

Quest for Gold (p. 7), Coming Back to God (p. 11),
After the Apocalypse (p. 16), Spiritual Influencer (p. 30)
september 2022

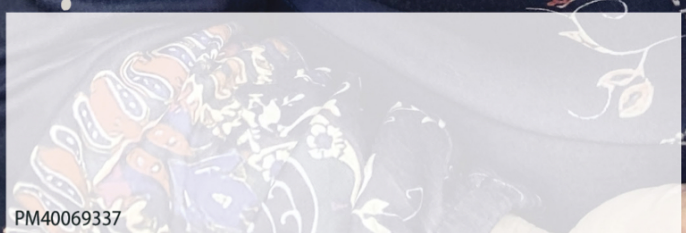
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Carol Ann Scott Reconnected With Her
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“The believers who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the message.”

—Acts 8:4, GNT

Proclaiming Everywhere

There was something about Jesus that just made people want to be near Him. His biographies (the Gospels) tell us about times when people were so drawn to Him that they even forgot their lunches! Other times followers went with Him into storms or climbed into trees so they could see Him better. Whenever Jesus was surrounded by a group—or even when He had the attention of just one person—He took the opportunity to tell them about a kingdom of amazing beauty and peace, a holy kingdom that would never end.

When Jesus returned to heaven, those who loved Him faced a world that, for the most part, didn't know Christ. Difficult times ensued. Jesus' friends were treated poorly. Instead of staying together in a group, the hardship they endured and the attitudes of people in government and in communities forced them to scatter.

But it turned out to be for the best. Scripture tells us about it in Acts 8. Read the whole chapter! What an amazing opportunity Jesus' friends were given to tell and retell the story of faith and kingdom. “The believers who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the message” (Acts 8:4, GNT).

These people believed in the message and methods of Jesus so strongly that even when they were threatened with imprisonment or worse, they kept on telling the story, over and over again.

Can you imagine it with me?

I'd like to think they preached the message in many ways. By their kindness. In their enthusiasm. To anyone who would listen. Large groups. But often, perhaps, just one or two people at a time. Where they worked. In their home neighbourhood. You get the picture. Everywhere.

Jesus *is* coming again. Many people call or text me to say they, too, are sensing that the return of Jesus is not far off.

Times will not be easy. Scripture tells us that. But a new kingdom is on its way!

Those who know Jesus today won't be able to resist any opportunity to share the story wherever they go. Whatever they do.

That's what our faith is all about. Simply telling others about Jesus and His appealing kingdom in a world that doesn't know Him very well.

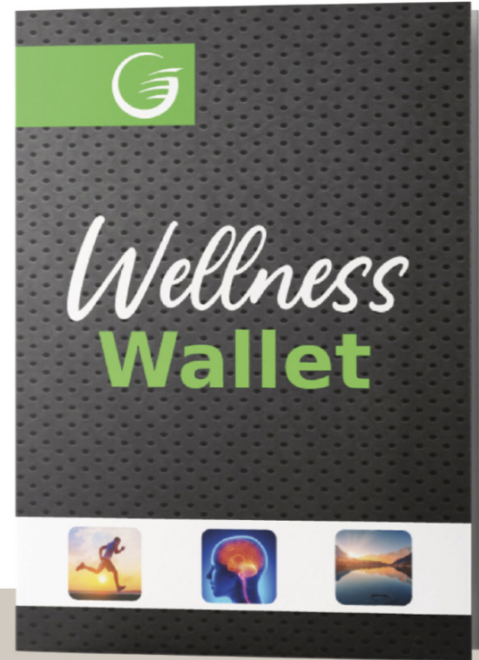
Shall we do it together? Now! Everywhere. ■

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





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WHAT'S INSIDE

September 2022



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WHAT'S COMING If you could ask God for one thing, what would it be? Read "One Thing I Desire" from *It Is Written Canada* and more in next month's issue.

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FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Q: *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual allows for discipline when a person denies the fundamental beliefs of the church or teaches doctrines contrary to those beliefs. For a church that believes so strongly in freedom of religion, why don't we practise that within our own congregations?*

A: Some years ago my congregation had people in attendance who advocated the teachings of Victor Houteff, who was disfellowshipped in 1930 for promoting heretical doctrines. They were not merely attending, but used the church to advance their competing theological views and evangelize our members. When I opposed their efforts, one of them called me a hypocrite for not protecting their religious liberty within the congregation. I have considered his charge and firmly believe that he was wrong.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a voluntary organization. No one is forced to become a member, but when they do, they affirm their acceptance of the fundamental beliefs in the presence of their local congregation. It is a baptismal covenant. In doing so, they assume certain rights and responsibilities of membership, including adhering to those fundamental beliefs.

Church membership is not for everyone, including those who disagree with church teachings. There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of other Christian denominations that would accommodate them if they prefer teachings inconsistent with Adventism. Of course, we want as many people to accept biblical truth and join our church. But for those who do not, the church is not a forum for the dissemination of non-biblical perspectives, contrary to the teachings of our denomination. Our church is intended to be a beacon of biblical truth, committed to bringing the Word of God to as many as are prepared to accept Christ's invitation to a relationship with Him.

Being a voluntary organization with a specific set of fundamental doctrines, the principle of unfettered

religious liberty to believe and teach any doctrine within the church is incompatible with its very purpose.

The freedom of religion that we work so hard to protect is for broader civil society. So long as we live in Canada, none of us has a choice but to submit to its laws. If those laws are not neutral in respect of religious beliefs and practices, it imposes burdens on some that are not imposed on others. Such non-neutral laws or government actions create serious inequality and harm.

We all have a right to full participation in society, irrespective of our religious beliefs and choices. Canada is not a theocracy, dedicated to a single religious perspective. It is a secular society, committed to principles of religious equality and neutrality. Our church's commitment to religious liberty protects the equality rights of everyone, irrespective of whether they are atheist or deeply religious. It also reflects our commitment to honouring the choices that God allows each one of us to make.

There is no inconsistency between our commitment to our own religious doctrines and principles within the church and our abiding devotion to protecting freedom of religion in the broader society. They are both premised on our commitment to biblical truth and our gratitude for God's love for us. ■

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

Quest for Gold

"The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb."—*Psalm 19:9-10, NIV*

In our global climate today, the subject of gold is in the news a lot. When people are scared, they tend to purchase gold rather than other investments as a way to preserve their personal assets.

Gold has had a lure that goes back centuries. It is how the mighty kings of ancient times showed wealth and power. It was used as currency for millennia. And it is what many people have given up their entire careers and lives for—the hunt for that elusive gold that will make them feel wealthy.

In Canada there were at least two gold rushes in the 19th century. People from all over North America in search of fortune came to the Cariboo region of British Columbia when gold was discovered there in the early 1860s. People gave up everything they had to come and try and find wealth. The second was the more famous Klondike gold rush, which occurred in the Yukon Territories in the 1890s. Men from around the world rushed up north to the Yukon, across trails that were virtually impassable, to try and reach the gold field's elusive treasure.

Even in the world of sports, gold takes on a special meaning. In a strange anomaly due to the pandemic, the Olympics have been held twice within the last year. We have seen athletes from all nations strive to win gold—the status of ultimate glory. They compete for this most prestigious medal in the Olympic games. They have put their heart and soul and given their life to the quest for gold and spend years preparing for a chance to be one one-thousandth of a second faster than their nearest competitor, all for the sake of the gold medal.

People still look for gold today. But it turns out there's a form of gold that so many rush past and miss, and it's more valuable than the metal so many stake their fortunes on.

The Bible talks about the New Jerusalem with streets of gold (Rev. 21:21). It appears that the heavenly view of gold is a bit different than ours, since in the

Holy City it is being used as a form of pavement. The gold that God wishes to give us is far different from earthly gold, and divine form of gold is far more valuable to our lives than the precious metal that so many seek.

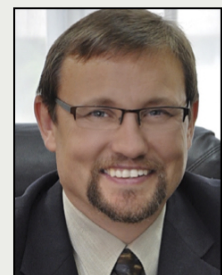
The Apostle John, in the book of Revelation, records Jesus' words to the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:18: "I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich" (NIV). The interesting aspect of this counsel is that Christ is not really selling the gold, but rather giving it to anyone who has interest in this heavenly form.

I propose that the heavenly gold that our Saviour so willingly shares is the form of gold that should be our quest. The psalmist describes this celestial gold in interesting detail.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
*They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold.*
(Psalm 19:7–10, NIV,
emphasis mine)

Let our quest for gold be guided by His Word and His law of love and grace. ■

Loren Agrey is the president of Burman University.



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Long-Eared Jerboa

Few people have ever seen a long-eared jerboa. These mouse-like rodents live in the cold winter deserts of northern China and Mongolia, and little is known about them. One look at a long-eared jerboa, though, will tell you that hearing is very important to this tiny creature.

Long-eared jerboas come out of hiding at night. Their big ears help them hear the soft flutter of the wings of little owls. If it hears a little owl, a long-eared jerboa will duck back into its burrow to hide so it won't get eaten. Its big ears also help the jerboa hear flying insects. With their long, strong legs, long-eared jerboas leap into the air to catch tasty little bugs to eat.

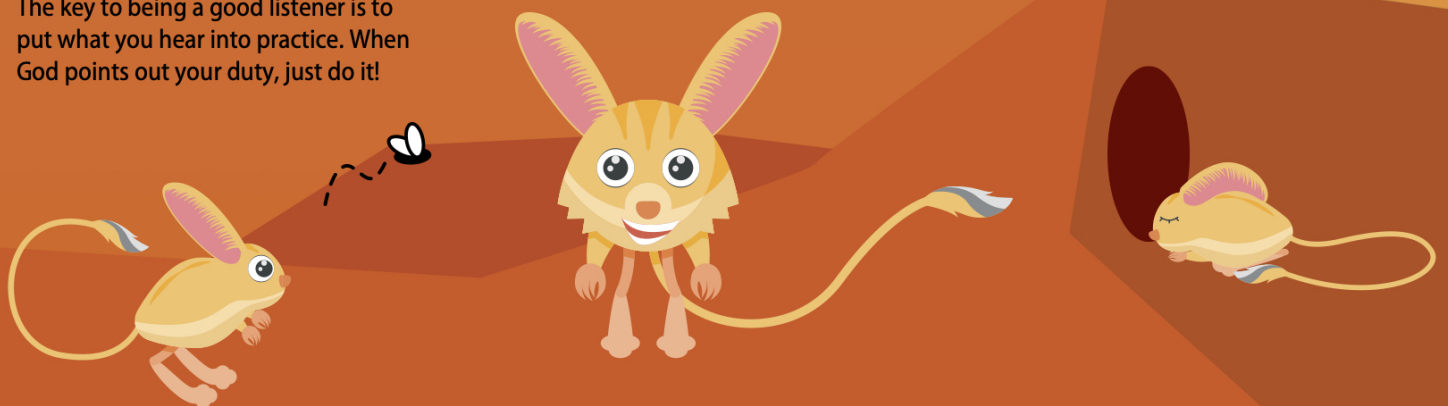
Think about it.

The long-eared jerboa is a good listener. And it acts on what it hears. If it hears an owl, it hides. If it hears an insect, it jumps. What the long-eared jerboa hears, it takes to heart.

The sad thing is, people are often *not* good listeners. We may hear things with our ears, but we don't listen with our hearts and act on what we've heard. Jesus said the reason He taught people with stories was because they weren't willing to hear God's message to them and their hearts were stubborn. If anyone has ever said to you, "You're not listening!" you may have this problem. What will you do about it?

Do it!

The key to being a good listener is to put what you hear into practice. When God points out your duty, just do it!



Mentoring: The Way Forward

There is an urgent need to pass on legacies, leadership skills, and competencies across generations within our organization and entities. From older generations all the way to Gen Z and emerging generations, mentoring is one of the ways we can achieve this knowledge transfer.

Mentoring entails discipling, teaching, encouraging, coaching, and motivating. We were created to be in relationship with others, regardless of age or experience. We all need accountability and mentoring help. Leaders need to follow to lead better, and there is reciprocal learning in mentorship as experienced people guide the inexperienced and clarify things for themselves.

Mutually beneficial mentoring relationships have a clear purpose, goals, and an intentional path. Such honest, clear parameters set the foundation for success and trust. For instance, Mordecai had a special relationship with Esther, and God had a mentoring program among the Levites (Num. 8:23–26).

Jesus mentored the 12 disciples through modelling, teaching, and clarifying via various discourse. Jesus prayed fervently to select the disciples and expected them to grow and disciple others (Mark 3:13, 14; Matt. 28:18–20). Each leader has an

opportunity to impact a life and, in turn, be impacted. Some congregations have many young people studying or living in their communities, and we have a chance to begin a mentoring relationship that glorifies God.

Seek God's guidance so that He leads you to someone you can mentor or who can mentor you, one who can positively impact your life and vice-versa. We cannot give what we don't have. As the Apostle Paul says, "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1, MEV). Let us seek to prepare for the next phase of leadership. ■

Damson Oppong is the Ministerial liaison for the SDACC.



Mental Health and Faith: Is There a Spiritual Connection?

Mental health has come to the fore as a prominent and perennial subject of importance and interest. Recent research indicates that there is no health without mental health.

According to the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), "everyone has mental health and will experience challenges regarding their mental well-being, but not everyone will experience a mental illness. In any given year, one in five people in Canada will personally experience a mental health problem or illness."¹

Mental illnesses are health conditions that may involve significant changes in thinking, emotion, or behaviour (or a combination of these). Mental illnesses are associated with distress and/or issues functioning in social, work, or family activities.

Studies show that during a mental health crisis, people often turn to a faith leader first before they turn to a clinician. Those who are part of a religious or spiritual community of some kind also have a lower risk of premature death or illness than those who aren't. This religious or spiritual connection and involvement may also promote healthy living and mental health.²

The Bible says that as a person thinks in their heart (or mind), so they are (Prov. 23:7). We should strive to cultivate a healthy mind that will result in healthy thinking and behaviour.

- As you take back your mental health,
- 1 create connections**—in the form of strong, healthy social circles and interactions;
 - 2 develop a positive attitude**—boost your mental health through healthy lifestyle practices such as walking/exercise, eating a plant-based diet and fuelling your mood with the right foods, incorporating proper rest, etc.;
 - 3 nurture your faith**—stay connected to God through His Word, prayer, sharing your faith, and meditation in nature. ■

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



FRESH FAITH

Coming Back to God

by Alannah Tjhatra



One thing that Amy Chafe emphasizes is the importance of Christian education. Raised in Newfoundland and then Alberta, Amy was baptized by her grandfather at 12 and attended Adventist schools until she was 16. When her grandfather fell ill, however, Amy's family returned to Newfoundland to care for him. Homeschooling didn't work out, so Amy and her siblings enrolled in public school instead.

"With this change in environment, I was exposed to many things [that I] wasn't accustomed to," says Amy. "Eventually I ended up with the 'popular' group at school, [and] weekend parties became a regular event."

Amy was introduced to alcohol and began experimenting with drugs. This, along with other choices, led her away from her relationship with God. Somewhere in her heart, Amy still loved Him—but she still had a lot of spiritual growth to undergo before she would have the wisdom to navigate these tough situations. Though Amy continued to lose touch with God, she knew that there must be something more.

Looking back, Amy says, "This is one of the reasons I truly believe in the value of Christian education. I have witnessed the effect of other options on children like myself."

Amy eventually married her high school sweetheart—and when their daughter Eden was born, everything changed.

"My heart melted," Amy recalls. "I never knew I could love someone so fully." She finally understood God's love for her, and it touched her deeply.

As the family drove home with their baby girl, a warm breeze blew through the car. It was spring, and with this new birth would also come a new beginning. Amy prayed for God's guidance in raising Eden, for Him to be a part of her life again. "I was saying and doing things I never thought possible. The Holy Spirit began to fill me."

As she started working for the Lord in her community, Amy found freedom. She was rebaptized soon after.

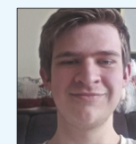
Knowing the importance of Christian education, Amy now works extensively in children's ministries. Her family has been blessed with two more children, Isaac and Haven, and she continues praying for God's wisdom in raising them. She homeschools her two older children and will soon be teaching others in the community as well. Amy yearns to provide a Christ-centred environment where young ones can learn together and ultimately be brought to the Lord. ■

35 & UNDER

In 35 words or less, how can you lift someone up today?

Alexander Hess

As a scholar, I believe that you can use communal viewing and appreciation of art to uplift people. Art not only helps us build empathy for each other, but can also highlight historically marginalized voices.



Bradley Littman

All it takes is to listen and be there for them. Ask them how their day is going, and hang out with them. Then if they want to talk, talk about what's wrong.

Jovi-Ann Alexander

I think the best way I can lift someone up is to smile and acknowledge them. Sometimes, that's all a person needs. To know that they are seen and loved.

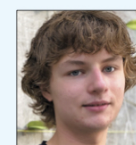


Lilly Toop

I can take extra time to talk to someone and ensure they feel loved and appreciated. I can also pray for them and ask God to bless them.

Selena Ly

Make a snack or meal for them, and for yourself while you're at it, and deliver it!



T. Bruggemann

Today I can lift someone up by going and talking to them about how much I appreciate them and telling them I'm there for them if they need someone to lean on.



Q: I'm back in school and I'm not looking forward to science class. As a Christian, can I believe in both God and science? Don't they contradict each other?

A: **Pastor Shawn:** The short answer, yes and no! OK, you probably want more :)
Auntie Lian: I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home. I went to public school where I was taught evolution was the only answer for the creation of the world. In church I was taught the Creation story from the Bible. I started to believe I could not believe in both science and God. When asked how God created the world in six days, I would just say, *If the Bible said it, it must be so.* I would get a hard time from non-Christian people about my beliefs. Sometimes it was hard to hold my views, not understanding the world of science. Then I met my hubby, who was able to explain things that supported my faith.

PS: Before I was a pastor, I received an undergrad degree in toxicology, which covered biology, chemistry, and even some biophysics. I also have a master's in occupational and environmental health. So I've covered a lot of disciplines.

When I became a Christian, I re-studied evolution and the creation of the universe. I realized that scientists couldn't prove how the universe was created or how life began on this planet. They only had theories. Instead of putting faith in God, scientists chose to put their faith in an impossible idea that everything was created at random (it's like rolling two dice and getting double sixes 10 times in a row—would you place your faith in that?!)

AL: The Bible says in Psalm 25:5, "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and

my hope is in you all day long" (NIV). In other words, we need God to show us His truth rather than accept a hopeless theory simply because a person has degrees after their name. Search deeper. Seek God's truth. The Holy Spirit and Bible readings will open your mind to God's infinite truth and teach you what true science is.

PS: True science will always reveal the magnificence of God and His Creation. When you really study the awesomeness of the universe, you realize it could only have been created by God as it says in Genesis 1:1. Studying the complexity of the human body, you can't help but praise God because we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

So, can belief in God and in science co-exist? Absolutely! Does science contradict God? No! True science will always show how amazing God and His Creation is!

AL: Here are two challenges for you. The Bible is not a book of science but of salvation. However, there are passages presenting scientific principles. Find one and email them to us! Also, the Bible says God flooded the entire earth. Find evidence that shows this to be true. Hint: Where can you find chalk? We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Do you have a question for Pastor Shawn and Auntie Lian? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.

NOCAP
 Straight Talk

w/Pastor Shawn and Auntie Lian



Growing Up

Millennial



A Tribute



Dear Jordyn,

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for allowing us to join you on your journey for the past five years.

Since your very first article in September 2017, you showed the bravery to be completely transparent with your challenges, growth, and accomplishments. Thank you for reminding everyone—not just millennials—that there is room for questions and authenticity in our relationship with God. Thank you for tackling topics such as the importance of compassion, of self-care, of taking risks, and being honest with yourself and others.

Now that you have successfully completed your master's and are moving on to new places and phases, we wish God's richest blessings on your life.

With gratitude,
The *Canadian Adventist Messenger* team

Jordyn Boonstra is a British Columbian millennial who completed her master's degree at Andrews University. Stay tuned for a new writer and new perspective in Growing Up Gen Z, coming soon.



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FINDING JESUS ON THE BASKETBALL COURT

My son loves basketball. He carries the ball with him everywhere he goes—even on vacation—in case he sees a rim or a court. I drop him off at a couple of community basketball courts at a local park a few times a week. Sometimes I question whether I have made the right decision because some of the folks he plays with aren't "church" people.

The other day, after I picked him up, he said, "Dad, it finally happened." I gave him a questioning expression as we drove home. "I invited two of the guys I was playing with to church. They were very interested. I also told them you are a pastor, and they said they want to learn more about the Bible."

Last week I stopped by a neighbour's house whose husband was recently diagnosed with a terminal illness. As we spoke on the front porch, she commented, "I've seen you wearing a shirt that says, 'Ask me to pray for you.' Well, I am asking for prayer." I put my hand on her shoulder and prayed for strength and courage as the long journey of illness began. I usually wear a black shirt with large white letters that invite people to ask me to pray for them. It never dawned on me that my neighbours were taking notice.

Our denomination has "perfected" the art of evangelism. We have great slide decks and displays with sophisticated timelines. We have outsourced evangelism to a public preacher instead of sharing our faith with those we know and love. I would argue that friendship evangelism still has a vital role in reaching your local community. Nothing can compete with your testimony!

Sadly, many people will never walk into a church. The idea of church for many people sadly represents pain and shame due to years of abuse. What is more important to you? There is a cliché—"Take the church out of doors." And yet, it's true. If people don't feel safe attending church, how will we introduce Jesus? As I read the New Testament, I can't think of one person who was saved through an altar call during a church service. Every single encounter happened through personal interaction.

Are there people in your neighbourhood or family who could benefit from the good news of Jesus? How can you share your faith outside of the walls of the church? ■

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.

(PT. 2 OF 3)



Looking Beyond the Horizon



After the Apocalypse

Imagine with me for a moment ...
*God's children living and surviving over
 400 years of exile and oppression. Treated
 as slaves or worse. No rights. No property. Even though these were
 guaranteed by the leaders of the nation. The royal heads of state
 turn their backs on these promises and people. The legalized
 oppression and erasure of the rights of former allies takes place.*

What people group comes to mind?

Let's continue.

*The oppressors believe "our God" has told them they should
 rule the land because "our way"—which they feel is clearly "His"
 way—is better. So, naturally, the oppressed should just become
 like the oppressor and live under their "superior" government and
 society. The oppressed will never have the same standing as the
 people ruling over them, but they will be better off—so goes the
 twisted rationale.*

Let's take this another step further.

*Church and state, joined at the hip. Prophecies of troubled
 times ahead. Forces from the four corners of the earth causing
 destruction. Law after law created to disadvantage God's
 children. So many die from the persecution. "How long, oh
 Creator? How long?"*

To us, this is a familiar narrative. But who is this?

Consider this: The apocalypse has already taken place for many Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Those of us who remain exist in a post-apocalyptic world. Our strength and resilience, and our trust in Creator, bring a remnant through. **We have survived the apocalypse.**

This parallel isn't from the Bible, but it's not made up. Many Indigenous people in Canada see these last 400+ years as an apocalypse. Millions of our family gone, oppressed for centuries and continuing on even today. We First Nations, Inuit, and Métis can identify with the children of Israel more than many Christians might understand.

A land of promise for all was glimpsed, intended, and

treated in good faith. But the promises to our leaders were never meant to be kept. Our British "pharaohs" turned their faces from the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the Treaty of Niagara in 1764, the Numbered Treaties, the Peace and Friendship Treaties. ... And what followed was apocalyptic for us. Imagine Creator's children persecuted, assimilated, and almost destroyed. Humanity's greed, the need for power over others, and a non-biblical Christianity on display for all to see. No wonder we see it as an apocalypse.

But *apocalypse* has another, older meaning. It simply means to take the cover off, to reveal something.

The apocalypse of Jesus Christ (the true name of the Book of Revelation) means the revealing of Jesus Christ. Revelation/apocalypse is not primarily about beasts, persecutions, or plagues. It is an uncovering of the love, mercy, power, and faithfulness of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah to His people, that they might be transformed into His likeness. It is revealing a Christ who loves all of us, no matter our religious affiliation, and that He intends for all of us to live in balance and harmony with him, and with *all* others.

But I know this is not the Jesus most often shown through history, not even today, to the Indigenous Peoples in Canada. It is time to live/love, truly live/love, with no strings attached and reveal the real Christ. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Many Indigenous People have encountered Christians who are unlike Christ. Imagine what will happen after we reveal a true biblical Indigenous Jesus to them. ■

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

Note: I am indebted to Vine Deloria Jr.'s book *Custer Died for Your Sins* as I wrote this article.



Connecting

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”—John 13:34, 35, ESV

I counsel and pray with a number of people who battle substance addiction. I’ve found it beneficial to discover the underlying emotional needs that led them down that path.

The triggers can be loneliness, rejection, stress, anger, abuse, guilt, and a whole host of similar feelings that threaten to overwhelm them, but each trigger is rooted in a lack of truly connected relationships.

It is easy to look down on those who are addicted to a substance, but recently it was brought to my attention again that all of us are addicted to something, whether we admit it or not. Think about it: movies, pornography, TV shows, negative thinking, novels, gaming, gossip, criticism—even good things like work, exercise, giving, preaching, counselling, and the like can be an addiction. If it regularly replaces (or keeps us from) connecting with God, our families, and others, and we consistently use it as a coping method, isn’t it an addiction? It enables us to escape from reality or what needs to be dealt with.

In looking at the life of Jesus, all I can see is Him connecting with people. He touched the sick, letting the healing love in His heart flow into them. He bypassed the external questions people asked and went right into the heart of what was bothering them. They didn’t always like it, especially those who wanted to hide or mask their thoughts and motives. But connecting requires open hearts, and opening hearts require an atmosphere of love. That atmosphere is what Jesus carried with Him.

When the Spirit of God hovered/moved over the water in Genesis 1:2, the meaning of the original word is “to grow soft”/“relax”¹ and “to brood”/“to be relaxed.”² We only truly relax in an atmosphere of love, and God brings love.

Before He went back to heaven, Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34, 35, ESV).

He also said, “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:11–14, ESV).

Loving people was the biggest thing on His mind and in His heart. It is all He did, and it is what He asks us to do.

Connect. Relax in that atmosphere of love that enables us to open our hearts to one another. Let the good connection-oriented things out rather than the tension that shuts people down and closes their hearts. Too often we let the pain we are carrying out. The anger, bitterness, hardness ... rather than the love and care.

Love looks for the good in others. It makes the atmosphere relaxed so hearts can open and connect with us and with Jesus. Let us pray to receive this atmosphere into our own hearts and watch what happens when others sense it and relax! ■

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

¹ Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon.
² Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

Where Are They Now

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

Interview by Ken Wiebe, *Messenger* Staff Writer



Ingrid and Ron Henderson

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

Ron Henderson: My parents were British living in Guyana, South America. They honeymooned in Trinidad, where I and the rest of the children were eventually born—eight in all. I am the third of that eight. We lived between the two countries, but chiefly in Trinidad and Tobago (TT). My secondary education in Guyana/Trinidad lasted until I was about 16 years old, when my parents moved back to the U.K. While my family did not go to church, and we were “no-whereans,” as a child I felt strangely that God, whom I did not know at all, was impacting my life, especially through some very noteworthy experiences I had in my earlier years.

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

R: After completing secondary school in the U.K., I went to Newbold College to study theology, and after two years, I immigrated to Argentina to complete theology at Rio de la Plata, our Adventist university. After a month there, I visited Brazil, where I stayed and completed my bachelor of theology degree.

Returning to the U.K. after some years abroad, I started my master of divinity degree at Newbold, finishing the credits offered there. Again, after some years of pastoring and teaching in several parts of the world, we (I had married my wife Ingrid by now) accepted

a call to Hong Kong and later went to the Adventist Far-Eastern Seminary in the Philippines, where I finished my MA in pastoral ministry and early Christian history.

After some years we again went to Andrews University, where I enrolled in the D.Min. program. After a year or more, I accepted a call to Bermuda. Five years later we returned to Andrews University to complete my dissertation, but soon we were off to New Brunswick, Canada.

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

R: My plan was to be a naturalist (biology, zoology, anthropology, etc.), but I felt a strong calling to be a minister even though I did not know exactly what that entailed. My grannie in South America once told me that she had dedicated my brother and me to the Lord when we were young. We both went on to separately study theological subjects: theology on my part, and theology, law, and history on my brother's part. By this time, we were both dedicated Adventists.

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

R: I have worked as a pastor, as well as Bible and theology teacher in Trinidad, West Indies, Tobago, Grenada, Bermuda, South America, Hong Kong, and northern Europe (U.K., Scandinavia, and Iceland). I was also a literature evangelist for about eight years as I financed my education. Most of my vacation time was spent volunteering among the Mayans in Belize and northern Brazil (in the states of Acre and Rondônia) for about eight years. We have worked in New Brunswick and Alberta until our recent retirement.

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

R: My teaching and pastoral career has given my wife and me the opportunity to travel and meet people of all generations and various cultures, which we both enjoyed immensely.

As far as the careers are concerned, teaching was my first love. I did not find pastoral work quite as fulfilling at first, but God always directed me where I should go to work as a pastor. So I ended up doing more pastoral work than teaching—and loved it.

Reaching out to people in their needs, giving Bible studies or counsel, whether it be in a hovel or home, was always a joy. While I loved my work as a minister and

teacher, I will not be truly satisfied until I reach my heavenly home.

M: *Tell us about your family.*

R: I married a wonderful Danish physiotherapist in Denmark and we brought two lovely *drenge* (“boys” in Danish) into this turbulent world: Rahel (pronounced Ray-el, or Rah-el, Hebrew), and Darel (also Hebrew).

Rahel, after finishing school in Nova Scotia, went home to Denmark and joined the army. He is now a high officer in the Danish military and is presently stationed in Latvia. Please remember him in your prayers, as the Baltic region is so volatile right now.

Darel is the main librarian at Lethbridge Community College. Some of you may remember him as the assistant librarian at Burman University. He goes by his mother's maiden name, Bannedbaek—having adopted that name in the hopes of becoming a Danish diplomat. Instead, with the encouragement of the head librarian at the Mary C. Moore Public Library in Lacombe, he chose library science as a career. His love was English history and literature.

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

R: Currently, we live in Alberta just west of the town of Mirror. My membership is with the Mirror church, and since COVID-19 our church attendance often reaches 70 or more individuals on Sabbaths. You are welcome to visit when in the area. There is always a fellowship meal after the divine service, followed later by a *Final Events* presentation for those eager to hang on to God's format for the end times.

I spend much of my time writing monthly articles, preparing Bible studies, writing, and trying to finish reading the multitude of books I have collected. The website I created (hangonthebestisyettocome.com) keeps me busy. On this site I have developed different topics to interest individuals. My monthly articles are currently translated into five different languages, and I keep looking for more translators.

I also spend time hiking, gardening, and exercising. I would like to encourage all of you readers to be ready for the greatest finale this world will soon experience. Terrestrial time as we know it will be no more; it would be quite a shame to miss out on what God has in store for those who love Him. Let us plan on being there. He is well able to make that possible! ■



Baked Peaches

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 peaches
- 1 cup (250 ml) toasted walnuts
- 4 tsp honey

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 °F.
2. Wash peaches and cut them in half, removing the pits.
3. Lightly brush each peach with 1 teaspoon of honey.
4. Bake peaches for 10 to 15 minutes or until peaches are softened and warmed through.
5. Top peaches with toasted walnuts. You may add a little non-dairy whipped topping or some vegan ice cream if desired.

Makes 4 servings.

NUTRITIONAL INFO:

Serving Size 180 g
Calories 208
Total Fat 15.2 g
Saturated Fat 1.5 g
Cholesterol 0 mg
Sodium 0.2 mg
Total Carbs 18.2 g
Dietary Fibre 3.4 g
Sugars 13.3 g
Protein 4.5 g



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





What's in a Name?

SO, YOU ARE IN the process of planning your will. You have decided which lawyer will draft the document. You have figured out who your executor will be and obtained their agreement. You have talked to your family about who will be getting Grandma's china. You have made an appointment to sign the document.

You're done, right? There is nothing else to do. There is nothing that can go wrong. Not necessarily.

If you haven't confirmed the names of your beneficiaries, it could mean lengthy delays and additional expenses when it is time for your estate to be administered. It could mean that carrying out your final wishes will drag out over months, even years, and diminish the size of your gifts.

Several years ago, a well-meaning donor left sizeable bequests to several charities. A law firm was tasked with the administration of the estate.

After a year with no contact from the firm, one charity sent a follow-up letter. They were expecting to hear that everything was well in hand, and that as soon as the government sent the tax clearance they would be receiving their gift. Instead, the firm advised that there was a legal issue that needed to be resolved. For four years the firm gave the same answer whenever an update was requested.

Finally, the charities received a letter advising that the firm had resolved the issue. Along with the resolution, however, the firm also wanted the charities to approve a hefty bill for its services in settling the issue.

The issue that had clogged up the process for so long seemed trivial but was actually quite troublesome—one of the charities had been named improperly.

First, the firm had to get two or three other firms to provide opinions on which charity was the most likely to have been the one that the donor intended. Eventually, the issue had to be settled in court with an order to

allow the firm to issue the bequests. All of this could have been avoided had the donor or their lawyer ensured that the charity had been properly named.

Many charities have very similar names and can be easily confused. It is very important, then, to provide their proper, legal names.

In another case, the charities involved had to provide records to prove that they had a previous donor and/or volunteer relationship with the deceased. This was difficult as many charities don't keep records older than seven years and the donor had been quite advanced in age when he passed away and hadn't volunteered or made regular donations for years.

It is, therefore, best to contact the charities you would like to include in your will to confirm their legal names. To remove all doubt, it is also a good idea to include their current addresses and charitable registration numbers. Many charities provide this information on their websites and are also willing to provide it by phone or by mail in order to make it as easy as possible for potential donors. Such a simple thing will ensure that your gifts go swiftly and specifically to where you intend. ■

Reprinted from the March 2015 Canadian Adventist Messenger. Sharmilla Reid is a former director of donor relations for ADRA Canada.

HELLO
my name is

Katherine *Gathy*
Kay *Catherine* *Kate*
Gate *Kathryn*

RAINMAK



The Miracle Baby

Sandy Grant wants to know, “Do you believe in miracles?” *She* certainly does! When Sandy was due to be born in a remote country village in Jamaica, there was no way and no time for her mother to be transported to a hospital for what turned out to be a long and very difficult labour. Finally, when all seemed hopeless, Sandy emerged, only to be pronounced a stillbirth by the attending midwife. Sandy was lifeless, totally deoxygenated, and showed no vital signs—in short, she was dead. Her mother, refusing to accept the verdict, clutched her tiny daughter tight to her bosom and, with piercing agony, cried out to God. It was then that Sandy miraculously gasped and took her first breath.

“This was my beginning,” Sandy muses as she reflects on her life. “I am alive—a living testimony of what God can do when we put our hope in Him, when we refuse defeat and trust Him to perform miracles in our lives. We serve a mighty, on-time God,” she testifies.

Sandy remembers growing up with a natural love and zest for life. A happy, cheerful child, she was also the youngest in an extended household and therefore had much time to play on her own. This led her to develop an active imagination and independence at an early age. During those significant years, she learned many precious lessons in creative thinking, especially given the imposing limitations of socioeconomic challenges. An insatiable appetite for reading grew out of her love for books. Sandy wanted to know everything about anything, and, looking back on her life, although she wasn’t always in

relationship with Him, she can trace God’s guiding hands, preparing her to acquire the most important knowledge—a knowledge of Himself.

With Sandy’s inquisitive nature, education was a natural path to follow, but teaching was not her initial consideration as a career choice, especially not in the field of health. It’s so interesting, because now she is considered by many, including this writer, as one of our leading health educators.

Sandy says, “I had no interest. All I knew about health was that once per year at church, the same guy would preach on ‘Health and Temperance Day’ and talk about the virtues of vegetarianism, the benefits of drinking water and exercise, and, as the saying goes, ‘yadda, yadda, yadda.’ I just wasn’t listening. I thought it was good information, but it was for the sick and the old. Praise God for grace! I have since confessed my ignorance and pleaded God’s mercy.”

All that was going to change, however, at a health seminar that Sandy describes as a pivotal event in her life. “My calling to a career in health education came providentially after a sequence of events that started when I attended a health seminar at the Brampton (Ont.) Seventh-day Adventist Church and heard a speaker, Dr. Thomas Jackson, present health as I had never heard it before. With power and conviction, he not only explained the connection between diet and spirituality/salvation but also, with sound science, logically explained how food and the laws of health impact our anatomy and physiology. I recall most vividly his words, ‘The apple you eat and drink

today, you will walk and talk tomorrow.’ When the curious child in me prompted me to return to school and search out the facts on the science for myself, the claims proved legitimate. Truly, our biology shapes our biography. Simply put, *we are what we eat*. This was the ‘aha’ moment that changed my life forever.”

For Sandy, who was in her 30s at that point, the process of self-discovery that ensued helped her realize something: “Despite being in the church since I was 14 years old—having held many offices, taught Sabbath school at all levels, and performed many duties—for the first time in my life I understood not only what it meant to truly be a Seventh-day Adventist but, ironically, what it meant to be a Christian. Most profoundly, I understood my identify in Christ, my calling in life; I understood *purpose*.” She elaborates, “In Proverbs 9:10, we are told, ‘The knowledge of the holy is understanding.’ God’s people are called not only to be holy, but to be knowledgeable and have understanding.”

In 2001, after running a children’s health camp in the summer, Sandy founded a health-focused elementary school program at the request of many parents concerned for their children’s well-being. She recalls, “The testimonies of children embracing health and leading their families into living a healthy lifestyle and, in some cases becoming members of the church, was significant. Recognizing, however, that children live what they learn and learn what they live, is a fact that speaks to good role modelling. As parents, we must lead by example. It was time to train the adults.”

Numerous cooking classes, health

ERS

talks, seminar presentations, and weekend retreats later (all of which this writer has been greatly blessed and inspired by), Durham School of Health and Nutrition (DSHN) was born. In 2012, in response to the call for training at the college level, the Lord orchestrated the initiation of this much-needed health training program, a school of inspired learning and global vision. Through this private career college, Sandy offers a diploma in nutrition to facilitate the work of health education for both personal use as well as career opportunities.

"This is a necessary training, especially in these critical times of health crises and economic uncertainties," Sandy explains. "Unlike other institutions and programs, DSHN offers introductory-level and advanced courses to promote higher learning and in-depth studies in natural health. Understanding "why" and "how" things work is a commitment we make to our students. Many of our graduates go on to use their skills and training as a tremendous blessing to countless many, bringing hope and healing—body, mind, and spirit—in all communities."

Today, Sandy is grateful that although she didn't initially choose a career in health and wellness education, God chose it for her. "I simply chose God, and He chose for me. He opened the door, and I simply walked through it. And just as He has a plan for my life, so He does for everyone! What is your calling? What is your purpose?"

She outlines two simple steps to purposeful living and progressing to the next level. "First, begin with prayer. Believe that God's ideal plan for your



Sandy Grant

life is neither optional, nor coincidental, nor conflicting—it is the solution to true happiness. Second, solicit help. Everybody needs somebody. Prayerfully ask God to guide your decision."

Durham School of Health and Nutrition can help. Contact them for information on how to live a life where miracles happen. Also, request a free copy of Sandy's plant-based cookbook, *Eden's Plate*, and information on the *Masterclass Nutrition and Cooking in Sandy's Kitchen* program.

Sandy's appeal: "Knowledge is

power! Power up on Christ, the source of knowledge and life at its best! Jesus wants us to live life more abundantly. The Bible tells us that in the last days, we will do greater works than Jesus did. That time is now! Learn the wisdom of heaven—the true science of life—then stand back and watch God work mighty miracles in your life!" ■

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



Reunited!

Carol Ann Scott Reconnected With Her Biological Family Through the *Messenger*



December 20, 1955—“I was their Christmas present!”

Tired from a long and busy day at the dental office, Carol collected her mail and walked into the house, hoping to find rest from the day’s activities. Plopping herself on the couch, she began rifling through the assorted envelopes. She noticed the March 1996 issue of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* had finally arrived. As Carol unrolled it, the front cover caught her attention. “Aww, that’s so sweet,” she thought as she scanned the magazine’s cover. On it was the delicate portrait of two unopened flower buds. One was taller than the other. They had their leaves wrapped around each other as if to replicate the soft silhouette of a child in its mother’s embrace.

Immediately, she flipped straight to the final pages of the magazine as she did every month, looking for the list of obituaries. As she meticulously scanned the list—the surname she had long searched for had finally appeared! “Could this be my biological family?” she thought. It was. It really was.



Baby Carol at seven months old



Four-year-old Carol and big sister, Candice



Carol's Grade 8 graduation



Carol with her younger brother, Ron, on her 10th birthday

This is probably a crazy question, but am I adopted?

Back in the 1950s, adopting children was common for many couples in Ontario. Carol Ann Scott was no exception, as her mother also put her up for adoption upon her birth. Despite the unfortunate circumstances, the adoption agency committed to finding her a loving home. They intended to locate a couple aligned with her birth mother's Seventh-day Adventist faith, as stated on her adoption documents. To the agency's surprise, only one Seventh-day Adventist couple was adopting in the Durham region at the time: Herb and Lila Jeffery.

Right away and with open arms, the Jefferys welcomed their new baby girl

into their family, raising her as if she was their own. The couple faithfully brought up their children in the Adventist faith, providing Carol and her siblings with the loving experience of a Christ-centred upbringing. "To me, it was the perfect Adventist home," she states.

Living in east Oshawa, Carol attended College Park Elementary and Kingsway College. Both schools, as well as Maracle Press, are all located close to each other on the same campus. "Dad worked at Maracle Press," says Carol. "Since we lived so close [to the campus], I walked with Dad to school every day."

She adds, "I was highly involved

within my community. I was a happy girl who did gymnastics and had a great group of friends." As a member of College Park Church, "I loved going to Sabbath school, church, and school. It made me happy." Although she was unaware of her adoption at the time, Carol had no idea her reality would quickly change.

Several years later, Carol accidentally learned of her adoption. As she overheard a family conversation, Carol was curious about whom they were discussing.

As she walked back to school that afternoon, Carol pondered, *Were they talking about me?* As she slowly walked to Kingsway, she saw a close friend and

● The obituary mentioned the passing of Carol's grandmother, Lena Fortney. Undemeath her children's names were listed. . . .
One of those ladies is my mother, she thought.



Carol still has the Messenger that changed her life.



Fortney siblings at the family farm in 2008; many have passed since then.



Winnipegosis Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Fortney family in 2008.

called her over to tell her about the strange experience.

"I immediately asked my friend, 'This is probably a crazy question, but am I adopted?'" notes Carol.

To her surprise, Carol received the answer she most certainly did not expect. Her heart dropped as she heard her friend exclaim, "Well, I think you're old enough to know. Yes, you are!"

"At that moment, I was shocked. I expected my friend to say no," says Carol. "All I replied was, 'What? Are you kidding me?'" Carol adds, "Right then, it felt like the past 14 years quickly flashed in my mind."

Carol pondered varying questions related to her family's history. Although she loved her family and knew how much

they loved her, the news was shocking.

Confused and resentful, she decided to run away from home. That summer in 1969, when she completed Grade 8, Carol journeyed across Canada.

Hitchhiking over 4,000 kilometres, Carol travelled from Ontario, making her way to British Columbia. "I was gone from home for two weeks," shares Carol. Although this trek was dangerous for a 14-year-old girl, Carol notes that God's hand was continually present, protecting her along the way.

When she arrived in Kamloops, B.C., Carol met a man. He was a fellow hitchhiker she believes was her guardian angel, appointed by God to guide her home safely. Carol says, "He was kind. The moment we met, he kept calling me

'Little Sister.'"

Carol adds, "That same day, he bought me breakfast. He never ate anything. He just paid for my meal."

"When I told him my story, he told me I wouldn't accomplish anything if I continued in the direction I was going. He encouraged me to go home, work things out, be happy, and get on with my life."

Fortunately, this interaction with the strange man convinced Carol to turn around and return home. Although the encounter was unexpected, this was not the last time Carol would see him.

One evening, as she was nearing northern Ontario, Carol noticed night was quickly falling. As she walked on the side of the road, she hoped a car would



stop and offer her a ride. "I saw a car was coming up the road. I knew it would be the last car I'd see all night. If they didn't stop, I knew I would have to go into the woods to find a place to sleep," she explains.

The car pulled over. Just as she entered, she heard the driver exclaim, "Little Sister!" It was the same man she had met in Kamloops! What a relief to see a familiar face again.

The journey had been long, and Carol's weary eyes were heavy with exhaustion. She gave in and fell asleep during the ride. Shortly after, the peaceful slumber was interrupted by the sharp sound of police sirens. The police had pulled them over due to a burnt-out tail light. Just as Carol began to open her eyes, the bright yellow beam of the policeman's flashlight startled her awake.

"When the police asked my friend who I was, he responded that I was just a hitchhiker he had picked up. It was as if I was no longer his little sister," Carol recalls.

"Immediately, the cop asked me my name. All the fake names I had been using left me, causing me to blurt out my real name. 'Carol Jeffery,' I said in a shaky voice. To my surprise, the cop grinned and said they had been looking for me!"

At once, the policeman drove Carol to the Sudbury police station, where her parents arrived to take her back home.

"The rest of that summer was strange with my parents, since they were hurt and anxious," notes Carol.

As she worked toward healing her relationship with Herb and Lila, Carol's curiosity regarding her adoption never subsided. "I just wanted to know where I came from," she shares.

Not long after her return home, Lila offered to contact Carol's biological mother. Although Carol expressed that it was unnecessary, Lila shared valuable information initiating Carol's journey to finding her family.

"My mom told me that when she signed my adoption papers, she had noticed the name 'Fortney.' Since then, I knew that must have been my family

name and began looking for anything with that name."

Fast-forward to 1977. Carol was now a mother of two young daughters. She contacted the Children's Aid Society to learn about her medical history. They immediately provided her with an extensive document outlining her biological mother's history, including her number of siblings and birthdays. She learned that her family had lived in Manitoba and were of Polish-Ukrainian descent. The documents also stated that her mother was a Seventh-day Adventist. "That moment was my first inkling that my life had been divinely led and cared for," expresses Carol.

Through a dear family friend and neighbour, June Polishuk—who served as editor of the *Canadian Adventist Messenger* from 1988 to 1997—Carol subscribed to the magazine. From that moment on, Carol reviewed the *Messenger* every month. She hastily turned to the back pages and scanned the obituaries, hoping to find someone with a connection to her biological family.

"The years rolled by. Whenever I was at someone's house that might have the *Messenger*, I would glance through the obituaries, hoping to find that special family I knew was out there somewhere."

After waiting for over 20 years, the day finally arrived. "I got home from a shift at the dental office. I was tired, so as I arrived at my apartment, I got the mail out of the mailbox and noticed the *Messenger* had come."

Carol adds, "I sat down, grabbed the magazine, and noticed the front cover. I thought it was cute, since the flowers were like a mom and her baby. It made me teary. I flipped right to the last pages of the magazine, as I always did. While scanning the obituaries, I suddenly saw the name 'Fortney!'"

Carol finally had found the name she had been looking for. She notes, "I was in shock! So many decades had gone by since I had begun looking for them!"

The obituary mentioned the passing of Carol's grandmother, Lena Fortney. Underneath, her children's names were listed. However,

particular names stood out to her, the names of Lena's daughters: Anne, Mary, Jenny, Zana, Evelyn, Lily, Beatrice, and Rose.

One of those ladies is my mother, she thought.

Carol shared this new and exciting information with her colleague, Rose Dunn-Kalyenko. Right away, Rose recommended that Carol contact Jenny Barter, a patient who often visited the clinic and whose family background was similar to Carol's.

A few days later, Carol developed the courage to call Jenny. She shared her recent findings about her biological family. Immediately, a connection emerged, providing Carol with the possibility of contacting her birth mother.

Carol says, "Jenny told me, 'I am pretty sure I know who your mom is.' She shared that my mom was still alive and that she lived in Calgary. After our talk, Jenny hung up and called my mom. After an hour, she called back and said my mom was Zana!"

Carol adds, "I thought it was such an unusually wonderful name. Hearing that my mom wanted to talk to me and that she had never forgotten about me gave me the comfort I needed."

Finally, in 1996, Carol was reunited with Zana and the rest of her siblings for the first time.

"I couldn't believe how alike we all were. We looked alike, sounded alike, and even smiled alike," Carol notes.

Fortunately, mother and daughter were reunited before Zana's passing in 2020. Carol praises God for the opportunity to have found her biological family and for the love and support her adoptive family continually showed her throughout the journey. She acknowledges that God was leading her life from the start, concluding, "It is so exciting to share my story. He has led my life. It's a privilege to be loved by Him so much." ■

Angelica Sanchez is a freelance writer for the Canadian Adventist Messenger.





What a Waste?

“That’s part of God’s plan. That’s how love works. Love is not just for those who will respond.”

Some time ago I remember reading a study that stated that Canada leads the world in garbage production per capita.¹ We generate approximately 2.7 kilograms of garbage per person per day!²

It is a known fact that many of the literature we share ends up as waste. In 2021, over 200,000 GLOW tracts were distributed across Canada. Most certainly, many of them ended up in landfills. In a country that is struggling to be more environmentally friendly, are we being responsible citizens when we share tracts and books that will most likely get discarded?

Just looking at the figures, we might be hesitant to share literature, but let’s look more closely at the true impact of literature evangelism.

Of course, there is the principle that we cannot place too high a value on a single soul won to Christ. When I say this, I think of a man who was baptized just a couple of weeks ago. His journey into the Seventh-day Adventist Church began when someone at Costco handed him a GLOW tract!

I also think of hundreds of what I call “mini divine appointments.” These occur all across the country, and I hear about them from church members. They share with me about the wonderful encounters they experience when they give out literature to inspire faith and hope.

There are so many people who are glad to receive these gifts. Like the delivery man who told me he reads his Bible every day even if he doesn’t go to church. Or the lady I prayed with as a result of her sharing about her struggles with her husband’s mental health. Both individuals were so glad to receive something small to give them hope and direction.

Ellen White said, “I saw that the truth must go and that we must not be too fearful, that tracts and papers might better go to three where they were not needed than to have one deprived of them who prizes them and can be benefited by them.”³

So, it’s OK to waste three so that one can receive

light. But don’t discard the impact of those three too quickly! I have noticed that the Holy Spirit does not need much to make an impression. Even if only a little is read, the Holy Spirit can take those few words and bring conviction—with hope. And in due time, we can be sure of that future harvest. Why? Because those other three tracts act as seed. That’s how “more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.”⁴

The other three tracts provide an opportunity, a chance to know. That’s part of God’s plan. That’s how love works. Love is not just for those who will respond. Love reaches out to all—giving all an opportunity to know Jesus and His saving grace.

So if you see literature being thrown away, think of Jesus and His sacrifice. The Bible makes it clear that broad is the way to destruction and that the majority will be lost. But that fact never stopped Jesus from pouring out His life. To the universe, the plan of salvation might seem like a waste. But to Jesus, it’s definitely worth it to give each soul a chance. So go ahead and share. Let God take care of the waste. ■

Jonathan Zita serves as director for Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LCES), a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada.

1 “Canadians Produce More Garbage Than Anyone Else,” *CBC News*, Jan. 17, 2013, <https://bit.ly/3OqK8D5>

2 Royal Roads University, “Solutions Agenda: Waste,” Community Research Connections, <https://bit.ly/3z4teoa>. See also Government of Canada, “Solid Waste Diversion and Disposal,” Jan. 26, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3OkdTW5>

3 Ellen G. White, *Early Writings* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1882), 95.

4 Ellen G. White, *Colporteur Ministry* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1953), 151. Originally in *The Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1885.



Let Go



“Be still, and know that I am God.”

—Psalm 46:10

and Let God

Adventist education was always out of reach when our two boys were younger. When we moved to New Brunswick, we wanted them to attend Sandy Lake Academy (SLA) in Nova Scotia for their high school years so they could experience Adventist education. We started praying in advance, and we were amazed to see how God responded to every one of our prayers.

One of the reasons we planned to put our children in SLA was that we really wanted them to learn in an environment that reflected the same Christian values we had at home.

After two years of homeschooling, it was time for Josiah, our oldest, to go to SLA. And since Elie expressed a desire to attend as well, we decided it would be best if I were to accompany them and be present for their first two years in Halifax. We took the necessary steps to put our plan into action, but in March 2020 everything came to a standstill and life changed dramatically. Schools closed and children had to learn from home. Cross-provincial travel was restricted, and a summer job we had counted on to help us with our finances fell through.

The more challenges we faced, the more we had to lean on God.

Over the summer, people asked if I had found a job or an apartment and if we were sure that the school would even be open for in-person learning. All we could say was, “God will have to provide.” And provide He did!

I remember sitting in my car in a parking lot in Bedford, N.S., one week before the start of the school year, with nowhere to sleep that night and no prospects to rent an apartment even though I had done all I could to find something. I prayed and laid it all out to the Lord in a prayer of surrender. A couple of hours later, I had a place to sleep that night and the possibility of an apartment that was available right away and situated perfectly for our needs and within our budget. Another couple of days later, everything had fallen into place, and I had a job and a place to live. This strengthened our faith and our knowledge that when we trust in God, He will give us everything we need.

That was just the beginning of an amazing year. Through ever-changing border restrictions between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia due to COVID-19, God

answered prayer after prayer. He gave me another job just in time that allowed me to work from home when schools finally did close again for a short time and my husband was unable to come and be with us. God even opened up provincial borders two weeks earlier than planned in answer to a specific prayer request so we could reunite without the need for quarantine. What a mighty God we serve!

Putting two children through private school has big financial implications on any family, and we had no financial cushion to help us out. In fact, before starting the school year, I had made the decision to trust God with everything and to give Him whatever I had put away for hard times. I can only tell you that in return, He blessed us tremendously—financially and spiritually. Whenever we see teachers pray before they start class, we know they have our children’s spiritual growth at heart and we know we have made the right choice. ■

Rahel is married to Olivier Urban, and their two boys, Josiah and Elie, are attending Grade 10 at Sandy Lake Academy. Their desire is to go wherever God leads them and be of service to Him.

THE BURMAN EFFECT

BURMAN ALUMNI
IMPACTING THEIR COMMUNITIES

Spiritual Influencer

“Although preaching was his passion, Allan never forgot ... that people, not subjects, must be his focus.”

When Allan Robertson tied on his skates, or slid into home base, or started the fire in the wood stove of the Baptist church, or weeded the garden, the expression “spiritual influencer” hadn’t yet been coined. Had he known its meaning, he would have been certain that it would never apply to him. His goal was to teach.

The summer after high school graduation, the 19-year-old registered for a six-week teacher-training course and became a principal/teacher in a 72-student, two-room school in Thunder Bay, Ont. Not surprisingly, Allan discovered some gaps in his training. That led him to take another six-week course the following summer before he taught for a second year.

Then a door swung open to new possibilities. He learned about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and his new friends encouraged him to go to CUC (now Burman University) to study theology. His life changed. First he met Dorothy; then he learned to preach. He became passionate about both.

College graduation usually means leaving campus and moving on to new opportunities. But CUC invited Allan to fill in for a professor who was taking a leave of absence. So he dusted off his Thunder Bay teaching experience and tried to stay one jump ahead of his students. He knew that teaching and preaching had much in common, but he had trained to become a pastor. He was impatient to start.

When the British Columbia Conference asked Allan to work as associate pastor in the Vancouver Central Church, Allan and Dorothy excitedly packed their few belongings. They would be close to Dorothy’s parents. And Allan’s dream to shepherd a congregation would finally become reality.

Although preaching was his passion, Allan never forgot the lessons he had learned as a teacher. The most important one was that people, not subjects, must be his focus. He kept his sermons practical and on point with strategic repetition. He also kept his listeners’ attention span in mind. He had learned that the “mind can absorb only what the seat can endure.” So he strictly held himself to 30-minute sermons. (Although Dorothy recalls a 10-minute one when Allan was teaching himself to

speak without notes.)

He was a sought-after speaker, even after retiring. But people remained his focus. For example, Allan had returned as senior pastor to the Vancouver Central Seventh-day Adventist Church (now Oakridge Adventist Church) when he met the family of Lydia Kass. During World War II, they had been Adventists in Germany. They had sacrificed much for their faith. But when Adventism there went through a severe shaking time, they had left the church. Now in Canada, they had started to think about returning. When Lydia’s mother, Bertha Wajsen, met Allan, she was impressed by Pastor Robertson’s knowledge of Scripture, but her heart was won by Allan’s gentleness, respect, and genuine care for her and her family.

Allan Robertson would never have guessed that God would grow him into a “spiritual influencer.” He is now sleeping in Jesus, but his words and actions live on. ■

Renate Krause is the editor of Burman University Magazine.

Allan was a hockey enthusiast all his life.



Amazing Testimonies

from Amazing Facts Ministries

Sticking with the Bible

Thank you, Doug, for sticking with the Bible. Having watched many religious TV programs, I appreciate the way you are sticking to and reading out of the Bible.

—Don

Breath of fresh air

You are making my Bible clearer and more amazing. Keep up the good work. I watched your show for the first time today. It was a breath of fresh air. I really enjoyed the real story of real people. I believe in Jesus Christ; He saved my life.

—Tina

Sowing the seed of truth door-to-door

The *Great Controversy* changed my life!" said a woman from Alberta. She had received a door hanger bag and is so thankful for the opportunity to have read the book. She signed up with the Bible study correspondence course, eager to learn what the Bible has to say on these important topics.

A whole new outlook on life

Please call me. I have received a *Living by Faith* book, and I need to talk to someone," an 82-year-old man requested. And what a wonderful conversation our Bible instructor had with him. This man had lived his whole life without the liberating knowledge that it is God who forgives us and saves us, and that we don't have to rely on our own works to get us there. "It is so mind-changing and has given me a whole new outlook on life," he said. Please pray for this gentleman who is on fire to share his newfound appreciation for what Christ did for him on the cross.

Truth has the power to liberate

Thank you, Amazing Facts and Pastor Doug Batchelor, for the things you do in spreading the word of God. I have been learning some liberating truths and revelations from your teaching that I have never heard before. May God continue to use and bless you. Please include my family's salvation in your prayers.

—Alan

Couple enjoying watching Amazing Facts TV

Please find enclosed a gift toward your ministry. We enjoy watching Mr. Batchelor explain the book of Revelation. Can you please send us these two offers: 'Final Events' and 'The Last Day on Earth.' Thank you.

Eager to read *The Great Controversy*

Iwould like the *Great Controversy* book sent to me. I have enjoyed reading a number of the magazines I received from you already. My faith in the Lord is stronger. He is the Light, the Way, and the Truth. Enjoy your day.

—BL

Study guides "mean the world" to incarcerated man

Peter is looking forward to attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church as soon as he is released from prison. His prison mates shared Amazing Facts Ministries Bible study signup card information with him, and he says, "These study guides mean the world to me because they have taught me not only about my Lord and what He expects from me but also the importance of the Sabbath." He plans to continue to keep the seventh-day Sabbath as the holy day. Being new to the faith and having successfully completed the Bible study correspondence course, he is eager to continue studying and is requesting a local representative to do further study with him.

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The Benefits of **Singing** Scripture

“**O**ne time, Dad took me to a string quartet concert, and I remember we had a really close seat, right up at the front, and I just loved it. ... When we were driving home, I said to my dad, ‘You know what, Dad, I really think I’d like to play the violin.’ He was like: ‘OK, I’ll buy you one!’ That shocked me because we didn’t have a lot of money ... but my dad was very resourceful, and so he contacted a music guild and put in a sealed bid for \$101 on this old violin.”

Craig Cleveland remembers, “I played that violin for many, many years, and ultimately it was used by my oldest son, who is now the music director at Fountainview Academy in Lillooet, B.C. That violin was appraised at somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000, and the bow that came with it was appraised at \$2,000 to \$3,000. So, it was a very well-spent \$101.”

Over the years, Craig Cleveland has used his musical talents to draw people to Christ through playing, writing, orchestrating, and conducting music. Along with the help of musicians, filmmakers, and computer specialists, Craig has also created Scripture Singer, an app and website (www.ScriptureSinger.com) that helps people commit Scripture to memory by putting it to music.

“All the power to recreate a new heart within me every single day is in God’s Word, so what better way to have that re-creative, life-giving power—the same power that made the world out of nothing—than to set the Scriptures to song!” Craig explains.

“Most of my time listening to Scripture Singer is while I’m driving, so I can’t look at it or do anything but listen. That’s why our tagline is ‘All you’ve got to do is listen!’”

Craig’s animation grows as he expresses his confidence in listening to Scripture Singer. “It’s true! If people would just open the app and listen while they drive to work or while they’re jogging or while they’re doing laundry or while they’re eating dinner or any time they have downtime, they can just turn it on. There are easy playlists, so you can set it up to learn whatever verses you want to learn. All you’ve got to do is listen,



Learn more about the benefits of singing scripture, this month on *It Is Written Canada*. Photo credit: M. Dauncey

and pretty soon you’ve got God’s Word memorized.”

Craig testifies to how Scripture Singer benefits his own life: “If I ever get discouraged, I just go and turn on the app and let it start playing; it’s God speaking, and God always speaks peace, and He always speaks hope, and He always speaks joy!”

His family also benefits: “A lot of time, as a family, we’d have worship in the dark, driving, and we’d just sing. ... After singing along with the app, we’d discuss what we learned. Whatever passage you want to memorize, it’s all there in the Word of God, and once you’ve got it in your mind, it’s such a blessing. ... Jesus sang the Scriptures. David sang the Scriptures. The Israelites sang the Scriptures. So this is biblical, and it’s so much easier to store up God’s Word in your heart when you’re

listening to it as a song.”

To hear Craig share more of the benefits of singing scriptures, watch *It Is Written Canada* this month on CTV, 3ABN, Hope Channel, Yes-TV, Miracle Channel, or any of the dozens of other networks where *It Is Written Canada* is aired. Or simply go to iiw.ca or *It Is Written Canada*’s YouTube channel and click on the program titled “The Benefits of Singing Scripture.” ■

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



Hope's Mission

The Story That's Launching a GC-Style Centre of Influence in Maskwacis



Maskwacis resident Hope Crier distributed 40 street survival backpacks during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic with the help of Pastor Tsholo Sebetlela, MANS vice-principal Kim Herrington, Burman University student Hadassah Koester, and many donors.

The below story is one of many that compelled the Alberta Conference to undertake construction of a multi-use building on-reserve. In the centre owned by the conference, former MANS students and any member of the Maskwacis community can connect with Adventists throughout the week as well as on Sabbath—a place for activity and community much anticipated in Maskwacis.

People with spirit have impact. Take Hope Crier, a 20-something in Maskwacis who's taking initiative in her community.

Hope knows what it's like to have an alcohol problem from the age of 12. She knows what it's like to have a brush with the law as a teenager and have her MANS high school principal

"Hope knows what it's like to have a classmate say in solidarity, 'I'll give you a blanket for every weekend you stay sober.'"

stand beside her in the Restorative Justice hearing. Hope knows what it's like to have a classmate say in solidarity, "I'll give you a blanket for every weekend you stay sober."

Hope knows what it's like to have MANS teachers pitch in and see a school-wide effort to make her vision of blankets for all who needed them in Maskwacis a reality—so many blankets that Hope and her Grade 11 classmates were able to distribute blankets on another reserve. The phenomenon—which she dubbed "Hope's Mission"—was the greatest high of Hope's young life. As she amassed blankets to distribute with her friends, Hope vowed to continue Hope's Mission in some form even after the blankets were gone.

Then Hope left MANS. The spiral began and Hope became homeless.

As a student at MANS, Hope had day-to-day support, but without that, her life seemed crushing at times, and old habits offered relief. But through the four spiralling years, Hope never forgot the MANS community or the joy of being addiction-free. She contacted her former teacher Kim Herrington, who took Hope to rehab.

Hope came alive again, and Hope's Mission was reborn—this time, to aid the homeless she'd come to know living on the street, including young mothers in Maskwacis who couch-surf with their toddlers.

Hope's former teacher and the MANS chaplain/Maskwacis pastor, Tsholo Sebetlela, helped Hope obtain and fill backpacks with essential items, including a blanket. When Maskwacis was covered, Hope took her mission—now called Finding Hope—to the streets of Wetaskiwin.

The teacher, who lent her living room as headquarters for the project, wants Hope to stay purposeful and make a difference in her community. But the teacher needs her living room back.

Where does Hope take her mission from here?

The answer Hope and other residents inspired can be found at www.albertaadventist.ca/thebridge. ■

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



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



September 2022

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I
Meets God

Top left: In Mongolia, community members have transformed unlikely plots into productive gardens and cooperatives that nourish their families and bring organic produce to local markets; **Bottom left:** who have suffered much from war; **Right:** In Kenya, a young girl helps in the family's kitchen garden.

Elisha was visiting 100 prophets on a ministerial trip to Gilgal, a region gripped by famine (2 Kings 4:38). Hunger haunted the people's eyes. Fathers feared for their families, and mothers mourned their children's misery.

When a man came with armloads of bread and some heads of grain, Elisha knew what to do.

Hunger still preys on families. During the last two decades, great gains were made in reducing world hunger. However, in the last few years we've regressed to the brink of an unprecedented hunger crisis.

The World Food Programme estimates that 345 million people will suffer hunger in 2022.¹ These people face painful decisions in their struggle for food.

Peter knows these struggles. He lives in Turkana County in northern Kenya, an arid region where people are primarily herders. Peter relied on his animals to provide for his family. At 52, Peter must support 17 children and three wives. The life of a herder is never easy. However, recent years of successive droughts have diminished herds and wasted the surviving animals, reducing their milk production and value on the market.

Catastrophe struck Peter's family in 2012. A group of bandits drove his cattle away. He migrated in search of an alternate livelihood. However, the options were few and insufficient. For years, Peter survived on neighbours' goodwill and government support. Even so, his family went to sleep hungry, uncertain of their next meal.

Relying on others' goodwill and turning to government support are a few ways families cope with hunger. They also reduce the number of meals per day. This can have devastating, lifelong effects on children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. Families risk the stressors and predations of debt.

Children drop out of school to work. Girls become child brides to secure financial assistance through their dowries. Families break apart as members migrate in search of pasture or work. Most distressing, human dignity and rights are abused as families do what they must to survive.

What drives this alarming hunger crisis? The reasons are multiple and entangled. However, the main drivers can be summarized as climate change, conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant rising inflation.²

The hunger crisis is now, and it will only grow worse if we do nothing.

What can we possibly do to bring relief now while reducing the causes of the problem? It's tempting to adopt a grim resignation that the poor will always be with us and that suffering will only increase as the world draws to an end.

But Elisha didn't doubt that he could make a difference. After receiving the food, he commanded his servant, "Give it to the people to eat."

His servant was aghast. There wasn't enough food. "How can I set this before a hundred men?" he protested. "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the Lord says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'"

The servant obeyed. "They ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord" (2 Kings 4:42-44, NIV).

God tells us to "give to the people to eat." Like Elisha's servant, we look doubtfully at the meagre offering in our hands. God's command seems impossible to obey. But that's because we're focusing on the size of the problem. Elisha teaches us to focus on the size of God. Yes, it's impossible for our scant resources to solve this problem. But we serve the God of wonders who repeatedly does the impossible. He asks



Impossible Problem of the Impossible



Left: Peter Lorunye Gogong in his watermelon patch which brings him a good income to support his family; **Centre:** In Yemen, emergency food is saving many

us to do all we can and watch Him do the rest.

“It is the grace of God on the small portion that makes it all-sufficient,” writes Ellen White. “God’s hand can multiply it a hundred-fold.”³

No, it doesn’t make sense. The impossible never does. But we serve an incredible God. He asks us to obey and trust.

Too often, we content ourselves with saying, “I *should* obey and trust more.” Rather than opening the door to the “shoulds,” let’s instead entertain the “imagines.” For example, “*Imagine* what God will do with my gift! Maybe He will stretch it like the loaves and fishes.”

In fact, ADRA Canada sees this miracle through its partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). At CFGB, our dollars are multiplied, sometimes as many as 10 times. For example, a new project funded by CFGB was launched in Ukraine to reduce hunger caused by the conflict. ADRA Canada contributed \$250,000 to the project. Through contributions from CFGB and its members, the project is over \$2.5 million!

With CFGB, we’re tackling world hunger. Through 14 projects in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and South America, we’re reaching 110,584 people and their families.

In northern Kenya, our projects are providing immediate humanitarian relief through cash assistance. We also have an eye for the future by building families’ resilience to changing weather patterns and economic shocks. Herders are learning to reclaim overgrazed and drought-scorched land. Once useless fields are now feeding herds, providing fodder for dry seasons, and increasing families’ income.

People are also learning to grow their own food through kitchen gardens using sustainable technologies that conserve water, nourish the soil, and provide ample harvests from

drought-resistant seeds.

Peter participated in these projects. He met his family’s immediate needs such as food and medicine with the humanitarian cash assistance. Though he hasn’t received a formal education, Peter believes in its importance. Therefore, he used some of the cash to put his children in school.

Peter’s kitchen garden now feeds his large family and earns an income from selling the excess. Peter’s confident he can still support his family with his kitchen garden even after the cash assistance stops.

Through our partnership with CFGB and you, those facing hunger can eat while they work with us to build a stronger, food-secure future.

World hunger is a dire problem. But let’s not focus only on the size of the problem. Let’s focus on the size of our God! Let’s do all we can and trust God for the rest. Let’s imagine how God is going to work wonders with our gifts to Him.

“The gift brought to Him with thanksgiving and with prayer for His blessing, He will multiply as He multiplied the food given to the sons of the prophets and to the weary multitude.”⁴ ■

Heather Grbic is a writer for ADRA Canada.



1 World Food Programme, “A Global Food Crisis,” 2022, <https://www.wfp.org/hunger-catastrophe>
 2 Want to understand better how those drivers affect world hunger? Scan the QR code above!
 3 Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1917), 241.
 4 Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, 243.

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Newfoundland and Labrador

The Pandemic's Missing LiNC

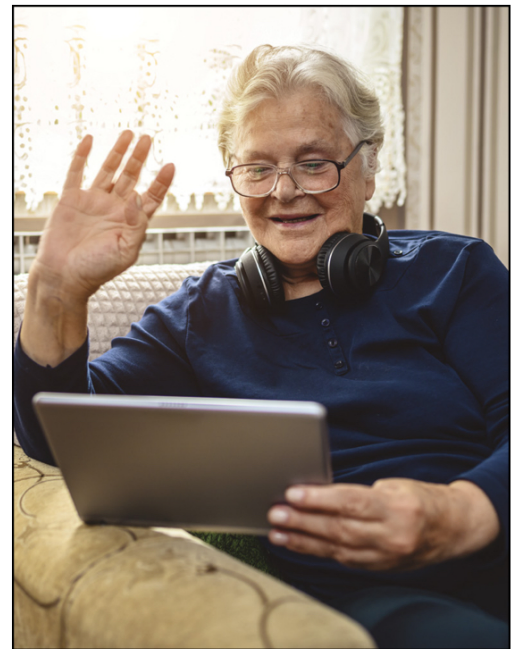
Typically, during the last few years of the pandemic, life has felt cursed with discouraging news reports of isolation, increased abuse and mental health issues, and a decrease in church involvement. Yet, in the territory of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.) one could see more of a blessing than a curse. The fact that our membership listing is approximately 500, with most of the 11 small congregations a one- to two-hour drive from another Adventist church, the challenge of feeling isolated had pre-dated COVID-19. COVID was the catalyst to reignite an initiative from 2013–2014 that was started by several pastors, called "Linking Newfoundland and Labrador Churches" (LiNC). Initially, it was to have an annual revival weekend where a host district provided lodging and food, so members felt a greater sense of friendship and support across the island.

In 2020, N.L. leadership met on Zoom and discussed how to minister during the pandemic. The suggestion was made to have the LiNC ministry go virtual by running one large Zoom worship instead of everyone individually trying to run localized services. The idea was supported, and members from all the different congregations blended their talents together to have the feeling of a virtual campmeeting every Sabbath. We also scheduled a different pastor to hold a mid-week meeting on different days. Each week we had a province-wide virtual Bible study, prayer meeting, and youth gathering over Zoom. We were

working as one large pastoral team who ministered to all the members in our territory. What developed was a stronger sense of unity across the province, feeling supported, encouraged, and connected to a larger church family.

The journey began to assist those who were tech illiterate to log on or call in to our LiNC Worship. We were able to have approximately 80 percent of regular attending members join, and a few districts found an increase for the mid-week Bible study and prayer meeting. Prior to COVID there were only two congregations that livestreamed, and now, all have caught the vision and importance of having online ministry. We soon realized that most of our churches needed significant tech upgrades for an engaging online interaction to be incorporated in future in-person services. In fall 2020, we wanted to develop a system of ministry to maintain this province-wide unity, so another LiNC program was added—LiNC Footsteps. This mid-week program was held once a month in lieu of the local in-person meeting and focused on involving each district for practical discipleship. LiNC Worship began to rotate through host churches that had completed their set up for livestreaming.

As we all became more familiar and better equipped with internet installed in the congregations, we realized we needed to include evangelism in our united efforts. From 2021 to present, we have



run health programs such as the Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program, VBS, Voice of Prophecy seminars, and a full evangelistic series. These events are planned and run by leadership in all districts. In addition to evangelism, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team realized LiNC Ministry can expand to include Young Adult Life (YAL)—LiNC YAL, Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF)—LiNC ACF, as well as mission trips—LiNC Mission. COVID had many individuals feel weak and socially distant, but in Newfoundland and Labrador we feel a strong LiNC in the body of Christ. ■

—Jonathan Gascoyne,
pastor/youth director,
Seventh-day Adventist
Church in Newfoundland
and Labrador

Ontario

Mississauga Seventh-day Adventist Church Women's Appreciation Day Community Outreach



A long lineup of cars ready for complimentary safety checks and car washes.



Balloons and decorations lent an air of celebration to the outreach event.

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, the Community Services Department of the Mississauga Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a Women's Appreciation Day offering ladies a complimentary safety check, oil change voucher, and car wash. For many years the department has had the goal to do more outreach and make a greater impact within the local community. The idea for this outreach event was sparked by the story of Acts of Kindness by Church in the Valley in Langley, B.C. Their humble beginning was a demonstration of how starting small can flourish into something beautiful all to the glory of our Lord and Saviour.

The Sunday forecast called for rain, but when the day arrived, there wasn't a cloud in the sky and the temperatures rose to a balmy 28 degrees Celsius. There was no question that the earnest prayers of the saints for dry weather were answered. Cars began to slowly roll in around 11 a.m., but as the day went on,

the lines got longer and the smiles got brighter. It was all hands on deck as the Pathfinder Club, Community Service team led by Patrick Mauze, and Pastors Mark Ewen and Carl Cunningham met and engaged with our community in a meaningful way.

Everyone received a warm welcome. Many who came had likely driven by the church for many years but never ventured to come through its gates. The ladies were not only treated to the complimentary maintenance check and car wash but were also invited to a refreshment station where there was an assortment of snacks and a surprise gift of pampering to take home. It was a blessing to see the joy and the fellowship happening all around the church parking lot.

The Mississauga Community Services Department has operated the Touch of Love program and pantry for many years. The onset of the pandemic meant that the program saw an overall

increase in new clients, deliveries, phone calls, registrations, and pantry visits. As a result, hours tripled and the need for more volunteers was even greater. As things start to return to normal, the need is still great; however, God has enlarged the territory of the program, giving the team the opportunity to support even more people in need.

The Mississauga Seventh-day Adventist Church and its Community Services team are excited and looking forward to the variety of outreach opportunities in the coming months and beyond.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16, NIV). ■

—Marva Smart, community services department, Mississauga Seventh-day Adventist Church



NAD and SDACC

Daniel R. Jackson, Former SDACC and NAD President, Passes to His Rest



Daniel R. Jackson in 2020. Photo by Dan Weber/NAD



Dan and Donna Jackson in 2020. Photo by Dan Weber/NAD

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Daniel R. Jackson on Sabbath morning, July 23, 2022, after several months of battling cancer, at the age of 73. We thank God for allowing Elder Jackson to come into this world and touch many lives with his caring personality. We have been fortunate to enjoy his friendship, to work under his leadership, and to witness his love for Jesus and passion for the work of the church.

Born in Edmonton, Alta., Jackson served the church as pastor, teacher, and administrator. He pastored churches in North America and overseas, served as president of the Manitoba–Saskatchewan and British Columbia Conferences, and was elected president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), serving in that capacity from 2002 to 2010. He then went on to serve as president of the North American Division of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church (NAD) until his retirement in 2020. He served the church for 49 years.

A graduate of Canadian Union College (now Burman University) and Andrews University, from which he held an MA in religion in systematic theology, Jackson was one of the authors of the book *Becoming a Mission-Driven Church* (2015).

He was known for his love of music, keen sense of humour, and mission-mindedness—all hallmarks of his ministry throughout the years. A caring pastor and a leader who empathized with those under his leadership, Jackson, who frequently started a talk or sermon reminding his audience that he was “a broken man in need of the Saviour,” often said that foremost, he was a fellow traveller on the same path as every Christian headed toward the kingdom.

Mark Johnson, president of the

SDACC, says of Elder Jackson, “Dan was a kind and humble leader, a wise counsellor, and a trusted friend. His service to Jesus abroad, here in Canada, and throughout North America was an inspiration to countless individuals. I will miss our conversations. I join his family in longing for the wonderful day of reunions very soon.”

A memorial service was held on Aug. 12, 2022, at the Rutland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kelowna, B.C.

We encourage you to pray for his wife, Donna, as well as the entire family. Based on God’s trustworthy promises in the Bible, we look forward to seeing Dan Jackson again soon, as we wait “for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13, ESV). ■

— Evaldo Vicente, communication director, SDACC



A Series of Divine Appointments for GYC Canada

The GYC Canada (Generation.Youth.Christ) leadership team, composed of teens and young adults, gathered together in prayer in the spring of 2021 and made the radical decision to plan an initiative in northern B.C. for the following year. The team was strongly convicted that one does not need to go overseas to work with the Creator; there is a vast field of labour right here in Canada.

A year of hard work, planning, and prayer passed—until two weeks before the mission trip, when the team was notified that they were unable to go where they originally planned due to unforeseen circumstances. At this time, the team prayed for God’s direction and guidance. Surely there was a place He wanted GYC to go; they simply did not know where yet.

In the search for a new place, the team was led to meet Pastor Brad Dennis and his family in the beautiful community of Bella Coola. They welcomed the team with open arms to serve the Nuxalk First Nation community together. As much as Pastor Brad and the community of Bella Coola were a blessing to GYC, Pastor Brad and his family shared that GYC’s trip was an incredible answer to prayer to the community. Unbeknownst to either party, God had been planning this amazing partnership.

From there, God performed miracle after miracle. The team needed a setting



The GYC team in Bella Coola, B.C.

for the health classes to take place, but all the venues in the community were booked. That’s when the First Nation community band council voted to pay for the largest hall in the centre of the community. With God’s blessing, the group ran 10 wellness workshops on NEWSTART with Nadine Plummer and on mental health and addictions with James Lalonde. There were five free healthy lunches, which gave the opportunity to converse with and learn from the local community members. Local church and community members alike attended and were blessed. The Chief of the community himself attended several workshops. The team also ran a week-long VBS program

for the children in the community. The children, although very shy at first, opened up and created incredible bonds with the volunteers.

The GYC Canada team is made up of young people who believe that we are living in the last days and that the youth are called to rise up and take the gospel to all the world in this generation. By God’s grace, the ministry took one step closer to achieving this God-given vision this summer. They would like to encourage all readers to visit gyccanada.org to find out how you can support this movement. ■

—Virginia Polihronova,
president, GYC Canada

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of July 31, 2022, there were 365 depositors with a total deposit of \$35,008,863. There were 93 loans with a value of \$34,220,086.

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

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Still Homeless, But Hopeful, at Camp Hope

Photo above: A group photo of LFN guests (front row) with camp staff and volunteers in February 2022



Al displaying his moose call



Doreen in her sewing room



Sharon (far left) and Margo (far right) with camp visitors

It has been well over a year now since a devastating fire incinerated 90 percent of the little Village of Lytton, B.C., on June 30, 2021. Nearly two weeks later, we started accepting Lytton First Nation (LFN) evacuee guests at Camp Hope. It was a challenge getting up to speed in our lodge and cabins—after the pandemic had cancelled nearly every booking and reservation for 18 months—so our lodge was practically in “sleep mode.”

We averaged over 60 LFN guests for many months. These numbers peaked around 180 for close to two weeks as stubborn, aggressive fires threatened more homes. Eventually as fires diminished, LFN members were allowed to return home, if they still had a home, or to accommodations closer to their communities. We averaged 20 guests then. In time, these numbers dwindled again, and most recently, in late July, we had just five fire evacuee guests.

While we know the goal is for our guests to return to a home or community, it’s bittersweet seeing our new friends leave. We have celebrated birthdays, nursed the sick through COVID or the flu, played taxi, gone to medical appointments, played bingo, eaten together, had reveals and baby showers, watched game shows

and baseball together, applauded sobriety, done puzzles, visited together, and more.

Alphonse (Al) at 62, is quite a character. He kept a fire going in our woodstove all winter. He was taken from his home at the age of five to attend a residential school. We have spoken of this a little but not in great detail. He has hunting skills in dormancy and has been teaching me how to call a moose. It is a different call for the males and females (in case you didn’t know). I haven’t perfected it yet, but he is pretty good. His elk call is good too. He makes us excellent bannock from scratch. He has nowhere to go.

Dave and Doreen are not LFN. Their home was lost, without insurance coverage due to some glitch. They very narrowly escaped the fire with only their cat. Dave just received a new hip and is healing well. He has lots of stories. Doreen is a prolific seamstress. Apparently, she once had quite a supply, but they all burned. She has a little sewing room at the camp and makes hats to sell. She custom altered all the curtains in our 14 newly renovated lodge rooms.

Margo and her sister Sharon are also still at the camp. Margo also sews;

she makes pot scrubbers and dishcloths to sell. Interestingly, Margo is a member of our church and had attended campmeeting at Camp Hope many times.

Margo and Sharon had just left their home to visit another sister nearby on the reserve. They had just arrived when someone told Margo there was a fire back in Lytton. She was surprised, as there hadn’t been any smoke when they left mere moments before. Upon hearing this news, she looked back and saw smoke. Quite concerned, she quickly drove to her home, right in town, to gather up important personal items. In the short time she was there, she heard vehicles exploding nearby. She did not want to lose her truck—and means of escape—so she left quickly with what she had. She narrowly escaped. Thankfully, Margo’s home was one of very few structures that did not burn down.

We don’t know how long our guests will remain at Camp Hope. We have told them we will never ask them to leave, as they are more than just guests—they are friends. ■

Bill Gerber is the director of Camp Hope in British Columbia.



The Promise of a Lifetime

Library Director Sees Promise Fulfilled 42 Years Later



The new library at Burman University



Study carrel

His shoulders dropped as a wave of disappointment rushed over him. His pupils moved from left to right as he scanned his new place of work. The building was far worse than he had imagined. He dragged his feet through the remnants of a poorly designed cafeteria. Some rooms were still full of abandoned kitchen equipment. The building was nowhere close to an ideal library, and a lot of cleanup had to be done. He clung to his employer's promise of a newly constructed library.

"When I saw the condition of the library, I wondered why I had come," said former library director Keith Clouten. "However, I believed God had brought me here for a purpose, and I needed to hang on to God's plan."

In 1980 Clouten moved from Australia to Canada in hopes of working at a new library on the CUC campus (now Burman University). To his dismay, CUC lacked the funds to fulfill their promise during his time of employment. Nonetheless, Clouten fully committed himself to the job and worked with what he had for 10 years. Before leaving the institution, he accomplished his goal of computerizing the library.

Over four decades later, Clouten

returned to the university to witness the opening of a brand-new library.

"The library opened on my 84th birthday, Jan. 19, 2022," says Clouten. "Exactly 42 years since I first showed up on campus."

Clouten waited exactly half his lifetime to see the fulfillment of the 1980 promise. He was very pleased with the newly built two-storey building equipped with spacious classrooms, study rooms, and prayer rooms.

"It is not just the traditional library," says Clouten. "This plan is going to push the institution ahead."

Burman University president, Loren Agrey, was most appreciative of having a new building to foster the spiritual and academic advancement of the students.

"The book and digital resources, along with excellent study spaces, will allow for students to succeed academically and the prayer room will support and enhance spiritual growth," says Agrey.

Students at Burman University were just as excited to utilize the new learning space. Staff and students are hopeful the new environment created will be a blessing to Burman University students for many years to come.

"The library provides a place for me

and so many students to connect, learn, and grow together, no matter what degree or year you are in," says Anna Flores, a fourth-year accounting student. "It has been through the help of our dedicated donors, staff, parents, and students that the library is up today."

Donors like Clouten changed the construction of the library from a plan to a possibility. A plaque was placed on the main floor of the library to honour his contributions. After nine months of fundraising, Burman has come very close to fully financing the \$6 million project.

"I am excited it finally happened. It is wonderful that enough people believed in having a new library to replace what is no longer satisfactory," says Clouten.

When individuals have a burning desire to do something good—knowing they are being led by the Lord—patience and courage will carry them through, knowing all good things come from the Lord. Those who wait upon the Lord will not hope in vain. ■

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



Announcements

PROCESS:

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

Missing Members

The Toronto East Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for the following missing members: Helene Haggart, Joyce Haggart, Maria Haggart, L. Hall, Gregory Hamilton, Kerry Ann Hamilton, Owen Hamilton, Pauline Hamilton, Shanel Hamilton, Shawn Hamilton, Bernice Hamlet, Christopher Hannibal, Jennifer Hannibal, Sue-Ann Harkins, Beverly Hayden, Carol Gray Hayden, Karl Hayes, Heather Heath, Beulah Henry, Andrea Herbert, Angela Hermith, Gilbert Hewitt, Bevlyn Hines, Helene Homem, Elizabeth Hsu, Judy-Ann Hypolite, Eden Inema, Fay Isaacs, Marian Jackson, Lystra James, Marie James, Marilyn James, Richard James, Winnifred James, Godfrey Kenneth Jansz, Gwendolyn Jansz, Nadine Jeffrey, Rita Jerome, Gary Jervis, Elaine John, Eldon John, Edsworth Johnson, Julian Johnson, Berchine Jones, Gregory Jones, James Jones, Verina Jones, Yvette Jones, Renee Alison Joseph, Lillian Juliene, Ron Kellman, Rose Merle Kelly, Hermine Kirlew, Sofia Konya, Lennie Kydd, Victoria Mascall Kydd, Coral P. Laird, Clarisa Daniel Lambert, Michele Lemonius, Esau Lewin, Myrtle Lewis, Sophia Lilly, Sophia Linton, Rosetta Luke, Joyce Lynn, Glenda Magloire, Brian Maitland, Kinsley Malcolm, Sasha Amanda Mallett, Chantel Matthews, Jermaine Matthews, Petrona McBean,

Pat McClean, Paula McCurbin, Andrea McCurdy, J. Pedro McDougall, Canderia McIntyre, Veronica McIntyre, Lauretta McKenzie, Maureen McKenzie, Nikki McKenzie, Veronica Michaels, Carolee Miller, David Miller, Theresa Millett, Abalia Mitchell, Euclyn Mitchell, Haniel Mitchell, Mildred A. Mitchell, Glenda Montenegro, Kerrigon Montenegro, Charmaine Morgan, Everten Morgan, Veta Morgan, Devon Morris, Tanya Motiki, Helen Mulvaney, Joyce Murle, Lennox Murphy, and Andrea Murray. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please contact the church clerk. Email: cclerktorontocastsda@gmail.com.

Birthdays

Herbert Reimche celebrated his



105th birthday on May 23, 2022, in Kelowna, B.C. He celebrated with immediate family, dining out in the evening. The following day about 30 nieces and nephews gathered for an outdoor haystack lunch. In addition, there was a “come-and-go” for church family, neighbours, friends, and family with over 100 attending. Herbert has four children, seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Alice (née Deer) Allen was born Oct. 3, 1942, in Canora, Sask., and died May 17, 2022, in Edmonton, Alta. Alice was a pediatric nurse. Throughout her life, she was always thoughtful, generous, and concerned about others. She connected with neighbours and friends, teaching neighbour children how to garden, and always sharing garden produce. She was predeceased by her parents, Arthur and Augusta Deer; and her brother, Alvin Deer. Surviving: spouse, Dennis; brother, Bob Deer of Calgary, Alta.; and sister, Dorothy Deer of Warrenville, Ill.

Merna (née White) Ellis was born Sept. 13, 1923, in Lake May, Annapolis County, N.S., and died June 17, 2022, in Caledonia, Queens County, N.S. Merna often served as organist at Bridgewater Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nova Scotia. She also served as a Sabbath school teacher and loved participating in church potlucks. She was a well-known,

faithful witness of Sabbath truth in her community. She was predeceased by her spouse, Paul. Surviving: sons, Charles (Beverly) of Hamilton, Ont., and Ronald (Sandra) of Kempt, N.S.; daughter, Bettyanne Ellis of Hamilton; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Wanda (née Teske) Interling

was born Nov. 28, 1938, in Sinofka, Poland, and died April 15, 2022, in Creston, B.C. Wanda worked for five years at North York Branson Hospital in Toronto, Ont. She also worked 15 years at Camp Hope, B.C. She was predeceased by her parents, Christoph and Anna Teske; brother, Otto Teske; sisters, Rosel Heilman and Ella. Surviving: spouse, Adolphe Joseph-Marie Interling; daughters, Denise Steffan of Edmonton, Alta., and Heidi (Keith) Hache of Edmonton; and two grandchildren.

Delphy (née Bechthold) Milne

was born April 6, 1923, in Cluny, Alta., and died May 9, 2022, in Redding, Calif. Delphy and her husband, Lawrence, were founding members of the Henderson Highway Seventh-day Adventist Church in Winnipeg, Man. During her brief illness, a month after her 99th birthday, she found strength in her relationship with Jesus. She was predeceased by her spouse, Lawrence; parents, Christian and Sarah Bechthold; brothers, Delmer, Marvin, and Donald; sisters, Mabel Jones and Florence Agate. Surviving: son, Lawrence (Debra, née Kruger) Milne of Redding; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Yvonne (née Ziegler) Milne

was born on March 1, 1934, in Medicine Hat, Alta., and died on Aug. 25, 2021, in Abbotsford, B.C. Yvonne served in the education system in British Columbia for her entire career. She was an accomplished pianist and enjoyed singing with groups in churches she attended. She is missed by many close friends who enjoyed her association throughout her lifetime. Yvonne is predeceased by her spouse, Ronald; parents, Adam and Martha Ziegler; and brother, Herbert Leroy Ziegler. Surviving: nephew, Kenton (Joan) Ziegler; and niece, Rona Ziegler.

Marie Nawalkowski

was born Sept. 9, 1926, in Sandy Lake, Man., and died May 29, 2022, in Creston, B.C. Marie served as a secretary first in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, and then in the Alberta Conference. She would often recall how kind and how easy her bosses were to work with. Sweet, kind, gentle, and shy, Marie will be very missed. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Rose Nawalkowski; sister, Elsie

Eaton; and brothers, Caesar and Nelson Nawalkowski. Surviving: sister, Olga Olesen; brothers, Mitchell Nawalkowski and Ernie Nolan; and many nieces and nephews.

Roland Stickie was born Sept. 20, 1937, in Vernon, B.C., and died June 4, 2022, in Kelowna, B.C. Roland served Christ faithfully giving untold hours caring for others as head elder, Sabbath school teacher, and school board chairperson, both in Port Alberni, B.C., and Kelowna (Orchard City). He was predeceased by his spouse, Caroline; parents, John and Corinne; brothers, John and Lynden; sisters, Joy McFadden and Freda Hoover. Surviving: sons, Kelly (Laurie) of Lacombe, Alta., and Marc (Jill) of Kelowna; daughter, Teresa (John) Reeve of Berrien Springs, Mich.; sister, Ruth (Neil) Pestes of Boring, Ore.; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Sylvia Wilson-Cole was born March 25, 1962, in Birmingham, West Midlands, England, and died Sept. 30, 2021, in Surrey, B.C. Marilyn served as Sabbath school superintendent at the Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as supporting her husband with his children's ministry. She was blessed to have attended four General Conference Sessions and also appeared on the cover of the September 2015 international edition of *Adventist World*. She was predeceased by her parents, Philip and Irene George. Surviving: spouse, D. Wilson-Cole; daughter, Chantelle Adeyemi Denise Wilson-Cole; brother, Clarence George; stepbrother, Vincent George; half-brother, Julian George; and sister, Gloria Jordan.

Tributes

Arthur Martin Spenst was born



on March 16, 1926, in Waldheim, Sask., and died on June 27, 2022, in Abbotsford, B.C.

He served over 43 years as pastor following graduation from Canadian Union College (now Burman University) in 1948. His appointments included churches in Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba, and six years as pastor



and chair of the Bible department at Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College (PASC). He obtained his master's degree from Andrews University in 1967.

In British Columbia he served in Victoria, Duncan, Prince George, McBride, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Westminster, Coquitlam, Rutland, Wildwood, Surrey, and Richmond.

After retiring in 1991, he was interim pastor at Oakridge, Hope, Kamloops, and Coquitlam. He served two years in Lahaina, Maui. There were regular speaking appointments in the Lower Mainland, in Washington State, and at his home church in Aldergrove, B.C. He baptized at least 433 souls and conducted 213 funerals.

Arthur's final 11 weeks were in Trillium at Bevan Village in Abbotsford. He is greatly missed by his family, many friends, and former parishioners.

Arthur is predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Spens; brother, Jacob Spens; sisters, Katie Paul, Beth Brown, Ann Parish, and Esther Wecker.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy (née Cooper); son, Del (Jenna); daughter, Donna (Dan) Wells; and adopted daughter, Akasha (Vince) Samuel.

There are six grandchildren—Jon (Christine) and Steven (Tricia) Gabrys, David (Kae) and Donavan (Flavia) Wells, Jordan and Ashley Samuel; 10 great-grandchildren—Jakob, Lukas, Russell, and Jordan Gabrys; Trinity, Teresa, Jacob, Talon, Julia, and Tinsel Wells; one sister, Marion (Galen) Brown; one brother-in-law, Walter Wecker; and nieces and nephews.

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Local Church Budget	September 17
Canadian Indigenous Ministries*	September 24
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Local Church Budget	October 01
Local Conference Advance	October 08
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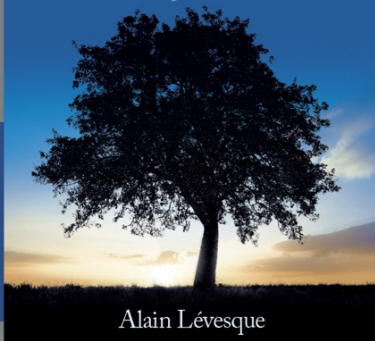
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Questions on the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

This month the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) will hold its 19th quinquennial session. One might ask, “What’s this quinquennial session for?” In short, it is a meeting called for the purpose of receiving reports for the past six years, the election of officers, the election of the Board of Directors, and other business related to the work of the church in Canada.

Another question could be asked: What is the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—the church that is holding its quinquennial session this month? Answers to this question range as widely as the rich diversity of churchgoers across the country, and what I’m going to offer here represents one small aspect of what could be a comprehensive answer.

A few days ago, someone shared this statistic with us at the SDACC headquarters: roughly 70 percent of Adventist congregations in Canada have 50 members or fewer. This is the kind of information that might alarm church growth specialists. The rest of us might feel discouraged by this picture. What are we to do with that? Should our priority be to work toward growing each individual congregation so that they reach the 200–300 attendance mark? Is that even a desirable goal?

Perhaps a more timely question than “What is the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada?” would be “What is the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada going to look like in five years?” As members of our individual congregations, what do we envision for our church?

I know there are faithful, committed Seventh-day Adventists across Canada mulling over these questions and praying intently for illumination from the Holy Spirit. If you have not pondered these questions, may I suggest you do—whether you live in one of our largest metropolitan areas or out in the country. Thinking about these and several other issues can help shape the type of church we want to be, in order to fulfill our mission effectively and in a way that is meaningful to our communities.

Historically, small gatherings have been the place where close connections and personal relationships have flourished. But large churches have also had their place in God’s grand scheme of reaching the unreached. It is important that we search for and reflect on the reason why God has placed us where He has, both as individuals and as congregations.

I want to leave you with another question today: Can something like what happened in Pisidian Antioch happen again? Luke describes it this way: “The next Sabbath, almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord” (Acts 13:44, ESV). Imagine almost your entire city joining in the study of the Word with your congregation next Sabbath! I will share some thoughts about that in my next instalment, God willing.

Until then, the God of peace be with you all. ■

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

Evaldo Vicente, editor
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THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT has already displaced at least 12 million Ukrainians. Millions have fled to neighbouring countries. Canada remains committed to provide a haven for Ukrainians and their families while war wages in their home country. In this issue, we remember our Canadian Ukrainian Adventist members and the work done in years' past to share the hope of Jesus' soon return.

Soul Winning With The Ukrainian "Signs of Our Times"

By STEVE YACEYKO

Ukrainian Department, Pacific Press

There are many Ukrainian people in Canada who do not know where to turn in order to find peace and joy and salvation for their souls. In many areas there are hundreds of Ukrainians who understand and speak primarily their mother tongue. Many of these people may have a fair knowledge of the English language to help them look after their temporal needs. However, there are also many who are hungering for the "Word of Life" in their native language which can convey to their hearts the appealing beauty of God's truth.

Many of our Ukrainian believers who are now rejoicing in the knowledge of the truth for these last days were led to it through the reading of the Ukrainian "Signs of Our Times" — "OZNAKE". It's a magazine that not only appeals to the eye, but whose messages stir the hearts of the readers and cause them to call upon the name of the Lord. Notice some of the responses from grateful readers: "Please continue to send me this wonderful paper with its spiritual content. I have been a zealous defender of the Greek Catholic faith of my fathers, and did not know that the papacy changed God's Word."

One man who read an article entitled, "Will a God of Love Destroy Sinners?" in the Ukrainian "Signs," wrote: "Dear friends! I am turning to you for counsel as to what should be my correct understanding on the subject of "Hell and the Eternal Punishment of Sinners." Many things are not clear to me, and because I am unable to find all the answers to these questions myself, I am turning to you for help."

These quotations from letters are just a small sampling of how some people feel and the longing that they have for truth.

March 15, 1976—Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 45, No. 6, p. 3.

Edmonton Ukrainian Church Opening

SOPHIA PERRISH, *Church Treasurer*

Sabbath, March 31, 1962, was a high Sabbath for our Edmonton Ukrainian Church which passed a very important milestone in its development of the Lord's work among the Ukrainian people of this city.

For more than ten years, since our Ukrainian Church has been organized here in the city, we have looked forward to the time when we would have our own building. We prayed, hoped, planned, worked hard, and sacrificed and the Lord blessed our efforts beyond our expectations. When the purchase was completed, it was a proud moment for us. We were filled with gratitude to God for His blessings and guidance which have brought us so far, regardless of our limitations.

The culmination of our hopes came on Sabbath, March 31, with the opening of our church. Present to share our joy was our well-known and loved Ukrainian radio pastor, Elder P. Uniat, who conducts our Ukrainian radio programme, "The Voice of Hope." Also present were many members of our other Ukrainian churches and many friends and neighbors.

Elder Uniat was invited to have the morning service and he very appropriately chose as his theme, "Why Another Church Is Necessary in the City of Edmonton." Many of our non-Adventist



Elder and Mrs. G. Soloniuk standing at the entrance of the Ukrainian Church. The new sign above the entrance reads, "Ukrainian Church of the Seventh-day Adventists."

friends expressed enjoyment of the sermon.

After the spiritual feast, refreshments were served in the church basement by the ladies of the church. This, too, was a testimonial for the truth as many of the guests were amazed that such a tasty meal could be prepared without flesh foods.

We, as church members, wish to give credit and pay tribute to our beloved pastor and his wife, Elder and Mrs. George Soloniuk, who have so faithfully worked for this cause for many years. Elder Soloniuk stepped out in faith for, with a small church membership, it is not easy to purchase a church in the city. But what seems impossible to people is possible with God. We are also grateful to our Conference and to our many friends for their prayers and financial assistance.

It is our intention to serve the Lord in a complete dedication of ourselves to His cause and thus show appreciation to God for the way He has blessed us. We have plans for the future which we hope will result in many souls being saved for God's kingdom. We ask an interest in your prayers and when you have an opportunity, visit us at 110 A Avenue and 96 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.



The Edmonton Ukrainian Church building that was purchased recently.



Edmonton Ukrainian Church members.

May 23, 1962—Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 31, No. 11, p. 1.

The Gospel Surges Forward in Eastern Alberta

P. E. UNIAT, *District Pastor*

There was great rejoicing in the Vegreville Church on Sabbaths, March 28 and May 9, when eleven precious souls were buried with their Lord in baptism. The church was filled to capacity on both occasions with visitors from the neighbouring churches and from many parts of the district who had come to witness this glorious occasion when victories were won and souls were born into God's kingdom. These were the fruits of the work of the Voice of Hope radio broadcast and evangelistic meetings conducted in Bonnyville by Pastors P. E. Uniat and Stan Gallant and assisted by their wives and our loyal members from the Beauvallon, Boyle, Myrnam, Innisfree, and Vegreville Churches. Others are being prepared for future baptisms which are planned for the coming months.

The accompanying pictures show the eleven candidates who joined the rem-



Branch Sabbath School at Bonnyville, Alberta.

nant church, coming out of the Pentecostal, the Roman Catholic, the Greek Orthodox, and the Evangelical Churches. We praise the Lord for the gospel which is still the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

We are also happy for the Children's Bible Class for non-Adventists that has been conducted in the basement of Elder and Mrs. Uniat's home for the past several months. The accompanying picture shows the forty-five regular pupils with their teachers, Mrs. P. Uniat, Mrs. E. Polishuk, Mrs. June Pylpiuk, and Brother Stan Gallant. Eighteen of these Juniors are enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy Junior Course and nine mothers are also taking the Voice of Prophecy Bible Course. Two families are being studied with in their homes.

As a result of the Laymen's Training School, several Bible Classes and Branch Sabbath Schools are being conducted in the following towns: Mannville, Lamont, Boyne Lake, and Bonnyville.

The response to the Voice of Hope radio broadcasts is continuing to grow and many wonderful letters are being received each week from interested listeners all the way from Dauphin, Manitoba in the east to Kelowna, British Columbia in the west.

God is wonderfully blessing the ministry and our courage is good as we look

to the future. Brother and Sister Stan Gallant are giving us wonderful help in this large district and have endeared themselves in the hearts of the people in all our churches. We appreciate their work and wish to thank the Alberta Conference for making this help available to us.



Baptism held, March 28, at Vegreville.



Baptism held in Vegreville, May 9.



Children's Bible School held in Pastor and Mrs. Uniat's home.



Bible Class at Lamont, Alberta. Conducted by Brother Spytko.

June 3, 1964—Canadian Union Messenger, Vol. 33, No. 12, p. 1.

ONE THING

I DESIRE

IT IS WRITTEN CANADA



IF YOU
COULD ASK
GOD FOR ONE THING,
WHAT WOULD
IT BE?



OCTOBER
22, 2022
RALLY

REALLY LIVING CENTRE



2060 Upper James St,
Mount Hope, ON



Phone : 905-404-6510

IN-PERSON MEETING

11:00 AM &
3:00 PM

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