminar called "Adventists in a Postmodern World" and also "Napkin Evangelism," a fun three-hour workshop that teaches Adventists how to draw five-minute Bible studies on a napkin, smartphone, or big screen. I also enjoyed creating equipping seminars on leadership and various other ministries.

M: *What has brought you the most satisfaction in your career?*

E: I was most excited by working with teams that strengthened people in their spiritual walk, whether within the church or in the community.

For example, one of my responsibilities for eight of my 11 years in the B.C. Conference office, was as the Health Ministries director. I worked with a wonderful team of health professionals to equip health outreach leaders to educate people in their communities regarding health principles.

I loved that we all became friends as we worked together. It was amazing to participate on a team where you see how people's gifts and talents come together to produce joy and energy, "stirring up love and good works." We had good times!

M: *Tell us about your family.*

E: June, my wife of 37 years, has always been a strong supporter even while serving as principal, teacher, and full-time caregiver to our son, Michael, who lived with us until he passed away four years ago. He was a dedicated Christian and enjoyed the friendships and love he received from our church families throughout the years.

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

E: June and I recently moved from Abbotsford to Parksville on Vancouver Island. Currently, I am continuing in ministry, speaking and training in various ways.

I also enjoy researching and writing books and hope to start a mission-oriented business. I'm working on two books designed to fill a longing in secular seekers. One is on how to "switch" life to FULL POWER (an acronym for abundant living principles). The other narrates reasons to believe in God. I hope to publish the first one by this Christmas.

Presently, I'm having fun creating a six-hour motivational seminar on health, happiness, and success. I'm calling it "Thriving in These Times." By God's grace, I plan to make it relevant to Adventists and non-Adventists alike by combining the health message with current affairs, adding psychological, social, and spiritual components. I envision this as a prequel to traditional evangelism.

Meanwhile, June and I are enjoying walks and picnics on the beach. ■



Broccoli Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups (1 L) finely chopped broccoli
- ½ cup (125 ml) mixed nuts, seeds, and dried fruit
- 1 tsp (5 ml) honey
- ¼ cup (60 ml) avocado oil or other light-tasting oil
- ¼ cup (60 ml) chilled unsweetened soy milk
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a blender, combine oil, soy milk, honey, and salt until well blended. Mixture should resemble mayonnaise, but if it doesn't, that's OK.
2. Add broccoli and mixed nuts, seeds, and dried fruit to a large bowl, then add dressing. Mix well.

Makes 8 servings (approximately ½ cup per serving).

NUTRITIONAL INFO:

- Serving Size 68 g
- Calories 113
- Total Fat 8.8 g
- Saturated Fat 1.1 g
- Cholesterol 0 mg
- Sodium 101 mg
- Total Carbs 7.3 g
- Dietary Fibre 1.7 g
- Sugars 3.8 g
- Protein 2.2 g



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



Under His Wings

KEEP ME AS THE APPLE OF YOUR EYE
HIDE ME IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS
PSALM 17:8 - NIV

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ALBERTA CONFERENCE

RAINMAK



From Hollywood Camera Operator to G

Andrew Bikichky remembers the exact moment he knew he had to leave Hollywood. Having left his Seventh-day Adventist home at age 16 to follow his heart's desire to become a visual storyteller, like the prodigal son, after years of living his dream, he found himself increasingly disillusioned with the life he had chosen.

"I wanted to touch people's hearts through filmmaking, despite the counsels given in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding entertainment. Consuming movies and popular music as a young Adventist made the prospect of a career in Hollywood too tantalizing to ignore," he reminisces ruefully. Not only did he leave home, he also left the church.

After working his way up through the camera department on feature films and television shows, he achieved the coveted position of a union camera operator, as well as cinematographer on second units. Working with actors he used to watch on television and in the movies as a child, he was, without question, at the height of his success. However, it was a success that came at a price—a success that required he work upwards of 80 hours weekly, sacrificing the joys and responsibilities of family life, sometimes for months at a time.

"I began to realize what it took to be able to make the projects I used to dream about, and I became very disenfranchised by the culture and character of the gatekeepers of success in Hollywood," he states. "I also had, to a large degree, drifted away from what I used to know about right and wrong in my lifestyle; sin had become so common." That's when he and his wife began to plan

an exit strategy out of the Los Angeles scene. Three years later they were happy to call Kelowna, B.C., their new home.

Andrew's plan was to spend more time with his family, only doing occasional camera work. God had other work in mind for him, however, and His preferred method of drawing Andrew back to Himself was via an independent online ministry. "It wasn't until after I got to quiet-town Kelowna that I started to have an opportunity to slow down and hear the Holy Spirit better," Andrew says. "Actually, what brought me back was the Truth itself, in all its precious detail—Spirit of Prophecy and all."

On fire for God after his conversion, Andrew determined he would not return to his work as a cinematographer. Instead, he began accompanying a Bible worker doing door-to-door work. A year later—even though he enjoyed the work—Andrew declined the offer to take a full-time Bible worker position. It took yet another year before Andrew finally accepted God's call to be His Bible worker in the Okanagan region.

Andrew muses, "When we moved to Kelowna, I had no idea I would be coming back to church, let alone become a Bible worker! It's not something I ever considered in my life before. I kept asking God what He wanted me to do, as I really had no other training or work experience other than my career in the entertainment industry. Becoming a Bible worker is the first time in my life that I let God decide what I should do. Turns out He has perfect wisdom, of course, and it's the best job I've ever had—the most fulfilling."

The people Andrew has studied with

most certainly agree. Krista is one of them. Andrew shares her remarkable conversion story: "Krista was a born-again Pentecostal/Evangelical. When her Adventist co-worker invited her to join a Bible study with her, God impressed a simple question upon Krista's heart: 'Why do you believe what you do?' Krista only joined because she couldn't answer that nagging question. She was a bit apprehensive because she had heard that Adventists were a cult, but for some reason, she still gave it a shot. When I met her, I told her I would not try to convince her of anything but that we would just go over Bible verses and see what they simply said. She felt quite relieved with that plan. We simply read Hebrews 1 and 2 the first time, about Christ's divine credentials and His human nature. As we studied, the Word of God became clearer to her than ever before, and she could not get enough. It felt to her like drinking life-giving water after a lifetime of wandering in a desert. Six months later she was baptized and joined the Adventist Church."

"The Bible explains itself," Andrew asserts. "Line upon line, here a little, there a little, is how I study with people. They decide for themselves what to believe based on what God tells them; I'm there to learn myself. I have a great burden to make sure those I study with will become so grounded in biblical truth, that they will not be shaken out as time goes on."

Andrew doesn't only study with individuals who are new seekers. "I also meet with seasoned members who are seeking revival and deeper understanding of why we believe what we believe, as



ERS

od's Bible Worker

well as new members to help them continue to learn and grow, as our churches have been somewhat limited in regards to fellowship due to COVID-19 restrictions."

Mary is one of those seasoned members who wanted to experience revival. After studying with Andrew for a while, it was Mary who invited Krista to join them. "So, that's both stories in one, and the perfect example of a model for our people to follow," says Andrew. He continues, "Seek revival, and let the Lord lead you to someone you can bring along."

The current pandemic has certainly curtailed outreach ministry; however, Andrew shares, "Almost all my studies with people over the last two-and-a-half years have been online. God has blessed that medium wonderfully."

What's Andrew's favourite thing about Bible work? "Sharing the big picture of what this is all about, the great controversy. We have been given great light and understanding, and it is sheer joy to share that knowledge with people and watch the Holy Spirit completely change their lives. I love the truth simply put, and I love helping people find it and learn to feed themselves with it."

Andrew encourages anyone desiring to study the Bible with others to "know the material for yourself as best you can. Pray for guidance and believe God will provide. You need to have a connection with Christ daily and depend on the Holy Spirit to lead you. He is really the one leading the Bible study, and the only One that ever could. It's His ministry, so when you're involved in ministry, all you're doing is joining in the family



Andrew Bikichky

business."

The family business. What a marvellous way to look at ministry!

Andrew has multiple roles in "the family business." Along with giving Bible studies, most Sabbaths find him preaching God's Word at churches throughout British Columbia. He is thrilled for any door God opens for further ministry. He marvels at the

work God is doing in his life and, these days, is eager to touch people's hearts, not through the lens of a camera, but through his own personal experience of a God who is mighty to save. ■

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.



A Walking Miracle



Doctors Said Canice

John Would Never

Walk Again, But God

Had Other Plans

He squeezed the steering wheel until his nails bore holes in his skin. The windshield wipers could not keep up. Rain violently slapped every corner of the car like fists pounding against the aluminum, demanding entry. The sound was deafening. With wide eyes he strained to see, but darkness engulfed the one-lane highway. Like a wall, the rain maliciously hid all visible danger. First gear. Second gear. The car slowly climbed up the hill at 40 km/h, but the tires continued to skid. He managed to get the car back under control as he crawled around the bend. He relaxed his shoulders and took a deep breath. The hard part was behind him.

Suddenly, a white light flashed to the left. He turned his head frantically searching for the source of the light. The headlights were coming directly at him. There was nowhere to turn. He squeezed his eyes and clenched his teeth. His left arm instinctively flew over his face as he braced for impact. BANG!

The damage was done.

"I was desperately trying to figure out what happened to me," says Canice John. "I was in agony."

Fragments of glass covered him like rain. His arm hung limp outside the broken window. The pain was like a never-ending fire. In his mind he was lifting his arm, but in reality, there was no movement. Pain was the only connection left between his arm and brain. Canice reached his right arm across his chest to pull his left arm inside.

"All I saw was my bone sticking out, and the lower half of my arm was dangling as if only one ligament was holding it," says Canice.

He thought his arm was the only injury, but with each slight movement he gnashed his teeth in agony. A mixture of sweat and rain saturated his skin as he willed his lungs to keep breathing. Begged his heart to keep pounding. Forced his body to move. But he was stuck. The driver's seat had folded his body in half like an accordion. He sat with the steering wheel pinned firmly into his chest.

He heard ambulance sirens and the voice of an officer begging him to "stay with us." He felt the car shake as the firefighters cut off the passenger door. Every part of his body felt like it was covered in hot oil set to 500 degrees Celsius. He could no longer focus on his thoughts, for the magnitude of pain was more than he could bear. He had to get out. He had to tell his wife and two girls he loved them. He must say goodbye.

"I felt death was the best option because my pain was out of control," says Canice through tears. I said, 'Jesus, I lived a good life.'"

He longed for the moment he would slip out of consciousness and feel the calm and peace it brought. But panic and anger captured his tranquility. He could not breathe. A paramedic told him to raise his right hand so the air could fill his lungs. Now he could no longer breathe without pain.

Canice was trapped for two and a half hours before firefighters were able to cut the bottom of his car and pull him out. He was then transported via helicopter to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. He was conscious and without pain medication for the full duration of time.

"I remember when the helicopter landed," says Canice. "And that was it. I woke up 10 days later."

He was placed in an induced coma for 10 days to allow his body to heal.

His eyelids lazily moved upwards to reveal a bright light underneath a cloudy fog. He closed his eyes and tried again. A bright rectangular light surrounded by white tiles slowly came into focus. He gazed at the medical machines lining both sides of the bed. He felt a plastic tube between his teeth and another one in his right arm. A neck brace prevented him from seeing the white bandages wrapped around his legs and left arm. Every limb cried out in agony. He tried to listen intently as the doctor explained his injuries.

"The surgeon said he cried over me because I was so broken and he didn't know how to put me back together," says Canice with tears flowing down his cheeks. "Most people with these kinds of injuries don't survive."

Canice endured two 12-hour surgeries, each one day apart. He sustained broken bones in his arms, legs, hips, and spine. Over 26 fractures in total. The doctor said his chances of walking were very slim.

"I told the doctor I would walk again," says Canice with confidence.

After a month of hospitalization Canice was

transferred to a rehabilitation centre in Toronto. The days turned to weeks and the weeks turned to months. He got frustrated when patients would arrive after him and leave before him. Although the progress was slow, each month brought small victories. After two months he was able to sit up and bend his left elbow 10 degrees. His recovery accelerated when God gave him specific instructions.

"I heard the voice of God say, *Stand up, and if you do, it is confirmation you will walk again,*" says Canice.

Canice could not take his eyes off the tall gray walker sitting patiently in the corner. For three days he begged the nurses for permission to stand up. After four days they dropped their resistance and wheeled the walker to his bedside. Canice leaned forward and firmly gripped the handles while two nurses supported him. As he shifted his weight, he felt intense stabbing pains shooting through his legs. Like his bones were fighting with each other trying to rip through his skin. One second passed. He squeezed his eyes and pressed his teeth together. Two seconds passed. The room suddenly felt warmer. Three seconds passed. He started to lower himself toward the bed. In three seconds Canice received all the reassurance and confirmation he needed. He will walk again.

"One night I asked God for a miracle," says Canice. "I knew I couldn't ask for much because there was so much wrong with me, so I said, 'God just do what you need to do.'"

Shortly afterward, a Christian nurse approached him claiming she had heard a voice saying he would walk that day. Canice was more than ready for the challenge. Excitement ran like blood through his veins. The nurses held him firmly on both sides while he wrapped his fingers around the handles of the walker once again. He placed his right foot out first and transferred his weight. He was not going to let the pain stop him. He put his left foot out next. Staring at the pale beige tiles below, he prayed for strength that can only be obtained through God.

"I think I walked 10 steps that day," says Canice with pride. "From that day things started getting better."

Canice stayed in the rehabilitation centre for one more month before he was finally sent home.

Ten years later Canice can look back on June 9, 2012, and reflect on the mercies of God.

"I will never forget the two songs I played every day during rehab," says Canice. "God's not Dead" by the Newsboys and "In Christ Alone" by Adrienne Camp.

Those songs gave him strength to push forward on the days he felt life would collapse on top of him. They gave him comfort during the nights when he earnestly cried out to God begging for just a minute of relief from his pain. They gave him reassurance when he felt God had abandoned him. Ten years later he can say God was standing at the end of his journey patiently waiting



for Canice to walk to Him. His journey is far from over, but Canice has learned to take each day as a miracle and rejoice in his limitations.

"I don't cry about my limitations," says Canice. "I always thought everything happened for a reason and a blessing, so I just pressed forward."

Every day Canice wakes up and goes to bed in pain. But to him pain is an indication of life and life is God's gift to him. Therefore, he does not lament on his inability to bend down or the realization he can never run or practise nursing. He is not sad at the prospect of never being able to climb up and down stairs or put on his own socks. Instead, he rejoices in his ability to drive with his hands, walk around without any assistance, and tolerate pain.

"I never asked God *why me* because it would be selfish to say why not someone else," says Canice. "Someone else might not have been able to bear the pain."

Canice has instead learned to ask the question *why not me*. Each challenge, battle, and struggle are chances for Canice to change his perspective about God and fortify his relationship with Him.

"I will never forget all the trials I went through," says Canice. "I witnessed the hands of God through His mercies and miracles in my life."

Canice is a living testimony that through the power of God you can overcome. For those who are suffering, please hold on to your faith and trust in the Lord. God will one day fulfill His promise of a world with no more pain and suffering. ■

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 never asked God why me because it would be selfish to say why not someone else," says Canice. "Someone else might not have been able to bear the pain."



Canice John can walk again.



Canice John pictured with his wife, Marie (back row), and two daughters, Candicia and Camillia (front row), in 2018.



The Mule, the Baptist, and Me

“If John the Baptist had not done his work, Christ would not have the success He did.”

work that was done by John the Baptist for the Jewish nation. By startling messages of warning, God’s prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. ... “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” was John’s message (Matthew 3:2). This same message, through the publications from our printing houses, is to be given to the world today.¹

The literature we share has a specific work to accomplish in these last days. Of course, it includes helping people experience the love of God, find healing, direction, and strength to grow spiritually in Christ. But initially, one of its roles is to get people’s attention. If John the Baptist had not done his work, Christ would not have the success He did when He came to mingle with people as one who desired their good.

That is one of the reasons I am so glad that we were able to partner with Amazing Facts Ministries, and many church members, in distributing literature during the protests this past winter. Putting all political differences aside, church members saw an opportunity to share God’s word with others and rallied in sharing over 10,000 copies of the book *The Great Controversy* in Ottawa and over 7,000 in Toronto. People were eagerly taking the books, and we have heard many stories of wonderful conversations and prayers. In the past five months, over 100,000 books have been distributed across Ontario and parts of Quebec. Please join us in prayer as we make plans to print an affordable version of *The Great Controversy* for the French communities across Canada.

Jesus is coming soon. Cliché or not, it is still true. We must meet the needs of some while gaining their confidence. However, this should not stop us from also sharing literature with others to prepare them for the seed of truth. ■

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

A farmer was complaining to a friend about the trouble he was having in getting his stubborn mule to move. After listening to the farmer’s complaint, the friend said he knew just what to do.

“Roll up a newspaper and whack the animal over the head with all your might,” advised the friend.

The farmer was taken aback. “But how will that get him to move?” he asked.

“Well, you see,” the friend said, “first you’ve got to get his attention!”

We live in a world where our senses are continually being overstimulated—where the gospel is barely heard because of the noise of so many distractions. In this difficult reality, how can we get people’s attention?

In the days of Christ, God sent John the Baptist. Most people would say that he was a little rough around the edges, but he got the people’s attention! “Repent!” was his message. Not too popular, but it definitely had an impact. And because of his work, Christ had greater success in His ministry.

It’s kind of like gardening. You need to till the soil before you can plant the seed. The breaking up of the soil is not the prettiest thing, but it results in a much greater harvest than if left undone.

What about in our day? Has God designed something that can get people’s attention? Some time ago, I was fascinated to read the following:

The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same



¹ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1902), 7:138, 139.

Preparing Students to Impact Their World



Grade 1 Class: Altogether, CHCS students collected over 1,500 items for food hampers in December 2021.

Adventist schools across Canada seek to inspire in each student a life of faith, wisdom, and service. Following is a sample of what that mission looks like at College Heights Christian School (CHCS) in Lacombe, Alta.

Visitors to CHCS are greeted with this statement in the school entrance: "To nurture and equip students to impact their world for Jesus." Providing a welcoming environment where students experience spiritual support, love, and the warmth of belonging is of primary importance. This family atmosphere is something that both students and parents value:

"When I first came to this Adventist school, I noticed how nice all the people are here. I love that we read the Bible every morning and praise God together. I feel welcome and at home. All the teachers are patient and helpful as well," a Grade 8 student said.

"I know that my teachers and principal care about me because they always take care of us and treat us kindly," said a Grade 1 student.

"Whenever I walk into school knowing that we all love the Lord, I get a warm feeling inside, almost like butterflies, but it's the one thing I'm not nervous about!" another Grade 8 student shared.

"The caring community, the love given by the teachers and the principal is shaping our daughter to become the girl we could only hope she would become," said the parent of a Grade 2 student. "Knowing that she is learning the truth of God's Word on a daily basis is something that she wouldn't get in other schools."

The following statement was shared anonymously: "Adventist education has been part of our family history and heritage for four generations. It has served us well and we would make the same choice again. We have experienced first-hand God's provision for our needs, and we thank Him and praise Him to be part of His ongoing pathway."

Inspiring wisdom requires a strong academic program and a variety of co-curricular activities. At CHCS, students in Grades 5–9 take part in various team sports throughout the year.

Grade 7–9 students can choose optional courses such as Foods, Outdoor Ed, Sign Language, Drama, Woodworking, and Work Experience. Students are also encouraged to take part in praise teams, which lead out in assemblies, school programs, and church services throughout the year.

One parent of three former students summarized the value of this program, saying, "Students are given a well-rounded school experience, with numerous opportunities to develop in ways that complement their spiritual growth, and further their ability to be a light for others."

Service opportunities is the third part of our overall mission. CHCS seeks to serve others by taking part in community service and outreach projects such as the Terry Fox Run, community cleanup, and the community food drive each fall. Additional outreach projects are chosen throughout each school year. In December students collected food items for Christmas hampers and participated in the CHCS Cakewalk fundraiser to purchase turkeys and grocery gift cards for families in need. Students were excited to be able to bring joy to many families at Christmas.

Only as homes, schools, and churches work together—depending on God to lead and guide—can we truly meet our mission of inspiring our children to lead lives of faith, wisdom, and service.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to prepare our children for "the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come."¹ ■

Sheri Thorne is a Grade 3 teacher at College Heights Christian School in Lacombe, Alta.

1 Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1903), 13.

THE BURMAN EFFECT

BURMAN ALUMNI
IMPACTING THEIR COMMUNITIES

“Little” Acts of Kindness

“When there’s food involved, people are more likely to mingle, visit, and get to know one another.”

Candi Rajah doesn’t like drawing attention to herself. She says, “Speaking in front of my peers is very scary to me.” But she has the gift of perception. And her parents taught her to help whenever and wherever she sees a need. Her years at Burman University gave her ample opportunities for practice. Even so, life can become awkward for a shy person when she knows help is needed and wants to respond.

When Candi took her first baby, Brenden, to nursery Sabbath school, she noticed that only a few carried all the responsibilities of leadership. They needed help. So Candi whipped up her courage and offered even though this was her first time in the nursery division. That timid offer led to a six-year commitment of co-ordinating first the nursery Sabbath school and then the cradle roll Sabbath school.

When Brenden and his brother, Jaden, were old enough to join the earliteens, Candi saw the group’s need for social interaction. Her husband, Eric, was leading out, so she brought juice, fruit, and homemade cinnamon buns and muffins for the teens to stay and get acquainted following each program.

It quickly became obvious to Candi and Eric that not every teen had a group to “hang out” with. So they organized Saturday evening activities—including food, of course. Everyone was invited. No one had to stay home alone. They went swimming and bowling and played floor hockey and volleyball. Candi recalls, “I always organized and prepared food for them. Seeing the less popular or shy teens having a good time and feeling that they belonged was rewarding.”

For years, the Rajahs have enjoyed inviting senior adults to their home for meals or for picnics at Gull Lake. Day trips took them to the Rockies or Drumheller. Candi says, “One Sabbath we invited about 12 seniors for lunch. All were in their 80s and 90s. They loved getting together; we loved hearing their stories.”

During the pandemic, when their senior friends were isolated, Candi prepared plates of muffins, cookies, nuts, and fruit—enough to share with other friends. She wrote personal notes and delivered the treats to the Lacombe

Senior Citizens Lodge.

Meeting needs as she noticed them has been a source of joy for Candi. She recalls her years as home-and-school leader when she organized room parents to provide yummy treats for the children once a month. Gym nights became times to get acquainted, play, and eat together. Candi also helped host church potlucks for students and visitors, university homecoming banquets and potlucks, Thursday suppers for the Acronaires aerials team, church social committee events, and more. She remarks, “When there’s food involved, people are more likely to mingle, visit, and get to know one another.”

Cleaning the house, getting groceries, and preparing food may seem menial tasks. But in Candi’s life, the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts. What matters is that her hospitality and organizational skills have helped both young and old make new friends, stay connected, and feel valued. ■

Renate Krause is the editor of Burman University Magazine.



Candi (née Schafer) Rajah graduated with an education major from Canadian Union College (now Burman University) in 1984.

A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a blue t-shirt, hugging two women from behind. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a pink top. The woman on the right has long brown hair and is wearing a light blue top. They are outdoors with a blurred green background.

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Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Coming Home

“**A** never shouted at us or ever swore, but he believed in corporal punishment,” Jerry Shiel recalls. “I didn’t like it when my dad took out the strap. As a young boy, I just wanted him to get to know what I was going through, but he only talked about God like some mean old character in the sky. I didn’t want to hear that, so I became a bit of a loner, spending time down at the river, in a lot of pain, scared to go home.”

When Jerry failed Grades 1 and 2, his teacher labelled him “backward,” having no idea about dyslexia. “As a youngster, I would take out my frustrations in violence in the school yard. I grew rebellious—stealing and lying.”

At the age of 16, Jerry left home. On cold winter nights, he slept in laundromats, hallways, abandoned cars, anywhere he could find shelter. “I was just a hurting hole, filling the pain with drinking, drugs, sex, and crime. There were times I literally didn’t know who I was. I was so hungry I would make soup with hot water and ketchup.”

One day Jerry’s dad and brother found him. “They brought me some food, and while I was eating a peach, Dad asked, ‘Jerry, would you like to come home?’ Part of me wanted to, but I said no. I remember the pain on Dad’s face, but I couldn’t go home and listen to religion. So I stayed on the streets, joined a gang, sold drugs—was in and out of jail until the age of 23.”

After getting out of jail for the umpteenth time, Jerry headed west, where he started modelling men’s clothing. “I did my first show in Victoria, and then I went to Los Angeles. That boosted my self-confidence, but I developed an eating disorder.”

“One day I was walking past a farmer’s market, and I stole a watermelon off the back of a truck. I had the money to pay for it, but I stole it without feeling a pang of guilt. A few days later, I found myself sitting by a river, feeling overwhelmed by all the years of pain. The load was too much to handle, so I cried out to God, ‘I surrender!’ and got on my knees. For the first time ever, I had a peace that was



If you wish to know about the sign Jerry Shiel prayed for and hear the rest of his intriguing story, watch *It Is Written Canada* this month on CTV. Photo credit: M. Dauncey

more than a feeling; it was an awareness.

“I thought, ‘What now?’

“You know that watermelon you took? Let’s go make it right.’ It wasn’t a condemning voice, just a warm hand giving me a friendly nudge—not a boot or jail time or the strap.

“Then the thought occurred to me: ‘It’s just a minor thing.’

“Don’t worry; I’m with you.’

“Sir,’ I confessed, ‘I stole a watermelon and I just want to make it right.’

“The farmer’s eyes widened. ‘I’ve had a lot of things taken off my truck, but no one ever came back to make it right. Why are you doing this?’

“I shared with him my conversion experience by the river. It was the first time I had confessed anything to anyone;

he was almost as amazed as I was.

“After that, I didn’t want to do modelling anymore, so I asked God for a sign.”

If you wish to know about the sign Jerry Shiel prayed for and hear the rest of his intriguing story, watch *It Is Written Canada* this month on CTV. You can also go to itiswrittencanada.ca or *It Is Written Canada*’s YouTube or Facebook videos and click on the programs titled “Coming Home – Parts 1 & 2.” ■

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



“In Memory” Donation Boosts Gardening Experience for MANS Students



Richard’s “In Memory Gift” honours twice: the life of his compassionate mother, and the work of dedicated teachers at MANS, who share hope and help shape the future.

At the beginning of this school year, all MANS high school students pitched in enthusiastically to help harvest the bounty from MANS’s first gardening class. The school’s expanded garden plot is behind the main high school building. Photo credit: Pattie Reasor

The Alberta Conference recently received a donation to be used at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) honouring the memory of the donor’s mother, Georgenna Ferguson. The gift, which was unrestricted in how it is to be used at MANS, will help the new Gardening program and students in the high school gardening class develop more “roots” in the expanded garden pioneered by Grade 5 teacher Russ Nielsen as a personal project to cultivate student interest in gardening.

High school teacher Kim Herrington created the gardening class last year, which was met with a lot of enthusiasm from students. It also yielded tremendous bounty that contributed significantly to the MANS feeding program, including 90 quarts of tomato sauce (go to the news section at www.mans1.ca for the story and photos).

“I am very excited about the new donation,” says Herrington. “First, [a new] rototiller will be an amazing contribution as we continue to expand our garden.” Other possible uses of the funds include nutrients and fertilizer for an enlarged garden; raised beds or development of a border to beautify the garden; and possibly summer wages for a student to help with the weeding and other garden-related work.

The gift in honour of Georgenna Ferguson, a nurse who spent many years working at Baker Memorial Sanatorium in Calgary (a tuberculosis sanitarium), was made by her son Richard Ferguson when he received his inheritance. Most of the patients at Baker Memorial were First Nations; among them was a young Cree man, Ed Dejarlais. It was at “the San” that Ed

first encountered the Adventist message and made it his mission to establish a school and Adventist presence in Maskwacis (then known as Hobbema). It was the beginning of the Adventist Church’s biggest Indigenous outreach in North America, with 232 students now enrolled at MANS.

Georgenna and Ed may or may not have met, but Richard remembers his mother’s compassion for her First Nations patients. Her stories made them feel like familiar people rather than “outsiders”—a gift Richard still prizes.

Richard and his wife, Laurie, recently completed a course on Indigenous history called “4 Seasons of Reconciliation,” sponsored by the Royal Bank for free to any Canadian during the month of December 2021. While it was difficult to watch at times, Richard remembered what he’d observed about MANS’s work and the difference it is making, especially the opportunity for students to work together in industrial arts courses, and now in gardening class. When filling out the survey at the end of the 4 Seasons course, Richard recommended adding a “good news” feature on Mamawi Atosketan Native School to the course—a ray of hope.

“MANS teachers are such an inspiration,” says Richard. “They help their students see their possibilities. I really admire them—the quality of a person who chooses to go into that environment. They’re like stars to me.” ■

Lynn McDowell is the director of planned giving/philanthropy for the Alberta Conference.



Find more current MANS stories and videos at mans1.ca.
The Maskwacis Congregation page is at albertaadventist.ca.





Ending Hunger Through Climate Adaptation



Above: A project participant in Nepal rejoices over her crop. Photo credit: ADRA Nepal, 2021.
Right: Julieta shows the remains of her baked brick home. Photo credit: ADRA Mozambique, 2022

Julieta is the mother of seven children. Between her husband, children, and her rice farm, her days are full. There’s never a dull moment. But recently, Julieta has had even more to deal with.

Julieta is a survivor of Tropical Storm Ana, which ripped through Mozambique in January. “The cyclone landfall was really challenging,” Julieta shares. “We had to run away looking for safe places as ‘crazy’ people.”

The deadly storm destroyed homes and flooded crops. Families like Julieta’s, who rely on their crops to survive, now face hunger and the daunting task of rebuilding their lives.

“We are now passing difficult days after losing almost everything,” Julieta said. “We were expecting to have good production of rice, cassava, maize, as well as some pigeon beans. Unfortunately, these crops have been swept away by Cyclone Ana. We are coping using the few remaining dried cassava to make flour for food. Some relatives and friends have assisted with rice and cassava plants for replanting to see if we can manage to produce anything.”

Julieta is not only a survivor of Tropical Storm Ana. She is a survivor of something much bigger. Mozambique was hit by Cyclone Idai in 2019, which is the worst storm on record for that region. Cyclone Idai was followed a month later by Cyclone Kenneth, the strongest storm to make landfall in Mozambique. In 2021, the country was slammed by Cyclone Eloise, the second of three large storms to hit the nation in one season.

Climate change causes suffering around the world, significantly impacting the most vulnerable like Julieta. Storms are intensifying in strength and frequency, and weather patterns are shifting unpredictably. Smallholder farmers like Julieta don’t currently have the resilience to withstand continuous climatic shocks to their livelihood. Women are especially vulnerable as social norms reduce their options. It is crucial to

adapt to climate change and to reduce, or mitigate, its damage.

ADRA, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, recently began a climate-smart project in Mozambique, of which Julieta is a part. The project looks at the current realities and challenges of climate, hunger, and gender equality and addresses each to make a lasting difference.

For Julieta, this means training in organic, conservation agriculture. This method encompasses the health of the whole food system, including water, soil, and crops. It protects and restores resources that support abundant food production, thereby ensuring greater food security and income for families.

For Julieta’s community, this means establishing savings and loans groups to help families absorb shocks and sustain themselves through the year.

It also means establishing Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Committees trained in disaster management plans. ADRA will also work with these committees to identify, improve, and maintain natural barriers, like mangrove forests, that help reduce the negative impacts of disasters.

To address gender inequality, the project will empower women to participate in decision-making, take leadership, and access resources and markets. Communities will demonstrate how everyone benefits when women are included.

ADRA is working alongside project participants like Julieta to tackle the multifaceted challenges of climate, hunger, and gender inequality to offer sustainable solutions that benefit all. It is a method that ADRA has successfully developed in places like Kenya, Nepal, and Mongolia. For Julieta, it will be with greater strength and resilience that she faces future shocks. ■

Heather Grbic is a writer for ADRA Canada.





Happy Mother's Day!

ADRA Canada is working with mothers to help them adapt to a changing climate. By teaching them how to grow gardens, raise livestock, and preserve traditional foods – mothers can feed their families and build sustainable futures for their communities.

With your help, we can reach even more mothers and give them the tools they need to thrive in a changing world. Please donate today and help us empower these amazing women!

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God Rescued Me

God Anchored Stephen McIntyre's Life Amid the Storms

He struggled to cling to a single thought as thousands ran circles around his head. His heart raced. He must have heard wrong. His fingers clung to the receiver. With trembling lips, he asked the question one more time. "The Ocean Ranger sank?"

Stephen McIntyre froze in time and space hearing this fateful news. Let's back up to where his story begins.

August 1981

No amount of preparation could have made Stephen feel ready for that moment. His new reality exceeded all sights and images conceived. His boot, hidden beneath an orange safety suit, made a clanging sound as he stepped off the helicopter onto the metal deck. With widened eyes and muscles tensed as he gazed into the never-ending watery abyss.

"I immediately realized how massive this drilling platform was," says Stephen. "As I stood there and looked over the sea, I felt very small and alone."

At over 30,000 square feet, the *Ocean Ranger* was the biggest drilling oil rig of its kind. Located in the waters of Newfoundland, the Ranger was accessed by helicopter or supply ship. Over 80 men left their lives on land to work on the *Ocean Ranger*.

"No man or woman would necessarily choose to be isolated in a floating metal platform in the middle of the ocean for the rest of their life," says Stephen. "Most of the crew were in their 20s and 30s and had families at home."

Stephen thought of his wife carrying their first-born son. In just one month they would meet for the first time. Working as a steward on the *Ocean Ranger*

allowed him to provide for his growing family. The first day on the job was terrifying and daunting, but as the weeks progressed, Stephen was able to fall into a routine.

February 4, 1982

His breakfast dishes slid off the table and shattered into tiny pieces. Trepidation captured Stephen's heart as he sprung from his seat. The emergency alarm loudly confirmed the unspoken danger. The *Ocean Ranger* was slanting toward the right. He ran to the deck when a sickening reality struck.

"There's too many people here," said Stephen. "If this thing goes down, there aren't enough lifeboats at this station."

Stephen and his crew members stared into the water, each imagining their fate.

"We all held our breath and there was a strange silence," Stephen explains today. "No one wanted to think what everyone was thinking."

Everyone let out a sigh of relief as the rig slowly levelled out.

"This made me realize that I'm just a little speck on this platform in the middle of this vast Atlantic Ocean, and I had no control over what happened to me," Stephen reflects.



For more information about the Ocean Ranger, go to the Newfou



February 7, 1982

Stephen struggled to get through his daily duties. He could barely see the stairs as he carried the laundry down to the washing station. It started off as a throat infection but gradually developed into an eye infection.

"My infections were bad enough that I couldn't really swallow, and I couldn't open my eye anymore," Stephen explains.

After being examined by the medic, Stephen was advised to visit a doctor on land. The toolpusher on board offered Stephen his seat on the helicopter so he could seek treatment. Stephen planned to return to work on Feb. 15 after seven days of recovery at home.

February 15, 1982

Stephen woke up at 6:30 that morning. A major storm was raging outside, but he optimistically packed his bags just in case the helicopter was safe to fly. He was about to leave his house when the phone rang. His father-in-law delivered the news.

"I didn't die, but I died inside," whispers Stephen.

The *Ocean Ranger* sank on Feb. 15, 1982, shortly after 2:30 a.m. The Ranger was unable to withstand the strong North Atlantic storm. Eighty-four crew members perished. Only 22 bodies were found.

"My friends were on there," says Stephen.

Searching for Answers

Stephen realized his eye infection saved his life that day. However, he couldn't stop thinking about the people he had left behind. And the families they had left behind. The toolpusher who offered him his seat on the helicopter. He had a family. The worker who had flown out there only temporarily for one week in hopes of returning home on Feb. 7—he never made it home.

"I was struggling," says Stephen. "Struggling to come to terms with how to handle my mind and still function."

In the midst of Stephen's grief, his father-in-law invited him to the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church. Walking into the church for the first time was a very daunting experience, but Stephen does not regret his decision.

"I was literally blown away," says Stephen. "I felt the Spirit there, and I felt God had brought me there for a reason."

After returning to the church for a series of 24 meetings, Stephen accepted Jesus and was baptized. He decided to fully commit himself to the church. He currently serves as head elder at Bay Roberts Seventh-day Adventist Church and is confident the Seventh-day

Adventist Church is where he belongs.

"I am so thankful to the Lord for leading me out of what I considered a mess," says Stephen.

A Purpose for the Pain

Forty years after the tragedy, Stephen is still processing the event and the emotions that follow. He allowed himself to reflect on the personal growth he has experienced since that fateful day when he received the phone call. The pain never ends; it just gets more bearable.

"The grief never leaves you," says Stephen. "It is always with you. It all comes back every year."

Stephen looked to God for strength during his suffering. He reflected on the tragedy God faced when His creation rebelled against Him. The pain God must have felt when He looked upon Jesus suffering on the cross. Stephen knows that God understands his agony and has a plan for his life.

"The *Ocean Ranger* taught me that each person is precious in the eyes of God," says Stephen. "I am thankful that I don't always need to be in a state of lament, because I know there is a better life coming."

Each year Stephen's faith in God grows stronger, and he has learned to lean on God during all his trials. Stephen decided to share his testimony because he wants to help others who are still haunted and tormented by their past. Hopefully, his experience can empower others and miracles can be worked through their lives.

"I believe my story may bring hope to someone, even if it's one person. So for that person or anyone who reads this, I share the hope I have," says Stephen. ■

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.



Stephen aboard the drill ship, *Pacnorse*, one year after the *Ocean Ranger* tragedy.

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

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland Paramedic Awarded Medal for Exemplary Service



Ross Murley (right), standing with his eldest son, Andrew, was awarded a medal for exemplary service as a paramedic.

Morgan Ross Murley (Ross) is a Marystown Seventh-day Adventist Church member in Newfoundland and Labrador. For those of you who may know Ross, four things are evident in his life: he loves the Lord, his family, his camera, and the work he does.

Ross has been a Christian for what seems a lifetime now. He is a devoted family man who has the privilege of being the father to three wonderful children. He is an avid photographer and spends much of his leisure time out in nature waiting for the perfect opportunity to get that perfect shot.

Ross began his career in the EMS field in 1990 working with the Burin Ambulance Service. In 1996, he began working with Marystown Ambulance Service, where he is currently still working. He completed the

Paramedic Level 1 Program through the Programs in Paramedicine in 1998. In 2011, he completed the bridging program to Primary Care Paramedic.

Ross attributes his faith as a significant factor in his career's longevity. Being a paramedic is not for the faint of heart. As a first responder, Ross will often be the first on the scene of a medical emergency or major accident. And the things that Ross has seen and encountered in his field of work were often horrific. Due to confidentiality concerns, Ross cannot share everything he has witnessed. But over the years, he has given testimonies about some of the gruesome situations he has faced—as well as some of the beautiful things he has experienced.

Being a Christian in this line of work has opened numerous doors for Ross to share the gospel with those whom he encounters. Whether it be a Bible study on a long drive, answering biblical questions for co-workers, a silent prayer in the driver's seat, or a whispered prayer in the back of the ambulance, Ross's ministry lets someone know that God loves them. Ross has found so many ways to witness through his work, and this has given not just him but those around him the strength to make it through the day.

On Feb. 18, 2022, Ross was recognized for this service at the Parliament House in St. John's, N.L. This prestigious award is given to practitioners who have served the EMS field for a minimum of 20 years and have been on the front line for at least 10 of those. This medal is not awarded simply for years of service quantitatively but for exemplary service.

Ross's love for God's Creation goes beyond the scenery and adorable animals. It extends to everything God has created, especially fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Being a first responder isn't the most straightforward task, and it takes a toll physically, mentally, emotionally, and sometimes spiritually. But his commitment to spreading the "God virus," as Ross calls it—the good



news that Jesus is coming again soon—gets him through every day.

Thank you, Ross, for your outstanding service, not only as a paramedic but also as a missionary for the kingdom. ■

—Kaitlynn Harushimana,
communication director, Seventh-day
Adventist Church in Newfoundland
and Labrador



SDACC

Burman Ministry Centre Grand Opening and Dedication



Burman University president, Loren Agrey, speaks at the grand opening ceremony of the Burman Ministry Centre.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”—Matt. 5:14–16

In this critical time in earth’s history, God’s people are feeling the urgent call to shine their light. In April of last year, a conversation took place with Loren Agrey (president of Burman University), Steve Reasor (chair, Religious Studies), and Kevin Kiers (chair, Outdoor Leadership). A new ministry was discussed that would help Canadian church members grow their faith in Jesus. The conversation focused on how Burman University

could provide the space and resources to support ministry across Canada.

From there, many conversations among ministry leaders in every level of our church took place. The central question was *What do Seventh-day Adventist Canadians need today, and how can we help?*

Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), said, “We need



The first podcast in the new audio recording studio, *GO: The Mission*, with Jacqui McCarty, on student mission experiences.



Video recording studio with multiple backgrounds for many types of recordings.

two things: first, a deeper and more personal faith in God, and second, a better understanding on how to lead people to Christ.”

Less than a year later, on March 6, 2022, the grand opening and dedication service for the new Burman Ministry Centre took place, a landmark event for Adventist ministry and mission in Canada. In collaboration with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, the North American Division (NAD), the General Conference, Canadian ministry leaders, donors, local churches, and the Burman Ministry Centre Board, this centre now has many branches of ministry to help Canadian churches share God’s light and the hope we have in His soon return.

Even though the centre is located on the campus of Burman University, much effort is being spent on serving all areas of Canada. Careful thought has been made to include ministry-minded Seventh-day Adventists from across the country to help others.

The centre’s motto is “Shine to Serve,” which provides a basis for our ministry. Shine your light for Jesus to serve others. Everything we do, produce, and share is service oriented. Given the uncertain days in which we live, we find it fitting to help our church members shine so that others can develop and grow their faith in Jesus. In turn, we hope that Christians across the country will share Christ’s love with others through service.

Recording Studios

Our video, audio, and podcast recording studios are essential to the Burman Ministry Centre. The centre invites church members from across Canada to record with us and to share their talents with our Canadian churches. Four content creators have been hired to

move things along quickly, with more being hired later this year.

The Burman Ministry Centre is happy to assist you or your group in booking an appointment with our studios and letting us help you record songs, sermons, and podcasts to share on our website, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

To arrange a recording time slot, contact the centre. This is where you can truly “let your light shine.” The Burman Ministry Centre has a special invitation to all high school students that want to share their talent in our studios. Contact Burman University’s Marketing and Enrolment Department to arrange a campus visit. As an incentive, the marketing department will help pay your way here. Once you are here, the centre would love to work with you in the studio.

SDACC Student Missions

In co-operation with the NAD Office of Volunteer Missions, the Burman Ministry Centre is now a processing centre for any student in Canada, 18 years and older, to serve worldwide as a student missionary! Students can take a year off school to volunteer somewhere on the planet. Students are needed to serve as teachers, pastors, evangelists, accountants, grounds/maintenance workers, translators, and so much more.

The centre’s first podcast recording was with Ernest Hernandez, director of the NAD Office of Volunteer Missions, who said, “Missions is when you answer the call from God to serve. God is calling people all the time. When people answer ... that’s it ... you are in mission mode. There are a lot of opportunities out there.”

Students who register to serve as student missionaries through the Burman Ministry Centre will receive a



During the dedication service, some of the student content creators and studio engineers were introduced.

Medallion of Service and a scholarship of up to \$1,000. To learn more, or to serve soon, contact the centre for more information.

Paid Internship Positions in Canada

Beginning in summer 2022, the Burman Ministry Centre will be sending 10 religious studies students to serve as interns to the conferences in Canada. These interns will serve for three months with a mentor pastor in an assigned church. The goal is to support local churches, while at the same time helping our future pastors be more prepared for when they take their first position to serve in pastoral ministry.

Livestream

In an effort to be diverse in ministry approaches while sharing the gospel, and to equip church members for ministry, a critical partnership with the Alberta Conference has been made to provide much-needed livestream equipment. This will allow the centre to use the two studios for live presentations and training programs. Church members and departmental directors from across Canada can come and use this ministry tool to serve others.

Conferences and Training Programs

At the time of writing, plans are underway to host two important conferences through the centre. These conferences are for members to learn more about

evangelism. One is the Symphonia Conference and the other is a French-Evangelism Conference. With a focus on inclusion, the centre emphasizes content for both French- and English-speaking Canadians.

Research

The centre will conduct ministry-related research from churches in Canada to provide much-needed data that will help guide decisions. Through the work of Lindsay Chincegadoo, assistant professor of religious studies, much focus will be placed on data related to effective evangelism. Additionally, data will be collected to provide statistical information related to ministry. This will help church leaders and the Religious Studies Department at Burman University to better understand what is happening in our churches and what needs to be done to train our leaders.

As the centre moves forward in serving the SDACC, please pray for this new ministry. Pray for our church leadership as they navigate these difficult times. Pray that our churches shine brightly in this dark world. Pray that our faith grows strong while we serve our communities. Partner with us to shine your light. To contact the Burman Ministry Centre, email bmc@burmanu.ca or follow/message us on Instagram or Facebook. ■

— Kevin Kiers, executive director,
Burman Ministry Centre

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Mar. 31, 2022, there were 370 depositors with a total deposit of \$ 31,752,427. There were 89 loans with a value of \$ 29,003,815.

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

Announcements

PROCESS:

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

Announcements

Notice is hereby given that the 59th 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
Alick Watson, Vice-President
for Administration*

Obituaries

Hazel (née Sanders) Hill was born May 22, 1929, in Watford, Hertfordshire, U.K., and died July 24, 2021, in Salmon Arm, B.C. Hazel was

a long-time member and supporter of the church in Dartmouth, N.S., and Salmon Arm. In retirement, Hazel and her husband volunteered for ADRA Canada and A Better World child rehabilitation projects in Kenya for 10 years. She was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth; and her sister, Dorothy Sanders. Surviving: sons, Kelvin (Marcia) of Lacombe, Alta., and Colin (Sheila) of Lacombe; daughters, Karen (Henry) Leung of Lacombe, and Susan (Kroy) Christison of Salmon Arm; sister, Carol Magee of Banbridge, Northern Ireland; and seven grandchildren.

Ruth (née Soley) Kneller was born Feb. 7, 1934, in Binbrook, Ont., and died Feb. 2, 2022, in Stoney Creek, Ont. Ruth was a member of Hamilton Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she taught children's Sabbath school, was a deaconess, and led out in Pathfinders. She sang and played piano beautifully. She was predeceased by her spouse, John; daughter, Brenda Ilchuk; and sisters, Marion Case and Doris Walker. Surviving: daughters, Darlene (Ron) Budai of Hamilton, Ont., and Marylyn (John) Lungul of Ancaster, Ont.; brothers, Roy Soley of Stoney Creek, and John (Janice) of Orillia, Ont.; sisters, Florence Brown, Martha (Walter) Wassink, and Darlene Soley, all of Dundas; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Lawrence Letniak was born Apr. 30, 1951, in Consort, Alta., and died June 25, 2021, in Coronation, Alta. Lawrence was strongly committed to the Adventist message of love, hope, and generosity. He was a member of the Loyalist Seventh-day Adventist Church all his life and served in many leadership positions. He used his intellect, initiative, patience, and dedication to enhance the lives of others. Lawrence was predeceased by parents, James and Marie (née Tym); and spouse, Debbie (née Siemsen) Letniak. Surviving: spouse, Sheri (née Parchment) Townsend-Letniak; son, Ryan (Trina) of Edmonton, Alta.; daughter, Jodi (Marvin) Primero of Burleson, Tex.; brother, Ron (Connie) of Consort; sisters, Darlene (Paul) Karmy of Burleson, and Ellen (Bob) Bell of Lacombe; and two grandchildren.

Rachel (née Lowry) Meharry was born Jul. 8, 1982, in Oshawa, Ont., and died Jan. 22, 2022, in Altamonte Springs, Fla. Rachel was a student missionary in Costa Rica, eighth-grade teacher at Orlando Junior Academy in Florida, history teacher at Collegedale Academy in Tennessee, church praise singer ministry participant, and educator and panelist to Orlando church regarding social justice, diversity, and racial equity. Surviving: parents,

Cecil and Valmae Lowry; spouse, Jonathan; son, Joshua of Apopka, Fla.; daughter, Lily of Apopka; and sister, Carolyn (Tiago) Baltazar of Berrien Springs, Mich.

Thomas J. Robertson was born Jul. 30, 1938, in Durango, Colo., and died Jan. 29, 2022, in Lethbridge, N.L. Thomas taught at the Lethbridge Seventh-day Adventist School for 14 years until the school's closure. He then taught first-year chemistry for 12 years at College of the North Atlantic in Newfoundland before retiring. He was predeceased by his parents, P. Gordon and M. Cleo (née Stovall). Surviving: spouse, Nancy (née Bell); brother, Kaye (Sandra, née Windsor) of Lethbridge; and sister, A. Joyce (Calvin) Grimmett of Wasilla, Alaska.

Shirley (née Shully) Sackett was born Aug. 1, 1940, in Vernon, B.C., and died Dec. 19, 2021, in Toronto, Ont. Shirley was a loving pastor's wife who worked in three conference offices across Canada and the U.S. She was predeceased by her daughter, Dawn Sackett. Surviving: spouse, Harry D.; son, Ron (Sylvia); and sister, Lorraine Armstrong.

Tributes

Geraldine Krym (née Roth), 1933-2021



Geraldine passed away peacefully at the age of 88 in Winnipeg, Man., on Dec. 26, 2021, with family at her side.

Geraldine was born on Oct. 20, 1933 in Beiseker, Alta., daughter of Chris and Pauline Roth (née Leiske). Geraldine had two brothers and four sisters and was the last surviving sibling. She grew up on the family farm and attended the Rosebud Seventh-day Adventist Church in Beiseker. As the daughter of early pioneers, she learned the value of hard work, generosity, and charity.

She attended Canadian Union College and graduated in 1954.

Geraldine married Fred Krym of Rosser, Man., in 1959. She spent her life farming, hosting school tours for thousands of school children, and providing respite care for adults with disabilities. She also worked at West

Park Manor Personal Care Home in Winnipeg for 21 years.

Geraldine was a founding member of the Silver Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Winnipeg. She served her church with love and dedication, as the church organist and pianist, and taught Sabbath school to generations of children. Geraldine and Fred hosted many church picnics, corn roasts, and outdoor events at their farm.

Geraldine was a kind, compassionate soul with a good sense of humour. Her life touched many people who will miss her deeply.

Her husband, Fred, predeceased her in 2009. Geraldine leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Valerie (Russell MacDonald); son, Lynden (Donna); grandchildren, Chantelle, Justin, Ashley, Daria, and Natalia; great-grandchildren, Harper and Marshall; and many nieces and nephews.

A Word of Thanks from Stan Jensen

I have appreciated the many kind and encouraging emails, Facebook messages, and other comments I have received since I announced my retirement. Serving the church as an institution as well as our members individually has been quite the ride over the past 43 years. I jokingly say that I would have retired earlier had I known there would be such an outpouring of love and support. On top of that, I have been blessed to work with many outstanding people for the past decade at the national headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. These have been the 10 most enjoyable years of my career.

I would encourage and challenge our youth—and *yes*, we have the best generation ever—to consider this: seek a career and lifelong employment in God's remnant church. Use your talents and education to make a difference. Becoming an Adventist while a university student cost me a lot, but I would not trade what I lost for what I have gained, even for a moment. I took a personal challenge to take on what seemed impossible at the time and work with God to open doors. So many things took only one miracle to get the doors open. We are connected with Someone who opens doors when we take that on by faith.

What does my future hold? I am working on a few projects to expand our media presence in Canada, as well as other charitable work—especially for the children in situations we would never want our children to even know about. I invite you to visit www.bfsda.ca.

Let's do this!



■ Advertisements

Canadian Adventist Messenger is looking for a staff writer for a new column, "Growing Up Gen Z." We are looking for a Gen Z undergraduate or graduate student who would like to talk about various topics that are impactful and relevant for young people in the church today. Please contact messenger@adventist.ca for more info.

Upcoming Episodes on It Is Written Canada: May 7: "Can You Believe in Science and God?" Professor Pekka Määttänen, from Burman University in Lacombe, Alta., shares insights from the world of science and shows you how living organisms work and how they reveal evidence of design. **May 14 & 21:** "Coming Home—Parts 1 & 2": Jerry Shiel left home at the age of 16, lived on the streets for a number of years, and kept getting into trouble with drugs and violence, which meant he spent time in and out of jail. Then he hit the big time, working as a model in Los Angeles and Dallas, but God had another plan for Jerry's life. **May 28:** "Thank You, Jesus, for Your Peace": Meet David and Darrell Beaudoin, who today are so thankful for the peace Jesus brought into their lives, because before they committed themselves to the service of the Lord, they were going down a very dark and dreary road. You will be blessed by their story. (5/22)

Andrews University Expands Undergraduate Programs Online. A new Adult Education Center supports mature students advancing their career or retooling to go where God leads. Earn an online certificate in Christian Discipleship, Missions and Global Awareness, Ministry (in Spanish), English as a Second Language, Technologist in Microbiology, Chemistry, or Hematology. Complete a degree in Business, Religion, Christian Discipleship, Public Health, Medical Laboratory Science, Nursing, or General Studies. Learn more at www.andrews.edu/distance/degrees/undergrad/ (7/22)

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PROCESS:

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

RATES:

Classified advertising— \$43 for 50 words or less; \$11 for each additional 10 words. *Maximum 250 words.*

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

online from Fall 2022. Learn more at www.andrews.edu/distance/degrees/grad (7/22)

We help Adventists marry Adventists. It's that simple: www.adventistdating.com. (12/22)

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2022 OFFERING SCHEDULE

MAY

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

JUNE

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Local Church Budget | June 04 |
| Women's Ministries* (NAD) | June 11 |
| Local Church Budget | June 18 |
| Local Conference Advance | June 25 |

*Special materials provided.





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Board Members
NEEDED



ADRA Canada is looking for new Board members who are capable of bringing leadership to the organization's governance structure.

If you're a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and want to apply, please send an email to info@adra.ca by Monday, May 16, 2022.

Include a current resume and a letter of interest in which you explain your desire to join the ADRA Canada Board of Directors, your connection to ADRA, and your commitment to ADRA's mission and purpose.

Did You Move?

Contact your local conference membership clerk to update your records and stop delivery of extra copies:

Alberta Conference
Dorothy Falesau
dfalesau@albertaadventist.ca
403-342-5044, ext. 210

Ontario Conference
Kristen Bailey
kbailey@adventistontario.org
905-571-1022, ext. 224

British Columbia Conference
Tanya Avelar-Martinez
tavelarmartinez@bcadventist.ca
604-853-5451, ext. 300

Quebec Conference
Sara Therlonge
stherlonge@sdaqc.org
450-651-5222, ext. 230

Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference
Aleisha Mazier
amazier@mansaskadventist.ca
306-244-9700

Maritime Conference
Jullie Bannister
info@maritimesda.com
506-857-8722, ext. 201

SDA Church in Newfoundland and Labrador
Xenia Capote
xcapote@nladventist.ca
709-682-0284



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Well Done

As I write these lines, it is quite cold outside, but tree buds, singing birds, the clear sky, and strong rays of sunlight coming in through the window make me appreciate the beauty and restoration associated with the spring season. For all the good that spring brings into our lives, we cannot ignore the fact that we live in a world filled with turmoil. The war in Ukraine still raging on, with no concrete sign of a peace deal in sight despite tentative talks about it, is a clear reminder of that. It is a developing story, with plenty of shocking scenes that are heartbreaking to watch—a major conflict and, unfortunately, not the only one happening in the world right now. There is conflict everywhere, whether it be nation against nation, tribal disputes, or workplace politics. Power and authority are overestimated and confounded with physical violence.

Ongoing conflict is a reality all around us, and I want to suggest that we view it as opportunity rather than reason for distress or, even worse, indifference since conflict is so common. As Seventh-day Adventists, I hope we can shake out indifference and embrace the idea of making a difference here and now. Like the family in western Canada who emailed us the other day to say they were willing to take in a family of Ukrainian refugees who might be looking for shelter.

We can expand on that idea. All around us, people are struggling in different ways. Whenever possible, we must help them because they need it. They need physical, social, emotional, and spiritual help. It should not matter to us what they believe, or even if they don't at all. Their cultural background, marital status, or education should make no difference. Those of us who have been admitted to a hospital in need of urgent care would never refuse help from a health-care professional based on what *they* believe or look like. If you drop your groceries when trying to catch the bus or put them inside your vehicle, you will not turn down help from a kind person just because they look or believe differently than you do. In the same way, God expects us to love and help everyone—those we deem similar to us, as well as those we deem different from us (see Matt. 5:43–48).

When someone comes to us, whether fleeing a war or opening up about their innermost struggles, may we be like Jesus and share the blessings God has blessed us with. And one of these days, while going about the business of God's kingdom, we will hear a familiar voice say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. ... Enter into the joy of your master" (Matt. 25:23, ESV). ■

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

Evaldo Vicente, editor
vicente.evaldo@adventist.ca



Burman University Library Dedication

Nothing could be more pertinent to the "Growing in Knowledge" theme of this year's Homecoming celebration than the dedication of Burman's new library. You are invited to attend on Sabbath afternoon, June 4, to share this landmark event in Burman University history. The addition of a world class learning hub on this campus is nothing short of transformational for this university. Alumni and friends made this possible in record time, and we are grateful for their generous and timely support.



Loren Agrey (HS'80, U'84), *President*



HOME COMING 2022 • June 3-5

Growing in Knowledge

HONOUR CLASSES 2017 2012 2007 2002 1997 1992 1987 1982 1977 1972 1967 1962 1957 1952 1947

Sabbath Service Featured Speaker

Ashia Lennon U'17
Lead Pastor, Pinehouse Drive Church
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Pastor Ashia's interest in the youth of the church is of long standing. Each month, she invites them to "Ask Me Anything" in *The Messenger's* "Teen Talk" column. Teens have written her with existential questions such as Where did God come from?, social issues such as How can I stop feeling so out of place in my new school?, and relational situations such as How

do I break up with a bad friend? Ashia responds to all with empathy, thoughtfulness, honesty, and encouragement.

Parkview Adventist Academy Dedication and Tour

Friday, June 3, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

The historic Parkview Adventist Academy and Burman University connection still exists, although in a different way since PAA became an independent institution. Memories and loyalties persist with alumni reminiscing about the "hilltop experience" from their time in both schools. On June 3, the academy celebrates its new beginning in a service of dedication. You are invited to attend and tour our new home.



Holly Kay (U'04), *Principal*

Students launch \$500,000 library furnishings campaign. See www.burmanu.ca.

Friday Evening Vespers Devotional Speaker

Keith Clouten
Former Burman University Librarian (1980-1993)



Since retiring as library director from Andrews University in 2003, Keith has provided volunteer library services in Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Also an author, Keith has published several books and a number of professional articles. His most recent book is *A Day for Joy*.

Sabbath School Program

- Classes of 1971 and 1972
- Coordinators: Warren (HS'71) and Cheryl (HS'71, U'72) Kay

Sabbath Evening Vespers

- Presented by Parkview Adventist Academy



The Kays

Social Events

- Sabbath Lunch: Burman's PE Centre Gymnasium
- Class Photos: PE Centre Gym and PAA Gym
- Sunday Morning Pancake Breakfast

BURMAN
UNIVERSITY



One Vision

40 Years and Counting

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

Carmelia Soosay

Wetaskiwin Hospital Frontline Worker

MANS Alumna



In 1979, Wetaskiwin pastor Dennis Nickel and his bride Jenny packed a guitar into their Ford Fairlane and headed to Maskwacis. There, they joined Elsie Eaton and Elaine Roque in a weekly Branch Sabbath School.

From the Branch Sabbath School grew Mamawi Atosketan Native School and the Maskwacis Congregation.

MANS is now two campuses and three solid buildings. **The Congregation is still looking for a place to worship.**

When there was space available on reserve, Carmelia's kids loved attending Sabbath School like she did. But it's hard.

Carmelia feels strongly about helping to heal her community on every level. That means having a permanent Adventist meeting place—on the reserve.

It means building a multi-use spiritual home where practical as well as spiritual needs are met. A place where Carmelia's neighbours can drop in for church or health classes and feel at home.

A place where it's good to be an Indigenous Adventist.



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

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