

Greener
Village
Community
Food Centre
Welcomes
YOU!



PLUS The Right to Be Different (p. 18)
An Extraordinary Question (p. 20)
Full Circle (p. 21)

“And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ... will he not much more clothe you?” —Matt. 6:28-30, ESV



Flowers and Trust

Late spring is a time of incredible transformation outdoors. Although I've seen it so many times, it is always amazing to see how earth comes back to life. I particularly like to see the flowers. In my recent travels, I've been watching the really little ones that show up in lawns here and there. For the most part, we don't even notice them. They are small and we think nothing of running over them with the lawn mower. Yet, if we take time to pull out a magnifying glass and look closely at them, what intricate design and perfection they have!

Jesus noticed the flowers as He walked from place to place. He used them to illustrate how thoroughly God is involved in caring for things that seem insignificant. In our text, He encourages us to trust Him more and worry less.

I've wondered if the people Jesus met were worried about the same things people share with me? Did they worry about the church and its future? Did they worry about the attitude of the neighbours or the folks at work? They must have worried about clothes, because that's what He speaks of here.

And then Jesus says, "Why worry? If I'm taking care of the flowers, do you think I've forgotten you?" Sometimes, I think, we take life so fast that it really doesn't register that we can trust God with *everything* on our worry list.

As you and I look around us this season, let's take the time frequently to recall the lessons that Christ taught about trust and our cares. He cares for you and He cares for me. ■

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Cover photo: Kate MacKay, a volunteer at the Greener Village Community Food Centre, welcomes guests to their Open House. Photographer: Gary Farrah, also a volunteer at Greener Village Community Food Centre.



If you don't help, who will?
Someone else, right?
Are you sure?



Disaster and Famine Relief Offering

May 10, 2014

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REACH French-Speaking Caucasian

Canadians?

It is a long journey that requires enduring faith.

In Quebec we face the ever-challenging giant: REACH the French-speaking Canadians with the message of hope and wholeness. We are addressing this challenge with a BHAG¹.

In 1999 the TV program *Il Est Écrit* (IEE), which is *It is Written* in French, has been established to reach these dear French-speaking Canadians in the comfort of their homes. A large portion of the conference annual budget supports this project. Tens of thousands of individuals have listened to the weekly programs. Right now we have 10,000 names in our database of people who contacted IEE via email or phone.

After 14 years of faithful service from Pastor José Élysée, Pastor Rémy Ballais has stepped in and added many other programs to the resources available online at www.ilestecrit.tv. Sylvain Ballais is our "special evangelist," whose sole responsibility is to see that listeners are being reached and cared for.

The 2014 BHAG is to have 1,000 persons enrolled in Bible study. Currently, 200 individuals are studying the Bible with either a pastor/church member or online; one hundred are from Quebec, the other 100 from the rest of Canada or abroad.

A small number of committed volunteers call the listeners in our database. Since January 2014 we have received calls or emails from over 125 new listeners. So far, our trained volunteers have contacted 237 persons. The volunteers rate the listener's interest level in the Bible based on three categories: high, medium and low/no interest.

Out of the 237 people, 165 indicated high interest. Fifty-eight of them are already studying the Bible under the supervision of volunteers called "Relay" in one of the 16 administrative regions of Quebec. (Sylvain Duval looks for committed church members and trains at least one person for each of these regions). Fifty-seven more high-interest listeners are in direct contact with Sylvain from the IEE building. They are studying the Bible online until they can transition into a small group or begin studying with a church member.

The *Il Est Écrit* ministry requires prayer, patience and also a lot of financial investment. The potential harvest is high, but the seeds sprout and grow slowly. IEE believes that many immigrant individuals grow fast like trees in a rainforest but that French-speaking Canadians are more like maple trees; you have to wait for many long years before they reach the spiritual readiness to fully give themselves to Christ. It is a long journey that requires enduring faith.

Dear *Messenger* reader, we are too weak and few to face this giant alone. Would you lift us up in prayer? ■



Daniel Latchman is the president of the Quebec Conference

teen talk

Q: It bothers me so much that people can make fun of Jesus but it is illegal to make fun of homosexuals! What do you think?

A: Let me answer with *The Message's* paraphrase of what Jesus said during the sermon on the mount about how we should treat one another: "You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill" (Matt. 5:21, 22).

Among legalities, opinions, tastes, tendencies and theological interpretations, there's always room for mutual respect.

Jesus died for every single human being. Picture yourself standing at the feet of the cross beside someone whom you're tempted to criticize or make fun of—let's say a lesbian, someone who is different than you. As you're looking at Jesus, when you see how much He loves you and how much He's sacrificing to save you, do you have time to mock the lesbian lady? I don't think so. The moment you start pointing fingers at others, you lose sight of the cross! You are either looking at Jesus or you aren't.

Well, hold on, there's actually another option. Why don't you take a step back and look at both of them? You'll see a beautiful picture of a Father with His daughter. Don't ruin the moment. And just to be clear, that daughter can be a homosexual or a Jesus hater. It doesn't matter. Jesus died for them and for you. So go and treat them as Jesus did.



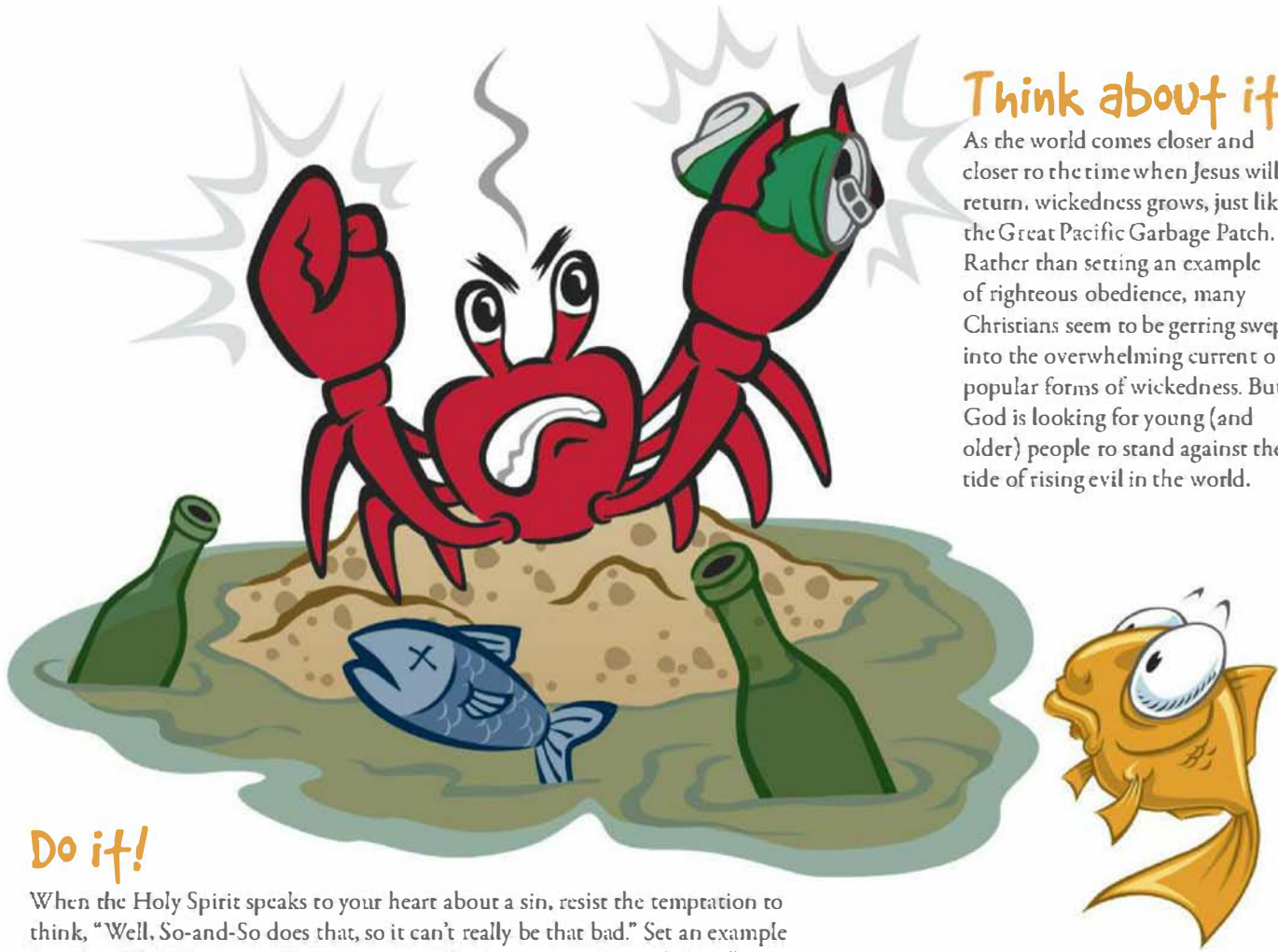
Do you have a question for Pastor Josué Sánchez? Email it to messenger@adventist.ca.

the Great Pacific Garbage Patch



There's a strange sort of island between California and Hawaii. Known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch or the Pacific Trash Vortex, it is a huge area of floating and submerged plastic of all shapes and sizes. The plastic is caught in a circular ocean current that more or less keeps the plastic bits together. The area is so large, it can take a whole week to cross it.

Scientists are concerned about the safety of marine animals and the health of the oceans because of this floating trash patch and others like it. But no one wants to take responsibility for the mess and clean it up. The problem is, the trash patch collects garbage from all the coastal countries around it. Since it's in the middle of the ocean, no one sees it, so it's easy to pretend it's not there. Meanwhile, it keeps getting bigger and bigger.



Think about it.

As the world comes closer and closer to the time when Jesus will return, wickedness grows, just like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Rather than setting an example of righteous obedience, many Christians seem to be getting swept into the overwhelming current of popular forms of wickedness. But God is looking for young (and older) people to stand against the tide of rising evil in the world.

Do it!

When the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart about a sin, resist the temptation to think, "Well, So-and-So does that, so it can't really be that bad." Set an example for other Christians around you. Just say, "That's wrong and I won't do it."

Learn more about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

Unity, Ellen White and Women's Ordination



Bruce Boyd

This is the second part in a series on Christian unity by CUC professors Doug Matacio and Bruce Boyd.

IT IS IRONIC THAT THE MINISTRY AND WRITINGS OF ELLEN WHITE ARE A CATALYST FOR DISUNITY in some quarters of our Seventh-day Adventist Church. During her 70-some years of ministry as a primary founder of our movement, a prolific writer for our cause and a powerful “messenger”¹ from God to our people, unity was one of her favourite topics.

Actually, fostering a culture of unity among Adventist believers goes well beyond “favourite topic” on Ellen White’s list of priorities. She considers unity to be vital for the accomplishment of the mission of our church. She writes, “There is no work more sacred for Christians than to maintain peace among themselves. Then they present to the world the unity that Christ prayed might exist, and bear witness that God sent Christ into the world to redeem the human race.”² She designates the unity shared by believers as the credential that establishes credibility for God’s people in the eyes of unbelievers.³

What is this unity? In an apparent oxymoron Ellen White strongly emphasizes that the harmony she trumpets is one dominated by differences. In fact, she uses the phrase “unity in diversity” 48 times in her discussions on the topic, implying that there can be no unity without multiplicity.⁴

This diversity Ellen White calls for includes differences (perhaps even significant differences) in thinking, taste, temperament, experience, and favoured ways or methods of getting things done.⁵ Even diversity in understanding, applying, and expressing Bible truth,⁶ is to be expected and appreciated. “We cannot, then, take a position that the unity of the church consists in viewing every text of Scripture in the very same shade of light,” she says.⁷

Let’s briefly consider a possible application of Ellen White’s teaching on unity for the current conflict over women’s ordination.

This conflict involves differences (perhaps even significant differences) in understanding, in applying, and in expressing Bible truth. Whether or not women's ordination is consistent with basic Bible doctrine is at the heart of this confrontation (see footnote 7 below). Since none of our 28 fundamental beliefs address the issue of ordination directly or women's ordination specifically, this issue would appear to be on the level of method or application and not basic doctrine. If that is indeed the case, this women's ordination dispute is probably a perfect opportunity for our world church to apply Ellen White's powerful "unity in diversity" maxim and reap the resulting increased credibility.

Unfortunately, where our diversity is left at the mercy of natural, selfish tendencies and prejudiced religious opinions, there is no chance for healthy unity. An empty, hypocritical judgmentalism often accompanied by a tilt toward uniformitarianism results.

Ellen White repeatedly discusses this challenge.⁸ Some of her most compelling comments on the "how" of church unity are

found in the context of Jesus' "I am the vine; you are the branches" and "Remain in me, and I will remain in you" teachings (John 15:5, 4, CEB, see John 15:1-17). Ellen White comments, "The branches of the vine cannot blend into each other; they are individually separate; yet every branch must be in fellowship with every other if they are united in the same parent stock."⁹

When together we choose to live under the potent influence of the divine Spirit and are connecting to and remaining in Jesus, our Saviour, we become linked with one another. God's vitalizing presence flows through us, and together we are being recreated from the inside out. Our diversity, bathed in unity of genuine, connecting care and respect for one another, becomes a dynamic advantage and a compelling witness to God's transforming love. ■

Bruce Boyd is the associate professor of religious studies at Canadian University College.

¹ Ellen White writes, "In the city of Portland the Lord ordained me as His messenger, and here my first labours were given to the cause of present truth" (*Daughters of God* [Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1998], 252).

² "Ministry, No. 2," *Signs of the Times*, May 23, 1900, 322.

³ *Selected Messages*, 1:385; *Manuscript Releases*, 5:366, 371; "Christ the Center of the Message," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, March 20, 1894, 177.

⁴ Do an Internet search for "unity in diversity" on the Ellen White Estate search engine at <https://egw writings.org> to find the 48 references.

⁵ *Manuscript Releases*, 15:149.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 8:66-68. This passage also makes it clear that pressing for diversity/ originality and new understandings, forms or practices for their own sakes flows from selfish pride and blocks unity in God's church.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 15:149. It is important to recognize that while Ellen White calls for the toleration of varied Bible interpretations, she is not asking for tolerance when it comes to major differences in the understanding of basic and central Bible doctrines. Referring to these beliefs, she firmly states that opposing views cannot be allowed to coexist in the church (see *Testimonies for the Church*, 3:446, 447).

⁸ See, for example, *Selected Messages*, 3:352; *Manuscript Releases*, 8:67-68, 15:150; *Our High Calling* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 2000), 167; and *Steps to Christ*.

⁹ *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1970), 5:1143.

>> PRESIDENT'S PAGE BLOG
CUC NEWS FROM DR. MARK HAYNAL
WWW.CAUC.CA

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President's Page Blog Excerpt



Chamber Singers Present World Premier of *Bow Summit*

Canadian University College's Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Wendolin Munroe, performed the world premiere of *Bow Summit*, a composition with words by CUC professor John McDowell and music by former CUC professor Kenneth Logan. Their performance was part of a recital presented at one of CUC's Sunday at Seven concert series programs. ■



WHEN A LEAF BEARS FRUIT

Left: Local people learn about water harvesting and irrigation. Rain water is collected and stored during the rainy season and then used during the dry season.

Above: Tomatoes prepared and ready for the solar dryer.

I recently had the privilege of visiting some Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) projects along with Daniel Stojanovic (vice-president, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada), James Astleford (director, ADRA Canada) and Anita Odondi (director, Emergency Management, ADRA). ADRA, in partnership with the Canadian government's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), has taken over the functions of the Canadian International Development Association (CIDA).

I quickly learned there is no shortage of acronyms when you are connected with ADRA.

We visited a number of projects in the Gatsibo and Kayonza regions of Rwanda that are making a significant difference in the lives of so many people. The Learning Environmental Adaptations for Food Security (LEAF) program, funded and managed by ADRA Canada and DFATD, showed me a number of functions that our development organization performs so competently and effectively.

The goal in these two Rwandan regions was to affect over 6,000 households to increase food security and build resistance to the ongoing climate change. Also, in order to improve sustainable economic growth, ADRA Canada is addressing events and circumstances that directly affect communities and households.

The prime beneficiaries in Gatsibo and Kayonza are (1) female-headed households that are affected by HIV, (2) households that have five or less children, and (3) elderly persons.

ADRA Canada hires local staff to give basic training on home gardening through demonstrations and to introduce vegetables with which people are not familiar, such as beets, cauliflower and broccoli.

Local people learned about water harvesting and irrigation. ADRA provided means of collecting and storing rain water that is captured during the rainy season and then used during the dry season.

Excess food is now available, and the families work together to use solar dryers that are provided by ADRA and DFATD.

What I saw next was remarkable.

For the first time ever cash income was being generated, and one of the first Muslim areas of ADRA was strengthened and goods were being sold. That morning they had already made over \$100 by selling excess dehydrated food to "city folks," and it was not even the busy season. The previous year the profit they retained after the expense of purchasing more solar panels and collection barrels was well over US\$10,000. So, what would a community like this do with such excess money? Remember, these are very poor folks, who for the first time had food and water all year long. This is what they did: they used that money to help another community become self-sustaining.

One of the innovations for making their water last through the dry season was to use unpolished clay pottery. They plant the pottery in the ground beside the plants, and the water leaks out of the bottom, giving a slow drip for about a week. The amount of water they used to use in one day in the hot sun now lasts a week, and the crops flourish.

Where does ADRA get the pots? They have helped the Pygmies develop an industry of making these pots, thus making their communities economically self-supporting and providing a large number of jobs to previously unemployed persons.

ADRA and DFATD do not stop there. There is ongoing nutrition, marketing, financial, advocacy, and leadership training to help strengthen these communities.

Those who are regular contributors to ADRA Canada can rest assured that the funds are making a difference in the lives of so many people who live in a situation we would not want our boys and girls to grow up in. If you happen to be an Adventist who does not give to ADRA regularly, you can join us here: <http://adra.ca/donate>. ■

Stan Jensen is the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.



I Bequeath ...

“You can make bequests in your will in various ways,” began the Planned Giving director. “If you have the book *George’s Tree*,¹ turn to Section 2.3, “Deferred Gifts,” and look at “Charitable Bequest” for examples.”

“My grandfather left \$30,000 in his will for our new church building,”² offered Henry, an earnest young man. “The church board used it toward buying pews.”

“Yes,” the director replied, “that would be both a specific bequest and a charitable bequest. Your grandfather’s estate would receive an official receipt for tax credits in his final tax return.”³

“If someone leaves money to me,” Susan grinned, “what would that be?”

“Definitely not a charitable bequest,” the director smiled. “You aren’t a registered charity!”

“However,” added the director, “we should define the difference between specific and residual bequests. When an exact amount is specified in the will, the bequest is specific; bequests from money left over after specific bequests are paid, would be called residual bequests.”

“I’ve got it!” Susan jumped in again, “If you look at the residual bequest example in *George’s Tree*, the amount left over after the specific bequest amount is paid to the children, called the residue, goes to the Quebec Conference for religious book translation.”

“You are correct,” the director was pleased. “And to avoid a challenge to your will, I highly recommend you discuss your bequest wishes with your family.” ■

¹ Receive your free copy of *George’s Tree: The Story of a Well-planned Gift*, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Edition, by calling 905/433-0011 x2078, or by emailing legal@adventist.ca.

² Wills Seminar topics are currently continuing from month to month.

³ Names, amounts and bequests are examples only and are not actual.

⁴ Nothing in this story should be considered as professional advice. Always get legal and financial advice when making your will.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

AT THE SCARBOROUGH CHURCH IN ONTARIO,
AND THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH IN ALBERTA.

*How do you let your light
shine for the Lord?*

Kristy Feeley: I like to remain connected to non-Christians and to show them that being an Adventist Christian is a positive thing. Showing people God by your actions is much more effective than preaching to them.

Sharon Alexander: By being a friend. I always try to share a smile, a hug, or just to say hello, and usually that opens up the opportunity to share.

Joy Fehr: I believe it is important to interact with shop owners and business people courteously and respectfully. I do my best to smile and say please and thank you. I have had many service people say they are blessed by their interactions with me. I think that in some small way in behaving like this, I am letting Christ shine through me.



Twenty-seven years after leaving Kenya, Vanessa Higgins-Nogareda returned to a warm homecoming.

Enabling People to Care for Themselves



Vanessa Higgins-Nogareda teaches a young mother how to instill eye drops in her baby.

Last November, Vanessa Higgins-Nogareda, a registered nurse from Red Deer, Alta., volunteered with a medical team on behalf of A Better World Canada.

Higgins-Nogareda and her cardiologist husband, Dr. Gustavo Nogareda, signed up with about 20 other medical professionals, including dentists, physicians, and nurses.

The 31-year-old woman said the trip was a memorable one in so many ways. She treated some of the country's poorest, plus she was able to visit the village of Maji Moto, where she had lived from three months to four years of age.

Her parents, Pat and Grace Higgins, were missionaries, tending to the needs of the Turkana and Masai tribes during the early to mid-1980s. Her father, a veterinarian, planned to treat livestock and goats, but because there were little resources for this kind of care, he ended up doing human medicine and dentistry, as well as mentorship for veterinary care.

Over six years, they also provided famine relief, water projects, and spiritual support. Pat Higgins continues to run and own the Deer Park Pet Hospital in Red Deer.

Higgins-Nogareda said it was great to go with A Better World because they were treating the sick in the same region where she had spent time as a child. Her brother and sister, plus her parents, met them after the medical trip was over so they could return to Maji Moto as a family.

"It was really cool," said Higgins-Nogareda.

One resident was "bawling his eyes out" when he saw her father, who had stitched him up when he was a child. Another recalled how her sister's life was saved because of the medical treatment she received. Some of these children went on to lead successful lives, including one who became a lawyer.

"It's amazing how a little bit of help does so much 30 years later," said Higgins-Nogareda. "People remember being impacted by what my parents did."

Making a positive difference, no matter how small, is what Higgins-Nogareda and her husband would like to do in the developing world. Their trip with A Better World was their first time serving as health-care volunteers.

While serving at the eight free medical clinics, Higgins-Nogareda helped treat a variety of conditions. Among them was brucellosis, a bacterial infection that attacks the joints. Stomach problems caused by worms were a common ailment. Malaria and HIV were also diagnosed or treated at the clinics. The medical team also treated numerous simple infections.

"There were many respiratory ailments and eye problems because people are cooking with fire in poorly ventilated huts," said Higgins-Nogareda.

The nurse found it tough to see malnutrition among children in the Daaba region. It's located within the eastern province of Kenya and is mainly occupied by the pastoralists of Turkana origin.

"The kids were just skin and bones," said Higgins-Nogareda.

The medical team had up to 120 patients per day, and the dental team had between 20 to 30 patients daily.

"We enjoyed being a part of people's lives, even just for a bit. What's important for people, right across the cultures, is that they want the best for their families and children."

Higgins-Nogareda said she can see how valid A Better World's efforts are in the preventative care and medical treatment of people in these impoverished areas.

Its goals include building health care centres, providing medical services and supplies, developing and supporting rehabilitation programs, and supporting medical education programs.

"I can appreciate [A Better World co-founder] Eric Rajah's eye for growth and sustainability," Higgins-Nogareda added. "This is enabling people to take care of themselves." ■

Laura Tester is a journalist and volunteers for A Better World as a writer.



Overcoming Ministry Fear

Sometimes we are too determined
to start our journey without Jesus.

OUR FAMILY RECENTLY TOOK A ROAD TRIP DOWN THE OREGON COAST FROM VANCOUVER.

We visited Albion, the Pacific Union College field station along the northern California coast. The location was stunning, offering panoramic views of the ocean and a small inlet where you can go fishing or canoeing.

My father-in-law wanted to go on a canoe ride, but nobody seemed to be in the mood to join him. I finally agreed to go with him.

Getting in the canoe was wobbly, and since I wasn't wearing a life jacket, I was much more aware of the shaking of the boat. I was worried about tipping over and possibly having to save both my father-in-law and myself!

However, as we paddled down the waterway, we passed a seal sunbathing, and then as we continued to paddle around the bend, we found another group of seals sitting on the mud with their babies. Suddenly, a great blue heron flew over and perched itself up in a tree, watching us coast down the river. It was a majestic experience, and I was reminded of God's great artistry.

Had I not put my fear and inhibitions aside, I would have never seen those baby seals or experienced the peaceful ride through nature. What fears are gripping you? How much more of an abundant life would you experience if you were to face your obstacles?

Many church leaders are paralyzed with fear. They are unable to move forward, take new chances—because of their fear of drowning. Sometimes we are scared to move forward because of previous failures. I am reminded of the fear that came over the disciples in John 6, when they were in the middle of a storm. If you look closely at the text, the Bible says they were “terrified” when they saw Jesus, not of the storm. Doesn't that seem backwards? Shouldn't you be fearful of the storm and not of Jesus?

Earlier in the story, the Bible says they were waiting on Jesus to join them on the boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. When Jesus didn't show up on time, they left without him. That was a huge mistake! Sometimes we are too determined to start our journey without Jesus. We wouldn't experience the struggle or fear if Jesus was in the boat with us!

What is your great dream for your church? Do you have a new project or initiative that would make a difference? Are you waiting on God's timing? If you are fearful or terrified of taking the next step, remember there is a great God who can carry the load for you! ■

*Dr. Rajkumar Dixit is the pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of **Branded Faith** and contributing author of **Steps to Discipleship**.¹*

*Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you.
He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.—Psalm 55:22, NLT*



Haircuts, Perfume, and Flowers



Words by God —1 Corinthians 5:20, NIV

Today I really felt like doing something kind for someone else, so I asked God to show me what to do. The opportunity soon came when a young man could not pay for his haircut; I was able to cover the cost. It was something simple, but it made his day and, as a result, encouraged others to do the same.

Kindness can often create a ripple effect that is contagious. Our actions (no matter how big or small) influence the lives of those around us. In 1 Corinthians 5:20, the Bible says we are Christ's ambassadors—that means we represent him wherever we go. Part of being good ambassadors is representing the heart of the one who sent them—purpose, dreams, and goals. The heart of the one who is sending us is to show Christ's love to a world that needs hope.

"Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Cor. 2:14, 15, ESV).

I encourage you to stay tuned for ways you can be an ambassador of Christ and make someone's day a little brighter. To make someone smile and know someone cares sometimes means stepping out of our comfort zone and offering a hand. Something like giving a flower to someone you come in contact with can really make that person's day. Or paying for the order of the guy behind you at the café, taking time to help someone, or making the effort to visit a friend you haven't seen in a while. There are many ways you can share the love of Christ; just ask God to show you the opportunities He has placed in your life and be willing to follow. It's amazing how a little kindness goes a long way. How will you share the aroma of Christ today? ■

Be Blessed

Tia Lawrence is 19 years old and a first year college student. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island. Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com



refresh with Tia



Watch "Lost Get Found" by Britt Nicole:
<http://goo.gl/nNq3iN>



app review

Keith Chant, ITS support specialist, SDA Church in Canada

- App:** Life+Health Network TV
- In Brief:** Life and Health Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing, creating, and obtaining compelling, evidence-based life and health media. The app is a collection of videos, available by title or grouped by series. The videos are informative and interesting, offering advice and tips on improving your health. The app also links out to the Life and Health Network website, which offers a wealth of information on health topics, cooking, and recipes.
- Wow Factor:** A nice collection of informative health videos.
- Meh Factor:** On iOS the video does not rotate to play in landscape mode.
- Developed for:** Life and Health Network
- Price:** Free
- Works on:** Android, iOS
- Link:** <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



To suggest an app for review, email messenger@adventist.ca.

prayer life

What's She Smiling About Anyway?

We each can experience the serenity Jesus possessed while here on earth.

As I wandered the streets of Washington, D.C., I found myself drawn to a museum. The Smithsonian, to be exact. The smells of lunch carried me on to the cafeteria, and my attraction to flowers led me to a table by the window. As I ate my overpriced meal, I was transfixed, watching the face of a middle-aged Asian man conversing with his wife. Trying not to stare, I realized that all through their conversation he maintained a gentle smile. I thought of how wonderful it would be to offer such a gift to my husband, and I determined, at that point, to be that person.

I was reminded of Jesus' example as portrayed in *The Desire of Ages* when Ellen White writes of His brothers: "They could not account for His constant serenity under trial and deprivation. They did not know that for our sake He had become poor, that we "through His poverty might become rich [2 Cor. 8:9]."¹

I read recently in *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers, "You cannot consecrate what is not ours; there is only one thing you can consecrate to God, and that is your

right to yourself. If you will give God your right to yourself, He will make a holy experiment out of you. God's experiments always succeed."² What better than to be part of a science experiment in the laboratory of the Lord?

Bill Liversidge writes of his trying so hard, for years, to live a holy life. In *Overcoming Through Jesus*, he states, "God finally said, 'But, look, I've already done it for you!... Believe in Jesus—you don't have to be Jesus!'"³

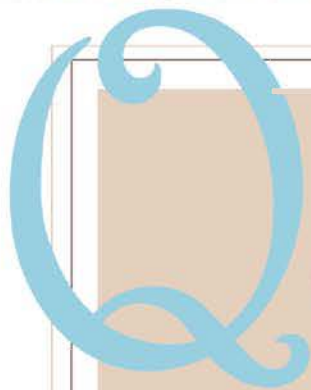
My prayer time with Jesus has become the source of great joy to my heart. It wasn't always so, and at times I still fall short of God's ideals. I'm not sure I've fulfilled my resolve of maintaining a caring smile, but that gentle face will remain with me as a human example. As we let God experiment in our lives, we each can experience the serenity Jesus possessed while here on earth. Wouldn't it be great to have people wonder why we're so happy ■

Sandra Nelson is the prayer coordinator for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.

¹ (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1898), p. 83.

² (Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 1992), p. 165.

³ *Overcoming Through Jesus: Embracing His Death and Receiving His Victorious Life* (Palm Springs, CA: Creative Media Ministries, 2008), p. 94.



BY STAN JENSEN



On April 7, following our morning worship, I was introduced to Stéphanie, the new receptionist of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC). Turns out, some staff already knew her because they had attended Kingsway College together. I thought the readers of the Messenger might want to know the story behind the new voice when they make a call or visit our office.

Photo: Keith Chant



Kelly-Ann, Sébastien, Stéphanie, and Isaac Roy-Lavalée.

EDITOR: *Tell us a bit about yourself.*

STÉPHANIE: I was raised by both of my parents and have two younger sisters. I grew up in a little region in the province of Quebec called Beauce. My mother became a Seventh-day Adventist when I was about four years old.

EDITOR: *You were raised as an Adventist but didn't accept God for yourself until you were an adult. What changed your heart?*

STÉPHANIE: As a child, I went to church with my mother and sisters every Sabbath. I attended camp meetings, I joined the Pathfinders, I was also a pianist at church with my best friend, Nancy Faucher. I attended Laurelbrook Academy in Tennessee for a year and also went to Kingsway College. I participated in all the church events as a child and young adult, but my heart was not into it.

After I graduated from Kingsway College, I worked for a while and travelled the world for two years. At that point God was not part of my life. But all that changed

when I had my children. Becoming a mother was a wake-up call. I was responsible for those lives. I was responsible for teaching them about Jesus and everything there is to know about God and the Bible. Their eternal lives were at stake.

With lots of sincere prayers and tears, I let God enter my hearts and my family's heart. With the help of the Holy Spirit, my old habits are no more. What a blessing to have children!

EDITOR: *How has your relationship with God affected your marriage?*

STÉPHANIE: When I got married, my relationship with God was basically non-existent. My husband, Sébastien, was not a believer at the time. However, slowly with time, and since having our two children, his point of view about a Creator is changing. Amen!

EDITOR: *Tell me about your kids.*

STÉPHANIE: We have two healthy children. Kelly-Ann is nine years old and in Grade 4, and Isaac is seven years old and in Grade 2. They both attend a French school, which they love. Isaac often comes home telling us about how he talked about Jesus to some of his friends and how amazed he is that some of them know the same Jesus. Also, as children do, they keep us busy and don't always get along. I feel like I haven't slept for nine years!

EDITOR: *How long have you been working at the SDACC?*

STÉPHANIE: I am actually very new at this position, and this is my first job with the SDACC.

EDITOR: *Where did you work prior to joining the SDACC office?*

STÉPHANIE: I used to work for the railroad and dealt with all kinds of stressful issues on a daily basis. I never knew what to expect in a day working at the train station. I met so many different people: some were nice, some were not. During my very first week of employment, I came face-to-face with a man who had a gun and said he was going to kill me. On another occasion, a young mother abandoned her five-year-old and nine-month-old children with me and ran away. I have many stories where God placed me in the right place and the right time to assist someone.

EDITOR: *It sounds like this is a big change for you. How were you able to witness for God in such a public environment?*

STÉPHANIE: My parents always told me that it did not matter what the job was, whether sweeping floors or washing dishes: what mattered was to do it right and to do my best. The railroad station may have employed me, but really, I worked for God. My personal motivation has always been Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, put your heart into it as if you were employed by the Lord Jesus Christ, not by a fellow human being."

On many occasions I took time to listen to passengers telling me about their divorce, death of a loved one, illness, birth, etc. Oftentimes, our society doesn't have time to listen to feelings and share a human connection. I cried with passengers, I laughed with passengers, I cared for them, I took time to listen and I gave them a smile. I also managed to be a witness to my co-workers and supervisors, as they noticed that I was different from everyone else, even down to the Bible verses I included in my resignation letter.

EDITOR: *Despite being a blessing to others in your previous job, did you pray for deliverance from such a secular work environment?*

STÉPHANIE: I prayed for about five years that God would direct me to another place. At times, I felt like giving up. My conscience would not allow me to work on the Sabbath, because I felt like I would be cheating on God. But as we know, God works in His time and knows what is best. I am so thankful to work here now! Praise God!

EDITOR: *What words of advice do you have for people who are facing a difficult situation and waiting for God to answer their prayers?*

STÉPHANIE: Keep on praying! No matter what the enemy will bring your way, never take your eyes off Jesus! It's not always easy, but God will bring you through and He is faithful to His promises!

EDITOR: *Do you have a favourite Bible verse to share with Messenger readers?*

STÉPHANIE: Yes, I do. I have many, but the one I love the most is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." Love conquers all. ■

Stan Jensen is the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.



barry's blog

Anytime there is an "us" and "them," everyone loses.

Religious Communities and the Right to Be Different in Canada: *The Case of Lev Tahor*

The Lev Tahor¹ is an ultra-devout Jewish community headed by Rabbi Shlomo Helbrans. Helbrans served time in jail in the state of New York for being convicted of kidnapping a boy who was sent to study with him. After serving two years of a four-year sentence, he immigrated to Canada as a refugee on the basis that his life was in danger should he be forced to go back to Israel.²

Currently, the group is located in Chatham-Kent, Ont., after their escape last November from Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Que. They have been described as the "Jewish Taliban"³ for their very strict regimen. The community of about 200 people worships extensively throughout the day, and its children learn more Yiddish than they do French or English.

Quebec authorities were concerned about the children: their education was lacking; the girls are married at very young ages—most by the time they reach 16; there were reports of unconventional discipline; and the living conditions were unclean.⁴

The Quebec authorities made an application to court to take custody of 13 children. However, before the hearing, all parents and children fled to Windsor, Ont.

Later the Ontario courts ruled that the children had

to be returned to Quebec⁵ and rejected the parental claims to *Charter* rights. "The unilateral actions of the [parents] to flee from Quebec," said the Ontario court, "place these children at further risk of harm, and could not be construed as concern for the interests of their children."⁶ Shortly after, the Lev Tahor parents decided to flee yet again.

Some were caught in Trinidad and some in Calgary and were returned to Ontario, where the children are now in custody. Several of those children went on a hunger strike in protest and had to be hospitalized.⁷ One couple with their three children did manage to escape to Guatemala.

On April 2, 2014, Canada Border Services Agency arrested seven members of the Lev Tahor community for Canada's immigration laws violations.⁸ These seven are parents of 28 children. Two of the seven are the parents of 19 children.⁹ The one report stated:

Reached by telephone, a member of the community who is a teacher said through tears that he could not talk. The sound of wailing children could be heard in the background. Children in the community's school were "distraught," praying, crying and screaming.¹⁰

The traumatic experience of seeing one's parents carried off in handcuffs will, no doubt, have a lasting impression upon the young minds in the Lev Tahor community.

This case raises some concern. First, it is disconcerting to see how much media attention this case is getting just because it involves a religious community.

Second, the Ontario court drew a negative inference from the fact that the community has a tendency to flee when authorities are about to take custody of their children. Perhaps there is an alternative view to consider: these people feel, rightly or wrongly, they are under siege. The dearest attachment of any human being is that between parent and child. The parental instinct is to protect at all costs. A quick read of Deuteronomy 6 will shed light on their motivation.

Third, there has got to be a better way to deal with this type of case. There is an obvious lack of trust on both sides. Anytime there is an "us" and "them," everyone loses. Given that government has the power in these relationships—or so it seems to me, at least—that government and its agents have a responsibility to work on developing trust. If government agents and religious community leaders are unable to communicate, then we have a serious problem.

Peace and conflict studies suggest there is a solution. The answer, John Paul Lederach would say, is that we work "toward a frame of reference that focuses on the restoration and rebuilding of relationships."¹¹ "Genuine reconciliation," notes Jessie Sutherland, "involves a transition from systems of domination to relationships of mutuality."¹² The relationship between Lev Tahor and the government has been a one-sided affair. The government has shown very little patience for non-compliance and uses its force to get its way. Government has a legitimate interest, as does Lev Tahor. Relationships of mutuality will need at least the following:

Humility: We all share in the blame in these failures, and we must be humble and be willing to explore the issues that cause these confrontations.

Empathy: We need to hear and understand the stories of the religious community and be genuinely curious.

Dialogue, not dictate: The government has to resist the temptation to use its power to impose on religious community practises without meaningful dialogue that shows respect.

Trust: To build trust, there must be a willingness to give the other side the benefit of the doubt. A lack of trust means that the parties do not see a future in working together. "Opportunity must therefore be given for people to look forward and envision their shared future."¹³

Religion must be taken seriously; this case is all about a religious community. The children are an integral part of that community—they represent the future survival of the community. To interfere with how this religious community raises their children is to interfere with the community's religious, social, emotional DNA. Cutting religious communities off from their ability to have space and time to address the challenges of adapting to modernity is only going to cause greater isolation and eliminate the goal of working together for a brighter future.

We must conclude that the status quo in Canada between religious minorities and government is not working. It is evident that more interest and effort in developing an overall strategy to resolve these tensions is necessary. ■

Barry W. Bussey is vice-president of Legal Affairs at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. You can read his blog at www.lawandreligion.ca.

¹ Lev Tahor is translated "pure heart."

² Julia Sisler, "Lev Tahor Leader Shlomo Helbrans' refugee case questioned: The Fifth Estate Investigates Refugee Claim of Rabbi Shlomo Helbrans," *CBC News*, Feb. 27, 2014, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/lev-tahor-leader-shlomo-helbrans-refugee-case-questioned-1.2553308>.

³ JTA and Haaretz, "Fleeing Jewish Taliban Sect Members Sent Back to Canada," *Haaretz*, March 10, 2014, <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/jewish-world-news/1.578895>.

⁴ Carolyn Jarvis, Francesca Fionda and Megan Rowney, *Under the Veil of Lev Tahor, Jewish Sect Accused of Abuse* (Documentary), 16 x 9, Global News, Feb. 22, 2014, <http://globalnews.ca/news/1161706/under-the-veil-of-lev-tahor-jewish-sect-accused-of-abuse/>.

⁵ *Chatham-Kent Children's Services v. A.H.*, [2014] O.J. No. 500.

⁶ *Chatham-Kent Children's Services v. A.H.*, [2014] O.J. No. 500, at para. 74.

⁷ Erika Tucker, "Third Lev Tahor Child Hospitalized Due to Hunger Strike: spokesperson," *Global News*, March 11, 2014, <http://globalnews.ca/news/1198904/lev-tahor-children-believed-to-be-on-hunger-strike-until-reunion-with-parents-spokesperson/>.

⁸ Allison Jones, "Seven Lev Tahor Members Arrested for Immigration Issues," *CTV News*, April 2, 2014, <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/seven-lev-tahor-members-arrested-for-immigration-issues-1.1757629#ixzz2xlcWVvhr>. It is estimated that there are 80,000 to 500,000 people working in Canada without status. See: Rebecca Lindell and Rebecca Lau, "Americans Top the List of Illegal Foreign Workers Caught by CBSA," *Global News*, March 14, 2013, <http://globalnews.ca/news/364043/americans-top-the-list-of-illegal-foreign-workers-caught-by-cbsa/>.

⁹ Patrick White, "Lev Tahor Members Arrested for Suspected Immigration Violations," *The Globe and Mail*, April 2, 2014, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/lev-tahor-members-arrested-for-suspected-immigration-violations/article1773258/>.

¹⁰ Allison Jones [see Note 8].

¹¹ John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace, 1997), 24.

¹² Jessie Sutherland, *Worldview Skills: Transforming Conflict From the Inside Out* (Worldview Strategies, 2005), 23.

¹³ Lederach, 27.



Zakiya, the Muslim community leader who prayed for ADRA Canada.



One of the vulnerable families currently benefitting from the training they have received through the LEAF project.

AN EXTRAORDINARY QUESTION

"May I pray for you?"

At first, the question seemed ordinary, but then I remembered that Zakiya was a Muslim woman. As the chair of her cooperative society in Kiramuruzi in Rwanda, she wanted to thank Allah for ADRA Canada's involvement in her community. She bowed her head as she thanked Allah for bringing ADRA to her community, reaching them and helping them to grow plenty of food so they could eat, feed their families and earn additional income for survival. The group of 30 women clustered around her, frequently affirmed her with earnest "Amens." I was humbled and thrilled to represent you and ADRA Canada in this moment.

After the prayer, the women excitedly showed us their community garden, eagerly pointing out the growing techniques they learned from ADRA and how they can now grow many vegetables—even in the dry season! We weren't the only ones to be impressed. "Our neighbours saw our success, and we have taught them what we learned from ADRA, and now they're growing more food too," Zakiya said. "Even people with no gardens are now growing small plots of vegetables outside their homes!"

The Kiramuruzi Cooperative is one of

more than a hundred cooperatives participating in the Learning Environmental Adaptation for Food Security (LEAF) project in Rwanda. Over 6,000 families have become resilient to the effects of climate change, including torrential rains, erosion, and drought. Families with young children or elderly people, and families headed by women are all partners in the learning activities.

ADRA Canada board chairperson, Daniel Srojanovic, and Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) communication director, Stan Jensen, joined me on this trip in March to see and evaluate the performance of the LEAF project. One evening we visited a community that is almost entirely HIV-positive. The women sang and one man enthusiastically danced as they thanked you, through us, for bringing them life and health.¹

Without notes, the community leader discussed at length all the technical improvements her community had learned and implemented. "We are healthier now," she told us, "and we are growing extra vegetables that we can sell for cash. We can also put extra produce in the solar dryers that ADRA taught us to use for eating or selling later, and we even make juice out of the parts we used to throw

away. Our neighbours are curious about our success, so we show them how they can also have more food and a better life. Thank you, ADRA!"

This success story of 36,000-plus people is now being multiplied many times as these enthusiastic individuals share their newfound expertise with others. "There isn't a home where the project has not had success," Vincent Okello of ADRA Rwanda quietly boasted. "Women recognize their value and worth and household income is improved—particularly for vulnerable families."

"I am almost an agronomist!" exclaimed one community leader. "When the highly educated experts come from the capital, they don't know as much as we do about growing vegetables, and we have to teach them what we have learned from ADRA," she beamed proudly as she waved her hands at her vibrant vegetable garden.

We at ADRA Canada are thankful for the support of many Canadians who have made this project possible. Together with a humble Muslim lady named Zakiya, we simply want to relay the gratitude of hundreds of community leaders and families in Rwanda. ■

James Astleford is the executive director of ADRA Canada.

Full ircle

She received to give ...

*Sandra approached a door, knocked and waited.
After a few moments, the door swung open and a woman appeared.*

“Hello, my name is Sandra, and I’m a student with Canada Youth Challenge...” With that, Sandra, the newest member of an old ministry that had transformed her own life just a few years before, launched into her presentation.

Sandra was raised in the Catholic Church and attended services with her mother. Her father had also been a Catholic, but he had left the faith, and their family, a long time before. Now it was just Sandra and her mother supporting each other and holding on to the only faith they had ever known. But as life progressed and difficulties mounted, doubts were introduced. Was God good? If He even existed, could He be trusted? As their doubts increased, a separation from the church began to take shape until, finally, Sandra and her mother let go of their faith in God.

By the time Sandra turned 15, she had been out of the church for almost four years. But that year marked a rekindled interest in spirituality. Curious to know what the Bible was about, Sandra began to study it for the first time in her life. Then one afternoon someone knocked on her door. Sandra was not home at the time, but her mother went to investigate and found a young man and a lady, books in hand, offering them for sale. The two were literature evangelists (LEs), and that initial introduction forged a friendship between Sandra, her mother and the two LEs, Jonathan and Dora.

Sandra and her mother were open to Bible studies, so Dora and Jonathan visited regularly. Many moments were spent in their kitchen talking and sharing together as friends, and over the course of these visits, Sandra learned more about God, the Bible and the Adventist faith. She even began to go door to door with Dora, serving as an active prayer partner in the ministry.

Then, at the age of 18, Sandra gave her life to Jesus and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Senior year in high school brought with it a bustle of activity and the need to make important decisions. In exploring her options about colleges and universities, Sandra learned about Canadian University College in Alberta and decided to enrol. At CUC, Sandra learned about Canada Youth Challenge from someone who was already in the program. Excited about this opportunity to win souls for Christ, she joined the program and began knocking on doors.

“Hello, my name is Sandra, and I’m a student with Canada Youth Challenge.” The woman at the door listened attentively, and then looked at the books Sandra offered. Sandra learned the woman’s name was Anita, that she was a Catholic, and that she was a devout believer in God and passionate about prayer. Sandra shared her own experience and explained, when Anita asked, the differences between the Catholic and Adventist faiths, while also focusing on the similarities. At the end, Anita purchased a *Final Events* DVD, the book *Peace Above the Storm* (or, *Steps to Christ*), and *The Great Controversy*.

Sandra went on to knock on many more doors that summer and to learn lessons about patience, perseverance, and complete dependence on God. Her story demonstrates the power of a single knock to affect not just one life but many others. She received to give, an unbroken circle reflecting the light, joy, and hope she now lives. And this summer, she will return to CYC to do it all over again. ■

*Jonathan Zita is the director of
Lifestyle Canada Education Service.*

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF Summer Camp



“I have seen confidence grow, I have seen hearts warmed, I have seen barriers broken, and the reason I keep coming back to camp is because somehow, flawed and fumbling though I may be, I have seen God use me. I have been changed. Summer camp is a God-place; God shows up, and no one leaves unchanged.” Jenessa Little reflects on her five years as counsellor and Creation Station director at Mountain View Summer Camp in Hope, B.C.

As a waterfront lifeguard and counsellor at camp, Kelly Totres observes, “I realized that God was not as far away as I had thought Him to be. Not only was my relationship with God strengthened, but my relationships in general became stronger. As I told the kids stories, about God’s unchanging love for them, I was also telling myself.”

Have you donated to the Worthy Camper Fund this year?

“I returned to summer camp to volunteer as the Blind Camp RN, to reciprocate what camp has done for me through the years. I attribute a significant part of who I am today to what I learned at camp,” shares Nathan Wahl, a seven-year camp staff veteran.

Summer camp staff across Canada easily reflect the above

statements, with many describing their time at camp as “the best years of my life,” “the most important part of my social and spiritual life,” “the place that transformed my life, where I learned about myself,” “a safe and fun environment” and even “the place I met my spouse.”

A summer camp survey done by the Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry, reveals that “over 80 percent of current camp staff and alumni campers repeat their service to the church by repetitive summers working for the summer camp. It seems obvious that the camp staff experience is beneficial for those who participate.” The report continues to say, “From this research, we are confident that conference youth camps provide a unique asset for the local church, personal spirituality, loyalty to the church, future employment in the church and conference ministry to young people.”¹

As parents reflect on the value of summer camp, they list the following reasons:

- *the value of getting their child away from the nature deficit disorder. Away from the electronics world to a place where they not only build awareness of the environment but also get to venture out and experience

¹ Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry, LaSierra University, www.lasierra.edu/hancock-center-for-youth-family-ministry.

² See Richard Louv, *Last Child In the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books, 2008).

³ See Lisa Van de Ven, “Benefits Beyond the Classroom,” *Our Kids: The Trusted Source*, www.ourkids.net/camp/benefits-of-summer-camp.php.

⁴ Summer Camp Research Camper Survey, Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry.

the natural world.²

- *the development of their child's imagination and creative free time
- *improved confidence and social skills built through teamwork and cooperation at camp
- *the confidence of developed leadership skills
- *summertime schooling. The kids have so much fun, they don't even notice all the education they receive! Camp is a place of cognitive and emotional learning taking place in outdoor adventure education.
- *the skill of overcoming fears and trying new tasks
- *the child's increased awareness and desire to be a role model to siblings³

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF CAMP

Many parents send their children to camp, but as Christians our purpose and interest in camp is for intentionally awaking faith, instilling character and promoting godly values in campers. As campers leave the distractions of everyday life and enter the realm of summer camp and nature, some remember and some discover—for the first time—the love of Jesus and the difference He wants to make in their lives. A well-known fact of Christian camps is that hundreds of children each summer make significant spiritual decisions during and following their camp experience.

Quoting again from the summer camp survey by the Hancock Center, "77 percent of campers stated, 'I am deeply moved by the beauty of God's creation. 71 percent said, 'I seek out opportunities to help me grow closer to God.' 70 percent offered, 'I have a close relationship with God.'"⁴

The Hancock Center found that 48 percent of youth who attend camp are attending public school. Another 36 percent are from an Adventist day school, and the remaining 16 percent come from boarding, home or non-Adventist private or Christian schools.

Our summer camps provide the opportunity for all to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour.

CHOOSING A CAMP

Several Adventist camps are available across Canada: Mountain View Summer Camp in British Columbia; Foothills Camp in Alberta; Camp Whitesand in Saskatchewan; Camp Frenda in Ontario; Camp Pugwash in Nova Scotia; and Woody Acres Camp in Newfoundland.

YOUNG ADULTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR JESUS AT CAMP AND THE CHURCH

If you asked camp directors across Canada for their stories about youth in their camps, each would tell of the dedication of alumni staff to their camps and how effective these young adults are among their peers.

The experience of being at summer camp either as a counsellor/staff/administrator or volunteer has positively affected a vast

FOOTHILLS CAMP		CAMP WHITESANDS	
Blind Camp	June 29–July 6	Adventurer Camp	July 15–20
Specialized Camps	July 6–10	Junior Camp	July 20–27
Adventurer Camp	July 20–27	Teen Camp	July 27–August 3
Sherwood Forest 1	July 20–27	Youth Camp	August 3–10
Junior Camp	July 27–August 3	CAMP FRENDA	
Sherwood Forest 2	July 27–August 3	Junior Camp	July 13–20
Teen Camp	August 3–10	Tween Camp	July 20–27
Sherwood Forest 3	August 3–10	Teen Camp I	July 27–August 3
Family Camp	August 10–17	Teen Camp II	August 3–10
Young At Heart		CAMP PUGWASH	
Heritage Camp	August 10–17	Blind Camp	June 29–July 4
MOUNTAIN VIEW SUMMER CAMP		Junior Camp	July 6–13
Blind Camp	June 22–27	Teen Camp	July 13–20
Kids' Camp	June 29–July 6	Horse Camp	July 20–25
Kids' Camp	July 6–13	WOODY ACRES	
Kids' Camp III	July 13–21	Junior Camp	August 10–15
Youth Camp	August 3–10		
Extreme Camps	August 10–15		
Family Camp	August 10–15		

Worthy Camper Fund helps sponsor children in families with financial hardship.

number of young adults throughout Canada. Each summer over 200 young adults are hired at our six Adventist camps listed. These camp alumni end each summer with lifelong friendships, a commitment to the Adventist Church and unforgettable memories.

These young adults are making a significant contribution to our church and the sustainability of our community. Because our young adults experience unparalleled summer employment, most want to give back to their church and communities once they find themselves in the workforce.

Summer of 2013 found Sarah longing for the camaraderie and fun of summer camp. Sarah, a dedicated teacher at Okanagan Adventist Academy (Kelowna, B.C.), volunteered for two weeks back at Mountain View Summer Camp. "I love it," Sarah, former Waterfront director, says, "I can't stay away from camp."

Izzy Ko, a teacher at Cariboo Adventist Academy (Williams Lake, B.C.), has returned to help with camp maintenance and give support to staff. Philippe Martin, a teacher at Deer Lake School (Burnaby, B.C.) has returned to give encouragement to the current staff, and help with building repair projects. Jamie Schaefer volunteered as a camp nurse.

Camp directors across Canada are committed to reaching young people of all ages with the transformational message of Jesus. Kevin Kiers, Foothills Camp director, is "always amazed at the movements of the Holy Spirit and how God works in the lives of our young people."

Paul Lewellyn, Camp Pugwash director, says, "Camp ministries is one of the most powerful evangelistic tools to reach kids both in the church and in the community."

Glenn DeSilva, Camp Frenda director, shares that camp can be seen overrun by family and church members when on a Sabbath there is a baptism. "Decisions for Jesus would be made if more churches sent kids to camp as part of their evangelism initiatives. ■

What keeps you from sending a child to camp?

Brian Wahl is the youth director for the British Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Changing from a Food Bank to a

30TH ANNIVERSARY



*"There is a new energy and enthusiasm to be a part of the new...
It is a positive step both for the food bank and the community."*

Community-Based Food Centre

JANUARY 1984 – 2014



Photo credit: Gary Farrah

new direction the food bank has taken.
bank and for clients who rely on these services.”



“Community Food Centres address the connection between planning and health, provide education for young people, celebrate cultural diversity, provide economic opportunity, and encourage local stewardship and healthier communities.”

FOUNDED IN 1984, THE FREDERICTON FOOD BANK

actually started as a clothing bank in the basement of the Fredericton Seventh-day Adventist Church by a few dedicated elders inspired by Tony Allen and Pastor Ken Crawford. There was a great need for food help as well, so with great faith and prayer, the little group built a tiny 20-by-24-foot building in the church parking lot, where the ministry began. Each month 78 families from the community lined up to receive a small box of food donated by stores and caring individuals, aided by willing volunteers from the church.

Since that time this small food bank has grown to become New Brunswick’s largest food bank. It has a well-established and very strong brand image with the City of Fredericton as “The Fredericton Food Bank.” As a result, all the operations are funded by donations from the local community.

In 2007 the board of directors started looking for a new location and building, as the old building—even after being expanded three times—could not accommodate the growing need of food and clothing distribution. There are approximately 124,172 people living in the service area. Within this population nearly 2,300 individuals, comprising of 1,800 families, currently use the food bank’s service monthly, 36 percent of whom are children. Clients range from single-person households to families as large as 11 persons.

There became an opportunity to purchase a 20-acre property, formerly a garden nursery that had a 9,600-square-foot warehouse space. The board felt that providing supplemental food to people in need is an important service, but it does not help them move toward self-sufficiency—which is the food bank’s ultimate mission. The board investigated several food bank models in Canada and the United States, including Food Share and The Stop in Ontario, and realized that a community food centre model could address the broader needs of the clients.

The fully developed model continues the provision of supplemental food hampers and supplies, but also provides client education services, a community garden and a teaching kitchen to demonstrate healthy meals. It provides an environment that attracts clients to come and enjoy the facilities and to

participate in activities that enhance their self-esteem while they are developing food-related life skills.

The Fredericton Food Bank moved into the new location in May 2011 through the support of community donations and community partners. The new food centre is providing support to community, families, schools, marginalized individuals, persons with disabilities, unemployed individuals, at-risk youth, and others in need. To help guide the board and keep the food centre moving forward, they developed four pillars.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE

Pillar 1: Food and Clothing Bank

The centre continues to service impoverished individuals for emergency food hampers, improving hours of operation, and developing buying clubs to improve the quality of food. Honouring cultural sensitivities in relation to food is another priority, as well as special dietary needs.

Pillar 2: Teaching Kitchen

Integral to our vision of a community food centre is the creation of a “Teaching Kitchen.” Food plays an important role in both connecting and nourishing our diverse community, and cooking simple, nutritionally dense meals is a tradition and skill that must be shared. The Teaching Kitchen offers a supportive environment where clients can cook and eat together, learn and share new skills, and make new friendships.

Pillar 3: Community Garden and Greenhouses

The Greener Village property covers approximately 20 acres, most of which is riverfront land suitable for agricultural development. Community garden raised beds are being built for clients to grow food for their families. Four greenhouses will provide 12,000 square feet of gardens where members of the community will grow organic food to supply the monthly food hampers. Community gardens provide a learning environment as well as exercise and social interaction,

promoting increased self-esteem. It also provides an opportunity to learn about land stewardship.

Pillar 4: Life Skills and Education

Threaded throughout the first three pillars are opportunities to educate and counsel clients on matters related to their physical, financial and spiritual well-being. Literacy education, life skills, and mentorship programs will be more fully developed.

Over the past year, significant milestones have been achieved. The City of Frederick recognized and awarded us with their Green Matters Award, showcasing our initiative of taking a property and transforming it into an environmentally-friendly teaching facility for composting, organic gardening, and recycling, which will overall contribute to a healthier city. It's all about building a healthier environment.

The Chamber of Commerce recognized our new Community Food Centre in October 2013 through their Business Excellence Awards Not for Profit category. This was a nomination and selection between the Community Food Centre, SPCA and Jobs Unlimited. Our organization was awarded and won the category for outstanding business achievement and community involvement.

The construction of our Teaching Kitchen took time and effort in making many applications to foundations and businesses to raise the capital funds of \$80,000. The money was raised, and the official opening of the Teaching Kitchen was in September 2013, attended by our supporters plus several MLAs and the premier of New Brunswick, David Alward. It was a beautiful day, and the food for the event was created and made by our own volunteers in the new Teaching Kitchen facility. The Teaching Kitchen focus in 2014 is developing programs for Collective Kitchens, food budgeting, and cooking for the special dietary needs of our clients.

Shortly after the Teaching Kitchen's official opening, we hosted our very first "Fall Event/Open House," featured as a part of NB Open Farm Day. We made breakfast for 400 guests all with organic local foods, and hosted many events for old and young alike. The Open House brought in over 600 interested people who toured the facility and marveled at the many projects that we have undertaken. The food bank volunteers were all out to support the Fall Event/Open House Day and take care of our guests.

A special part of developing the 20 acres of property is our 15 acres of Wetlands. We are developing walking trails where native trees, as well as native flower and birds, can be identified. The property is being developed into a living classroom for community learning and recreation.

The Native Edible Tree and shrub demonstration site is a self-directed edible landscape that demonstrates the bounty of our New Brunswick forests for all who visit. The edible garden was constructed and built by 100 eager volunteers who supported the project with their time and energy.

The new Community Food Centre engages community interest and support. Financial support comes through businesses, churches, schools, and individuals. Over 60 volunteers help the food bank on a regular basis, and during busier times such as Christmas, over 300 volunteers are engaged to meet the additional needs.

Clients appreciate our effort in trying to make a better place for them, a place where they can participate in volunteering, learn new skills, and access or learn about more healthful food selections for their families. ■

Elizabeth Crawford Thurber is executive director of the Greener Village Community Food Centre.

"What the Food Bank Means to Me"— What Our Clients Say

"Help and welcome when you need it. I am so grateful for all the help I have received. Christmastime is a miracle to me and gives me hope in others. I am so grateful and thankful for the staff and volunteers. Thank you so much!"

"Less stress: knowing that when times are tough, I have somewhere to go; to have the help I need to feed my kids. I appreciate the staff and volunteers. My babies thank you."

"The food bank has been a great help to me through the years. As a single mother I often find it hard to make ends meet, even working full-time. They've pulled us through some rough times and are greatly appreciated by both my daughter and me. Thanks."



WordInSong247.com

Putting the Sledgehammer to Michelangelo's David



Artistry is something I have never fully understood. Just when you believe an artist has perfected his or her craft, it is not unheard of for the artist to smash his or her masterpiece to bits and begin all over again. Imagine the horror that would ricochet through the world of art if Michelangelo were to come back from the dead, make his way to the Accademia Gallery in Florence, Italy, and with several deadly blows destroy his *David* masterpiece with a sledgehammer, vowing to fashion it all over again. Yet this process of remaking the product at the stage of near perfection and completion is exactly what I have seen Ceejay and Elizabeth Horrell do year after year with their Internet project *Word In Song Radio*.

WordInSong247.com is a multifaceted Contemporary Gospel/Christian Internet radio network committed to providing inspirational programming based on a variety of themes from the Bible. It delivers music and short informative educational programming on health, relationships, children, youth, and family issues.

"I appreciate WordInSong247.com. It is very beautiful music and not just another Internet radios station; the music is powerful and soul satisfying," comments Eustace Williams, Ontario Conference Personal Ministries director.

Ontario Conference president, Mansfield Edwards, says, "Congratulations on the full execution of a dream inspired by God; an inestimable number will benefit daily."

Over the years I have witnessed Ceejay's deliberate momentum to move this ministry to ever-higher levels. First, it's a testament to what a family can do to spread the Adventist message. Second, Word in Song Radio speaks to the largely untapped potential of media ministry in the Canadian context.

I have often felt that media ministries in Canada are an imported microcosm of ministries from the United States. While I have been blessed by Hope Channel, 3ABN, Amazing Facts, Breath of Life and others, I feel that the time has come for us to do more as a mature territory within the North American Division. Word in Song Radio presents an opportunity for churches in Canada to have a homegrown media ministry that will join the ranks of It Is Written Canada, Discover the Power (the product of the preaching president, Mansfield Edwards) and Canada's Adventist Radio economically and efficiently. It's a stage on which the Adventist message can be presented with balance and integrity.

Word in Song Radio gives churches and individual members a platform on which they can promote their ministry activity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its music ministry and programming are well balanced, meeting Canadians right where they are. Ceejay and Elizabeth have branded Word in Song over the years to provide unique opportunities, and the result is truly a masterpiece.

The road toward excellence is never easy. From Ghirlandaio, who claimed that he taught Michelangelo everything he knew, to Totrigiano, a sculptor who punched Michelangelo in the face and broke his nose, the pursuit of excellence requires steadfast determination. The book of Revelation commends the patience of the saints. There is no better way to commend this ministry than by becoming an avid listener. Tune in to Canada's excellent media ministry in the making and hear for yourself: WordInSong247.com. ■

Robert Greaves is the assistant pastor of the Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A New Adventist Asks

Church members tell me to read only the King James Version, but English is not my first language and I have trouble reading the King James. The Good News Bible is easier to read and clearer, but I'm told it's a bad translation. What are your thoughts on this?

Your question is very important, particularly now that many translations of the Bible are available. Here are several things to keep in mind:

BE AWARE OF AND OPEN TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE LIVING WORD OF GOD.

When we read the Bible, our main objective is to find Jesus Christ, a vital quest that goes beyond ascertaining the best translations of the Bible. As Frederick Buechner aptly said:

When God speaks, things happen, because the words of God aren't just as good as God's deeds; they are God's deeds. When God speaks, John says, creation happens, and when God speaks to the creation, what comes out is not ancient Hebrew or the King James Version or a sentiment suitable for framing in the pastor's study. . . . God wanted to say what God is all about and what humankind is all about and what life is all about. It wasn't a sound that emerged, but a man. Jesus was His name. He was dynamite. He was the word of God.¹

In other words, attach yourself to Jesus and not to any one specific Bible translation. The translations are tools for an encounter with God Himself.

NO TRANSLATION IS PERFECT.

All translations of the Bible do not necessarily satisfy the criteria for a faithful presentation of God's desire to speak to human beings. In addition, among the multitude of options on the market, the methodology of the translators differs. Some are faithful to the original text (Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament), and their work is considered "word-for-word translation." Their main goal is not elegant articulation or even smooth reading but rather correctness. The King James Version is one of them; other such versions include the New King James Version (NKJV), American Standard Version (ASV) and Revised Standard Version (RSV).

Other translations aim for best results in comprehension. Their dynamic concept of rendition often transforms the structure of the sentence, metaphors and concepts to what the equivalent would be in the target language—in order to make the understanding easier. This procedure is called "thought-for-thought translation." The New International Version (NIV)—even though some affirm that it is a mixture between word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation—the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB), the New Living Translation (NLT) and others belong in this category.

Finally, there are paraphrased translations, which are designed to touch the minds of the readers by elaborating on the verses to round out the meaning and by employing poetic language; these

are designed to make meaning very accessible. Among them you can find the Good News Translation (GNT), the Message (MSG), the Contemporary English Version (CEV), etc. These make for a more effortless read and can often offer insights or nuances to those who are accustomed to word-for-word translations; they are good for devotional purposes. However, one major inconvenience is that these paraphrased translations are not suitable for a serious inquiry of truth, because they do reflect the translators'/writers' interpretations.

ELLEN WHITE REGULARLY CONSULTED SEVERAL VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE.

Evidently, Ellen G. White read the English Revised and the American Standard Versions, available at that time. She was confident in God's direction in preserving the texts of the Scripture through the centuries: "Some look to us gravely and say, 'Don't you think there might have been some mistake in the copyist or in the translators?' This is all probable, and the mind that is so narrow that it will hesitate and stumble over this possibility or probability would be just as ready to stumble over the mysteries of the Inspired Word, because their feeble minds cannot see through the purposes of God."²

In conclusion, **find a good reference** for your Bible study among the word-for-word translations, such as the NKJV. One of the best options is an Andrews Study Bible, an NKJV Bible with brief, excellent notes.³

Use other versions of the Bible, including your Good News Bible (GNT), as an opportunity to stay closely connected to God in your devotional time.

Start memorizing Scripture (in NKJV, for example). Memorizing Scripture will improve your knowledge of the plan of salvation and will allow the Holy Spirit to remind you of some important truths during challenging times.

Act. Whatever you understand from the Bible, put it into practice by God's grace. Søren Kierkegaard said, "The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly." Also, never stop sharing what you learn with others (see 1 Pet. 3:15).

All the best in your precious reading time. May the Book of books become your everyday treasure. ■

Daniel Stojanovic is the vice-president of administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

¹ Frederick Buechner, "John the Evangelist," *Beyond Words: Daily Readings in the ABCs of Faith* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2004), p. 201.

² *Selected Messages* 1:16.

³ *Andrews Study Bible* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2010). Available at any Adventist Book Centre (ABC).

home is where the heart is

REMY GUENIN



Home is where the heart is, and Remy Guenin's heart is in Christian education.

Remy was born and raised in Oshawa, Ont., and is blessed to be a fourth-generation Adventist. In 1968 his parents were living in Collonges-sous-Salève, France, when they received and accepted a call to reach English and French at Kingsway College. Four years later the Guenin family moved to Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa, where Remy's father served as Education secretary for the African Equatorial Union of Seventh-day Adventists, and his mother worked as an administrative assistant in the offices there.

In 1976 the Guenins returned to

Oshawa. Remy's father then spent his days at the University of Toronto working on his doctorate and his evenings working at College Woodwork to support his family. After completing the studies for his doctorate, Remy's father became the business manager at Kingsway College. Remy and his two sisters, Cathy and Florence, all attended and graduated from Kingsway College.

After graduation, Remy attended Southern College (now Southern Adventist University). It was there that Remy met his wife, Stephanie. They were married in 1992 and now have three beautiful children: Hannah, Lauren and Hudson. After graduating with his BA in Education in 1995, Remy found himself without a job prospect. Longing to work in education, he decided to leave his future up to God, knowing that He had a plan in mind.

Remy was offered a position at McKee Foods in Collegedale, Tenn. He accepted the job and worked there for five years. In 2000 Remy received a call to be the assistant dean at Kingsway College. This was under the leadership of the head dean, Jim Ryan, who became a mentor and close friend. It was with difficulty that in 2004 Remy made the decision to go back to McKee Foods in Stuarts Draft, Va. However, he felt strongly that he was following the Lord's leading to return at that time. Six years later, Remy

accepted a call to come back home to Kingsway and serve in his current position as director of Enrolment and Development.

Having grown up in the Adventist educational system, Remy desires to have his own children experience the joys of Christian education. He strongly believes that Christian education is a beacon of hope for our youth and offers a place where young men and women can come together to worship God, live a Christian life, get an excellent education and make lifelong friends. It is a place for young people to become grounded in their faith before they venture out into the world and become "the salt of the earth."

When asked what difference he believes our youth can make in the world, he says, "I believe it is important to teach our youth early on that they can have a personal relationship with a risen Saviour who loves them and will never leave them. If they can understand the reality that God is their refuge and their hope, then they can more effectively weather the storms of life and also help and encourage others."

One of the many memorable experiences Remy had while studying at Kingsway took place while he was working in the maintenance department. He remembers the days when the only way they could mow the valley or the sledding hill was to use a push mower. Even with two or three guys working on it nine hours a day, it still took multiple days to finish mowing those areas. Remy said that "depending on the weather, we sometimes finished just in time to start all over again." This may explain why Remy is such a fan of winter!

Second Chronicles 20:15 is a verse that Remy holds close to his heart. He says the entire chapter is amazing, but he especially loves the part when God speaks through Jahaziel, saying, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's" (NIV). ■

Ashley Arriola is the communications assistant at Kingsway College.



Supplying Tools

If you went to an auto mechanic to get your car fixed and you noticed that the mechanic had only a hammer and a wrench—how confident would you be that the mechanic could properly replace the timing belt on your car?

We cannot expect our youth and young adults to share the everlasting gospel with their peers if they do not have the proper tools. Some may wonder, *You need tools to share Jesus?* Well, in order to connect with today's youth and young adults, merely speaking the proper language is a much-needed tool. The older I get, the more I discover that I don't speak that language too well anymore.

When we look at our own youth and young adults within our church in Canada, we learn we are retaining only about 30 percent. Our schools have much to do with that retention rate. What if you were to use that 30 percent statistic on my child to predict whether my child will remain faithful to Jesus and His last-day church? I'm sorry, but that is not good enough for me. We need to see a 100 percent retention rate for our children! How do we reach the other 70 percent who may not fit into the mold of the 30 percent?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) and the North American Division (NAD) are actively involved with giving our youth and young adults the tools they need in order to stay connected to Jesus and our church. "How are they doing this?" you ask. Through training events like the Canadian Adventist Youth Summits held every two years across Canada and the NAD's Just Claim It World Prayer Congress (JCI).

These two events are packed full of information and resources to help make our outreach to our own youth and young adults more effective. They will not only be trained to reach those within the church but will also be given the tools to reach the people outside our church, who are getting harder and harder to reach.

Jesus was incredibly able to reach the most ostracized people

groups of His day. These are groups that the religious community would have nothing to do with; yet Jesus regularly ate and drank with them. How do we give our own young people the tools and resources to connect with the same groups Jesus ministered to? And what would some of those people groups be today?

Don James from the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) told a small group of pastors in Moncton, N.B., that most Seventh-day Adventists will never reach 50 percent of the population. The reason why we will never reach half of the population is that we never go to where they are. Look to where Jesus went and you will begin to see where these groups are.

I have begun to realize something of our youth and young adults. Many are in contact with that same group every day of their lives. Our own youth and young adults are the group that can best minister to the people whom most Seventh-day Adventist will never come in contact with. This is why we need to be training our own youth and young adults with the best methods to strengthen their own walk with God and to give them the tools to go to these "secluded" groups and reach them with the most wonderful message of the everlasting gospel.

So the next time you find out that there is a Canadian Adventist Youth Summit or JCI—do whatever you can to make sure that as many youth and young adults attend these events. Raise the funds somehow, but make sure we send as many as possible to finish this great work that God has given this last-day church. ■

Paul Llewellyn is the executive secretary of the Maritime conference.



Ayla Fortney

Parkview Profiles

"Students get to have personal relationships with teachers instead of them just being your instructor."

Grade 12 student Ayla Fortney enjoys being a part of PAA's active student body. She sings special music for Sabbath school and church, enjoys digital photography, and plays for the Panthers basketball team. Without PAA, she says, "I probably wouldn't be here today."

Growing up in Central Alberta, Ayla attended public schools until junior high. She began having trouble with her peers and encountered bullying and other behaviours that led her family to place her in a Christian school. After spending her Grade 8 year at College Heights Christian School in Lacombe, Ayla chose to give her life to God. Her 2010 baptism was celebrated at Foothills Camp during Alberta Campmeeting.

Adventist education played a huge role in her relationships with both friends and God. Given the option of changing schools after Grade 9, Ayla knew that PAA was where she wanted to be. She watched her old friends struggle with alcohol and drugs and lacking the benefit of daily worships and prayer. She admits, "I wasn't willing to put myself in that position." But even though she was not challenged by such temptations, her Grade 10 year became her most difficult time.

In November 2011, PAA's vice-principal, Mr. Jamieson, called Ayla into his office to tell her there was an ambulance at her home. Pastor Steve Reasor, PAA's chaplain at the time, accompanied her, along with a close friend, as they learned that Ayla's mom had unexpectedly passed away. She reflects on the outpouring of love, prayer, and spiritual support that came from her campus community as she dealt with grief and loss: "People who didn't usually talk to me gave me hugs and showed me they cared."

Having a chaplain at school is what saved Ayla's life and faith. She shares, "Pastor Steve was always there to talk with me when I had bad days." His encouragement

and prayers helped her work through the tough questions about God's love and power to intervene in the lives of loved ones. Ayla says she is still growing. "Trusting in God lets me have the hope of that connection with my mom that I wouldn't have otherwise," she says.

The power of a praying community is evident, as two years later Ayla is still moved by the concern PAA has for her. "People are always checking in with me to see if I'm doing all right," she shares. "We're like a family here."

Though Ayla commutes to school from home, she recognizes what a personal place the hilltop is: "Half of us live together [in the dorm], so we have more connections than any other school."

The connections she speaks of are found in both students and staff alike. Ayla's favourite part about PAA is that "students get to have personal relationships with teachers instead of them just being your instructor." These relationships are fostered by the many extracurricular activities available at PAA. Recently, Ayla enjoyed the Outdoor Club canoe trip, accompanied by Ms. Grovet and Dean Kevin; as well as the challenge-filled Senior Survival, where Ayla recalls, "We really had to learn to work together and get to know everybody."

After graduating this spring, Ayla plans to take a year off and participate in an international mission endeavor. She remembers a previous mission trip to Belize and hopes she can go again soon. Following this experiential learning, Ayla hopes to return to CUC and enrol in an undergraduate program that will help her reach her goal of becoming a speech language pathologist.

The education Ayla will complete at PAA is little when compared with the lessons of love and compassion that she will take away from her time here. "People have been so nice to me," she says, "and I can be there for other people too." ■

Katelyn Ruiz is communications assistant at Parkview Adventist Academy.

Spotlight

Scripture Songs

... songs or music hold the power to convert or destroy, to uplift or put down.

What constitutes a Scripture song? This was the question some people raised during the Adventist Canada-wide Scripture Songwriting Contest the *Messenger* launched last summer.

At first seemingly straightforward and easy to answer, this question, however, leads us to think beyond employing direct Bible quotations or verses in a song to incorporating more complex overarching biblical ideas, themes and narratives. For example, what about the open space of a metaphor? Does a Bible text spoken in metaphor remain true to its biblical origin? When we hear someone paraphrase a Bible text, does it retain the intended meaning?

Sermons, for example, often consist of principles that are at the root of multiple passages. Perhaps an element of one verse sheds light on another verse, from which we can then derive a broader meaning. After all, we are told to search the Scriptures and to compare texts to help us understand a passage more fully and clearly.

But what happens when someone uses a text—such as a parable—and applies it back to modern-day life, retelling it in terms to which we, living in the 21st century, can directly relate? After all, we still face the same challenges, problems, and heartaches as did the patriarchs who lived during Bible times; it is only our environment that has changed. Connecting with the Bible in this way, then, makes perfect sense.

But in the context of the Scripture Songwriting Contest, would such creative uses of biblical principles, related in a modern way, no longer qualify as a “Scripture Song”?

When I listen to songs that are labeled “Christian” (as opposed to being called “Scripture” songs) I often hear multiple Bible verses sung—whether in part or whole—throughout the storytelling of the song. I can relate to the message the song is conveying, because it is a familiar theme in a passage or book of the Bible, yet it is speaking to my current life in a rhythm of

language that is popular today. So why do we not call such Bible-based songs “Scripture songs”?

And what about the hymns? Our treasured and revered hymns—many of which still have the ability to bring me to tears before the end of the first stanza. Would they qualify as Scripture songs? Although some people regard them as exclusively holy pieces of work, most underwent a writing process similar to how our modern-day, or contemporary, Christian songs are written today: employing the common language of the day, set to melodies that were familiar and popular at the time. Many hymns were based on popular “bar tune” melodies. Some even took the identical melody of the bar tune (not to be confused with a tavern but equivalent to top-40 radio), replacing the lyrics with new spiritual uplifting ones. For example, Francis (Fanny) Crosby, the darling of hymns, matched her lyrics with popular melodies. Is it safe to say there were puritans who believed the music to be too boisterous?

So where does that leave us? Is a song still an inspired work of art if it paraphrases a text or creates a metaphor of a biblical passage? Do Contemporary Christian songs qualify as Scripture songs if the Bible text is not verbatim throughout? No matter what preference we have or musical taste we enjoy, I will leave these questions for you to decide. My only wish is that we all agree that songs and music hold power: to convert or destroy, to uplift or put down. And it’s a tool we can use or ignore. But while we perhaps ignore or fail to utilize its power in ministry and evangelism, the enemy is certainly busy using it. Let us not get caught up in the formalities and definitions of titles lest we waste valuable time in spreading the gospel through the gift of music. ■

Naomi Striemer is a Chapel recording artist, Pacific Press book author, Christian recording artist and sought-after speaker.



How do we help our children realize their dreams and harness their full potential? Who will prepare them? What will be their contribution in this life, and will they be prepared for eternal life?

Adventist Christian Education A Wholistic Development

Visiting our Adventist schools across Ontario and observing their positive involvement in their communities is inspiring. Adventist schools focus on developing the whole person. They provide Adventist parents with the option to place their children in an environment where they have opportunities to grow academically, physically, socially and, most importantly, spiritually, under the care of dedicated Adventist teachers and administrators who are interested in their wholistic development.

Academic Development

Cognitive Genesis demonstrated that our students score above the national average in academic achievement, but as important as this is, it is not the sole reason the Adventist school system exists. Our primary focus is to lead children to Christ within the framework of the Adventist worldview and to educate children and youth for service in this world and for an eternity with Jesus.

Our students' academic achievement demonstrates that academic excellence is strengthened by the home–church–school partnership, which is an important part of the Adventist educational philosophy. Cognitive Genesis also demonstrated that the longer a student attends an Adventist school, the higher his or her achievement and ability.

Social/Service Development

Learning to serve others as Jesus did is an important part of our school programs. On Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, Grandview Adventist Academy (Hamilton) partnered with the Living Word Christian Fellowship and the Eva Rothwell House to help underprivileged families in their local community. The school adopted 10 families, and the upper-grade students accompanied a child from each family to the "Christmas Shopping Mall" to choose a gift for each member of the family and for himself/herself. Additionally, the Chime Choir treated the children to music. Principal Lisa Clarke was impressed as she watched her students experience the joy of giving.

On Jan. 21, 2014, the Crawford Adventist Academy Elementary Choir (North York/Toronto) delivered an outstanding performance

of "Oh Canada" at the Westin Harbour Castle in honour of former prime minister Jean Chrétien for his 50 years of public service and his 80th birthday. They performed for about 1,000 guests, including former prime ministers and governor generals, the premier of Ontario, the leader of the National Liberal Party and other dignitaries. The choir was well received with resounding applause. Pupils were commended for their rendition and for their deportment. Principal Judy Burgin-Hall, teachers, parents and others all commented that it was a proud moment for the school as well as for Adventist Christian education.

Physical Development

Many of our schools also excel in athletics. On Feb. 5-9, 2014, the high school girls' and boys' basketball teams from Crawford Adventist Academy competed at Andrews University in the Cardinal Classic tournament for Adventist academies across North America. The boys' team placed second and the girls' team placed third in their respective categories.

Spiritual Development

All of our schools conduct weeks of spiritual emphasis twice yearly. In some cases, students go into the community and invite visitors to join them. The annual Christmas programs highlight spiritual themes, the true meaning of Christmas. But even more important than spiritual programming is the daily influence of a Christian teacher who leads by both precept and example.

There is not space enough to recount all the wonderful things happening at our Adventist schools across Ontario. And even better than reading about them is experiencing them for yourself!

"The Lord would use the church school as an aid to the parents in educating and preparing their children for this time before us. Then let the church take hold of the school work in earnest and make it what the Lord desires it to be."¹ ■

Donald McIntyre is Superintendent of Schools for the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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Alberta

The Following



Branded clothing created for the event emphasize John 10:27.



Lyle Notice and Joseph Augustin, College Heights Church youth pastor.

The room was packed and as music began playing, the praise team worshipped God in freedom and unity. To see so many young people engaged in worship was simply amazing. Afterwards they were split into groups and given two columns of words. They were asked if the words had any connection to one another, then asked if any of the words described them.

I saw a young person handing out an M&M candy to each person in the room. At first I thought, "Wow, they are giving out free candy?" then it was explained that each one of us is like an M&M, we are all different colours but on the inside we are the same.

Pastor Joe's sermon was entitled, "Spanked!" At first I didn't know what to make of it. But I listened intently as he told the story of a boy who had gotten into trouble. The boy's punishment required a spanking from his mother, but he was let off. As Pastor Joe preached, I realized he was talking about the law, a traditional evangelistic series topic, but he delivered it in a modern way to impact the lives of youth.

As the sermon came to an end, all eyes were on the speaker and not once did they take their eyes off him until the closing

when he said, "But you will have to hear the rest of the story tonight." All the youth were disappointed because they wanted to hear the rest of the story.

After the program I asked Pastor Joe why he decided to go with the title, "The Following." Pastor Joe said, "Jesus had 12 followers whom he trained, equipped, and empowered. They went out and changed the world. Leaders don't create followers; leaders create leaders. This series is about creating a movement around Jesus and creating followers of Jesus who, in turn, become leaders that change the world."

What I saw that day was a huge following of young people on fire for Christ. Pastor Joe even had cool branding with T-shirts and hoodies. After that I wanted to follow! ■

—Lyle Notice, associate youth director,
Alberta Conference of SDA

Church Growth in Lloydminster and Bonnyville



Newly baptized (l to r): Sue Hurdman, AJ Campos, and Jergens Campos.

The Lloydminster and Bonnyville churches are excited about an influx of immigrants to both congregations. In fact, the growth in attendance in Bonnyville has presented a challenge: the need for a new church building. On some Sabbaths there is not enough seating for everyone. On the other hand, after years of struggling to maintain a viable congregation in Lloydminster, there is now a regular attendance that fills approximately 80 percent of the sanctuary capacity. At the Lloydminster church on Dec. 14, 2013, there were three baptisms and one membership transfer from Hong Kong. ■

— Bob Pohle, pastor,
Lloydminster and Bonnyville
Adventist churches

Restoration in Calgary

As I arrived at Calgary Bridgeland church for AY, I was greeted with smiles from the youth and Pastors Lawel Natufe and CJ O'Connor. Having so many young people fill the pews was a sight to behold. Calgary Central church youth pastor, Matt Persanti, hugged me and was ecstatic as well.

As I stood and listened to the melodious harmonies from a group of CUC students, led by Carey McNorton and Matt Edwards, singing the praise of God passionately and authentically, I felt like I was in the heart of worship, freely praising God in my own way.

CUC marketing representatives Tiniel Parredon and Melody Ilacas helped provide transportation for over 30 CUC students to enable them to be a part of this Calgary-wide youth restoration event.

One of the key organizers was an exceptionally creative fourth-year religious studies student, Akeem Ambrose. I was blown away by the worship experience he had created. Although he would graduate in less than two weeks, that particular day he wasn't focused on grades but on creating an atmosphere of rest and restoration.

Ashleigh Rosary performed sign language to a beautiful Gospel song; it was expressive and touched the hearts of those who watched.



Lyle Notice (l/r) catching up with Matthew Persanti, youth pastor of Calgary Central Church.

As I listened intently, Sherwin Whyte and other students spoke about the power of God and how He used Jesus to reach out to us. Akeem, a poet by nature, shared poetry from his heart touching on the idea that God can repair anything that seems to be broken. It spoke words of encouragement to me because sometimes I feel broken beyond repair.

As the program came to a close, Carey finished with a song, but a request came from an audience member. Carey invited him up to sing, and it was none other than Bridgeland church chorister, Jamie Browne. He grabbed the microphone and called up a friend of his to lead out in a powerful song called "Jesus Promised." As they sang, the choir joined in and unity of praise

filled the church.

Restoration implies a return of something to a former owner, place or condition. That day many who had strayed from God returned to their heavenly Father; many who had left the church had returned, and many who had broken hearts and spirits were restored.

I am so glad that our rubbish is God's treasure! ■

— Lyle Notice, associate youth director,
Alberta Conference of SDA

British Columbia

Ern Brake Elected Assistant to the President for REACH



Ern Brake

On Tuesday, April 8, 2014, the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) Board of Directors unanimously elected Ern Brake as the new assistant to the president for REACH. Ern will start his REACH duties immediately as well as continue his ministerial director duties until the board fills that position.

Ern Brake came from a Canadian Air Force family and grew up in Europe and

Atlantic Canada. He was converted from atheism in 1980 at the age of 20 while attending Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S. Ern's first contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church was in response to an *It Is Written* telecast. After resigning his position at VIA Rails Canada for Sabbath reasons, he took theology at Canadian University College, graduating with June, his new bride, in 1985.

Together with their son, Michael, Ern ministered in Newfoundland as a pastor, and June served as a school principal. The Brake family moved to British Columbia in 1997, a homecoming for June, who is from Victoria. Ern started serving as ministerial director in 2010, receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews University soon afterwards, where his studies centred on Adventist ministry for the postmodern mindset.

As the new assistant to the president

for REACH, Brake's challenge will be to develop, promote and assess the implementation of strategies for REACH BC & Yukon. This will include connecting with leaders throughout the conference with a focus on mission, strategic planning, collaboration and accountability. REACH BC & Yukon is a strategy framed around an enduring set of values that characterize a mission-driven church of excellence.

These core values are: R—Revival and transformation; E—Education for discipleship; A—alignment within the church; C—Community outreach and evangelism; H—Healthy leadership and management.

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (British Columbia Conference) is to help local churches and schools REACH British Columbia and the Yukon with a Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness. ■

Brain Seminar

The Penticton church recently hosted Dr. Arlene Taylor's weekend seminar entitled "Realize Your Full Potential."

Besides church members from Penticton and neighbouring churches, a large number of community people attended the seminar, which ran from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. The response to the seminar was very positive. The church provided a Sabbath lunch plus an evening meal. Some people who came to the event were so impressed that they came back on Monday evening to the CHIP Alumni Potluck meeting!

Taylor is one of the world's leading speakers on brain function and is sometimes referred to as the "brain guru." She specializes in simplifying this complex topic of brain function, with the goal of helping individuals learn to thrive by design. Whether through keynote addresses, seminars, consulting, coaching, television and radio, or her books, CDs and DVDs, success stories pour in from the four corners of the world.

Taylor is founder and president of Realizations Inc., a non-profit corporation that engages in brain-function research and provides related educational resources. She has mastered the art of engaging her audience, as she adds humour and wit to her presentations.

In the compilation book *Education*, page 197, we read the following: "The influence of the mind on the body, as well as of the body on the mind should be emphasized. The electric power

of the brain, promoted by mental activity, vitalizes the whole system and is thus an invaluable aid in resisting disease. This should be made plain. The power of the will and the importance of self-control, both in the preservation and in the recovery of health, the depressing and even ruinous effect of anger, discontent, selfishness, or impurity, and

on the other hand the marvelous life-giving power to be found in cheerfulness, unselfishness, and gratitude should also be shown."

Ask what energizes her, and Dr. Taylor will likely reply, "This is the age of the brain! As a brain-function specialist, I love to share information that can help people use their brains more effectively—by design." Taylor has the following quotation on her website: "Others may not remember exactly what you said, or did, or even how you looked, but their brains will always remember how they felt in your presence." ■

—Connie Kiefiuk, Penticton Seventh-day Adventist Church CHIP director



Dr. Arlene Taylor

More Precious Than Gold



One of the most sacred moments in life is the exchange of vows in a marriage ceremony, taken in the presence of witnesses and before God.

This covenantal vow is not only understood to be binding but also lays the foundation for a new life together in holy matrimony. In very much the same way, the baptismal vows bind believers into a covenant of love with Jesus Christ and set the stage for their new life together, forever.

Such was the case on Nov. 16, 2013, when five new believers stood before their new church family and uttered words of commitment to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Without hesitation, they avowed their love to Him and committed to serve Him unreservedly for time and eternity. For these precious individuals, this was one of the most momentous and joyous occasions in their lives. So, too, for those who were present to witness this solemn ceremony.

The joy of both of the new believers as well as our church family was overwhelming. Perhaps as many as half of the congregation moved forward and stood by the baptismal tank to watch the immersion of each individual.

As each was buried with Christ in baptism and raised as new creatures to walk in the newness of life, the joy of our church family was expressed in songs of

praise and thanksgiving.

A solemn atmosphere of gratitude to God pervaded the congregation as we celebrated the new birth of our friends and loved ones, realizing that heaven was also rejoicing with us.

Each of the five believers come from widely different backgrounds, reflecting the rich diversity that is a hallmark of the Richmond Adventist Church.

Most importantly, all of them were led to Christ through the friendship and personal effort of someone in our congregation. We look forward to what God will do in our church this year as we continue to take seriously the Great Commission enjoined upon us by our Lord.

The mission of the Richmond Seventh-day Adventist Church is to be a light to the community by unreservedly following Christ's example and commission (see Matt. 28:19, 20), serving continually, studying constantly and loving all unconditionally. Here at the Richmond church, we are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ so that as many of our friends and neighbours as possible may come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. ■

—*Iris Wong, communications secretary, Richmond Seventh-day Adventist Church*

>> See more at <http://goo.gl/HoJag0>

Spiritual Depot

The year 2013 was the year of reaping and discipleship training for Spiritual Depot (Chinese ministry).

The focus of our ministry has shifted from the Simon Fraser University (SFU) campus in Burnaby, B.C., to the Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We baptized six young people in August, and one on Dec. 6, 2013. There is a high retention rate for the newly baptized members. In fact, there is only one member who is not attending faithfully, mainly because he is living far away in Surrey. All the others have been attending the Sabbath meetings faithfully.

MISSION ACTIVITIES

We have maintained our model for missions, which includes Friday night house fellowship, weekday Bible studies and Sabbath worship.

Friday Night Fellowship: With the support of the conference, union and global mission funding, we have expanded our work

to a new Friday night service in Burnaby since September 2013. The Friday night service in Richmond is temporarily closed so that we can concentrate our efforts on establishing the new site. Eventually, as things stabilize and we have grown bigger, we are going to form two Spiritual Depots, one in a member's house and one in Burnaby.

Bible Studies: We have maintained three to four Bible study classes throughout the year. We have finished the Explorer's Bible Study material, and we have started to use the In Step With Jesus Sabbath school series for new members.

Sabbath Worship: We have moved from SFU Interfaith Center to the Westminster Adventist church in May. The main reason for such a dramatic move is because we observed that the campus ministry is not meeting the needs of the young people. The SFU campus is quite isolated (on top of a mountain) and most of the students don't live on campus. Very few students live on campus

during weekends. For the first few months, we attended the English services in the morning and had our own services in one of the Sabbath school classrooms after lunch. Since November, we held our own services in the fellowship hall in the morning and discipleship training in the afternoon.

Special Events: It Is Written's "How Science Discovered God" seminar in SFU in February; baptism on White Rock beach in August; care group training and abundant life seminar by Johnny and Tina Wong from Gateway, Australia, in October; immigration and career planning seminar/evangelism at Westminster church in November; baptism in Harrison Hot Springs in December.

ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The average attendance for Friday night services for the first half of 2013 is about 35. After the move to Burnaby, the attendance dropped to 15 for the first month in September; however, it has since recovered to an average of 25.

The attendance for weekday Bible studies hovers around four or five youth per group. The Sabbath attendance has increased from 10 to 15. Right now the Spiritual Depot has eight newly baptized members and seven members from the Vancouver Chinese church. In addition, we have at least seven non-baptized active members in the group. This constitutes the core group of 22 people. In addition, we have another ten visitors who come and go for a total Friday night attendance of 30 to 35 people.

The median age of the Depot is 25.6. About 64 percent of the group is between the ages of 18 and 29 years old. Sixty-seven percent of members are involved in leadership; 73 percent of members are volunteering.



So far, we had two baptisms in 2012 and seven baptisms in 2013. Out of these nine new members, there is only one high school student who is not participating regularly. Among them, there are two from SFU, two from the University of British Columbia (UBC), two from British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and two from high school. ■

—Peter Qui, pastor, Spiritual Depot (Chinese church plant)



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Evangelism in Moose Jaw, Sask.



Discover Bible School graduates

"So, how long have you been a member here?" Lloyd asked Russ as he sat in his baptismal robe awaiting the baptismal service on the last night of evangelist Jim Reinking's meetings in Moose Jaw, Sask.

"Oh, about two months," Russ replied.

Almost exactly one year earlier, Russ had come out of the sanctuary from the same baptismal meeting at the close of Jim's previous series here, shook Pastor Scott Manly's hand, looked him in the eye and said, "Next time." It had taken Russ, the husband of a church member, 36 years before he chose to come to the Lord and be baptized. He was baptized by his nephew Brad, a former Bible worker for Moose Jaw, in January 2014, having attended some of Brad's meetings a few years ago, some of the pastor's Science and Faith meetings a year and a half ago, and some of Jim's meetings last year.

Lloyd has been a friend of a church member for some 60 years but has never been baptized. He saw the handbill for the Science and Faith series in January and wanted to go. As a result, an interest in God and the Bible was awakened and culminated in his decision to be baptized at the close of Jim's meetings on April 12.

The Moose Jaw church worked hard this winter, conducting a six-week Science and Faith series that covered much of the message in the process, preparatory to the returning evangelist Jim Reinking's series. Meanwhile, Moose Jaw also conducted a Depression Recovery Program, which saw five new participants.

One of those participants, Carolyn, came to Jim's meetings and was one of the baptismal candidates at the end of the meetings. Her life has been markedly changed as a result of both, and family and friends have told us repeatedly that it is obvious.

The efforts have yielded four baptisms this year, as well as 17 graduates of the Discover Bible course conducted during the series and a number of interested persons with whom we will continue to study.

Public evangelism works. But too often, we don't see it work, because we don't work it. Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (ESV). How often do we try an outreach idea once and give up because we don't see immediate results? Putting seed in the ground and expecting a same-day crop doesn't work for farming; neither does it work for evangelism. Paul says "in due season."

We must work the process with patience. Russ made his choice to be baptized only after attending three such series of meetings and going through Bible studies in the pastor's class on Sabbath mornings. Lloyd and Grace, who also was baptized alongside Lloyd, essentially attended two evangelistic series back to back before making their commitments to the Lord.

Public evangelism works, but we must persevere in efforts over the long haul. Ellen White wrote in *Evangelism*, page 334, "After the first efforts have been made in a place by giving a course of lectures, there is really greater necessity for a second

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Nov. 30, 2013, there are 450 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,281,380. There are 80 loans with a value of \$20,251,343.

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

course than for the first. The truth is new and startling, and the people need to have it presented a second time, to get the points distinct and the ideas fixed in the mind.”

Russ, Lloyd, Grace and Carolyn all had multiple exposures to the church and our message, some over the course of years, before coming to their decisions. As churches and individuals, we should never give up on those we reach out to with the love of God and His message for these last days.

The Moose Jaw church rejoices in the opportunities to work this harvest as we see interests develop through continual effort and is grateful to the conference for the support and resources to carry this forward. We also look forward to continuing the work that is building momentum here in Moose Jaw. ■

— *Scott Manly, pastor, Moose Jaw and Swift Current Seventh-day Adventist churches*

IT IS WRITTEN

“Over the past few months, the Board of Directors of It Is Written Canada decided to take the media ministry in a new direction. The Board wishes to recognize the long-standing efforts of Pastor Bill Santos and his wife, Fatima, for their ministry and the lives it touched. The Board asks you to keep Pastor Bill, Fatima and their family in your prayers as they begin a new chapter in their lives.”



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- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Alexandra Yeboah (Yeboah.alexandra@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.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

Announcements

Crawford Adventist Academy celebrates its 61st Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 23-25, 2014. We welcome all our alumni and families, former administrators, board members, chaplains, faculty & staff, parents, friends and supporters. Honouring our TJA Classes of 1979, 1974, 1969, 1963 and all classes prior; CAA Classes of 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989 and 1984. We are looking for 2 representatives for each honoured year as well as volunteers to help in various areas for this event. Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB - Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, 416/633-0090 / toll free 866/960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy Cardona Gamez, Advancement Assistant ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website, www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAA Alumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/14)

New Members

ALBERTA

Matthew C. Holly was baptized in Red Deer County, Alta., on Sept. 15, 2013, by Ian Hardey. He is now a member of the Red Deer church.

ONTARIO

Hua Gui was baptized in Kingston, Ont., on Dec. 7, 2013, by Davicero Swaby. She is now a member of the Kingston church.

Births

Olivia Chareese Flory was born on May 10, 2013, to Wayne and Sasha Flory of Saskatoon, Sask.

Obituaries

Judith (née Demmings) Chittick was born on Nov. 19, 1944, in Saint John, N.B., and died Sept. 1, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich. Judith was a mother, Sabbath school teacher and also served as a missionary in Tanzania for three years and Kenya for five years. She worked as an ESL teacher for 20 years. Judith is predeceased by her brother, Wayne (Joan) Demmings of Victoria, B.C., and her half-sister, Ruth McAllister. Surviving: husband, Thomas; sons, George and Jeremy of Berrien Springs; daughters, Deborah (Bruce) Lorenz of Duluth, Minn., and Jennifer (Brandon) Powers of Orlando, Fla.; sister, Marylyn Miller of Windsor Forks, N.S.; six grandchildren.

Mary Alice (née Smith) Crombie was born on Dec. 11, 1914, in East-end, Sask., and died Jan. 11, 2014, in Enderby, B.C. Mary Alice baked bread to sell to raise money for the new church in Enderby. She loved to sing. She memorized every verse of 350 hymns from the Christ in Song book. Mary was a faithful Bible reader and also passed our spiritual books to encourage others. She is predeceased by her husband, Walter, and son Floyd. Surviving: sons Frank, Robert, Steve, Calvin, Edward, Roy, William and Marvin; daughters, Alice, Muriel and Dorothy; and brothers, Floyd, George and John Smith; 40 grandchildren, 77 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Ann Gillis was born on Dec. 29, 1919, and died Dec. 11, 2013, in Penticton, B.C. Ann was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She also ministered to her Penticton church family and community for many years by her involvement with what used to be the "Dorcas Building." Ann was a great cook and loved to feed people, always providing fresh baked bread and cookies. Ann is

predeceased by her husband, Don. Surviving: son, John "Winkie" Windcliff of Penticton; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Don Gillis was born on July 6, 1921, and died March 17, 2013, in Penticton, B.C. Don was a man of vision, responsibility and generosity. He took good care of his family and was blessed his wife, Ann, who stood by him for 63 years. Born on the Saskatchewan prairies, Don lost his father at a very early age, leaving him angry with God. Years later he discovered the love and grace of God in AA meetings and the Adventist Church, and in both communities he took an active role directing people to a God. Surviving: son, John "Winkie" Windcliff of Penticton; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Marie (née Tym) Letniak was born on Oct. 8, 1917, in Beauvallon, Alta., and died Dec. 23, 2013, in Lacombe, Alta. Marie loved the Lord, and that love showed in her service to others — her family, her church, her neighbours and many others who needed food, clothes or kindness. Marie was a faithful member of the Loyalist church for over 60 years. Marie is predeceased by her husband, James, brothers Sam, Mike and Peter Tym, and sisters Sophie Norhton and Esther Polishuk. Surviving: sons, Ron (Connie) Letniak of Consort, Alta., and Lawrence (Debbie) Letniak of Veteran, Alta.; daughters, Darlene (Paul) Karmy of Burleson, Tex., and Ellen (Bob) Bell of Lacombe, Alta.; brothers Alex (Betty) Tym of Lacombe, and Bill (Betty) Tym of Donair, Calif.; sisters Lila Letniak of Lacombe, Ruth (George) Phillips of Seattle, Wash., and Josephine (Lovyl) Marian of Sherwood Park, Alta.; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Vida Emily (née Hollett) Tkachenko was born on March 2, 1927, in Cornerbrook, N.L., and died Sept. 29, 2013, in Saskatoon, Sask. Vida served as Sabbath school secretary, pianist, was a teacher in children's divisions and volunteered with ingathering and community services. She also provided a loving home to children for social services. She is predeceased by her husband, William, sister, Betty Markwell, and son David Richard. Surviving: sons Robert and Charles (Shawna); daughter, Lillian (Ron) Windell, and foster daughter, Dixie (Warren) Wood; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

William Tkachenko was born on Oct. 23, 1923, in Kiev, former USSR, and died Oct. 25, 2012, in Saskatoon,

Sask. William served as the head deacon at his church. He attended the lawns, blew out the snows and made sure that the furnaces were up Friday so the church would be warm Sabbath morning. William was active in ingathering and held Bible studies with people he found through ingathering. He is predeceased by his brothers, John and Nick; sister, Nina Tararyn; and son David Richard. Surviving: sons Robert and Charles (Shawna); daughter, Lillian (Ron) Windell, and foster daughter, Dixie (Warren) Wood; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

John Welch was born on June 27, 1928, in Portsmouth, England, and died Jan. 26, 2014, in White Rock, B.C. John served as an elder, youth leader, and school board chairman on the Canadian University College board of trustees. He designed several churches and schools. Surviving: wife, Shirley; sons, Kevin (Jenny) of Anacortes, Wash., and Michael (Hiromi) of Sammamish, Wash.; daughters, Karen (Brer) Dobbin of Winnipeg, Man., and Claire of White Rock, B.C.; five grandchildren.

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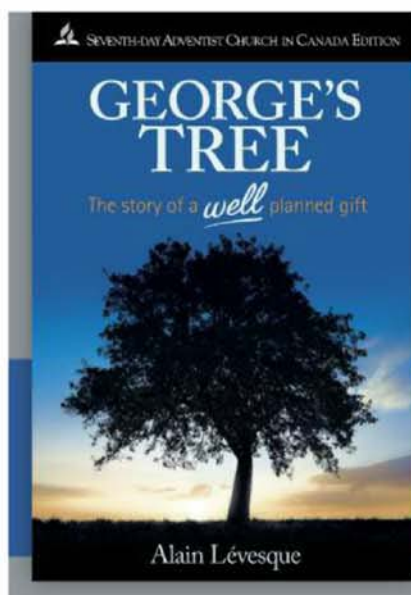
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Andrews University seeks a faculty member for teaching, learning and curriculum education—Qualified person should have a doctorate Ed/D or PhD in teacher education. Must have at least three years teaching K-12 within the United States, public or private. For more information and to apply, visit www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi. (5/14)

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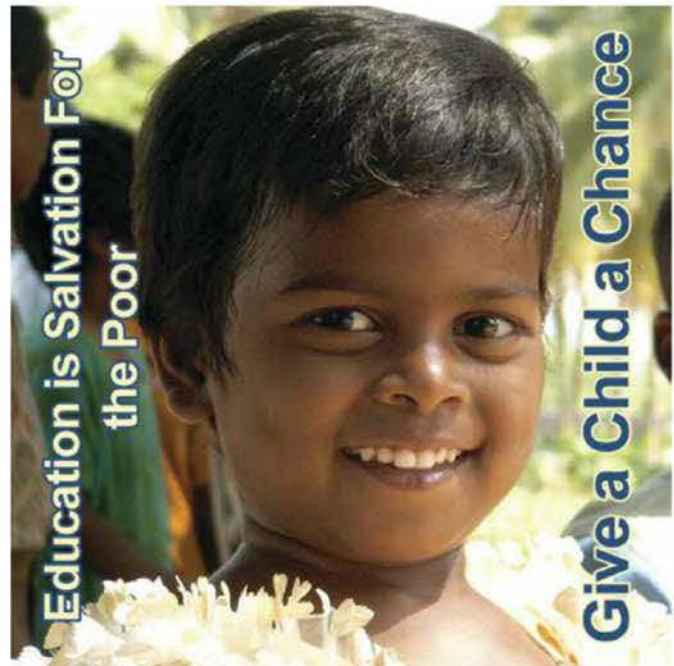


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from the editor

Getting to Know People Before You Need to Know Them

This fall most Adventist churches in Canada will be doing one of the things that makes our church run: nominating people to manage the church and the divisions of the church. One of the rough questions is always this: Is leadership leading the church to fulfill our mission? Answers are given and discussions are had; this is one of my least favorite activities.

I would like to see every church assure that there are members involved with every influential group in the community.

Some say it is not what you know but whom you know. I say both are incomplete—it is what you do with whom you know, that counts. There is a significant difference.

I like how Ellen White put it in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143: “The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good.” Notice He did not do this to “play” them. I do not think He healed the sick to get followers; He healed the sick because they needed healing. He did not feed the hungry in order to get followers; He fed them because they were hungry. Ellen White continues: “He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

I once belonged to a federal political organization when I lived in Oshawa back in the 1980s. I learned quickly that this gave me access to influential people, including meeting the then leader of the party. I thought about that for years. I really could not be owned by the political party, but I could mingle with some of the more politically powerful people in Canada.

Recently, Pastor Antonio Monteiro was released from a Togo prison after being falsely convicted. It took over two years to vindicate him. Many prisons in developing countries are not at all similar to what they are here. You need friends to bring in food and other living necessities, for example.¹ What if the church members and leaders were well connected in the government and legal circles?

We have a few people who are well connected in political circles, but we need people who are connected with the local representatives.

I remember listening to Oprah during the Waco event, and she said nice things about her Seventh-day Adventist friends. That was very beneficial to us.

Step out of the box and mingle with influential people. If you do not do it in your community, who will?

EVANGELISM CAN BE DEFINED AS THE PRACTICE OF SPREADING THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL. The doctrinal message we share—ultimately revealing God’s character—and how we share it define us as a church.

Missionaries travelling around the world are probably the most common image of outreach. However, is not the whole world, including our own “backyard,” a mission field? Is not every person a soul whom Christ longs to welcome into His fold?

Community outreach is an equally vital piece of the evangelistic puzzle. Local churches have often shared health and lifestyle principles through events such as cooking schools and health fairs; it is a practical and relevant ministry that changes hearts and lives. In this month’s column, we take a look at how the local churches took steps to reach out to their world.

Victoria Church Has Two Exhibits — W. W. ROGERS

Roger Ferris, director of the Health Education Center, in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society operated a booth at the J.C. Fair in Victoria. As can be seen from the photo, smoking was the theme. The giant cigarette slide projection system attracted a lot of attention.

Mrs. K. Piper, with the youth group who operates the Way Out Gate spon-

sored the other display. This was manned by the youth of the church. In addition to the Way Out materials, those wishing a refreshment were given a drink of juice. Mary Edwards, literature evangelist in Victoria, shared a portion of the display with the Bible Story books.

These displays present a picture of the church in action in the community. Only

eternity will show the true result of these efforts. While the writer was visiting the Health display, he heard a very interesting conversation between a prominent politician, who visited the booth, and Brother Ferris. Contacts with the mighty and the humble are all part of the summons to go to every creature with the Good News.



Roger Ferris and Health Education and Cancer Society booth at J.C. Fair.



Way Out and Literature display at Junior Chamber of Commerce Fair, Victoria.

Keen Interest Shown in Cooking Classes at Perth Avenue Church

By P. J. ROSE, PR Secretary, Perth Avenue SDA Church

On the night of May 6, 1972, the large hall in the basement of the Perth Avenue Church was the rendezvous of a large crowd who attended the opening display of cooking classes sponsored by the Lay Activities and Health and Welfare Departments of the church.

Dr. E. Buxton, from the Branson Hospital, gave the opening lecture and throughout the three weeks' course other talks and demonstrations were given by instructors from the Willowdale and Perth Avenue Churches. The lectures and demonstrations conveyed to the participants a wealth of ideas centered around the selection of the proper types of foods and the actual preparation of healthful diets.

The meals which were prepared from pure vegetarian foods were described as luscious and appetizing and served as an attraction to many who were not directly



The group that attended the Perth Avenue Cooking Classes.

involved.

Of the number attending, fifty registered in the course and were graduated, not merely with their certificates but with a wealth of knowledge. If properly utilized this will enhance healthier lives and

happier homes.

It is hoped that the increased knowledge now being circulated, and the availability of suitable types of foods will help many more Seventh-day Adventists to become vegetarians.

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