

Unwavering Faith (p. 7), The Least of These (p. 15),  
The Quest for Hope (p. 35), Campmeeting Guide (p. 38)

june 2022

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# Messenger

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“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people.”

—Dan. 2:44a, ESV

## The Great Reset

The other morning, I went for my usual pre-dawn walk. The streets aren't busy at 5 a.m., even in the city. As I looked up at the twinkling stars, I was reminded of the smallness of humans and the largeness of God. Out somewhere beyond those little points of light in the night sky is where God lives. There's a big difference between humans and God. God lives forever. We are mortal. God is holy. Humanity struggles with evil.

There are many fearful challenges before us. Epidemic diseases, natural disasters, famine, and war at times signal the end of civilization as we have known it. In our time, we turn to the demi-gods of the world to avoid the threat of extinction. But scientists, politicians, and modern medicine cannot provide the answers that will ultimately save us.

Perhaps you've heard of the Great Reset that some globalists are planning for 2030. Plans are described that are meant to improve quality of life and preserve civilization, albeit not without significant change. Once again, as with ancient Babel, concerned citizens seek human solutions to God-sized challenges.

The fact is we *do* need a global reset. But the reset we need must come from heaven, from God. No human solution will solve the complex problems of the world we live in.

I've read what the proposed 2030 reset might look like. I've also read what God's great reset will look like. In comparison, God's plan removes the restrictions that sin has brought to us. When Jesus resets life on earth, we'll be able to say "Free at last. Thanks to God, we're free at last."

Here's God's reset plan: "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever" (Dan. 2:44, ESV).

The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.<sup>1</sup> ■

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

1 Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), 678.





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# WHAT'S INSIDE

## June 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 "Passing the Passion for Jesus," as an Adventist educator shares stories of three amazing educators and more in our annual Education issue.

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# FREEDOM OF RELIGION



**Q:** *In terms of freedom of religion, what is the legal definition of “religion”?*

**A:** Ah ... what is religion? Great question. It can be like beauty: in the eye of the beholder. But it cannot mean just anything, particularly when something so important as freedom of religion is at stake. Too broadly defining religion will reduce the protection for religious liberty for those with deeply held belief in the transcendent.

Some have mocked religious belief by establishing ridiculous new faiths. Pastafarianism and its purported belief in the Flying Spaghetti Monster comes to mind. (This movement began as a satire. It was started by individuals who were opposed to intelligent design being taught in U.S. public schools.) While we can look at this with some humour, it has a nefarious side: discrediting religious belief and thereby undermining its protection in law.

Over the years, the U.S. Supreme Court has struggled a bit with defining religion. In the 1890s, religion was defined in traditional theistic terms. In the 1960s, the U.S. court expanded the definition to include groups that did not expressly believe in the existence of God (such as “ethical culture,” Buddhism, and secular humanism). The idea was to avoid differential protection for those who believe in a God and those who do not when the set of beliefs occupy the same significant place in the adherent’s life. In the 1970s, an opposition-to-war case seemed to protect all beliefs except if they “rest solely upon ... policy, pragmatism, or expediency.”

In Canada, Section 2(a) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects both freedom of religion and freedom of conscience, although there are few cases that deal with freedom of conscience outside of religious belief.

In a 2004 case, the Supreme Court of Canada attempted to define religion in a case called *Amselem* in this way:

While it is perhaps not possible to define religion

precisely, some outer definition is useful since only beliefs, convictions and practices rooted in religion, as opposed to those that are secular, socially based or conscientiously held, are protected by the guarantee of freedom of religion. Defined broadly, religion typically involves a particular and comprehensive system of faith and worship. Religion also tends to involve the belief in a divine, superhuman or controlling power. In essence, religion is about freely and deeply held personal convictions or beliefs connected to an individual’s spiritual faith and integrally linked to one’s self-definition and spiritual fulfilment, the practices of which allow individuals to foster a connection with the divine or with the subject or object of that spiritual faith.<sup>1</sup>

The court was clear in *Amselem* that to be protected, religious beliefs need not be shared by a larger religious organization or denomination. They can be peculiar to the individual, provided they are sincerely held.

Courts have always avoided theological debates and eschewed making determinations of what is a valid religious belief or practice, even when parties in a case call for it. They do not see it as their role, which is entirely appropriate. As such, defining religion for the purposes of the law has been difficult. Bottom line: the courts want to know whether the belief is sincere, integral to the person’s self-definition, and beyond a matter of policy. ■

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

<sup>1</sup> Syndicat Northcrest v. Amselem, [2004] 2 S.C.R. 551.



# Unwavering Faith

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”  
—Hebrews 11:1, NIV

**T**he Bible describes to us what faith is: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Heb. 11:1, NIV). The Scriptures not only define what this precious attribute is but also unpack its practicality through the life experiences of God’s children over thousands of years.

So, let’s consider just several characters and their stories as they are presented in the Bible:

**1** Abraham is called “God’s friend” (James 2:23) and the “father” of all who are believers (Rom. 4:16). The question that might come to mind is *Why is he called the Father of Faith?* The answer is simple: Because Abraham trusted God fully. He accepted God’s calling, even without knowing where God would be taking him (Gen. 12:1–3). Of course, he also failed during his journey—like any other human being. However, when his faith was truly tested, he believed in God completely and acted according to his faith (Gen. 22).

The point is clear. In the two main defining moments of his life, Abraham chose to believe in God. Had he not exercised faith to leave his household and go to an unknown place, he would not have grown in his confidence in God.

**2** Moses was also challenged when he faced the major test as commander and leader of God’s people just in front of the Red Sea. Surrounded by natural “roadblocks” and having Pharaoh and his army pressing on him and on the people he was leading, he needed to trust God’s words to move forward (Exod. 14:15)—even if it meant “walking” across the sea. Moses had to display an unmovable faith to defeat any fear!

**3** After 40 years in the desert, it was time for the Israelites to take possession of the promised land. Joshua, the new commander of

God’s people, passed God’s order to the people. Then, at the appointed time, the priests stood before the Jordan River during its flooding time when the waters were as strong as they could possibly be! They had no other option but to trust in God’s command to step in the waters and carry the ark to cross over into earthly Canaan.

**4** How about David? When all the Israelite soldiers were scared to death to even look at Goliath, David challenged the giant in the name of the Lord. David was full of confidence and loyal to his faith in God, ready to face the giant in His name (1 Sam. 17).

**5** How about Hannah, Deborah, Esther, Elijah, Elisha, Job, all God’s prophets, the disciples, apostles, the apostolic church, etc.? The list goes on. They decided to trust in God when they encountered their own challenges and limitations during their journeys. They showed an unwavering faith!

This is the point I want to bring home: the situations and circumstances we encounter are just opportunities that God has permitted in our lives so we can mature in our faith as we walk alongside Him. As our loving Father, He respects our final choice, though. Often, we admire the “heroes of faith,” but sometimes we forget that before they became heroes of faith, they were martyrs of faith!

May God grant us that unwavering faith, too, as we enjoy our journey with Him. We are “Almost Home.” ■

*Wesley Torres is president of the British Columbia Conference.*



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## Hotrod Ant

As the sun rises upon the Namib desert, the night creatures look for cover from the scorching heat. But sizzling temperatures don't bother the hotrod ant. When things heat up, a colony of hotrod ants gets busy cleaning out the nest. Then they head out over the blistering hot sand, looking for something to eat.

But there is danger! The ants stumble into an area of pit traps dug by antlion larvae. An ant falls into the trap and tries to scramble up the steep sides. The enemy antlion bursts from the bottom of the cone and grabs for the struggling ant with poisonous pincers. Fighting the slipping sand, the ant gets partway up the side, working hard to reach the top. The enemy antlion throws sand at the fleeing ant. As the sand boulders rain down on the head of the struggling ant, it slips back again and again. But it will not give up.



### Think about it.

Satan has set all kinds of sin traps for us because he wants to destroy us. He plots ways to trap us in sinful thinking, speaking, and acting. And we keep on falling into his traps.

But like the struggling hotrod ant, we can never give up fighting against sin. The martyrs "resisted to the point of shedding blood"—they chose to give up their lives rather than sin against God.

Jesus died to give us victory over sin, and in His power, we are more than conquerors. Never give up!

### Do it!

Memorize God's promises. Pray without ceasing. Fight the good fight of faith.



# Amazing Testimonies

from Amazing Facts Ministries

**Patricia writes:**

**D**ear Amazing Facts Ministries, How wonderful to discover you this evening as I settle in for a good read before the fireplace. While volunteering on a sheep ranch in Alberta this past spring, I was very delighted and intrigued by the only remaining copy of your *Great Controversy* on the counter of the local Canada Post. I have just now opened the book and joyfully discovered your free Bible study guides. I do hunger and thirst after righteousness and would like to receive these studies. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year! I thank God for your ministry, seeding the world with truth.

**A woman blessed by door-to-door ministry writes:**

**S**omeone put a *Great Controversy* book at my door, and I have read it and love it! What other material do you have?

*(She also enrolled in the Bible study correspondence course.)*

**Pierre writes:**

**D**ear Doug, I watch your program every Sunday, and I am pleased to send a donation to help.

**A pastor from a Pentecostal church writes:**

**G**reetings in Jesus' name. I recently started to see your program Saturday evenings. I am truly blessed. I received study guide no. 26. Please send me the other 26 guides. Enclosed is a gift of \$200 for ministry and \$50 for postage.

P.S.: May I use these guides in our Bible studies? With many thanks and God's richest blessings.

**An incarcerated man writes:**

**I**'m just trying to put everything together. I'm in jail for two murders and had a very wicked life, to say the least. I've just started believing in God, and because of these Bible studies, seeing the possibility that all my past thinking is messed up, I'm close to being released after 24 years and I feel incomplete.

*(This man is crying out for help, and we at Amazing Facts are so thankful that we can direct him to Jesus Christ.)*

**A Baptist woman writes:**

**T**he Bible study guides have been very helpful and life changing. How do I feel about keeping the seventh-day Sabbath? I know I'm doing the right thing. Praise God! Thank you and God bless.

P.S.: You have changed my life.

**Another incarcerated man writes:**

**F**irst and foremost, I would like to thank Amazing Facts Ministries for the Bible and *Living by Faith* book. The *Remnant Study Bible* means so much to me. It gives me a fuller and clearer view [thanks to] Sister White's comments. *Living by Faith* awakened a strong interest in my spirit. The words in this book inspire me to pray more. The book and Bible give me that oneness and harmony with the Holy Spirit. Thank you once more. I asked my wife to send a donation for *The Great Controversy*, a fabulous book. All these books are filling my soul. If Amazing Facts Ministries has any other books, please send them to me in care of my chaplain.



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# FRESH FAITH

# 35 & UNDER

In 35 words or less, what is your current philosophy on life?

## Leading Little Disciples

by Alannah Tjhatra



Kaitlynn Harushimana was raised in Grand Falls, N.L., where she attended public school from Grades 4 to 12. A quiet girl growing up, Kaitlynn was surrounded by a loving and supporting family. She slowly came out of her shell as opportunities for public speaking and leadership cropped up—and she found that she always enjoyed helping out with the younger children.

“Our church family was small, with minimal young people,” says Kaitlynn. “When I turned 16, I became a little discouraged and felt kind of lonely in church; that is when Pastor Jonathan and Ana [Gascoyne] moved to the area. They

invested highly in us, and it encouraged me to invest in those younger than me.”

Kaitlynn is passionate about getting children excited about Jesus from a young age, helping them to become “little disciples.” Now Kaitlynn serves with her husband in Marystown, N.L. She is involved with the Community Garden Outreach in Marystown and, for the last three years, has dedicated herself to the Camp Woody Acres program, a camp she also attended in her youth.

“Camp Woody Acres is my second home,” explains Kaitlynn. “It is where I fell in love with Jesus, where I decided I would serve Him forever, and where I [first] had the dream of working at camp all year long. And here I am.”

There are some challenges, however. Sometimes you want to be everything to everybody, and saying no can be difficult. This is something Kaitlynn has had to learn to overcome.

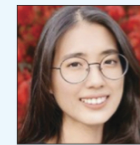
“The belief that we have to be everything to everyone because we love God is unrealistic and exhausting. God never called us to not have boundaries and to burn ourselves out. Sometimes I can only help one person, and that is OK,” says Kaitlynn.

Recently, Kaitlynn has accepted the Children’s Ministries liaison position for the SDACC. As she looks back, she remembers that God has been leading her life all this time. She praises God for the opportunities she has been given, glad that she is able to reveal Jesus to young people.

“I would like to [tell] young people that ministry can be inspiring,” ends Kaitlynn. “Sometimes we feel like we have to have a big ‘aha’ moment to ... have a testimony and find passion. But God is calling us where we are right now to use our gifts to serve Him and reach [others].” ■

**Alyssa Henriquez**

My current philosophy in life is “live and let live.”

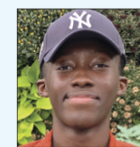


**Ashley Kim**

I try to remind myself that everything will pass eventually; there will be bad days, but there will also be good days where you look back and laugh over those days.

**James Bannister**

The main purpose of this life is to do as much good as possible. To do so, we must work with God to find our weaknesses and trust Him as He helps us improve.

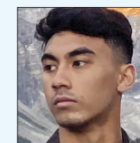


**Kwesi Tuffour**

My current philosophy is to be content with what I have instead of constantly chasing things. The more I chase things, the more stressed I become, and the more I end up wanting.

**Nora Martin**

I try my best and hope that it works out.



**Reiniel Davila**

The best way to live life on earth is not based on personal feats but rather on how you treat other individuals. Good character is the best way to show God’s love to others.





# Ask Me Anything

**Q:** Sometimes when my boyfriend and I are hanging with his friends, he makes jokes about me. When his friends aren't around, he is kinder and more spiritual. He also doesn't like to sit with me in church; he sits with his friends instead. I don't like sitting with them, as they're often goofing off or playing games on their phones. This stuff has been bothering me a lot. Is this a good reason to break up?

**A:** Hello, friend, thank you for sharing what has been troubling your heart. I think it is wonderful that you have strong affection toward someone. God made us with the ability to feel love toward someone deeply. When we exist in relationships, they must be safe places where we feel free and unashamed. This can be difficult when we are made fun of. A healthy relationship should not belittle or embarrass us. A healthy relationship empowers us and gives us courage as well as comforts us in difficult times.

One of the key points that help create and maintain healthy relationships is communicating. You must tell the other person how you feel. This is true for all relationships—with parents, friends, and even God. Communicating invites the other person into whatever it is that you're experiencing and into what you need. When we shy away from expressing ourselves, especially when it comes to things that hurt us, we develop resentment. Resentment is bitterness at being treated unfairly. To avoid bitterness, which can poison a relationship, it takes courage to share what our needs are to make the relationship a happy, supportive, positive part of our lives.

Relationships require a lot of our time and attention.

It requires us to balance the demands of life—school, extracurriculars, church, family, friends—and to give of ourselves to build a beautiful relationship. Managing this balance as a teenager can be difficult, and it sounds as if it might be taking a toll on you.

Being a young Christian is a wonderful time to learn more about yourself and the purpose God has formulated for you. I encourage you to involve an adult you trust to pray, coach, and share in the journey together. You don't have to be afraid to make a decision of working through or taking space away from this relationship. God promises to be with us and is very much interested in all aspects of our lives, especially our relationships with others. I find that He gives us peace and assurances of His love.

In Proverbs 3:5, 6, God encourages us to give all our troubles over to Him: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (NIV). ■

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



# Growing Up

# Millennial



## Be Like Esther

*"But we can do as Esther did: stand up for what is right. Stand up for the truth through our actions."*

**M**y favourite biblical character (I mean, other than Jesus) is Esther. Ever since I was a little girl, something about her was so special to me. I love the book of Esther—the story itself, the bravery, the woman, the history. There's a certain uniqueness to it.

The coolest part of the story for me, though, is seeing God so actively involved in the lives of people. And yet, His name is never mentioned in the book of Esther. Not once. We don't hear of Esther actively talking to God, and we don't hear of Xerxes, Haman, or even Mordecai actively talking to God. We don't hear of outright "God-performed" miracles being done, as God is never identified as the cause of strength, bravery, etc. And what's so incredible about this is that despite God not being mentioned, we see His presence so clearly in the story.

We see God's presence in Esther's strength and courage. We see His presence in Mordecai not bowing down to Haman. We see it in the decisions that Xerxes made. The fact that God can be unmistakably present without His presence being explicitly mentioned is a phenomenon we shouldn't take lightly.

I'll tell you the truth. Some days I don't always spend as much time with God as I should be (though *should*, in itself, is a capricious word). But that doesn't mean that I don't see Him in my life. I see God in the fact that He brought me and my fiancé together... something that no one at Walla Walla University—let alone us—would have ever predicted. I see God in the fact that I wake up every morning, even on the hard days, because there is potential in the day. I see God's abundant love as I work with children, whether in my former role at a daycare or currently as a

therapist. I see God in the therapy that I've had myself. No, in all these things, God isn't necessarily mentioned or talked about outright. For example, the daycare wasn't a Christian facility, so we didn't teach the kids about God. But that didn't mean God's presence wasn't felt or that He wasn't there.

On bad days, it's hard to see God's existence or presence. Some days and weeks and months are just outright horrible: there are wars in Yemen, in Syria, in Ukraine. But this doesn't mean God isn't there. I know it can feel as if He isn't, because this world is, for lack of a better description, messed up and confusing. We get hurt and we hurt others. So, some days, we have to look a little harder for God. He's always there, but because we're imperfect and destined to struggle, it's our job to continuously search.

Now, this doesn't mean we need to preach to people. There is often a time and place to bring up God, especially in secular circles where some people might be carrying religious trauma. But we can do as Esther did: stand up for what is right. Stand up for the truth through our actions. We can talk about God all day long, but if we don't exude God's presence and recognize Him, even in the little things, speaking about God only goes so far, especially in non-Adventist and non-Christian circles.

Even when we might feel that sickening, lonely feeling, God is still there. We don't need to call out His name physically or verbally. It can be heart-based. We can see Him in the world around us. We can be like Esther. ■

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



# Tech SAVvy

BY SANDY AUDIO VISUAL

## Lights Are Not Just for Christmas

*“Producing a professional-looking livestream is less about the camera and more about the lighting and visuals.”*

**H**istorically, our churches were not built with lighting in mind. Most of them have simple architectural fixtures and lack proper lighting for broadcast or performance. The COVID-19 pandemic has made that more apparent, leaving churches scrambling in the dark to provide an audiovisual online presence.

Growing up, I always heard my father say, “Video is light.” And now in 2022, this is even more true. Producing a professional-looking livestream is less about the camera and more about the lighting and visuals. In this issue we explain the types of lighting and some key principles involved.

### Front Wash Lighting

Front wash lighting is your “workhorse”; it builds the foundation of a functional lighting system. The front wash are the lights that point toward your stage and podium. A key component within the front wash is white LED fresnels or white LED ellipsoidals. This is called your key light. Washing the stage involves evenly lighting the complete stage area with light.

For example, if your stage is 60 feet wide, you need to illuminate more than just the podium. If you want your choir to be seen properly, light the entire choir loft. Choosing the proper tools will render the intended results.

The more melanated the subject, the greater the need for a well-balanced front wash. This is the number one priority, and without it, your livestream will undoubtedly look poor.

### Backlighting

Backlighting gives you the ability to define and frame your subject. Adding rear backlighting will instantly elevate your livestream to another level. This lighting element creates a separation between the walls and the subject and helps focus the audience’s attention on the performance.

For this application it is best to use a lighting fixture that produces a soft light with colour-changing capabilities. We recommend barn doors or a specific beam angle to keep the light away from the front seating positions.

### Background Light

Background lighting allows you to paint the canvas of your space visually with colour, texture, and movement. You can create astonishing scapes and set design using numerous lighting fixtures like LED Zooms, LED beams, gobo, and cyc lights. To add to the background light creation, you can also incorporate LED walls as a graphical light source—either static or full motion.

### Installation

When installing lights, start with access to the church from the outside. Do you have wheelchair accessibility that would allow for a boom lift, or will you need to build a scaffold tower?

Now that you are inside the church, you will require a few things. Working with a licensed electrician is vital at this point, as they would remove old lights and place new outlets and power drops. This is required by law.

Removing the pews or seats prior to the start date will help keep the process on schedule and on budget.

Since most churches don’t have an embedded catwalk system in the ceiling for removal or focusing of the lights, what do you do? Plan yearly or twice a year so you can maintain all the lights in your church to amortize the use of a professional service or scaffold and truck rental.

Sandy Audio Visual has successfully installed lighting systems for churches, chapels, and schools. If budget is a concern, focus on a well-designed front wash system that can later be augmented. With the proliferation of LED fixtures, the cost of operation and maintenance is extremely palatable for the church pocketbook.

The two main functions of church stage lighting are visibility and visual appeal. If you don’t currently have lighting, you’re missing the number one basic item to level up your worship environment both in-house and on the livestream. ■

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*Cleve Sandy owns Sandy Audio Visual (SAV) and has over 27 years of industry experience. SAV has worked with the Ontario Conference, SDACC, and the North American Division. Cleve can be reached at [cleve@savweb.com](mailto:cleve@savweb.com).*



# THE LEAST OF

I've become friends with a homeless guy named Rocky over the last few months. Sometimes we sit at McDonald's and chat before he takes his shopping cart of earthly belongings to the side of the highway. Rocky is about 70 years old and sleeps under a wooden canopy of a local ice cream parlor. He wakes up before dawn before the owner discovers he's been trespassing. Recently, as I had been driving past the major intersection, I noticed he was missing.

After a month of not seeing Rocky, I ventured into the McDonald's yesterday and asked the manager if she had seen Rocky recently. She told me that he had stopped coming in about a month ago and that she, too, was worried about him.

"Lord, help me find Rocky." That was my prayer. Not long. Not elaborate.

The next day I was travelling to an appointment, about 35 minutes from where Rocky typically stands asking for money. As I stopped at a traffic light, I suddenly recognized Rocky walking among the stopped cars, holding a large cup, asking for money. "Rocky, Rocky," I yelled, and he ran over to me for a moment before the light turned green.

He quickly updated me on some changes over the last month. "I'm staying in a hotel," he said. "The government found a place for me to stay, for now. And I'm feeling much better now that I'm sleeping indoors and getting a regular shower." I told him I'd been looking for him and was worried. Then I pulled out some money from my pocket and handed it over.

He grinned, not for the money but because I said I had missed him.

I'm not sure whether anyone would notice or care if Rocky disappeared. But I know God cares about him and put me in Rocky's life so he knows people out there see him.

Countless people stand along the intersections begging for spare change. What do you think when you see them? Are you annoyed? Does your heart break for them because it breaks God's heart?

The church has historically been successful in reaching upper-middle-class people. The profile of a Seventh-day Adventist church member is better educated than others. We have been successful at attracting *promising* members. But what is our responsibility to reach people in the margins? How could your church make a difference if you were to adopt a homeless person or a homeless family?

Ministering to "these kinds of people" requires tremendous humility, resources, and patience—often because of mental illness and other psychosocial issues.

The New Testament reminds us of the people Jesus spent His time with. It was "the least of these" (Matt. 25:40–45). What could you do to address the issues of homelessness in your community? ■

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*Kumar Dixit, D.Min., serves people through ConciergeMinister.com, an online platform that provides pastoral care to people who are on the margins of faith.*

# THESE

(PT. 1 OF 3)



# *Time to Start the Conversation...*



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# Engaging with Our Loved One: God

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”—1 John 4:7, NIV*

**P**rayer is how we engage with God. What does my engaging with God look like? As I come to Him, am I in tune with my emotions, identifying what I long for, reaching for the one I love, and openly and clearly asking for what I need? Even though I don't always get what I pray for, I still feel that sense of peace feeling safe and secure in His presence knowing I am loved and heard.

Or do I come to Him fearful He is not listening, is not willing to help me, doesn't care about my concerns? Am I scanning for rejection, allowing fear to make me demanding and desperate, almost getting angry with God, thinking it's not fair that I pray so hard, every day, and that He doesn't come through for me?

Or have I decided that praying is a waste of time and that I need to stand on my own two feet, leading me to distance myself from God?

How I engage with God probably has more to do with me than it does with God. In *Created for Connection: The “Hold Me Tight” Guide for Christian Couples*, Sue Johnson and Kenneth Sanderfer tell us, “There are really only three basic ways of engaging with those we depend on in our moments of emotional need: reaching, anxiously demanding, and trying to stay distant—relating but avoiding vulnerability.”<sup>1</sup> Ask yourself, “When you were small and cried, did you know that someone would come to comfort you and hold you?” The answer influenced the development of strategies for protection and survival. If consistently “no,” then the strategy developed was probably *avoidant*, staying distant not acknowledging need so as not to be hurt. If inconsistent (sometimes “yes,” sometimes “no”), then the strategy developed was probably *anxious*, constantly scanning for signs we will be deserted or rejected, mixing hostile anger with pleas for reassurance. If consistently “yes,” then the strategy developed was probably *secure*, owning our need and reaching for connection because we learned that the one we reach for is accessible, responsive, and engaged. We are safe and secure in their love.

When we have safe, secure relationships with others, we tend to open ourselves up to God, and have emotional balance and positive expectations of connection, which “often leads to more meditative and conversational forms of prayer, rather than prayer that is focused on petitioning God for help.”<sup>2</sup> Our love relationship with God and others is intertwined. The text in 1 John 4:7 reads: “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” (NIV).

Even if we did not grow up with safe, secure connections with others, we can experience that connection with God and others. To get there, we need to recognize the strategies we are currently using and, if anxious or avoidant, surrender them as having outlived their usefulness—asking God (and a good counsellor) for help to develop secure attachment. Trust God is good and loves you.

Psalm 79:9 says, “Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name [*trust His character of faithfulness and love!*]; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake” (NIV).

Psalm 145:9–11 says, “The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might” (NIV).

God is our loved one. Prayer is the means of engaging with Him. My prayer is that you feel a safe, secure, connection with God as you engage. ■

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*Honey Todd is the prayer ministries director for the Alberta Conference.*

1 Sue Johnson and Kenneth Sanderfer, *Created for Connection: The “Hold Me Tight” Guide for Christian Couples* (New York: Little, Brown Spark, 2016), 258.

2 Johnson and Sanderfer, 260, 261.

# Where Are They Now

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

*Interview by Ken Wiebe, Messenger Staff Writer*

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

**Renate Krause:** Born the first of three siblings in Germany during the Second World War, I wasn't aware of the unusual circumstances of growing up in post-war years in a defeated country. The rubble in the street provided good places for playing hide-and-go-seek. And going to the park to pick young dandelion greens with my grandmother was an outing, not a chore driven by the need for fresh vegetables. The American soldiers throughout the city gave children gum and chocolate bars, so we didn't think of them as occupying forces. Sure, my parents bought me only black or brown oxfords that my brothers could wear after I outgrew them. But all other families did the same. The day my grandmother bought me a pair of red sandals was a high day in my young life and remains a warm memory even now.

My family immigrated to Canada when I was 11 years old—an adventure for my brothers and me. But as I look back now, I can imagine the difficulties my parents had with this decision. Leaving family and friends, learning a new language, being immersed in a new culture, and even “doing church” differently couldn't have been easy.

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

**R:** I attended public school in Germany to Grade 6. A brief 18 months in a logging camp south of Williams Lake, B.C., introduced me to church school. After that, I was in public school to Grade 9. When I turned 14, my parents agreed to send me to high school at Canadian Union College (CUC). After a lengthy hiatus, I went on to Walla Walla College for a BA degree and, after a



Renate Krause



second lengthy hiatus, followed up with an MA degree from Andrews University. The last degree I earned was a PhD from the University of Alberta.

**M:** *What led you to choose education as a career?*

**R:** Two issues factored into my choice. For one, I was inspired by my husband, Donauvin, who was already a teacher. It wasn't a difficult decision because I already had had a long-standing desire to teach. Even as a child in Germany, I gathered the younger children in the neighbourhood for "school" on the steps outside our townhouse.

At this time, though, we had our own young children, and I knew they needed mom to be home when they were. So I didn't start on my career path until after they began school. And I chose to become a teacher so that I could be home with them after school and during vacations. I had a belated start, but once there, being a teacher was so rewarding! I loved helping students discover that writing essays wasn't beyond their reach, that literature could be stimulating and fun, and that even grammar had a weird sort of logic—well, at least some of the time.

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

**R:** At Walla Walla Academy, Peace River Junior Academy, Okanagan Adventist Academy, Parkview Adventist Academy, and Pacific Union College Preparatory School, I taught high school students. At these schools my primary courses were English classes. Smaller schools required some diversification, of course.

Once I was teaching at colleges and universities, my responsibilities included at least a course or two in English-related subjects concurrently with administrative roles. At CUC (now Burman University), I was chair of the thriving English department. At the same time, I assisted with development activities after Myrna and Bob Tetz left for the General Conference. That meant writing the alumni newsletter, organizing Alumni Homecoming, and representing CUC at a number of conferences.

Loma Linda (LLU) invited me to serve as director of development for the School of Allied Health in 2000. A few years later, the School of Public Health invited me to do the same for them. In addition to other responsibilities at these LLU institutions, I directed annual campaigns, organized and chaired conferences, edited magazines, developed promotional materials, liaised with county public health departments, and produced and hosted weekly one-hour television broadcasts on public health. I started with a teaching career, but education is a broad umbrella. It covers many areas of service beyond those in classrooms.

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

**R:** Working with young people and creating a safe environment for them to learn and grow spiritually and academically brought me the most satisfaction. For example, I sought to affirm students by writing encouraging observations on their papers. Recently, a former student told me that as he was looking through a box of old high school writing assignments, he reread some of my comments. As he thanked me, I thought to myself, *Yes!* That is precisely one reason why my career was so rewarding.

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

**R:** Don and I have three children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Some live in Canada, others in the United States. Our two sons, Brian and Garry, are in central B.C. Our daughter Karen, married to Wayne Dunbar, lives in Riverside, Calif.

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

**R:** After retirement from LLU, I was invited by the founder of the Randall Lewis Health Policy Fellowship in Southern California to serve as director. This position required growing the fellowship, selecting, placing, advising, and evaluating graduate students from seven major universities (including UCLA, LLU, and Claremont Graduate University) in fellowship positions. The students were placed with various entities (such as city and county public health departments) to gain work experience in innovative public health endeavours and contribute to the well-being of numerous communities throughout southern California.

Now that we live in Salmon Arm, B.C., I edit the *Burman University Magazine*, formerly the alumni newsletter, and write Burman articles and ads for the *Canadian Adventist Messenger*. I also write a newsletter for our local Shuswap Family Resource Centre, teach Sabbath school classes, and serve on several church committees.

Travel is a hobby Don and I share. It has taken us to Japan a few times for the LLUSAH. We have also enjoyed exploring many countries in Europe (Austria, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Wales, and several Eastern European countries). Additionally, we visited South Africa and Swaziland, Egypt, and a number of Caribbean countries.

While we decided to live in Salmon Arm for the time being, we visit family in California often and still have our Loma Linda home to return to should that become a decision in the future. We look forward to our final home with our friend Jesus in the place He is preparing for us—a place that will give us endless opportunities for eternal friendships, challenging learning experiences, and exciting worlds to explore. ■



# Champions of Faith

## Carolyn Nichol

*“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”—Acts 20:24, ESV*

**C**hampions of faith are “ordinary” members who make a difference in their community. This is the story of Carolyn Nichol, a certified holistic nutritionist who is also the co-owner and manager of the Energy Shack Juice Bar in Scarborough, Ont. She is passionate about helping her family and community learn more about God, and her energy is catching.

**MESSENGER:** *Tell us about your childhood.*

**CAROLYN NICHOL:** I grew up in Markham, Ont., at the time a very small town on the outskirts of Toronto. My mom is from England and my dad is from the Palestinian Territories. We lived a very simple life. We had fun. Lots of camping trips, time outdoors, sightseeing all over the country, many family gatherings. And my siblings and I played hard and played all the time.

We learned to share everything, love one another, and love nature. My mom had a Protestant background, and my father had an Orthodox background, but neither of them was very religious, so we weren’t exposed to any formal teachings about God. We went to a Protestant church as children, and as we got older, we went to an Orthodox church on special occasions, and I was baptized there when I was 10.

**MESSENGER:** *How has God been leading in your life? Tell us about your conversion story.*

**CAROLYN:** Our mom brought us to church when we were little. We stopped going by the time I was about seven years old. As a child I felt that God was always with me. I was constantly in communication with Him. When I was about 16, a few things happened. One, I found a church close to my house that I could walk to, so I started going every Sunday. At the same time, my friends and I started exploring clubs, smoking, and drinking, but all of this was just piercing my conscience. I knew God wasn’t pleased with my choices. I was being pulled in two directions.

One day I cried to God in desperation on the way to church: “Lord, if you could just show me truth, I will leave everything

and follow you.” That day in church, the pastor read from John 20:1, “On Sunday morning Mary Magdalene went to the tomb.” My Bible said, “On the first day of the week.” I was blown away. I had been told by a friend that Saturday was the seventh-day Sabbath, but I never believed her. Now I *knew* Saturday was the seventh day, Sunday the first. I asked my friend to take me to her church. They were holding an evangelistic series shortly thereafter, and I was baptized. I’m still at that church to this day.

**MESSENGER:** *What are some of the most significant moments in your walk with God?*

**CAROLYN:** Hearing the health message at 17 really changed my life.

At 19, I bought a one-way ticket to British Columbia. There I discovered the power of the Holy Spirit and His role in my life. My prayer life took on a whole new form.

At 24, I got married, and shortly thereafter, we had three children. Life circumstances were not easy for me. When I discovered the promise that all things work for good (Rom. 8:28) and the truth about having joy through trials (James 1:2–4; Rom. 5:3), it completely changed my perspective. During trials I learned to lift up the trumpets of praise and trust Him when things weren’t going as planned. Amazingly enough, as I did that, the situation around me began to change, and so did my own heart’s condition.

**MESSENGER:** *How did discovering the health message change your life?*

**CAROLYN:** I was a sugar-craving, caffeine-drinking, white-bread eating teenager. I dealt with headaches all the time, had trouble with my cycle, and experienced frequent stomachaches. Visits to the doctors gave no answers for any of these issues. When I heard the health message presented to me by Dr. Thomas Jackson, I was so convinced it was divine. I gave up all the foods outside of the laws of health, and not surprisingly, my own health was transformed.





Photos, clockwise from top: An array of Energy Shack juices; Carolyn Nichol on a hike; one of the Energy Shack's success stories

**MESSENGER:** *What made you decide to choose nutrition as a career?*

**CAROLYN:** Given the way that following healthy lifestyle principles transformed me so quickly, it was hard to keep the health message to myself. So I began to share it with anyone I could. When the opportunity arose for me to earn a designation under my name and become a certified holistic nutritionist, I thought, *Now people will really take what I'm saying seriously.* I enrolled in the first class of the Durham School of Health and Nutrition. It's a private Seventh-day Adventist school founded by Sandy Grant.

**MESSENGER:** *How have you used your work at the juice bar as a way to connect with people in your community?*

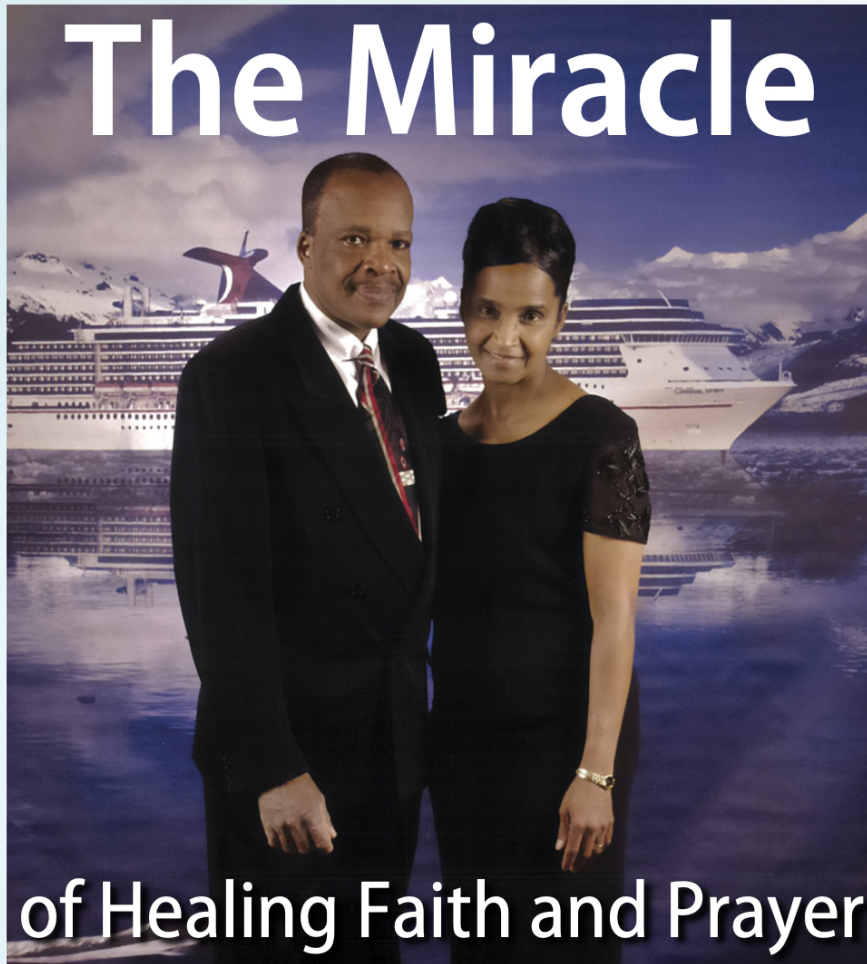
**CAROLYN:** The Energy Shack Juice Bar has become an incredible tool to be able to reach our community. Outside of our weekly donations to individuals and families in need, working with youth shelters and nursing homes, and donating to many mission projects, we have a very active Bible study group for our customers. We also offer free Christian literature in-store daily.

**MESSENGER:** *Are there any Bible verses that keep your faith strong and growing?*

**CAROLYN:** Romans 8:28. "God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose" (CEB). As I'm sure you know, life doesn't always go the way we planned it. This verse reminds me that no matter what happens in my day, even if it looks like a seemingly bad situation, something good is coming out of it. That's a promise from God. ■

*Rollande Giguère is a staff writer for Le Messager adventiste du Canada, and Adrianna Joi Lewis is a staff writer for the Canadian Adventist Messenger.*

*"The Fascinating Story of a Life Transformed," featuring Carolyn, premiered on It Is Written Canada on Feb. 27, 2021. You can watch it on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/3kFqmat>.*



Milton and Fay Mullings started the Pilgrims for Jesus Bible study ministry in Calgary, Alta., over 27 years ago.

God can use you if you're willing to be used.

Often, we don't realize that if we're willing to move past our fears, God is able to do remarkable things.

Moving to Calgary, Alta., in 1969, I attended the Calgary Bridgeland Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was small at the time. While I was there, I was asked to take part in their Sabbath school program. However, because of my speech impediment, I felt uncomfortable speaking publicly.

Eventually, I left and decided to attend a different church that had a larger congregation—Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. I wanted to remain anonymous. I intentionally sat in the back to avoid having to take part in anything. I remained at Central for many years with my family and was very comfortable there until I heard about a new church plant named Pineridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. This church was closer to my home. I eventually

decided to move my membership. Then I realized that I'd been *attending* church and not *contributing* to church.

### Holy Spirit Messages

I decided to ask God to reveal my spiritual gifts to me and show me my purpose. I shared this with my husband and soon began to pray fervently. We decided to start a Bible study group in our home. I spent a great deal of time fasting and praying, contemplating everything.

### New Beginnings

In 1993, we moved forward in faith, prayer, and fasting. We put God first and started the Bible study with the help of church members from various churches.

That year, evangelist Leo Schreven came to Calgary. He conducted a Bible seminar that touched many lives. We were impressed by his sermons and decided to use his DVDs as a ministry tool. Many participants began attending our Bible studies. Sometime later, my family and I

found ourselves facing a very traumatic event in our lives.

### Divine Intervention Through Dark Storms

Our youngest daughter was diagnosed with leukemia. As a result, we cancelled our Bible studies to focus on attending to our daughter's needs. I was upset that God would allow the devil to attack our daughter in this manner. It was her last year in high school, and she had been preparing to attend university to become a medical doctor.

I prayed about it and decided that whatever the devil put on our daughter, God could remove it. Immediately, I rushed to our daughter's bedside. I told her to hold her faith up high and to trust that God could heal her. I believed that the devil had done this and that God could remove it. I felt it was an attack from the enemy designed to destroy our ministry.

Our daughter was bedridden due to the chemotherapy. I felt impressed to call the Alberta Conference to arrange for an anointing. A few pastors and elders came one evening; they laid hands on her and anointed her.

The next morning, miraculously, my daughter was up and walking around! Today she's an inspiring business consultant and author. According to Matthew 8:5–13 and Luke 7:1–28, Jesus healed many individuals. Praise and honour goes to God for His healing hands in our life. Our daughter's cancer has not returned.

### Looking Ahead

During our years of service, we have had many trials. We have also experienced many successes along the way. Each time God never left our side. As a result of His good works, close to 200 souls have been won for Christ. We thank the conference for supporting us with their prayers and financial support. And we're thankful for the faithful members who came with their talents to help spread the gospel. ■

*Fay Mullings lives in Calgary, Alta., and is a member of the Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church. If you would like to contact Fay, you can reach her at [jeannineliesemer@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannineliesemer@hotmail.com).*



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# Temp<sup>h</sup>eh on the Rise

Adventist Family Leads  
Innovation in the Quebec  
Plant-Based Market





**S**onel Merjuste and his wife, Jasmine Exael, are two Quebecers who have successfully carved out a niche in the plant-based products market. Originally from Haiti, these motivated entrepreneurs co-founded Les Aliments Merjex Inc. in 2019, which began producing and marketing tempeh when their younger son decided to become vegetarian. Here is their story.

**Messenger:** *Tell us about your childhood.*

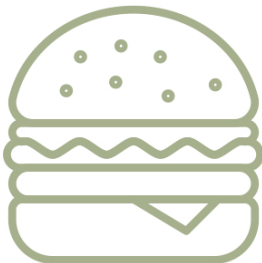
**Sonel Merjuste:** I was raised by my mother. The family situation was very precarious, but God provided for us. When I was very young, my mother decided to give her life to Jesus, which proved beneficial for me, because I was able to find fathers, cousins, uncles, etc., [in the church].

My mother did not know how to read or write, yet she believed in education. In Haitian families, even when there is a severe lack of resources, the parents, or the mother, make sure that the children have a basic education. And if the parents are Christians, they make sure that the children participate in church activities, which was my case. I was even able to discover talents that I probably would have ignored otherwise.

Although I had a difficult childhood financially speaking, it was a blessed one because I was well taken care of in church, and this made a big difference. Jasmine's situation was very similar. She was raised by her mother, who currently lives with us. She was the second in her family to accept the Adventist message at age 17. Both of our mothers could not read or write, but they were fighters who sacrificed everything to ensure a better future for their children; Jasmine and I are living proof of that. I met Jasmine in 1998 at Bethany Adventist Church in Pétion-Ville, Haiti, and we have been together ever since. We cherish every day together.

**Messenger:** *Tell us about your arrival here as immigrants and how God guided you.*

**Sonel:** We arrived in Quebec on Jan. 23, 2008, with our son Jason. We were blessed from the moment we arrived, not having to deal with potential work discrimination, because I was still self-employed. Since I was making a pretty good living, Jasmine was able to follow one of her passions, which was working with children. So she went into childcare. God has always been a help and a support to us; He has always provided for us. He has given us His grace and favour.



Sonel and Jasmine making their presentation at a global food innovation competition, SIAL 2022. They won second place.



Sonel and Jasmine backstage at SIAL 2022.



Sonel and Jasmine with their Tempehine booth.

**Messenger:** *You wanted to promote better health for your sons and the community. How did you manage to start your family business?*

**Sonel:** We always thought that together we could do something great. Then one day our younger son, Ruben, didn't want to eat meat anymore. We, too, were in the process of eliminating meat from our diet but were having a hard time giving up chicken and turkey. As concerned parents, we were looking for other good options for the family.

While I was talking with a business friend, an excellent source of vegetable protein—tempeh—was suggested to me. We knew nothing about it at the time, but we were intrigued, so we decided to try it. Big disappointment! After we bought it and prepared it at home, no one liked it, and it ended up in the garbage. However, when we looked at the virtues of tempeh and its [commercial] potential given its scarcity in the market, we felt the need to start producing and marketing this wonderful product.

Tempeh is superior to tofu in nutritional value, texture, and taste, but it is still largely unknown to the general public. And many of those who know about it are not sure how to cook it. That's why, when we launched the Tempehine brand, we opted for innovation by offering already marinated and pre-cooked products and new tempeh products that hadn't existed before—such as the first tempeh burger in Canada, under the TempBurger brand name, and the first chopped tempeh in North America, which won a silver medal in a major global food innovation competition (SIAL 2022). After two and a half years, the company has the widest range of tempeh products in Canada; it is also the largest supplier of tempeh in Quebec. We can say “Glory to

God” because He is walking with us.

**Messenger:** *You are known as leaders and mentors in your community. In what ways have you been able to help others?*

**Sonel:** Giving back is a core value for Jasmine and me. I am always grateful for what God is doing in my life. When you're born into a family that has hardly anything and you end up with everything, there's no way to be proud. You just have to say that God has provided. For us, God has provided, and when we are blessed, it is so important that we, in turn, become a source of blessing to others. I always quote Abbé Pierre, who said, “We are only happy in the happiness we give. To give is to receive.” It is the source of our motivation to help others.

**Messenger:** *You've been quoted as saying, “With good intentions, you can thrive in whatever you do.”<sup>1</sup> What advice would you give to others who want to start a business?*

**Sonel:** When we decide to start a business as entrepreneurs, it's about putting ourselves out there to serve others. We need to think carefully about what that means in terms of responsibility. We need to make sure we have noble intentions. My first advice would be to find the reason. *Why are you doing this?* When you can find the real reason, it will become a source of motivation. You might be surprised that very often money is not the main reason to start a business.

The second tip is to respect your values. We built our business on a core value found in Luke 6:31.

Our third tip would be to live your passion.

Last but not least, our fourth piece of advice is to make sure that God is walking with you; this is the key to success.





Jason, Sonel, Ruben, and Jasmine

**Messenger:** *One cause is particularly close to your heart: the mobilization for the reconstruction of the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) in Haiti. Tell us about this project.*

**Sonel:** We have a bond with our mother country, Haiti. And when we saw the second big earthquake in southern Haiti on Aug. 14, 2021, we were shocked. When the CECI team contacted me to invite me to join the fundraising committee, I accepted without hesitation. We cannot close our eyes to human suffering.

Matthew 25:32–46 is continually running through my mind, always reminding me that I am the arms of God on this earth. It's not the academic degrees, personal achievement, and so on [that matters most] ... it's what we did for these children of God. This is what motivated our involvement with CECI to raise \$100,000 to help especially vulnerable women in the Grand Sud of Haiti. We invite you to get involved in your community because you are doing God's will.

**Messenger:** *Tell us about your family and your church in Quebec.*

**Sonel and Jasmine:** Our family is God's greatest gift to us. We are the proud parents of two young men, Jason and Ruben. We can't possibly count all the ways in which God has blessed us, as He takes good care of us in every way. Our children are progressing very well and are in perfect health. All the glory goes to God. We are also blessed to have our mothers with us. Our parenting experience gives us a deep understanding of the suffering these honourable women endured to make us who we are today. We cherish them and pray that God will keep them alive and healthy.

We are members of the Salem Seventh-day Adventist

Church in Montreal, Que. It is a church that we hold dear—a welcoming community. We have found exceptional brothers and sisters there, whose names we are careful not to mention, as they know each other. Our young people are the envy of many; so wise and talented are they.

Our family is very involved in the activities of the church. We encourage everyone to visit Salem whenever they have the opportunity to do so, as the church is a true oasis of peace. In addition, we have Bible study there every Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and I would be remiss if I did not invite your readers to participate with us on Zoom or YouTube.

**Messenger:** *What scripture helps you maintain your faith in God?*

**Sonel:** I always say that God is gracious to all, and Psalm 113:7, 8, is especially dear to our hearts: "From the dust he raises the poor, from the dunghill he raises the needy, to make them sit with the great, with the great of his people." The other passage is found in Matthew 11:28, where Jesus invites us to come to Him to find true rest.

Going into business takes a lot; to find balance, you need a safe haven. In our case, the safe haven of our family is in Jesus. There is a lot of noise around us right now, a lot of turmoil, a lot of false prophets, but amid all that noise is the voice of Christ calling us to come to Him for true rest. Our family relies on Jesus, and He works for us every day. ■

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*Rollande Giguère is a staff writer for Le Messager adventiste du Canada, and Adrianna Joi Lewis is a staff writer for the Canadian Adventist Messenger.*





# A Daughter's Prayer

*“The main reason Erol now knows Christ is not because of my timing, skill, or talent. ... It was the tears and prayers of a daughter that made all the difference in Erol’s world.”*

**W**hen literature evangelists knock on doors, they often meet people who show interest in studying the Bible. As a result, some literature evangelists offer personal Bible studies to interested persons. Conrad has always enjoyed sharing literature, but he also has a deep burden to study God’s Word with others. While working as a literature evangelist, he met a man called Erol, whose life was changed. Listen as Conrad shares his story with us:

I met Erol as I was knocking on doors in his neighbourhood. He bought *The Desire of Ages* and agreed to start studying the Bible with me. Although he had no great spiritual background or training, we faithfully met every Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. Those studies were a great blessing to both of us.

There was only one problem. Erol was a heavy smoker, and I would have to open the doors and windows to be able to breathe during our studies! I had a hard time handling the smoke. As we went through the lessons, I focused most of my energy on helping Erol fall in love with Jesus. I knew that if he could only love Christ with all his heart and surrender to Him, God would take care of the smoking. Those studies proved to be helpful not only to him but also to a Catholic woman who would also join us for the studies. However, because of school and work demands, she stopped attending.

Erol, on the other hand, kept studying without fail. He learned to love Jesus, and God helped him to stop smoking. He took his stand for the Sabbath, started to attend church, and was finally baptized. Praise be to God!

Sometime later I learned that Erol had a daughter named Simone. She had been a Seventh-day Adventist missionary for many years and was earnestly praying that someone would help her father to know Jesus. Yes, I did have to put effort into reaching out, preparing the

studies, answering the questions, etc. But as I look back, I think the main reason Erol now knows Christ is not because of my timing, skill, or talent. Of course, I needed to do my part! But I honestly think that it was the tears and prayers of a daughter that made all the difference in Erol’s world. It is still true that “prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish.”<sup>1</sup>

In *Colporteur Ministry*, we are told:

Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer. It is now that we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian, are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth, or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.<sup>2</sup>

God can do great and mighty things when we persevere in fervent prayer for others. Are there people in your life you used to lift up before the Lord but have since ceased to pray for? Why not make the decision to start praying for them every day? It only takes a moment, but the results are eternal. ■

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*Conrad Graham shared his story while serving as a literature evangelist with us. Lifestyle Canada is Canada’s literature evangelism ministry.*

1 Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1905), 509.

2 Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1953), 81.



*Do you ever have those experiences where you say, “I could never...” and then find yourself doing exactly that? I’m glad that God knows best. That’s how I found myself teaching K–2 at West Coast Adventist DL School (WCAS), B.C.’s online school! What an amazing experience it has been.*

Each week I look forward to seeing the earnest faces of my students and hearing about their learning adventures. But while I really enjoy leading students through engaging nature studies, conducting stellar STEM activities, visiting historical places, playing games with numbers, and learning about those tricky letters, my real passion is sharing Jesus. The weekly *Encounter* class at West Coast has been one of the most impactful and amazing experiences, even with the barrier of a computer screen. *Encounter* class has allowed for connection with students, development of relationships, the building of character and school community, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Each week I am given the privilege of leading my students in an encounter with Jesus. I enjoy the challenge of adapting lessons for an online environment. What adventures we have gone on! From creating animal masks for our safari search for Jesus, to sitting in a tent to explore the route Abraham journeyed, to building the foolish man’s house using Lego blocks on a base of Jell-O, to exercising together to build thirst and hunger like the Israelites in the desert, to dressing up to re-enact the Christmas story, *Encounter* class has offered students the opportunity to get to know Jesus and seek a relationship with Him in an engaging and fun way. And it doesn’t stop when live class ends!

It has been a joy to see the Holy Spirit continue to work as students share the stories and experiences with their families. One parent overheard a child

# Encountering Jesus Online

grumbling and complaining but then suddenly stop when their sibling said, “Don’t be an Israelite! They grumbled and complained in the desert, and I’m tired of it!” I have received emails sharing, “We look forward to *Encounter* class every week ... the whole family gathers around the computer to listen!” *Encounter* provides more than just sharing the stories of the Bible. It also offers students an opportunity to seek Jesus and choose to follow Him.

I take the responsibility I have been given to share Christ with His children very seriously. *What if I mess up? What if my internet is glitchy? What if the message isn’t accepted or the students don’t understand?*

Each week before class begins, I find myself praying over my students and the slides I prepare. A class that stands out was the day students were asked to make a decision for Christ. We had been learning how sin separates us from God and how Jesus’ death has

created a bridge for us to meet Him.

That day students wrote their sins on sticky notes and stuck them to a cross in their *Encounter* journals. We talked about the beautiful gift Jesus has given us and prayed together. Students then took their “sins,” crumpled them up, and threw them away. Afterwards, a parent shared that this activity had made such a profound effect on their child that whenever unkind situations happened, the student would say, “That deserves a sticky note that you need to take to Jesus to get rid of.”

Being an Adventist teacher is so much more than creating engaging live classes, marking assignments, and sharing Bible stories with students. It is a wonderful opportunity to invite students from around the world into a relationship with Jesus. ■

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*Angela McQueen teaches K-2 at West Coast Adventist DL School.*



WCAS students learning about the sanctuary during *Encounter*.



## Red Deer Businessman Learns Value is in the Eye of the Beholder



Rick Wiebe stands next to Nellie, the head teacher of a girls' high school, in February 2022. More than 600 girls attend this school in the Masai Mara area, where girls typically get married at 14 years old.



In February 2022, Rick Wiebe meets with children at the Huhoini Primary School in central Kenya to give greetings on behalf of ABW and wish them luck on their upcoming exams.

Opening your eyes is essential to seeing, but sometimes seeing is what opens your eyes.

For Rick Wiebe, his first trip to Kenya in 2009 opened his eyes to the differences he could make. Now a project manager with A Better World Canada, Wiebe is a veteran of 16 trips to the African country. He had been a financial supporter for many years, 15 years to be exact, but his construction background offered as much value as his chequebook.

Wiebe, a long-time Red Deer businessman, was introduced to Eric Rajah, co-founder of ABW, many years ago when Rajah sold him some computers.

"I asked Eric if I could help him, and the words weren't out of my mouth before he had me helping him with projects," Wiebe recalls.

On that first trip, Wiebe considered himself an investor/tourist. He was keen to see how his financial investments had helped the communities ABW supports. After learning about more projects and getting the lay of the land, Wiebe took on the role of project manager and dedicated his attention to a region within the country. He has since overseen development of education, water, and medical projects at the Segera Mission in north central Kenya, and been involved with projects at the Male Primary and Secondary Schools in central Kenya. Wiebe is currently managing work on a school in Lodwar in northwest Kenya, along with a well project in West Pokot in western Kenya.

Wiebe's role also includes travelling to projects managed by others and reporting back. On his recent trip to Kenya—

the first since the COVID-19 pandemic—he visited Naikarra Primary School and its community clinic. He was moved by the gratitude shown in the community, whose children now have a better chance at education and good health.

"This is huge job and sometimes it can be discouraging, but if we can make even a small difference in the lives of these people, well, then it's worth it," he says. "When you are here, seeing the results of some of our projects and the impact they have made, then you know it's worth it."

One of the most touching experiences for Wiebe was meeting four men who had been hired to break stones into gravel for an ABW project at the Segera Mission. They were thrilled to have jobs—jobs that most Canadians wouldn't do. "I kind of wept that day, and I really realized how much we as Canadians had," he says.

Wiebe is also thrilled to work with an international development organization that does so much with so little money, helping people in need, regardless of race or religion. A Better World is a big believer in involving the local community and leaders, and listening intently to identify problems and solutions. This community development model brings about accountability and sustainability.

"I am privileged to be associated with this group of men and women," says Wiebe. "Once people go on a trip, most are hooked, and most realize the amazing things this group is doing." ■

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



## Chief and Community Leaders Ignite Hope Through New “Inspired Leaders” Program at MANS



Simone Wildcat and Gordon Minde, from Ermineskin Cree Nation Community Wellness.

Chief Randy Ermineskin—grandson of the founder of the Ermineskin Cree Nation in Maskwacis—knows how to hold a crowd. His 1998 address to the United Nations, along with other Maskwacis representatives, was the first step toward the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Recently, he addressed 2,500 attendees of the Alberta Municipalities Association convention, bringing many to tears. Chief Ermineskin, who is finishing a PhD in education, has had a 30-year career as a physical education and science teacher in the Edmonton public system. So the chief, who also pastors a church, also knows how to talk to kids. When he shared stories with the junior high students at MANS’s Inspired Leaders program, the room got quieter and quieter.

Though young Randy’s parents lived minutes away from Ermineskin Residential School, by law Randy had to live in a dormitory from age six to nine; the residence was closed in 1972. In school, Randy became a quiet leader, modelling his parents’ values and intervening on behalf of younger children, who were often beaten up for their food by older students in an environment that bordered on starvation.

“You saved my life,” William Crier,

a gentle 6’8” giant with a genetics degree from the University of Alberta, had told Chief Ermineskin from his deathbed. Some 75 percent of the chief’s classmates are already deceased, and sadly, Crier is part of that statistic. It’s a story that resonated with the kids all too well. But the chief went on, pointing students to a better way forward.

“Sports saved my life in residence,” Ermineskin told the children in his audience. In 1988, he was drafted by the St. Louis Blues farm team, and to this day he mentors Indigenous professional athletes, including NHL player Ethan Bear. The chief also shared practical ways to serve and help heal their community. The chief and Adventist pastor Tsholo Sebetlela assemble lunches to be distributed to homeless people in Wetaskiwin, where the chief gently invites the Indigenous among them to “come home” to Maskwacis.

Pastor-Chief Ermineskin’s message to the children was one of hope and encouragement. “I believe we will recover,” he said. “Be patient with your elders,” for they’ve suffered a lot, and sacrificed for their children and grandchildren. “Be proud of who you are and where you come from,” he concluded. “You are Cree from Maskwacis.” ■

### Modelling “Mamawi Atosketan” (“Working Together”)

The Inspired Leaders program at Mamawi Atosketan Native School, launched by MANS’s chaplain Tsholo Sebetlela, is a collaboration with the community that brought Indigenous speakers to MANS during the 2021/22 year. Some—like Chief Ermineskin and his cousin Pastor Sandra Ermineskin (who established and heads the Ermineskin Women’s Shelter)—are well-known figures in Maskwacis. Others—like Trevor Boller, an Indigenous professional photographer and member of the Red Willow Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Albert—were new to the students.

In November, the youthful team of Gordon Minde, Community Wellness Manager from Ermineskin Cree Nation, and his colleague, Simone Wildcat, shared life lessons with MANS students.

As a teen, Gordon was asked, “Where do you want to be in 10 years?” first by his parents, then by an organizer at a youth leadership program in Australia, where Gordon found himself speaking before a large crowd. “We can all grow to be better versions of ourselves,” he said.

In the next session, Simone shared the importance of saying no. “It’s OK to say no to being in a relationship. It’s OK to say no to drugs and peer pressure. You have the right to choose what you want to do with your life,” she told the teens.

Gordon concluded the final session with a story about how the elders who signed Treaty 6, which governs the area, fasted and prayed for four days and nights before entering an agreement with the Canadian government to give Indigenous youth opportunity.

“Today,” said Gordon, “you and I have the benefits we get from the sacrifices our elders made for us. We need to realize that some of the privileges we have, not everyone in the world has. Let us take care of ourselves, what we have, and what we have as a people. *HiyHiy.*”



A one-minute video of Sandra Ermineskin and other speakers can be seen at “The Tsholo Report”, [www.albertaadventist.ca/maskwa-movies](http://www.albertaadventist.ca/maskwa-movies)



# Faith of Our Fathers

*“It was burned into his memory how the colour disappeared from his mother’s face.” Many years ago, Murray Sankey’s grandfather was only a small boy in Ukraine when he lost his mother, who died while giving birth to his younger sibling. This was only the beginning of the loss and trauma the young boy endured. Murray explains, “Not long after my grandfather lost his mother, his father also passed away, so he ended up with his abusive uncle. Today I thank God, because that uncle’s harsh treatment caused my grandfather to get his tail out of Ukraine.”*

“He was just like Jack in the movie *Titanic*; at the age of 18, he jumped a ship as a stowaway, landed in Montreal, got a job on a dairy farm for five or six months, and quickly learned French. Thank the Lord, they didn’t send him back.

“From that dairy farm, he made his way west, and then worked for an American rancher north of Consort [Alberta]. When my grandfather found a Ukrainian community near Hemaruka [Alberta], he staked a claim on some land.”

Murray’s wife, Elaine, also has a story. “Just like Murray’s grandparents, mine both emigrated from Ukraine, except they came to eastern Saskatchewan,” she explains. “That’s where they homesteaded and raised their family, all of us speaking Ukrainian.”

The seeds of Murray’s grandfather’s faith started growing one Friday night when his grandfather was on his way to Hemaruka. “He saw a light south of Loyalist, knocked on the door, and here he met this family from North Dakota having a Bible study. They invited him in and continued their Bible study with him listening and asking questions.

“When he left in the morning, he said he was walking on air. He said, ‘I found out that I could be forgiven without going to the priest. I could go to Jesus directly, on my knees, and ask Him to forgive me.’ They taught him the song ‘Whiter Than Snow.’ So can you imagine him waking up that Saturday morning, walking down the road to Hemaruka to play the music for the Ukrainian community’s dances and drink their whisky, and he was playing his squeeze box, singing ‘Whiter Than Snow’?!”



Hear Murray and Elaine Sankey’s captivating story on *It Is Written Canada* this month. Photo credit: M. Dauncey

Eventually, a Ukrainian pastor named Babienko came through their area and nourished that seed of the gospel planted in Murray’s grandfather’s heart. “In the daytime, Pastor Babienko would help the homesteaders build their houses and their barns, and in the evenings, he would preach to them. He raised a church of about 70 members, and my grandparents were baptized and joined that church in 1914.”

“It’s fascinating to see the parallels between our two families,” Elaine adds, “because this same preacher, Pastor Babienko, worked his way across the prairies. And in the late 1930s, he was in eastern Saskatchewan, where my grandparents homesteaded. My father’s grandparents, my mother, father, and his sister and brother were baptized by the same preacher. It’s amazing how a seed planted by a North Dakotan family on the prairie of Alberta was nurtured by a preacher who then influenced both our

families—and not only our grandparents but how it has come down through the generations to our parents, to us, and to our children.”

If you’d like to watch the Sankeys’ entire captivating story, you can see it on *It Is Written Canada* this month on CTV, 3ABN, Hope Channel, Yes-TV, Miracle Channel, and many of the other networks across Canada and around the world where *It Is Written Canada* is featured. Or go to [itiswrittencanada.ca](http://itiswrittencanada.ca) or our YouTube channel and click on the programs titled, “Faith of Our Fathers: Part 1 & 2.” ■

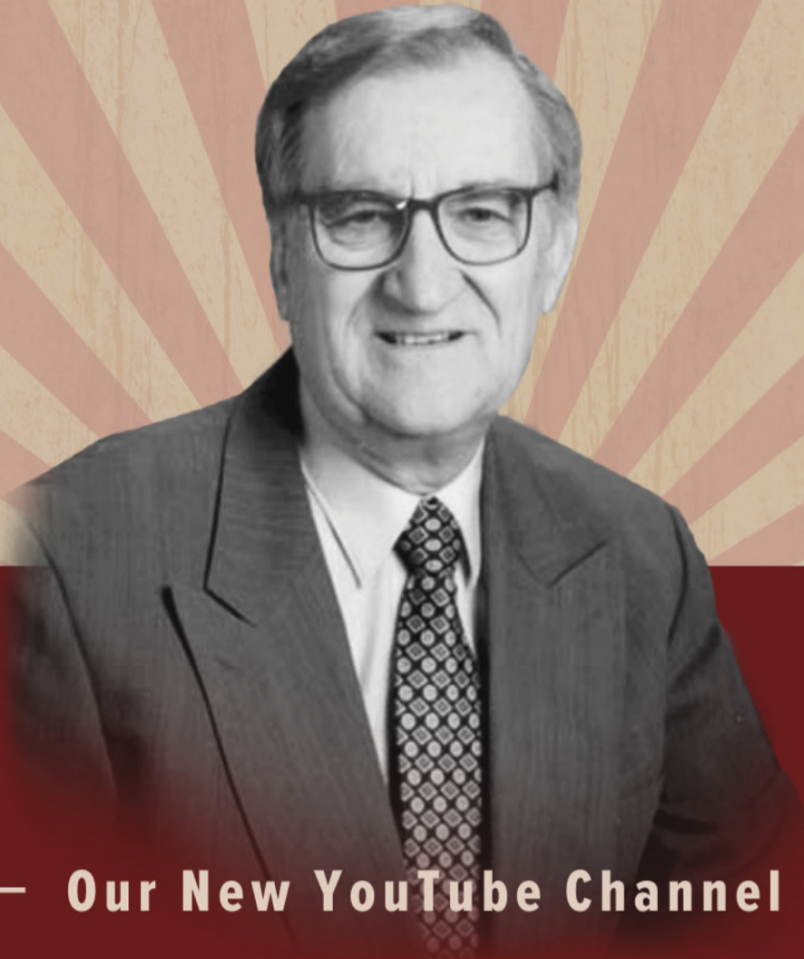
Mike Lemon is the speaker/director for *It Is Written Canada*.





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# The Quest for Hope

**Left:** Elena, waiting for her daughter in the ADRA reception tent. **Right:** Elena and her daughter, reunited. Photo credit: ADRA Slovakia, Daniel Presecan, 2022



A large ADRA tent welcomes refugees entering Slovakia from Ukraine. Here they find a warm place to rest after their arduous journey. Power banks recharge cell phones, keeping loved ones connected. Cots provide a place to sleep. A kids' corner stocked with toys, books, and crafts offers solace to children. ADRA staff and volunteers offer comfort and assistance.

Elena sat very still, intently watching the tent entrance. Daniel, an ADRA team member, casually asked her, "Where are you from?" The question struck a chord in Elena's heart.

"Mariupol," she answered, bursting into tears.

Mariupol has felt the greatest impact of the war. It wasn't long after the bombardment began that Elena sought refuge in a bomb shelter. By then, her apartment building was without electricity, water, and gas.

"I have lost all sense of time," Elena shared. "I didn't know what day it was, or even what time. All we heard was shelling. Nobody could leave the bomb shelter for days. There was very little food and very little water, and it was very cold. But most of all, I was fearful, because this situation simply didn't stop."

After seven days, friends were able to evacuate Elena to their neighbourhood. But when the violence encroached, they decided to flee.

Elena's escape was long and dangerous. After more than 26 hours, they finally arrived in a small town where her friends had relatives. From there, Elena boarded a train west to Slovakia.

The war in Ukraine has displaced more than 10 million people from their homes.<sup>1</sup> Over four million have sought refuge abroad. The remaining millions have fled to other regions of Ukraine.<sup>2</sup>

The millions displaced by the Ukraine crisis are but a

portion of the 84 million people worldwide who have been forcibly displaced.<sup>3</sup> Civil unrest, conflicts, and economic catastrophes are tearing lives apart and forcing millions to flee.

Elena is one of those millions. During her conversation with Daniel, her face suddenly changed.

"My child!" Elena exclaimed. Her daughter had driven from Poland to meet her mother. The two tearfully embraced, full of relief and love.

Elena's journey ended in joy, but what of those who could not escape Mariupol and the millions of others displaced by untold horrors around the world? When will they have a chance for a loving reunion in a place of safety?

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Rev. 21:3-5, NIV).

Someday, God will right all wrongs and reunite families.

In the meantime? "No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us" (1 John 4:12, NLT).

May our love encompass those near to us and those who we may never meet. May God's love find full expression in our merciful actions toward those in need. ■

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*Heather Grbic, a writer for ADRA Canada, with contributions from Daniel Presecan, ADRA emergency response team member.*



1 Information in this article is dated as of its writing, March 29, 2022.

2 "Operational Data Portal: Ukraine Refugee Situation," UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

3 "Refugee Data Finder," UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>



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## SDACC

# SDACC Partners with Canadian Conferences to Offer New Burman University Scholarships for First-Time Students



Scan this QR code to download an application form:

**B**urman University offers both high-quality Christian education and an environment where students are enveloped in a spiritual atmosphere with other like-minded Christians, while being the most affordable Seventh-day Adventist university in North America. Situated within the hereditary Indigenous land of the Treaty Six Territory in Lacombe, Alta., Burman's diverse campus family is drawn from across Alberta, Canada, and around the globe. For more than a century, Burman has empowered students to serve their communities.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) is pleased to announce that, in partnership with Canadian conferences, it is making it even more affordable for new students to attend Burman. Seventy new scholarships—valued at \$2,000 each—are being offered to first-time entrants (both new and transfer students) for the 2022/23 school year. This is offered in addition to the three-way matching scholarships—involving Burman, the local church, and local conference

—and the summer employment/volunteer service scholarship (valued at \$1,000), which are already in place.

Prospective candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria and apply through their local conference office:

1. First-time entrant to Burman (new or transfer)
2. Adventist membership or regular attendee
3. Canadian citizen or permanent resident
4. Accepted into a Burman degree
5. Registered for a full course load

Over the years, students, families, teachers, and the community have been witnesses to the fact that Burman University is a place where many dreams start. The SDACC and Canadian conferences invite you to take one step closer toward achieving your dreams.

Please contact your local conference office for more information on these scholarships:

- **Alberta Conference:** Brent van Rensburg | [bvanrensburg@albertasdaedu.org](mailto:bvanrensburg@albertasdaedu.org)
- **British Columbia Conference:** Denny Rumambi | [drumambi@bcadventist.ca](mailto:drumambi@bcadventist.ca)
- **Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference:** Joe Ann Taer | [jtaer@mansaskadventist.ca](mailto:jtaer@mansaskadventist.ca)
- **Maritime Conference:** Bisengi Gatare | [bisengi.gatare@maritimesda.com](mailto:bisengi.gatare@maritimesda.com)
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Ken Corkum | [kcorkum@nladventist.ca](mailto:kcorkum@nladventist.ca)
- **Ontario Conference:** Virene Meikle | [vmeikle@adventistontario.org](mailto:vmeikle@adventistontario.org)
- **Quebec Conference:** Lucian Stefanescu | [lstefanescu@sdaqc.org](mailto:lstefanescu@sdaqc.org) ■

—Paul Llewellyn, VP for administration, and Betty Bayer, director of education, SDACC



## Manitoba–Saskatchewan

# Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Elects Charles Ed II Aguilar as President, Re-Elects Christine Bergen as Secretary-Treasurer



Jewel, Onyx, Jaden, Elizabeth, and Charles Aguilar



Joe and Christine Bergen

On April 10, 2022, delegates to the 35<sup>th</sup> Constituency Session of the Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—gathered via Zoom—voted to elect Charles Ed II Aguilar as their new president and to re-elect Christine Bergen as their secretary-treasurer.

Charles has served as school chaplain, pastor, and communication director in British Columbia. After six years as ADRA Uganda’s country director, he has recently served as supporter relations director for ADRA Canada. Charles and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married for 21 years and have three children: Jewel, Jaden, and Onyx. He recognizes God’s call in his election as president for the Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference and has begun his duties on May 1, 2022.

Mark Johnson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, remarks, “Charles’s

experience in different settings has prepared him to be an understanding and effective leader. His background in Adventist education, humanitarian work, and pastoral ministry provides him with great vision as he steps into this new role. I am confident that Charles will provide strong and balanced leadership to the Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference.”

Christine Bergen has served in her current role of secretary-treasurer for two years. Prior to that, she served as the secretary-treasurer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador from 2010 to 2019. Christine and her husband, Joe, have been married for 33 years. They have two children, Mark and Teresa, as well as a son-in-law, Clinton Wahl. Christine has a bachelor of commerce from the University of Saskatchewan and over 22 years of office experience with at least 16 of those in a supervisory role. ■

**>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT:** As of April 30, 2022, there were 368 depositors with a total deposit of \$ 34,223,683. There were 89 loans with a value of \$ 28,706,149.

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

# 2022 Campmeeting Guide



## Enduring Faith Southern Ontario

June 3–5, 2022, at [www.adventistcampmeeting.org](http://www.adventistcampmeeting.org)



**Mansfield Edwards**  
President, Ontario  
Conference



**Denis Fortin**  
Professor, Historical Theology,  
Seventh-day Adventist Theological  
Seminary, Andrews University



**Daniel Saugh**  
Manager, Canadian Programs,  
ADRA Canada



**Wayne Williams**  
VP for Administration,  
Alberta Conference



## Together With God Ontario Conference

Aug. 5, 6, 2022, at [www.adventistontario.org](http://www.adventistontario.org) and Zoom,  
plenaries at [www.YouTube.com/Adventistontario](http://www.YouTube.com/Adventistontario)



**Aaron Dyer**  
Pastor, New Life Fellowship,  
Andrews University, Berrien  
Springs, Mich.



**Vanessa Hairston**  
Assoc. Pastor for Worship, Miami  
Temple Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, Florida Conference



**Sung Kwon**  
Director, MA Leadership in  
Social Innovation; Assoc. Prof.,  
Leadership, Andrews University



**Calvin Watkins**  
Vice-President, Regional  
Liaison/Evangelism, North  
American Division



## Our Shelter in a Time of Storm Bluewater District (Ont.)



Aug. 12, 13, 2022,  
at [www.owensoundadventist.ca](http://www.owensoundadventist.ca)



**Mike Lemon**  
Speaker/Director,  
It Is Written Canada



## The Rise of Fundamentalism Northern Ontario



Sept. 2–4, 2022,  
at Camp Noronto, Monetville, Ont.



**Michael W. Campbell**  
Director, Archives,  
Statistics and  
Research, North  
American Division





# Forging Ahead Alberta Conference

July 15–23, 2022, at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alta.



**Shawn Boonstra**  
Speaker/Director, Voice of Prophecy



**Hildemar Dos Santos**  
Assoc. Professor, School of Public Health, Loma Linda University



**Nelson Fernandez**  
Pastor, Office of Education, Florida Conference



**Martin Hanna**  
Assoc. Prof., Systematic Theology, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University



**Eddie Hypolite**  
Consultant/Author/Speaker, New South Wales, Australia



**Paul Llewellyn**  
VP for Administration, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada



**Lynn McDowell**  
Director, Planned Giving & Trust Services/Philanthropy, Alberta Conference



**Loucious Michel**  
Chair/Professor, School of Business, Burman University



**Jon Paulien**  
Program Director/Professor, School of Religion, Religion and Health, Loma Linda University



**Bill Payne**  
Assoc. Director, Evangelism; Field Trainer, Voice of Prophecy



**Stephen Reasor**  
Chair, Religious Studies, Burman University



**Tsholo Sebetlela**  
Pastor, Alberta Conference



**Kelly Stickle**  
Guidance Counsellor, Mamawi Atosketan Native School, Alberta Conference

## Together Again! Manitoba–Saskatchewan Conference



July 8–16, 2022,  
at Camp Whitesand, Theodore, Sask.

**Please note:** Campmeeting speakers could not be confirmed at time of press. Check [www.mansaskadventist.ca](http://www.mansaskadventist.ca) for updates.



## Hahayu Ako (I Will Go) Alberta Filipino-Canadian



Aug. 25–28, 2022,  
at Foothills Camp, Bowden, Alta.



**Romy Daquila**  
Retired Executive Secretary, Alberta Conference



**Jonathan Deximo**  
Pastor, Alberta Conference





## Prepared for the Unexpected Newfoundland and Labrador

July 22–30, 2022, at Camp Woody Acres, Southwest Pond, Nfld.



**Ken Corkum**  
President, Seventh-day  
Adventist Church in  
Newfoundland and Labrador



**Kaitlynn Harushimana**  
Camp/Communications  
Director, Seventh-day Church in  
Newfoundland and Labrador



**Mark Johnson**  
President, Seventh-day  
Adventist Church in Canada



**Paul and DonnaLee Lehmann**  
Assoc., and Asst. Professors  
Emeritus, Burman University



**Paul Llewellyn**  
VP for Administration,  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
in Canada



**Jon Paulien**  
Program Director/Professor,  
School of Religion, Religion and  
Health, Loma Linda University



**Eric Rajah**  
Co-founder, A Better World  
Canada, Lacombe, Alta.



**Evaldo Vicente**  
Communication Director/  
*Messenger* Editor, Seventh-day  
Adventist Church in Canada



## Growing God's Family Maritime Conference

July 22–30, 2022, at Camp Pugwash, Pugwash, N.S.



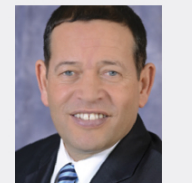
**Charlee Blabey**  
Chaplain, Kingsway College,  
Oshawa, Ont.



**Lindsay Chineegadoo**  
Asst. Professor, Religious  
Studies, Burman University



**Massiel Dávila-Ferrer**  
Chaplain, Burman University



**Glenn DeSilva**  
Senior Pastor, College Park  
Seventh-day Adventist Church,  
Ontario Conference



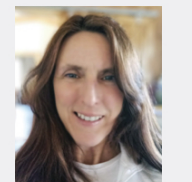
**David, Cheryl, Rebekah, and  
Andrew Hamilton,\*** Pastoral  
Family, Maritime Conference



**Tarah-Liz Springer McPherson**  
Massage Therapist/Naturopath/  
Asst. Director, Health Ministries,  
Maritime Conference



**Mike Tucker**  
Speaker Emeritus, Faith for  
Today Television Ministries/  
Host, *Lifestyle Magazine*



**Catherine Walsh**  
Director, Health Ministries,  
Maritime Conference







# Almost Home! British Columbia Conference

July 27–30, 2022, at [www.bcadventist.ca](http://www.bcadventist.ca)



**Ben Amoah**  
Assoc. Pastor, Youth Ministry,  
La Sierra University Church,  
Riverside, Calif.



**Jim Gaull**  
Retired Pastor, British Columbia  
Conference



**Pavel Goia**  
Editor, *Ministry Magazine*/ Assoc.  
Ministerial Secretary, General  
Conference



**Colin Griffiths**  
Retired Pastor, British Columbia  
Conference



**Joakim Hjortland**  
Director, Amazing Facts Centre  
of Evangelism Europe/President,  
ASI Scandinavia



**Justin Kim**  
Asst. Dir., SS & Personal Min./  
Editor, *Young Adult InVerse Bible  
Study Guide*, General Conference



**Steve Little**  
Pastor, Rest Haven & Juan de  
Fuca churches, British Columbia  
Conference



**Dwight Nelson**  
Lead Pastor, Pioneer Memorial  
Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.



**Jeff Scoggins**  
Planning Director, Global  
Mission, General Conference



**Brian Wahl**  
Director, Youth, British Columbia  
Conference



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Adventist Church  
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CANADA

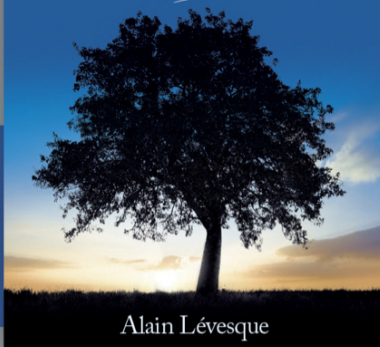
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## ■ Announcements

### PROCESS:

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

## ■ Obituaries

**Jeremy Bell** was born Dec. 21, 1977, in Lloydminster, Sask., and died Feb. 20, 2022, in Edmonton, Alta. Surviving: parents, Richard and Sara Bell; sisters, Candace Bell of Calgary, Alta., and Mindy (David) Haluska of Abbotsford, B.C.; grandmother, Justina Fehr-Sawatzky of Morden, Man.; three nephews; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

**Paul William Arthur Druitt** was born Sept. 4, 1951, in Sway, Hants, England, and died March 22, 2022, in Kelowna, B.C. He was predeceased by his parents, A. W. Nigel and Doreen Druitt. Surviving: spouse, Donna; son, Nigel (Amy) of Salmon Arm, B.C.; stepsons, Jeff (Krystle) Lanz of Alberta, and Ryan (Nadine) Lanz of British Columbia; daughter, Jordana (Michael) Hubber of West Kelowna, B.C.; brother, Jason (Dinah) Druitt of Kelowna; sister, Beverly Hazzard of Kelowna; and seven grandchildren.

**Ken Hathaway** was born Nov. 4, 1932, in Stettler, Alta., and died March 10, 2022, in Oliver, B.C. Ken served as an elder and first elder in Williams Lake, Oliver, and several other churches. He was a Pathfinder leader in Kelowna and held other church offices. He also served as a

caretaker of Camp Hope in B.C. He was predeceased by his parents, Horace “Mike” and Helen (née McCarty); brother, Harvey; and sister Marge Liske. Surviving: spouse, Esther; sons, Milton and Shawn; daughters, Melody Waterberg and Kristine Hathaway; sister, Evelyn Saylor; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Juanita Irene (née Davidson) Pittman** was born Sept. 13, 1946, in Kaslo, B.C., and died Feb. 10, 2022, in Burns Lake, B.C. Juanita was active in the Rimbey, Fairview, Dawson Creek, Clearwater, and Burns Lake churches in B.C. Her happy disposition was a blessing to her church and family. She led by example in prayer and love of the Lord. She was predeceased by her spouse, Robert (Bob) Haney Pittman. Surviving: sons, Rocky (Leah), Shawn (Debbie), and Shane (Laurie); and daughter, Stacey Pittman.

**Frederick Clarence Pomrenk** was born June 1, 1951, in Lacombe, Alta., and died Oct. 15, 2021, in Parkside, Sask. Frederick had a pleasant and happy nature and was kind towards all. He had a positive approach to life, calm nature, and strong faith. He served his church in various offices and participated in church activities. He was predeceased by his parents, Karl and Alice Louise. Surviving: spouse, Margaret; sisters, June (Gerald) of Buick, B.C., Carol of Rocky Mountain House, Alta., and Julie (Rick) of Rocky Mountain House.

**Harold Reimche** was born Aug. 18, 1920, in Fox Valley, Sask., and died Aug. 29, 2021, in Kelowna, B.C. Harold served as a pastor throughout his life and well into his retirement in both Canada and the U.S. His passion for helping others discover his friend Jesus, motivated his life. He was known throughout his life as a quiet, supportive, and loving peacemaker and caregiver. He was predeceased by his parents, Philip and Magdalena Reimche; spouses, Mary Penner and Sylvia Tkachuk; brothers, Albert, Ben, Ron, and Oscar; sisters, Esther Diminyatz and Martha Toews; and two grandsons. Surviving: sons, Al (Beth) of Calgary, Alta., Donavon (Carol) of Augusta, Ga.; daughters, Jackie (Richard) Urbanek of Holmfild, Man., and DellaRose (John Pijl) Reimche of Chilliwack, B.C.; stepson, Perry (Suntharee) Tkachuk of Indonesia; brother, Herb; sister, Claire Ritchey of Salmon Arm, B.C.; half-sisters, Brenda Bui of Kentucky, and Gail Morris of Oregon; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## ■ Advertising Policies

### PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local church or conference approval.
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- 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.
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## Upcoming Episodes on *It Is Written Canada: June 4 & 11: Faith of Our Fathers, Parts 1*

**& 2:** Murray and Elaine Sankey’s story compels one to pause and ask the question: When did my story begin? How did I get to where I am today? And what are the influences that led me to where I am and who I am today? **June 18: More Than a Cancer Survivor, Holly is a Child of God!** At the end of March 2011, Holly Albersworth was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. She thought she had beat it, but a second diagnosis came in 2013. From 2014 to February 2017, Holly was diagnosed with cancer five more times. For her seventh, and final diagnosis, she had her left arm amputated. At this stage no one would fault you for asking, “How in the world is she still standing?” But today Holly is much more than a cancer survivor. She is a child of God, a loving wife, an adored mother of two sons, a diligent student completing her master’s degree in educational research, and is living an active lifestyle as an amputee. **June 25: From Disconnected to Vitally Connected, Part 1:** Amber’s life was a mess. She came from a broken home, suffered sexual and physical abuse, became an opioid and meth addict, tried death by suicide four times, and ended up being homeless. Yet through it all, Amber somehow knew that God was taking care of her. (6/22)

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# 2022 OFFERING SCHEDULE

**JUNE**

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

**JULY**

Local Church Budget ..... July 02  
 World Budget\* (GC) ..... July 09  
 Local Church Budget ..... July 16  
 Local Conference Advance ..... July 23  
 Local Church Budget ..... July 30

\*Special materials provided.



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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  
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## Learning From Experience

**T**he other day I was at church when the Adventurers club meeting was about to start. A visiting pastor was invited to share a devotional thought for the kids, and I went there to hear him speak. He told a story from his childhood, when he accompanied his father—who is also a pastor—to a certain church and the children there were playing a game that looked like a lot of fun. It was some sort of barrel walking, not on actual barrels but on hard-plastic pails. He wanted so much to join in the activity, but his father, foreseeing potential trouble, sternly warned him not to play that game. He had never done that and could get seriously hurt. Being the obedient child he was, he responded, “Yes, Dad, I will not do that.” A few minutes later, his father had to leave him with the kids to go minister to the needs of a church member. Before leaving, the dad reinforced the warning, “You promised me you would not join them, so please don’t.”

However, temptation got the best of the boy, and he decided to join in the fun. It would be just a couple of runs and he would finish well before his father’s return. Unfortunately, things did not go according to plan. Those kids made it seem so simple, but once he got on top of the pail, it was a different story. He soon realized that keeping his balance while walking on the rolling pail, without outrunning or being outrun by it, was just too challenging. He suffered a bad fall that resulted in open fracture and various lesions in his arm. The accident cost him several visits to the hospital for surgery and follow-up treatment. Eventually, he recovered from it, and the function in his arm was fully restored.

As the pastor shared that story with the Adventurers, the obvious lesson was that children should always obey their parents. By extension, I guess we can all agree that we should obey our heavenly Father no matter what. Not willing to detract from that lesson, I realize that the pastor carries memories as well as scars on his arm from having tried something unconventional—the reminder of a lesson he had learned from experience.

But this made me think: there is value in lessons learned through unconventional methods. Have we considered unconventional approaches to our outreach? Nothing that would make us disobey God or go against our principles, but something that maybe we’ve never tried before. I believe we should not settle only for what others have tried; we should not be content with doing only what has been asked of. We must go beyond the call of duty, lest we find ourselves among those who would say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty” (Luke 17:10, ESV).

God is willing to use our gifts in a variety of ways, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you into finding innovative ways to share your story. ■

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

Evaldo Vicente, editor  
vicente.evaldo@adventist.ca





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JULY  
16

Alberta Conference Camp Meeting 2022  
**SABBATH SCHOOL**  
In Person at Foothill Camp & Livestreamed

# ONE VISION

## The Rest of the Story

Featuring

**Chief Randy Ermineskin**

*Ermineskin Cree Nation, Maskwacis*

Lesson Study 9:15 – 9:40 AM

Feature 9:40 – 10:30 AM



**The Maskwacis  
Congregation**  
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Native School

[albertacampmeeting.ca/events/maskwacis-sabbath-school/](http://albertacampmeeting.ca/events/maskwacis-sabbath-school/)  
See the *Outreach Maskwacis* page inside for a preview of  
the Sabbath School feature