

canadian adventist

march 2015

Messenger

ETHIOPIA

The Transformation of a Nation

PLUS What's in a Name? (p. 11)
Space Enough for All (p. 18)
The Dream (p. 28)

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“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

—Matt. 25:40, ESV



Ministering to the Blind

This April 11, you and I have an opportunity during the church offering to do something big for blind persons. In selected locations across Canada, Adventists offer a week of recreation and fellowship for those with vision loss. Staff who work at our camps find the week of National Camps for the Blind a highlight of the camping season. Without our generous offering, this important ministry would be impossible.

But we can't stop here. Ministry to those with vision loss cannot be outsourced by our churches or simply confined to one week each year. If we are to become effective in supporting and ministering to our blind friends, it must become a part of what we do every day in the local church.

What if Adventist churches throughout Canada were to become a special resource for blind individuals in our communities? Perhaps someone in your congregation can make it his or her special focus to locate those with vision loss in the surrounding area. Members of all ages could learn from the blind what sorts of support we might offer through the many digital devices available today. And then there is the greatest gift of all, friendship or a listening ear.

For many years Christian Record Services in Canada has ministered to blind persons. While Christian Record will continue to exist at the SDACC, changes in our society and economy have brought necessary adjustments to our approach in ministry to the blind. Please begin to think about an action plan that will specifically reach out to those who experience vision loss in your community. Remember that the local church is where ministry is most effectively practised.

In ministry to blind individuals, we reflect the compassion and love of Jesus. During His life of service, Christ was thoughtful of the blind persons He encountered. His life of service can be reflected in our actions today. He says, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40, ESV).

On April 11, please join me in giving generously as we support the Camps for the Blind throughout Canada. ■

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

Messenger

March 2015 Vol. 84 No. 3

Executive Director/Editor Stan Jerven
jervenstan@adventist.ca

Art Director Joan Tanasychuk
tanasychukjoan@adventist.ca

Ad Manager/Circulation Almee Perez
perezalmee@adventist.ca;
mexicanogang@adventist.ca

Copy Editor Vesna Mitrovich
messenger@adventist.ca

The *Canadian Adventist Messenger*—the official magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—is published 12 times per year. Free to SDACC members. Annual foreign subscription price: US\$20. Printed by Miracle Press Limited. ISSN 0702-5084. Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index. Member of the Associated Church Press and the Canadian Church Press.



Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8
phone 905/433-0411 fax 905/433-0982

President Mark Johnson
johnson.mark@adventist.ca

VP Administration Daniel Stojanovic
stojanovic.daniel@adventist.ca

VP Finance Joyce Jones
jones.joyce@adventist.ca

General VP Dennis Marshall
marshall.dennis@adventist.ca

Conferences

Alberta 5876 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5,
phone 403/342-5044

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

Manitoba/Saskatchewan 1004 Victoria Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z6, phone 306/244-9700

Quebec 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E 1A6,
phone 506/857-6722

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

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

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

Canadian University College 5415 College Ave.,
Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

Submission Deadlines

May issue	March 12
June issue	April 9
July issue	May 7

>> View this issue online at www.adventist.ca/messenger

Postmaster: Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to *Messenger* subscriptions, 1148 King St. E., Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Canada Post registration number 40097012.



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20C Robert St. W.
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Phone: (905) 576 6631
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The Unshakable Providence of God

"Be strong and take heart, all you who wait on the Lord."—*Psalm 31:24*

God's providence is unshakable. In His time, He fulfills His purposes in the healing and restoration of my soul. I am so thankful.

His timing is so perfect. He is firm yet gentle, considerate, mindful, and actively engaged in my redemption. Ours is a God who can be trusted! Absolutely. Utterly.

Yet, I must admit that it can be difficult to fully embrace the reality of God's faithfulness. When tragedy strikes, when circumstances catch us off guard and we are ill-equipped to cope. When loss breaks us down. It is at these times of vulnerability that we are tempted to turn away from God. But it is during these times that we need Him the most and that He promises to be the closest. Ellen White states the following:

Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. "The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice.¹

Through the privilege of prayer, the Lord takes our doubts and fears, our misdirected thoughts and energies, and refocuses them. Our misery can become our ministry as we choose to trust in Christ. Claiming the promises of God and surrendering ourselves to Him

is a conscious choice we make. It is a privilege of faith that characterizes God's end-time commandment-keeping people. The same God who promises to partner with us and to guide us through the affairs of this life is the same God who will reward our faithful trust in His unshakable providence.

Personally, I have been greatly comforted by the thought that God is able and willing to ensure that "all things work together for good" (Rom. 8:28). The worldview of the Bible and the great controversy theme developed within the Spirit of Prophecy writings has helped me to place the inequity of this life into proper perspective.

There are homes for the pilgrims of earth. There are robes for the righteous, with crowns of glory and palms of victory. All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying. As we realize the tender care of Him who makes all things work together for our good, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.²

Ron Nelson is president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.



¹ Ellen G. White, *A Call to Stand Apart: Challenging Young Adults to Make an Eternal Difference* (Selections from the Writings of Ellen G. White: A Paraphrase) (Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 2002), 27.

² Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, 1952 (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1980), 542.

teen talk

Q: I have been wanting to join the Navy to be a nurse. But I don't know how to go about it. Are Seventh-day Adventists allowed to join the military? I'm asking because I was talking to my mom about it, and she said that she will not support my decision, since joining the military will result in me losing eternal life.

A: It's a personal choice. The culture and country you live in makes a big difference, too. For instance, there are quite a few Canadian Adventists who are in law enforcement or in the army. In the United States, it is highly respected (fellow Adventist Rear Admiral Barry C. Black is the current Chaplain of the United States Senate!).

In Canada we have historically seen the armed forces as instrumental to peacekeeping in a global setting—although unfortunately, Canada's participation in UN peacekeeping missions has waned significantly. Even so, if you go to Hispanic countries, it is pretty much the opposite, since the armies in those countries have a history of oppressing its own citizens. Hispanic countries, even Spain, where I was born, have had very negative experiences with their own army. Many people went to jail because of their beliefs about Sabbathkeeping and were hunted down by the police. It makes sense, then, that Adventists in those countries have serious issues understanding why any Adventist would want to become a soldier or police officer.¹

You see, oftentimes our theological interpretations are influenced by our culture and personal experience. I see that in the way your mom reacted to your desire to join the army, even as a lifesaving nurse.

Pray about what is moving you to want to make such a decision, and also consider the pros and cons of having—or not having—support from your close family. ■

¹This is a Hispanic family.



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

Creation Corner for Kids

"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life"—Revelation 21:27

Great Hornbill

The Great Hornbill is a large Asian bird with strange nesting habits. When a pair of Great Hornbills finds a hole in a tree that's not too big and not too small, the female squeezes in and begins mudding up the entrance with mushy fruit, mud, and her own droppings. She leaves a narrow slit just big enough for the tip of her mate's beak to poke into the nest cavity so that he can deliver food to her and the chicks.

The female Great Hornbill lays one or two eggs, which hatch after 38 to 40 days. The mother stays in the nest and feeds her chicks what the father brings until they're able to feed themselves. Once the mother breaks out of the nest to help father bird with the feeding, the baby hornbills seal up the hole again until they're finally ready to leave the nest too.



Think about it.

The jungle is full of dangers for nesting birds, like snakes and birds of prey. To protect her babies, the Great Hornbill simply closes danger out. Heaven is a place where God's children will be safe from sin and every danger forever. In the earth made new, we'll see our Saviour face to face and safely explore and enjoy the world that He has created for us while He rejoices over us with singing. Are you as eager to be there as He is to welcome you to the home He's preparing for you?

Do it!

Study what the Bible says about our heavenly home. Here are some verses to look up: Revelation 21; Isaiah 33:24; Isaiah 11:6-9, 35:1-6, 65:17-25; 1 Corinthians 2:9. Then make your travel plans, because we'll be going to that beautiful home very soon!

Week in Spiritual Emphasis Connected



Friday weavers praise time.

EVERY TIME OUR WEEK IN SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS (WISE) comes around I get excited—not only because of the adjusted class schedule and shorter classes but also because we are given time during our stressful day to refocus our minds on what's most important in life. This year's student speakers for Canadian University College's (soon-to-be Burman University) WISE did an amazing job in sharing their own personal journeys and how they connect with God.

The first speaker, Benjamin Amoah, a first-year General Studies major from Orleans, Ont, began the week of prayer with an eye-opening message about connecting with God in the same way we are constantly connected with our smartphones. He made a great point that we should all be striving to connect with Jesus the way we try to connect to WiFi.

Monday evening, Kelissa Geffrard, a third-year Adventure-Based Counselling major from Miramar, Fla., shared about her journey in following God's plan and how He worked in her life to bring her to CUC. Her powerful testimony was filled with faith-strengthening and encouraging Bible verses that can keep us connected to Jesus. She emphasized the importance of putting our faith in Christ and that as long as we remain connected, we have "no reason to fear, to worry, or to doubt."

The second day of WISE began with Rechelle Smith, second-year Behavioral Science major from Brampton, Ont. She shared her own testimony and spoke about the importance of a God-centred life. Ronald Scalliet, a third-year Elementary Education major from Saint-Georges, Que., spoke that evening and shared about the blessing and miracle of those who have remained in the church their entire lives. We often hear powerful conversion stories, and many who have grown up in a spiritual environment tend to take their upbringing and experience for granted. He brought up some excellent points and suggestions about how we can strive to be continually connected with God and take part in the "feast."

Wednesday morning, the student body was blessed with two speakers at once! Jeff and Josh Bradburn (aka "the twins"), both second-year General Studies majors from Tilamook, Ore., spoke about their journey with God and the importance of wrestling with Him. They formulated the idea that "we aren't Christians to be happy all the time, but we are Christians to pursue God." Regardless of struggles, our constant pursuit of a connection with God will bring us the ultimate reward. That evening Bailey Muller, a first-year Secondary Education major from Woodstock, Ont., shared her powerful testimony about overcoming obstacles and how her faith in God led her to Adventist education. She shared how important it is to not be ashamed of our religion and our God and that by expressing our love for Christ we can ultimately bring others to Jesus.

Jordane Smith, a fourth-year Religious Studies major from Mississauga, Ont., shared her story on Thursday morning. Her emotional testimony focused on the idea that we are all capable of sharing God's love even when we feel rejected. Through her story Jordane shared that when friends let you down, God will hold you up. Marc Andrade, Education After-Degree, from Winnipeg, Man., spoke for the evening service and emphasized how imperative it is that we make our connection with God a priority in our lives. It may take some sacrifices, but it is worth it. Maison Leitch, a second-year Biology major from Lacombe, Alta., was the last of the weekday speakers and shared how he is able to connect with God through

nature. God reveals Himself in so many ways, and it is wonderful and humbling to know that He will reach out to us in ways that cater to our personalities and needs.

The collective WISE message and spiritual atmosphere reached a new height at the Friday night vespers service. The ambiance was filled with a passion and desire for a deeper connection with Christ. The program may have been longer than normal, but I didn't want it to end. The amazing special music, song service, and message by José Sanchez Abuchar, a third-year Religious Studies major from Eobicoke, Ont., created a deep desire within my heart (and hopefully others as well) for an unyielding and enduring communion with Jesus.

On Sabbath morning the last two student speakers presented their messages. Mark Ricalde, third-year Religious Studies major from Calgary, Alta., spoke for first service, and Ashia Lennon, first-year Religious Studies major from Regina, Sask., spoke for the second service at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. Marc spoke about unrealistic expectations that can cause us to stumble on our journey to connect with God. Some obstacles in our journey can be painful and paralyzing. Ashia's sermon entitled "Connect" was the perfect, powerful message to end an amazing Week in Spiritual Emphasis. Her heart-wrenching testimony of helplessness ended in hope and encouragement. When we are at our weakest and we don't understand God's plan, it is still important to remain rooted and have faith in Him.

Unfortunately, I was not able to hear every single speaker that week, but I tried my best, and I was blessed every time I heard a new way someone was able to connect with God. I am so thankful that I am able to attend a university where we can learn from one another and strengthen one another's walks with God. After this spiritual boost, I hope and pray that we all try to continue to strengthen and improve our connection with God. It is difficult to do this on our own, so I highly recommend we work on it *together*.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."—2 Corinthians 4:16-18, NIVUK ■

Codrina Baston is a second-year biology (bio-medial track) student from Port Hope, Ont. Her article "Connected" was featured in the Aurora Chronicles student newspaper.

Where Are They Now



Clayoma and Bill Soloniuk

Messenger: Tell me about your childhood.

Bill Soloniuk: I was born at Bartleford Academy in Saskatchewan. I was the youngest of three children; I had a brother and sister. Just prior to moving there, my dad operated a store in Beauvallon, Alta. My parents had become Adventists through some families who moved there from North Dakota. After my parents accepted the Sabbath, my mother managed the store and Dad visited the neighbours. This resulted in over 20 baptisms. Dad was then encouraged to study for the ministry, which brought about the move to Bartleford Academy.

M: Where did you go to school?

B: I attended the Adventist school in Winnipeg for my elementary grades and completed high school at Harbor Collegiate in Toronto. My college studies began at Canadian Junior College until it was disrupted by World War II. As a non-combatant I performed alternate service working in the BC Forestry and BC Cement in Powell River. I did welding at the plant, earning 50 cents per day. After the war I returned to the hilltop and graduated in the first class at Canadian Union College in 1947. The college had upgraded from a Junior College to a Senior College in Theology.

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

Interview by J.D. Victor Fitch, Messenger Staff Writer.

M: Where and in what capacity did you serve the church?

B: My first assignment was in the British Columbia Conference, starting churches at Laming Mills and other northern communities. In 1949 I married Clayoma Finney, whose father was a well-known evangelist and church leader. We then moved to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, where I served as youth ministry director, followed by Sabbath school/home missionary/public relations director. Our next post was to the Ontario-Quebec Conference, where my assignment was director of Sabbath school and home missions. My last appointment, a position I carried for 12 and a half years, was president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. I retired in 1989 and resided in Saskatoon until 1995.

M: Where are you living now?

B: Since 1995 my wife and I have resided in Loma Linda, Calif.

M: Even though retired from official church leadership responsibilities, how are you still involved in helping others?

B: When we moved to Loma Linda, I served for several years as the Community Services director. A group of Adventists from Canada and the United States has been interested in improving the medical program in the Ukraine, and so I have had the pleasure of making five trips

accompanied by medical personnel from Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Currently, a group of us is working with one of our universities to provide online courses to enlighten and enrich the lives of the young people in the Ukraine.

M: Have you ever had a specific experience where you knew the Lord intervened on your behalf?

B: In 1958 I was returning from Ingathering in -40 C weather. I got chilled and became very ill. The doctors thought I had TB, and so I spent six months in a sanitarium. Later it was diagnosed as a pleural effusion, and a part of my lung was removed. I am convinced the Lord healed me. The Lord and His conference team helped support me through this difficult part of my life.

M: You turned 94 in January of this year and certainly could simply relax. What compels you to keep active in missionary endeavors?

B: Why should I quit? The Lord has been so good to me, and how else can I thank Him for the wonderful message of salvation and the promise of His soon coming? It also keeps me alert.

M: Tell me about your family.

B: Clayoma and I have three daughters and two grandchildren. ■

What's in a Name?

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

You're done, right? There is nothing else to do. There is nothing that can go wrong.

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

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

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

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

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

First, the firm had to get two or three other firms to provide opinions on which charity was the most likely to have been the one that the donor intended. Eventually, the issue had to be settled in court with an order to allow the firm to issue the bequests. All of this could have been avoided had the donor or their lawyer ensured that the charity had been properly named, or identified.

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

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

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

Sharmilla Reid is the director of donor relations at ADRA Canada.

Largest medical team trains and treats Kenyan



A Better World Canada's largest-ever medical team was determined to treat the less fortunate as well as train health workers in Kenya.

While Ebola rocked West Africa and terrorist concerns plagued northeastern Kenya, 38 volunteers flew to Nairobi last November. Wayne Church and his wife, Pauline Comeau, both physicians from Red Deer, Alta., led the team that included an obstetrician, a pediatrician, two family physicians, and a Kenyan clinical officer. By the end of the two-week trip, the team treated more than 1,600 people at 12 clinics, and trained 41 health workers.

It was a trip of several firsts, including the chance for one Canadian doctor to deliver a baby. A pharmacy team joined the effort, too. "We had a very well-rounded team and lots of support," said Eric Rajah, co-founder of A Better World (ABW).

The volunteer-run organization, created and governed by Lacombe's College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, has organized annual medical trips to Kenya since 2008. They have become well-known and respected. Some people walked as many as 18 hours from Tanzania to a recent ABW clinic. That kind of determination shows the extent of A Better World's reputation in health prevention and treatment. Hundreds of disadvantaged Kenyans will line up to seek help from the compassionate volunteers.

"There are some people who are desperate, and though they may not be urgently ill, they'll come into line for free medicine,"

said Rajah. One of the major improvements was having two pharmacists along, said Church. Red Deer's Oksana McIntyre and her daughter Inessa McIntyre, of Edmonton, pre-packaged medications and pre-printed some of the labelling in order to save time. The most commonly prescribed drugs were antibiotics. "It was an amazing experience, beyond what I had expected," said McIntyre.

While providing a acute care is important, ABW believes also in training staff and donating supplies. Fourteen health workers in the Maasai Mara region received training in obstetrics and pediatrics. Another 27 were trained at the hospital in Nanyuki in Central Africa.

"One of the big concerns in Kenya and a lot in Central Africa is maternal mortality, and postpartum hemorrhaging is one of the leading causes of death," said Church. Nanyuki hospital staff deliver an average of 300 babies a month. Balloon catheters were donated there and in the Maasai Mara. These are inserted and inflated when a woman experiences postpartum hemorrhaging. "This is the first time they were introduced [to this form of treatment]," said Church. Health workers also learned about neonatal resuscitation.

A Better World plans to host medical clinics in Tanzania and will build a second health centre in the Maasai Mara. ■

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



Does Civility Exist in Church?

Did you hear about the Harvard University professor who bullied a small restaurant because he didn't get his way? It all started when Ben Edelman accused a small Chinese restaurant for overcharging him. The law professor called in a takeout order from a family-style restaurant called Sichuan Garden.

When he placed his order, he assumed the total bill would be about \$53.35. However, to his displeasure, he was surprised that he was charged an additional \$4. Basically, he was charged an extra \$1 more for each item he had ordered. Apparently, the website menu was out of date.

Thus began a long email battle that eventually became viral. Professor Edelman threatened legal action against the restaurant. He stated in one of his emails, "Under Massachusetts law, it turns out to be a serious violation to advertise one price and charge a different price. I urge you to cease this practice immediately." In the meantime he demanded the restaurant pay him three times the amount of the overcharge. The restaurant offered to pay him \$3, which Mr. Edelman refused.

This matter continued on for three days through email exchange. Finally, the manager of the restaurant asked the law professor, "Is this really worth your time?" and took the emails public by posting them online. Within a few days, the Harvard law professor was inundated with virtual vigilantes who dubbed him the "worst guy on the Internet." Suddenly, Edelman made an about-face and apologized for his behaviour on his website: "Having reflected on my interaction with [the management], including what I said and how I said it, it's clear that I was very much out of line."

This lack of civility isn't unusual in the public sector. We often read stories of rude behavior, road rage, and worse. Do we deal with bad attitudes any better in church? Have you witnessed church leaders engaging in poor behaviour? I've seen it happen at nominating committees, board meetings, and in church over small things such as sitting in someone else's pew, bringing the "wrong" dish to potluck, or having a sense of entitlement. I once had a man grab me by the tie and say, "My tithe paid for that suit; I own your outfit."

How do you deal with difficult people? I am reminded of Paul's statement about milk-bottled Christians: "I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready" (1 Cor. 3:2, NIV). Even though some people may look 55 years old, they may still be immature 10-year-olds in Christian terms. Looks can be deceiving!

Let's remember that we are all on the same team. We serve the same God, and while we may share differences in philosophy and theology, our goal is still the same: keeping our eyes on the prize (see Phil. 3:14).

Jesus gave us a very difficult standard to live by when he said, "Love one another as I loved you. Your love will prove you are my disciples" (John 13:34).¹ Let's try to prove this outside of the church as well as inside. ■

Kumar Dixit is the pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He is the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World. You can follow him on Twitter @kumardixit.

¹ paraphrased.



Still



Words by God —Philippians 4:6, 7, NIV

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6, 7, NIV).

The possession of an inexplicable kind of peace, the kind the Bible is talking about here, implies that some adversity or trial must be going on for this peace to not be explainable. In other words, if everything were always fine, there would be no yearning desire for peace.

Jesus and His disciples were traveling by boat, and He decided to take a nap from the long journey. While Jesus was asleep, a terrifying storm whipped up, threatening to destroy the boat they were on. The wind and waves pounding against the boat swallowed any hope of making it out alive. The disciples were shaking in their sandals and crying out for help. They woke up Jesus in a panic, and He asked why they were afraid. I can imagine what the disciples were thinking at the time: Can't you see the storm? It looked as if they were fish food. However, Jesus was not panicked or worried. He rose up and commanded the winds to hush up and told the waves, “Peace be still.” And everything calmed immediately at the very sound of His voice! (See Mark 4:35-41.)

Life can be like a raging storm that threatens to capsize our heart and steal our peace of mind. If God can calm the raging sea and wind, then what makes us think He is not able to handle the storms that arise in our own lives? We do not need to fear, because with a mere whisper our Lord can calm the storm. He doesn't always take away the waves and wind, but He will give us safe passage through when we ask Him to steady our heart. I believe unexplainable peace is when we see the storm brewing and hear the rushing wind but experience the presence of God in the midst of it all.

The very same God who silenced the storm back then is the one who is actively watching over us every day. We can take Him at His word and trust His heart. It reminds me of what Jesus says in John 16:33: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (NIV). ■

Be Blessed

*Tia Lawrence is 20 years old. She is a member of the Comox Adventist Church on Vancouver Island.
Tia's blog—refreshwithtia.com*



refresh with Tia



Watch “It Is Well” by Kristene DeMarco & Bethel Music on YouTube: <http://goo.gl/0gdEcR>





review

Keith Chant, Manager, IT Services, SDA Church in Canada

app review

App: Loud Cry Radio

In Brief: Loud Cry Radio is a Christian Internet radio station featuring easy-listening Christian inspirational music with a blend of contemporary, country, soul and classic oldies. The station also features short sermonettes interspersed with the music. This is a simple app featuring the radio stream, the station's contact information, and requests from and the station's Facebook and Twitter feeds. The quality of the stream is usually pretty good, with the occasional audio glitch, which is more frequent when navigating around the app. One nice aspect of Loud Cry Radio is that there is no advertising over the weekend and the Sabbath programming is appropriate for that day.

Wow Factor: Quality Christian programming in a nice, simple app.

Meh Factor: Occasional audio glitches, especially when navigating around the app.

Developed for: Loud Cry Radio

Price: Free

Works on: Android, iOS

Link: <http://goo.gl/1Kbtm>



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

prayer life

Simplify

There are so many opportunities on the one hand and distractions on the other for us to consider.

When I walk into a Chapters bookstore, I see that there are many attractive and compelling titles to consider. They represent the vast knowledge that has accumulated throughout history and that today's authors have contributed to. If I were to spend my lifetime at the bookstore, I still could not exhaust all the knowledge and information available. So my time there usually is short, because before I enter the store, I have already made up my mind what book I want to purchase.

To me this is illustrative of our lives. There are so many opportunities on the one hand and distractions on the other for us to consider. We could easily be overwhelmed and confused by the vast number of possibilities.

However, Jesus helps us to simplify the process by asking us to give priority to Him in our lives and He will lead us to all that is important and essential to us: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

In His book *Simplify: Ten Practices to Uncluster Your Soul*, Bill Hybels advocates simplified living. In our rushed age, trying

to cram every possible opportunity into our lives, we often end up exhausted, overwhelmed, overscheduled, and dissatisfied. He advocates giving prime focus in our life to priorities: connection with God, family, satisfying work, recreation, and exercise. In order to do this, we have to adjust calendar, finances, rebalancing our priorities, diet, and life goals.

Prayer becomes an important part of this new refocusing of our lives. Every day, as we spend time with God, He helps us adjust our lives to His agenda. He knows what will bring us satisfaction and fulfillment and what will bring Him the greatest joy.

As we live out 2015 in a frenzied world with so many things clamouring for our attention and affection, let's accept the challenge of Christ to seek Him first. Let's simplify our lives around life's essential ingredients and, with the time, energy, and resources left, let God guide us to what else would be beneficial to add. ■

Donald Corkum is prayer ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and church planting coordinator for the Alberta Conference.

Judaism and Christianity

Repairing the Breach



Olaf and Rhonda Clausen (left) take part in a traditional Jewish special blessing. Alexander Bolotnikov (far right).

Western Canada welcomed its first Adventist Jewish Ministries training on the weekend of Nov. 28-30, 2014 at the Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta. The purpose of the three-day seminar was to provide an educational foundation of Jewish beliefs and practices, including the welcoming of the Sabbath and studying the Torah.

Alexander "Sasha" Bolotnikov, PhD, is the director of the Shalom Learning Centre, an NAD initiative focused on the Jewish roots of Christian faith and building "bridges of understanding and friendship between the Seventh-day Adventist and Jewish communities" in Canada, the United States, and Bermuda.

Bolotnikov's presentations began on Friday with a special service, Kabbalat Shabbat, a welcoming of the Sabbath. He shared that the distinctive message of our Christian denomination is the observance of God's gift, but that there is an important difference between keeping the Sabbath day holy and celebrating the blessing of rest. His own Russian-Jewish roots instilled in him a love of Sabbath, and the impetus behind sharing his story and knowledge of Jewish tradition stems from a desire to see every believer realize God's true purpose in creating Shabbat.

Sasha's experience with the Adventist church has revealed that the value our faith places on Sabbath observance, clean eating, and biblical truth aligns Adventism with Judaism, creating a unique opportunity for unity. It is with this in mind that he leads out in classes and training sessions such as that hosted by the Red Deer church.

More than 50 people came from as far as Edmonton, Calgary, and everywhere in between through one of Alberta's worst winter weather patterns. Olaf Clausen, senior pastor of the Red Deer congregation and Jewish Ministries liaison for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), coordinated the program involving traditional Jewish blessings and songs as well as delicious authentic food prepared by his wife, Rhonda.

Clausen also serves as the program coordinator for the Shalom Learning Centre in Canada and is hoping that this first training initiative will result in more interest and more opportunities for Adventists to reach the Jewish communities of Canada. He has already experienced success in this area, as prior to taking the call to Red Deer in August 2014, Clausen shepherded the Beth Tehillah Vetikva Messianic Adventist congregation in Camrose, Alta.

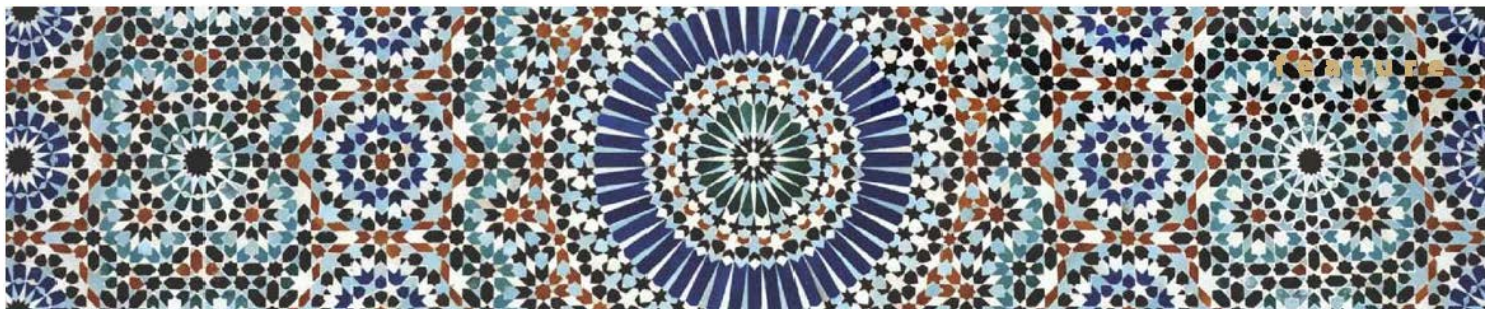
In addition to the Shalom Learning Centre's mission of introducing interested Adventists to Jewish beliefs, they also work to promote a deeper sense of worship within the Adventist Church. This can be accomplished, as Bolotnikov shared, through learning about the use of Scripture in Jesus' time, exploring the Jewish perspective of atonement and forgiveness, and diving into a deeper knowledge of the Jewish Nativity story.

The weekend involved many surprises, including a lively question-and-response period and a demonstration involving an authentic 300-year-old Sephardic Torah Scroll. Opening to the neat, hand-written Hebrew of Genesis 28 brought an abrupt intersection of Christianity's dependence on its Jewish past. One of the highlights was a special invocation of the traditional Jewish blessing for children; the large group of young participants crowded under a prayer shawl for the experience.

The Shalom Learning Centre's vision includes many future presentations and events, beginning with a summer tour to the Middle East taking place June 15-26, 2015. Dr. Bolotnikov will be using his knowledge of biblical Hebrew and Aramaic to lead an educational exploration of sites throughout Israel and Jordan with religious significance.

For more information on the Shalom Learning Centre in Canada, or to see how you can be a part of upcoming events, contact Olaf Clausen (clause@shalomlc.org), or visit canada.shalomLC.org for more information. To follow them on Facebook, look for SLCCanada. ■

Katelyn Ruiz is a teacher and an active member of the Red Deer church.



Connecting Muslims to Christ

Over the years Rudy Harnisch has made some good friends with what most might consider an unlikely group: Muslims. As the Muslim Relation Coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, Harnisch says that it is easier than most people realize to connect with Muslims. Yet, one thing so often holds people back: fear. Now, he says, is the time to move past that.

"Some people are afraid to connect with them, to even say anything to them, [or] to greet them," Harnisch says. "Yet, we have been commissioned to share this message with the entire world. Somehow we've got to get over the fear of even trying to relate to Muslims." This is one of the many things Harnisch has learned over time from his experiences, a collection of which have been far from ordinary.

From 1994–2001, Harnisch served as a missionary in East Africa and Southern Africa, where aside from roofing churches, he would dart all over places in these areas, always hoisting a backpack stuffed with literature to give away, but never having enough to fill the needs. Before his time in Africa, Harnisch says, he understood very little about Islamic cultures, but after being "thrown" into Tanzania, a country where the population is about 40 percent Muslim, he began to recognize the true need to reach the Muslim population.

A couple of years after Harnisch's overseas trip, he began to write. He has now published 40 tracts for Muslims on a wide range of subjects, including Creation, the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, and the righteousness of Christ. Harnisch has also published two sharing books for Adventists seeking to reach this population and is expected to release another book in March that details his own experiences in working with Muslims. Harnisch also conducts training sessions all over the world in order to help Seventh-day Adventists know how to relate best with Muslims in our world today.

Breaking down barriers and reaching Muslims where they are holds deep significance for Harnisch. One thing he has found helpful is becoming well-versed in the Qur'an, which he says reveals a lot of surprising insights about the Bible, Christ, and the gospel message—things that many people, including Muslims, may not even be aware of. Thanks to his in-depth studies of both the Bible and the Qur'an, Harnisch is better able to enter into difficult conversations with Muslims, who often ask, "Is Jesus God?" In response to such a question, Harnisch uses an unconventional approach.

"I really like what it says in your Qur'an," Harnisch often says



Michelle and Rudy Harnisch

to begin the dialogue. Then he shares several verses from their book to clearly illustrate that Jesus (referred to as the prophet "Isa" in the Qur'an) was divine and not just merely human. "The Qur'an makes it very plain that Jesus was born of a virgin called Mary (Sura 3:47, 19:20), and she conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit (Sura 21:91, 66:12); and furthermore healed the sick, raised the lepers, healed the blind, and brought the dead back to life (Sura 3:49, 5:110). It doesn't say that about any of the other prophets; it's pretty amazing what the Qur'an has to say about Jesus," he says.

So how does Harnisch greet a Muslim person? The same way 1.6 billion Muslims greet one another daily: "Assalamu Aleikum!" This is an Arabic greeting that simply means, "May peace be upon thee." And this is what Harnisch sincerely prays and hopes for all of his brothers and sisters, whether they be Christian or Muslim. ■

Alexandra Yeboah is a freelance writer and regular blogger in Toronto.

Here are a few topics that we have in common with Muslims. These are vital to mention when dialoguing with Muslims.

- A health message (non-pork diet and no alcohol)
- Worshipping one God without idols and images
- Believing that we are living in the last days of earth
- Our judgment message is a key common ground component
- Our prophetic roots include Islam in 1840 (see Revelation 9)

If you are interested in doing a weekend seminar or would like some sharing literature, you can get in touch with Rudy Harnisch, at sdabooks@gmail.com or 250/254-2524.



barry's blog

"Living together in peace is a testimony to the strength of this country."

Space Enough for All

Trinity Western University Wins at Nova Scotia Supreme Court

On Jan. 28, 2015, Justice Jamie Campbell ruled that the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS) had no authority to reject Trinity Western University's (TWU) law degree.¹ TWU, a private Christian university in Langley, B.C., has faced strong opposition to its proposed law school. The controversy is centred on TWU's requirement that students agree to a Community Covenant, which, among other things, prohibits students to engage in "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman."² Is there enough room in Canadian society for opposing viewpoints? Justice Campbell has ruled that, yes, there is enough space for all.

Background: Nova Scotia Barristers' Society (NSBS)

On April 25, 2014, the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society refused to give its approval unless TWU either exempted law students from signing the Community Covenant or amended the Community Covenant for law students in a way that would cease to discriminate.³

TWU applied to the Court for a judicial review, claiming NSBS did not have authority to make the decision and that it violated TWU's religious freedom as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter.⁴ The hearing was held during the week of Dec. 16-19, 2015, in Halifax.

NSBS's Error

Justice Campbell was rigorous in his assessment of the Barristers'

Society's error in refusing to recognize the TWU law school and its degree.⁵ He rejected the position that the Community Covenant was "unlawful discrimination." "It is not unlawful," said Campbell. "It may be offensive to many, but it is not unlawful. TWU is not the government. Like churches and other private institutions, it does not have to comply with the equality provisions of the Charter." He continued that TWU "was not in breach of any human rights legislation that applies to it."⁶

The Justice noted, "The Charter is not a blueprint for moral conformity. Its purpose is to protect the citizen from the power of the state, not to enforce compliance by citizens or private institutions with the moral judgments of the state."⁷

The Justice recognized that Canadians have the right to attend a religious university that imposes a religion-based code of conduct, even if that code excludes or offends others who will not or cannot comply. "Learning in an environment with people who promise to comply with the code is a religious practice and an expression of religious faith. There is nothing illegal or even rogue about that. That is a messy and uncomfortable fact of life in a pluralistic society."⁸ To demand that right to be sacrificed for state recognition of professional education was an infringement of religious freedom that could not be justified.

Though Canada is a secular society, and becoming more so, Justice Campbell made it clear that the state must remain neutral on matters of religion and not favour one religion or no religion. "[The state] has not purged religiously informed moral consciences

from the public sphere nor does it accord them more weight than others," he noted. "The society is secular, but the state does not have a secularizing mission."⁹

The Court reviewed the role of marriage as being a central institution to the faith and practice of Evangelical Christians.¹⁰ The codes of conduct incorporating such faith communicate the identity and ethos of the university. They "are seen as establishing a community 'conducive to spiritual growth in the context of Christian colleges and universities.' The environments are intended to be protected from influences that are detrimental to personal spiritual growth."¹¹

A considerable portion of Justice Campbell's decision involved reviewing the context of the Barristers' Society's emphasis on eliminating discrimination against minorities from the practice of law in Nova Scotia. In December 1989 a Royal Commission concluded that the wrongful conviction of Donald Marshall Jr. was due, in a large part, to his status as a Mi'kmaq. It called for courses and programs for law students, lawyers, and judges to help them be more sensitive to minority concerns.¹² The NSBS saw its decision on TWU law school within that framework. While understandable, they went too far.

Jurisdiction of the NSBS

Justice Campbell noted that the NSBS's jurisdiction only begins once an application is made to practise law in Nova Scotia. At that stage, the NSBS has the authority to determine whether the applicant is qualified. The Barristers' Society agreed that the TWU graduate would be no less willing to comply with the ethical standards regarding LGBT equality rights than anyone else. As to the law degree, the NSBS has no authority to define what is or is not a law degree,¹³ but it could prevent a person from practising law if that person's degree did not properly train him or her for practice in Nova Scotia.¹⁴

Justice Campbell ruled that the NSBS was not regulating the graduate or the law degree but was attempting to regulate the law school itself. Its decision had nothing to do with the qualifications of the students or the quality of the degree.¹⁵ It was clearly outside of its mandate. "The NSBS has no authority whatsoever to dictate directly what a university does or does not do," said Campbell. Indeed, it could not require TWU to change

its Community Covenant any more than it could regulate which professors should be granted tenure, what fees should be charged, or which admissions policies should be implemented.¹⁶

In short, the Barristers' Society "cannot do indirectly what it has no authority to do directly."¹⁷ TWU, like any other law school, can do what it wants and not worry about NSBS regulations. NSBS used its arbitrary definition of "law degree" to impose a penalty on the TWU graduate. The Community Covenant is a non-academic policy subject to the B.C. regulatory regime and "is unrelated to, irrelevant to, and extraneous to the practice of law in Nova Scotia."¹⁸

Conclusion

Justice Campbell's decision will not be binding in Ontario and British Columbia, but it will have persuasive value. His decision has courageously faced the academic debates that have been raging in Canada's law journals for the last three decades: the place of religion and equality rights in the context of a secularizing society.

The justice's decision is incisive and brilliantly tackles this debate head-on. He wisely recognizes the rights of the LGBT community and the work of the NSBS in combating discrimination. The problem has been that those advocating equality rights have assumed that their rights are in the dominant position and are of greater weight than other rights, such as freedom of religion.

The protection of religious freedom is not solely a protection of the religious. We all live on the same piece of real estate. We all have an interest in ensuring that we respect one another and the rule of law. Living together in peace is a testimony to the strength of this country. Justice Campbell's decision does not in any way take away from the LGBT community any of its gains in the last two decades; rather, it ensures that there is space enough for all.

We now wait to see if the NSBS will appeal the decision to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal. ■

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 The full decision is found online on *The Courts of Nova Scotia* website, at www.courts.ns.ca/Decisions_Of_Courts/documents/2015nssc25.pdf.

2 Trinity Western University, "Community Covenant Agreement," <http://twu.ca/studenthandbook/university-policies/community-covenant-agreement.html>.

3 Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, "Council Votes for Option C in Trinity Western University Law School Decision," <http://nsbs.org/news/2014/04/council-votes-option-c-trinity-western-university-law-school-decision>.

4 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Part I of the Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (U.K.), 1982, c. 11

5 The full decision is found online on *The Courts of Nova Scotia* website, at www.courts.ns.ca/Decisions_Of_Courts/documents/2015nssc25.pdf.

6 Paragraph 10.

7 Paragraph 10.

8 Paragraph 11.

9 Paragraph 19.

10 Paragraph 36.

11 Paragraph 40.

12 Paragraphs 63, 64.

13 Paragraph 169.

14 Paragraph 170.

15 Paragraphs 171-173.

16 Paragraph 174.

17 Paragraph 175.

18 Paragraph 178.



Please, sir, I want some more

THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, AND THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO STAY ALIVE BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE



"PLEASE, SIR, I WANT

some more." Many of us have grown up on the classic story of *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens and remember that immortal line spoken by the hungry Oliver when he dared to ask for more food. I couldn't help but think of that story when, along with some colleagues, I visited IDP (internally displaced people) camps in Mogadishu, Somalia. Surrounded by armed guards (security of ADRA operations is a concern here), we talked with people who were receiving, or had received, food assistance from ADRA. They expressed their appreciation for the support given to them by ADRA but politely asked if the ration could be increased, because it wasn't enough to feed their families.

As we talked with community women in the hot sun, many with babies in their arms, and little children running around,

I wondered where the men were, or even the older children. "They've gone off for begging or to find odd jobs here and there," explained Minyu Mugambi, the program director for ADRA Somalia. "Because of the ongoing crisis, these people have nowhere else to go, and they're just trying to stay alive by any means possible."

ADRA Canada supporters are making a welcome difference in Mogadishu. But a thought that nagged at the back of my head was whether or not our supporters might think our cause was hopeless. Of course, even if it was, Jesus didn't ask to concern ourselves greatly about results; he seemed to be more concerned about whether or not we got involved (see Matthew 25). Nonetheless it was encouraging to visit a water project that ADRA Canada had funded over two years ago.

The project involved a water tank, a bore hole, and a generator that ran a

pump. Water was provided for all who came to the station. When we arrived to see it, there seemed to be more activity than when we visited in January 2013. Community leaders explained that the project was still going strong, even though ADRA was no longer involved. They were selling the water for a nominal sum to whoever came with their buckets, jerry cans, or donkey carts. They had also started piping the water to parts of the community for a small fee. To increase project income to pay for fuel, parts, and repairs, they had even started a small ice-making plant since they discovered that their generator had the capacity to produce more electricity than was needed for pumping the water.

Then came words that would warm your heart: "And we also provide water free of charge to three IDP camps, so those in worse condition than us have the benefit of the project!" These wonderful community leaders were showing head and heart.

Your support of ADRA Canada's projects is often multiplied in such ways beyond what our project reports and financial statements can ever show.

Can these people have more? The answer lies in your hand, in your cheque book, in your credit card. Why not reach out to these communities and others by sending a donation to ADRA Canada today? Better yet, sign up for monthly giving (it is easy and I doubt you'll notice the difference to your monthly accounts) and ensure that ADRA Canada projects continue to provide food, training, and support to communities like these in Mogadishu, and others in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Together we can make a positive difference! ■

James Astleford is executive director of ADRA Canada.

March 22, 2015 is World Water Day



Clean water brings both joy and opportunities. The gift of water allows children to attend school, prevents disease, and helps to provide better nutrition for families.

Visit www.adra.ca/thegiftofwater to find out more.



I want to help ADRA Canada improve lives through water.

Please accept my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other: _____

Please print clearly

Cheque enclosed (*payable to ADRA Canada*)

Visa MasterCard American Express

Name _____

Street _____

Apt. # _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Charitable Registration # 13205 6813 RR0001

Card # _____ Expiry _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- I want to become a monthly donor.
- I want to get ADRA Canada's email updates.
- I want to pray for ADRA Canada as an ADRA Angel.
- I want to go on a service trip with ADRA Canada.
- I want information on including ADRA Canada in my will.
- I have included ADRA Canada in my will.



Almost vegan

A fia, you have to try this!" It was Sabbath, and I was in Maryland visiting a friend. She, a life-long "carnivore," caused me no small amount of surprise when she told me she felt compelled to give up meat. Subsequently, she purchased a vegetarian cookbook and tried one of the recipes, lasagna. Surprised and impressed, she insisted I try it too. Raring around in her kitchen, she dished out a piece and set it in front of me. I took a bite. Moments later I was asking to see the book. Days later, I got a copy for myself. Now it is my pleasure to share this recipe with my own friends and family. ■

Afia Donkor is a lawyer in Ontario, Canada.

¹ Recipe taken from the book *Ten Talents*, by Rosalie Hurd and Frank J. Hurd.

Tofu Spinach Lasagna¹

INGREDIENTS

CASHEW PIMENTO SAUCE:

- 1 cup raw cashews
- 1 cup water
- 3 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 4 tablespoons nutritional yeast flakes
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1¼ teaspoons salt
- 1½ teaspoons onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon celery seed
- 2 tablespoons oil (olive or canola)
- 1 jar pimentos or 1 cup tomatoes

LASAGNA:

- 12 whole-wheat lasagna noodles
- 1 lb chopped spinach, frozen or fresh
- 2½ cups cashew pimento sauce
- 1 lb extra-firm tofu, mashed
- 2 medium-sized onions, chopped
- 2 teaspoons dry sweet basil
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 2 tablespoons soy mayonnaise or Vegenaise (I just use the cashew pimento sauce)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 jar spaghetti sauce

INSTRUCTIONS

- Begin with cashew pimento sauce. Blend cashews, water, and sesame seeds until very smooth. Add nutritional yeast flakes, lemon juice, seasonings, oil, and pimentos or tomatoes and blend again until smooth.
- Cook lasagna until al dente. Lightly steam spinach if fresh, and defrost if frozen. Squeeze as much water out of spinach as possible, and season to taste (I add ½ teaspoon salt). Add 2½ cups cashew pimento sauce to spinach and mix to combine.
- Sauté onions. In the meantime, crumble tofu in a bowl. When onions are soft and translucent, combine with tofu, then add basil, garlic powder, salt, soy mayo (or cashew pimento sauce), and lemon juice. Mix well.
- To assemble, spread ½ cup tomato sauce in the bottom of a 9" x 13" baking dish. Place 3 noodles in pan, top with one-fourth of the spinach and cashew pimento cheese sauce mixture, one-fourth of the tofu mixture, and another ½ cup of tomato sauce. Repeat the layers 3 more times, ending with tomato sauce and dabs of pimento cheese sauce. Bake covered in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 20 minutes, until bubbly and lightly browned.

We all have a Story



We love hearing from our listeners. It is the start of building a special relationship.

Occasionally, there are those whom we get to meet face to face. A few of our listeners have taken the leap to become volunteers at Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR). Now that's commitment! We are also very thankful for our donors and find it a tremendous encouragement when a donor returns year after year.

What may be surprising to some are the types of requests that come in to

Christian radio, everything from requests to hear that song by the "blonde-haired" lady, to home remedies for the common cold, or asking for information on how one goes about getting baptized. Just recently, we heard from a gentleman from central Newfoundland who wanted our help in locating a Christian marriage counsellor. He stepped out of his comfort zone and put his trust in our staff.

With the privilege of working in Christian radio at VOAR and the nature of what we do, we understand that our listeners are looking for help, hope, and encouragement. Though every contact

is different and some are more vulnerable than others, it's something we don't take lightly. We all have our own story—whether we're big or small, old or young, married or single, weak or strong. As VOAR staff, we value the opportunities Christ brings us to be compassionate to others and to make a difference in His Kingdom work. Focusing on the new year ahead, we kindly ask that you keep our station and each relationship building opportunity in prayer. ■



Rebecca Johnson

ON THE ROAD WITH Becky

In 20 words or less: Why are you a Christian?

AT THE WHITECOURT, RYLEY, CALGARY CENTRAL, AND STRATHMORE CHURCHES IN ALBERTA.

Leslie Price: My father's prayers.

Beulah Oslund: I need Jesus' help and encouragement each moment of the day.

Alex Seguin: (1) Because God has given his only begotten son for all of us to be saved. (2) Jesus came to love me and save me from evil and corruption of this world when I needed Him the most. (3) Jesus came into my life when I asked Him for forgiveness; since then He [has healed] me.

Steve Simon: Because I have come to realize that in an ever-changing world of uncertainty, being a Christian offers certainty and assurance where darkness and doubt would otherwise occupy.



MANY PEOPLE CAN RECALL the 1985 song that started a movement, "We Are the World." Entertainer and activist Harry Belafonte created a new non-profit organization called the United Support of Artists for Africa (USA for Africa) Foundation and recruited Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie to write the song. The album sold millions of copies, and the organization raised millions of dollars. The benefactor of this global response was Ethiopia, who had been entrenched in a devastating famine.

The 1983–1985 famine was caused by widespread drought throughout the north compounded by political conflict in the south. Estimates ranging from 400,000 to 1 million deaths underscore the dire situation faced by millions of peasants. "The BBC report from the town of Korem in northern Ethiopia shocked the world with its reference to a 'biblical-scale famine.'"¹ But from the ashes of famine and drought, hope and healing were born.

Upon hearing the report from Korem, "the public reaction in Canada was immediate and profound," according to Stu Clark from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.² In 1984 the Foodgrains Bank, formed just one year before the crisis, stepped in to aid in the fight against the famine. Canadian farmers banded together to donate grains from their fields and sent them to Ethiopia. Today, your Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada through ADRA Canada is a Foodgrains Bank partner that is working in over 40 countries around the world to end global hunger through emergency food aid, reducing malnutrition, and achieving sustainable food security.

This past fall, I, along with other



ETHIOPIA

The Transformation of

journalists and editors affiliated with Foodgrains Bank partners, were invited to visit Ethiopia and view the progress of their more recent projects. What I learned about Ethiopia was amazing. Ethiopia is officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and is located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Eritrea to the north and northeast, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. With about 87.9 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world as well as the second-most populated nation on the African continent. It occupies a total area of 1,100,000 square kilometres, and its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa.³

Further research reveals that Ethiopia is the only country in Africa to have never been colonized; they are viewed as the oldest country in the world, dating back to biblical times. Egyptians called Ethiopia the land of Kush. It is also interesting that it was considered a Jewish state before it was Christianized. Most Ethiopian Jews, known as Beta Israel, relocated to Israel in recent history. According to 2 Chronicles 14:9 they also had a strong military. The Bible also makes mention of one of King

Solomon's wives, the Queen of Sheba, who bore him children. Many Ethiopians claim that when she returned to her country, he gave her the Ark of the Covenant, which is still under the guarded protection of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to this day.

After a 14-hour direct flight, our group landed in Addis Ababa. I was pleasantly surprised to discover at our very first meal that the Ethiopian Orthodox Church supports what others call "Old Testament" laws against serving unclean meat, and I was OK with that. After breakfast we journeyed 300 kilometres to Wolayta-Soddo. The Wolayta Kale Hiwot Church, through Foodgrains Bank partner World Relief Canada, is managing the work there.

Food security is an important goal of the Foodgrains Bank. The goal is for every family to be able to provide food for their household. This particular project involves training and development to increase the production of a type of corn called maize. Participants are taught to avoid plowing a portion of their land and cover that section with mulch from previous harvests after the rainfall. This keeps more moisture in the ground for the next growing season. The farmers claimed up to a 300 percent increase in production, but it is very labour

intensive. When I heard people pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," I understood how sincere this life-saving request came from the heart to provide for their families.

A part of food security also means independence. We had the privilege of meeting with a women's self-help group (see p. 27). Together, the support and accountability they have found in this group is empowering them to take control of their businesses, change the course of their lives, and provide a better future for their families.

Life for livestock herders used to be a bleak existence. Although Ethiopia is often referred to as the "water tower" of Eastern Africa because of the many rivers flowing from its water table, including the Nile, poor irrigation systems left much of its land vulnerable to drought. Livestock herders travelled longer and longer distances with their herds in search of land suitable for grazing, while their women followed behind carrying their belongings. Clan leader Ahimed Melsa, from the remote Afar region of Ethiopia, said, "Now, I see myself as a human being. Before, we considered ourselves as animals."⁴ That was perhaps one of

Photo credit: Stan Jensen



A Nation



For more on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, visit <http://foodgrainsbank.ca>. For more on ADRA Canada, visit <http://adra.ca>.

One of the families benefiting from the installation of irrigation dams and new agricultural techniques.

the most powerful statements I've ever heard.

Their lives are different now. The installation of irrigation dams that divert water from rivers and streams mean that they no longer have to walk for days to obtain clean water. They are able to settle in to villages, grow produce, and even educate their children. Now traders come to them to purchase food. Livestock herder Muhammad looked at his children and said, beaming with pride, "My children are not illiterate."

Although Ethiopia's greatest recognized export is coffee, I think one of the best exports is their food. Ethiopian restaurants are gaining popularity throughout North America; there are several across Canada. With a propensity toward vegetarian food while avoiding pork and shellfish, it is a cuisine that is quite compatible with our beliefs as Seventh-day Adventists. Try one and enjoy a menu that will not be like anything else you have had.

As I left Ethiopia, I realized it was not at all as I had imagined. Thirty years have passed since USA for Africa brought Ethiopia's plight to the world stage. Since that time Ethiopia has transformed itself. A country once unable to mitigate a series of devastating droughts is now practising

responsible fiscal policy, and the World Bank rates it as the 12th fastest growing economy in the world. Cities are bustling with buildings and new construction. All over I saw the government erecting new colleges and universities. Roads and

highways are constantly being built or upgraded. Its citizens have tremendous national pride and wave the Ethiopian flag and colours everywhere. It is commonly called the Capital of Africa.

Thanks to ADRA Canada and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, I was able to see firsthand the difference that is being made to alleviate hunger around the world. The government of Canada disperses much of its aid funding through the Foodgrains Bank, and it is one of the reasons why Canada is well-known around the world as a country that helps to strengthen local communities.

Donations designated to ADRA Canada's member account at the Foodgrains Bank are matched at varying levels to provide much needed assistance to people in need. Although the Canadian Foodgrains Bank started with farmers sending their grain, some 30 years later every Canadian has the opportunity to join in the fight to end global hunger. What can you do? ■



(L to R): Sam Vander Bode, Stephen Corcoran, Andrew Fair, Evelyn Gumpel Pothau, Stan Amson, Hilta Repomaki, and their driver, Seyoum Reda.

¹ Stu Clark, "Ethiopia, the Foodgrains Bank's Longest Concern," Canadian Foodgrains Bank: A Christian Response to Hunger, Nov. 3, 2014, <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/2014/11/03/ethiopia-the-food-grains-banks-longest-concern/>.

² *ibid.*

³ "Ethiopia," *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia#cite_note-Federal_Demographic_Republic_of_Ethiopia_Central_Statistical_Agency-3.

⁴ Riitta Hepomaki, "Water Provides Life and Dignity in Ethiopia," Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Dec. 5, 2014, accessed Feb. 12, 2015, <https://clwr.wordpress.com/2014/12/05/water-provides-life-and-dignity-in-ethiopia/>.

Hard Work, Community Effort, Brings Change to Ethiopian Women

MOGITE MOJA IS A COMMUNITY LEADER. One of 14 women involved in the Village Flower, an Ethiopian women's self-help group, Mogite lives in a well-built hut and is saving money for the future. She is a strong woman who has worked hard, and she is proud of all she has accomplished.

However, even with hard work, Mogite's success would have been impossible without the self-help group, which is supported by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank through its member World Relief Canada. Through the group, she was able to access small-scale loans to improve her life.

"We never knew we could do these things before," says Mogite, speaking of how group members have started their own small businesses and vegetable gardens or have purchased needed household goods.

"The local money lenders can charge interest up to 100 percent a month. That makes it very difficult." The Village Flower was formed seven years ago by women who wanted a way of to help one another step out of poverty. They meet each week and contribute a small weekly fee to the communal pot.

Members can apply to the group for a small loan to start businesses, create gardens, or for other things. Interest is charged at a rate of 10 percent per month. The members, who are all friends and neighbours, hold one another accountable for the loans. They have a 100-percent payback rate.

Their husbands, the traditional bread earners in rural Ethiopian families, are starting to take note and are proud of what their wives are accomplishing.

"Oh, they encourage us!" laugh the group members. When they first started out, each woman would contribute the Canadian equivalent of half a cent a week—all they could afford. Today, each member contributes three or four times that.

The Foodgrains Bank began supporting the group in 2012, offering training in subjects such as business management, vegetable growing, and nutrition education.

"I've used my savings to buy stationery supplies for my children to use at school," says Mogite. "Now our group is saving up to buy a grinding mill."

With the grinding mill, the women will be able to avoid being charged expensive fees to have their maize ground up, as well as the attendant transportation costs. They can even make more money by charging other people for its use.

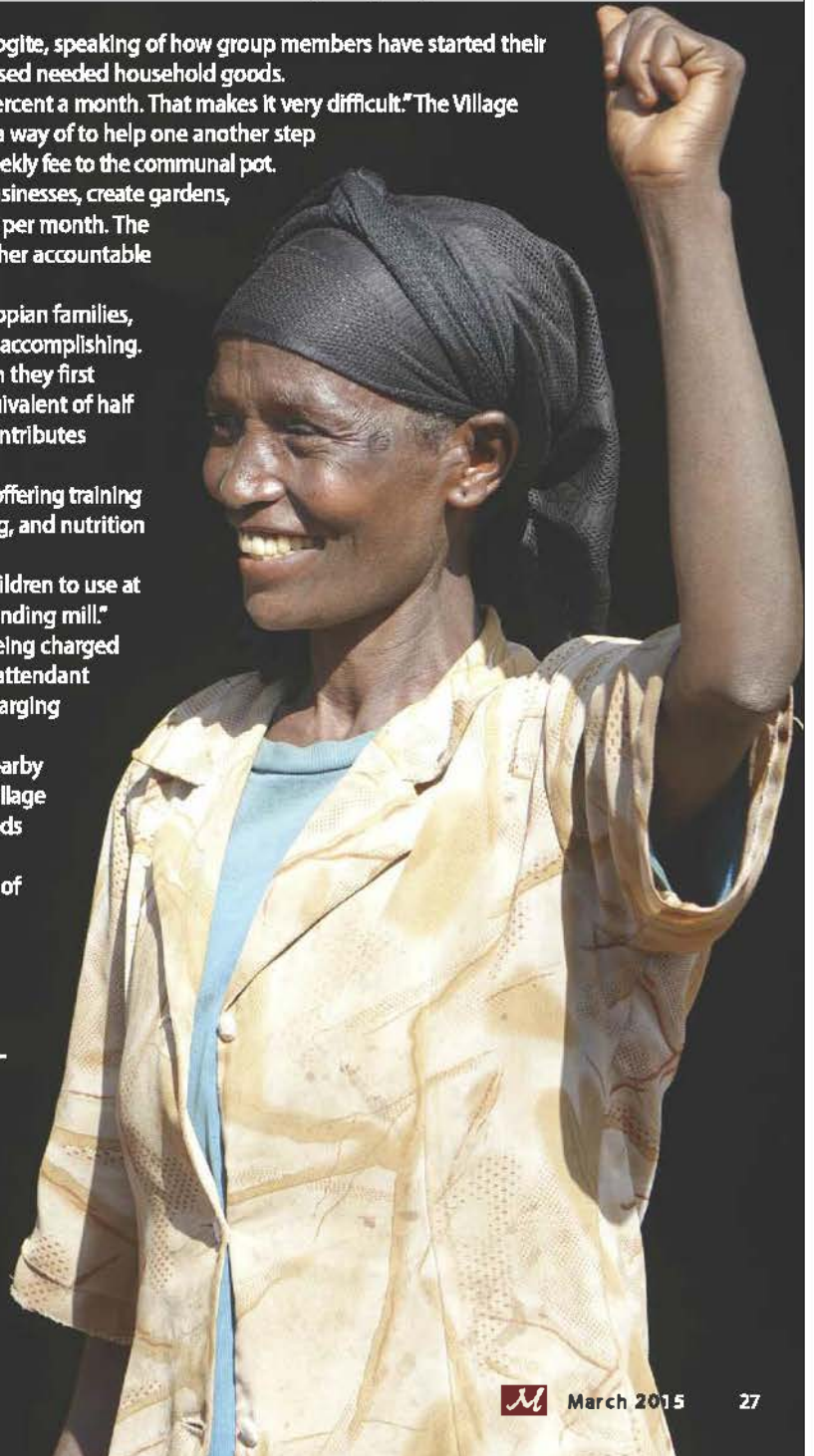
Inspired by their success, another group of women in a nearby village have borrowed the idea of a self-help group from the Village Flower. They have embarked on their own project, saving seeds and starting gardens together.

When it's time for a photo, Mogite stands proudly in front of her home, fist in the air—a universal symbol of strength.

With only a bit of training and support from the outside, these women are leaning on their own inner strength and bettering themselves, their families, and their communities.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 churches and church agencies working together to end global hunger. In the 2013-14 budget year, the Foodgrains Bank provided \$42 million of assistance for 1.2 million people in 42 countries. Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects are undertaken with matching support from the Government of Canada. Assistance from the Foodgrains Bank is provided through its member agencies, which get matching funds through their accounts in the Foodgrains Bank for programs implemented by local partners in the developing world.

Photo credit: Andrew Faiz, courtesy of the *Presbyterian Record*.



The Dream

All we need to do is obey, believe, and go.

It was summer, and Gorbechev and his fellow Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) students had been assigned to work in the towns and villages of Alberta. As the students entered Lac La Biche, their newest assignment, Gorbechev felt a strange burden for the city. In his heart he prayed, "Lord, Lac La Biche needs missionaries. Please send missionaries to Lac La Biche." Then, taking up his books, he began to go from house to house, knocking on doors.

Working along one particularly long street, Gorbechev approached a house and rang the doorbell. A woman came to the door, and, with her, an enormous dog anxious to come outside. The woman said something, but he didn't quite understand her. Assuming she was saying she could not come out because of the dog, Gorbechev said, "OK, do have a wonderful day," and left.

Gorbechev rang the bell at the next house, but no one answered. As he turned to leave, he noticed a woman walking outside and looking around as if she were looking for something. He went toward her and realized it was the woman with the dog from the previous house. She explained that she had been trying to put the dog away so that she could come out and meet him. Hearing this, Gorbechev gladly explained who he was and why he had come.

As Gorbechev spoke, the woman put her hand up to her eyes, as if trying to remember something. Then she said, "You know what, I had a dream, and in that dream I saw missionaries in this area."

Gorbechev's mind turned immediately to his prayer. Amazed, he asked, "How many missionaries did you see?"

"Twelve," she responded.

The woman then excused herself and went to call her daughter who lived next door. She told her that there was a young man outside who had some wonderful books. Together they returned to Gorbechev, and each bought a book on health. The woman then said that she had been studying for over 20 years with a friend who was Seventh-day Adventist. Gorbechev and the two women talked together for some time, and at the end of their conversation, he shared some GLOW tracts and the book *History and Hope* with them. With that, they said goodbye.

Later that day Gorbechev relayed his experience to a fellow CYC student. He was puzzled about the woman's dream. There were six CYC students in total working in Lac La Biche. Had the dream been about them? If so, why had she seen 12 missionaries? Suddenly, his friend's eyes lit up. Turning to Gorbechev, he said, simply, "Angels."

Heaven is so close. All around are angels who accompany those who love and fear God, venture forward in His name, and pray for His help. And guiding all their movements is a Saviour who, when He asked us to go and share His love and His truth with the world, promised that we will never go alone (see Matt. 28:20). To those who choose to accept God's call, there is no cause for fear or discouragement. Through the eyes of faith we can see the hosts of heavenly partners that surround us and help us in our work. God is with us. Angels walk beside us. All we need to do is obey, believe, and go. ■

Lifestyle Canada Education Service (LACES) is a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada. (LifestyleCanada.org)



Sharon Murphy and her family (the Stummites) have benefited from Christian education.

PREPARING FOR BATTLE

AS I WAX NOSTALGIC ABOUT MY CHILDREN'S LIVES, I am taken back to the day of the dedication of our eldest son. He was a gift from God through familial adoption. God knew that I would love him as my very own, and that day I determined in my heart to do all I could to raise him to the glory of God. Through my young, naïve eyes, I couldn't imagine the intense war Satan would wage against my children and the children of this generation. I wasn't given a glimpse into the future or reassured that everything would turn out. I based my trust and hope on what God had done for me, and I hoped to give my son the same chance I was given. During the dedication service, the pastor asked the congregation to help us nurture our children spiritually, and so this day these individuals have been faithful.

I had the profound blessing of attending a Seventh-day Adventist school for the first 10 years of my education. It was by God's grace, the sweat and toil of many people in the Halifax church, as well as distant benefactors, that made it possible for me and my five brothers and sisters to attend Sandy Lake Academy year after year. This has continued on through the next generation. All of our children have attended Seventh-day Adventist schools. Currently, seven attend Sandy Lake Academy and three are studying at Canadian University College.

As children, lifelong friends like Kristy (Hatcher) Landry and I would sit outside the school and talk about the end times and how we needed to be ready. I believe God smiled as He watched His young children pondering His return. We were willingly thinking of Him. I believe this was because we were taught and immersed at home, at church, and at school. We know that Satan is running around like a roaring lion seeking not only decision-making adults but also our children. He stalks

them and uses every means possible to take their eyes off Jesus. It's not blatant deception he uses; anything will do, as long as it separates us from Christ. This is not news to most of us. We know that God is more powerful than anything Satan can throw at us. We still need to be watchful and diligent, faithful stewards of our children.

Being a WWII history buff, I often think in terms of living in "sin-occupied" territory. We wouldn't dream of sending our children out to face battle-hardened warriors fighting in hand-to-hand combat without protection, and yet we become distracted with life and send our children out into worldly institutions, hoping, praying, and maybe even assuming that God will protect them. Don't get me wrong, I believe God does put hedges around His children and can protect even when we send them out unprotected. But I don't believe it's right to take the risk if you don't have to.

My last two years of grade school were in a public high school. I was constantly bombarded by the enemy to take part in the world and what it had to offer. My peers asked me why I was different and why I believed the way I did. They mocked and jeered me as only kids can do. By God's grace and strength and, I believe, by my strong upbringing in Christian education, I was able to stand firm in the face of "spiritual warfare." I felt armed and protected. As my children face their own battles, I pray they may draw strength from the Christian education they have been given. ■

Sharon Murphy is a store manager at Parker Street Food and Furniture bank in Halifax, N.S. She and her husband, Nigel, moved to Canada from Ireland so their children could receive an Adventist education at Sandy Lake Academy.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A modern-day Ark of Safety for Our Children

I was having second thoughts when the words "I would not want my child anywhere where prayer is not offered" penetrated my ears like a sword, cutting through my heart and into my reason.

WHAT WAS I DOING? He was right! My daughter, Aigil, and I had talked about going to a specialized public school; we would consider it if she was accepted. We received the acceptance letter, and now we were scheduled for orientation.

The GPS indicated that our destination was on the right. The five-storey building was imposing. It looked like Fort Knox to a little girl who was accustomed to a small Seventh-day Adventist school of about 130 students. I parked my car and we walked up to the gate. The long walkway to the entrance of the building was almost as intimidating as the building itself. For a moment, I thought about the change and how it would affect my not-so-little baby girl (who had cried every day for a month each time she started a new grade, from preschool up to Grade 6). Now she was graduating from Grade 8 and leaving the safety of her small church school for a "small" public school of around 800 students.

As the big elevator doors opened to the wide corridors, the smell of fresh paint welcomed us. It was evident that much effort had been put into making the school look appealing by removing the graffiti that was once painted on the walls. There were posters with arrows pointing to the assembly hall, where all prospective freshmen would meet for orientation. As we entered the theatre-style room, we looked for seats close to the platform. As the meeting began, the principal welcomed everyone and proceeded with an introduction about the school. Later we met with the teachers. Much emphasis was put on the subjects of science and mathematics. The math teacher also shared a song he had composed to facilitate the learning of formulas and functions for his students. All seemed good and wonderful. But they did not begin with prayer!

While my daughter was completing

elementary school, my son was a freshman at Kingsway College (KC). He was a member of the choir, and once, when he was once on tour in Massachusetts, Aigil and I drove four hours to see him. After the concert, we joined the group for lunch. As we engaged in conversation, Remy Guenin, director of enrolment, asked me if Aigil would be joining her brother at KC. I was still considering our experience at the public school. His candid response prompted me to put into perspective the decision I was about to make. I contemplated my responsibility as a Christian parent and the promise I made when we dedicated our daughter to the Lord. How could I risk her spiritual safety and eternal salvation? Every stage in life is important, and the stage leading into adulthood is pivotal.

Ellen G. White, in *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, says, "We are under solemn, sacred covenant to God to bring



Ligia Holmes with her children, Roger and Algil.

up our children, not for the world, not to put their hands into the hands of the world, but to love and fear God, and to keep His commandments."¹ As parents, we sometimes forget that our children belong to the Lord and that we will have to give an account to Him about how we chose to guide them. He is going to ask, "Where are the children that I gave you to train for Me? Why are they not at my right hand?"²

I am not suggesting that children who attend public schools will be lost while children in Christian schools will be saved, but I would not want my children being educated in a place where prayer is not a part of their routine, and by people who don't share my belief system. If your children's salvation is a priority to you, would you want to take that risk? I sure wouldn't.

How wonderful it was for me, on a very stressful day, to receive a call from the KC president's office, stating that on that day prayer was offered on behalf of my children and family. How delightful it was to receive an email saying that the

staff at KC was praying for my family. How pleasant it is that any meeting with a child's teacher is opened with prayer. How heartwarming it is for me to know that the teachers take time out to pray with and for them.

KC teachers understand the far-reaching effects of their influence in their students' lives. Even when parents' influence diminishes, the influence of teachers can still have an impact. Teachers are called to a profession that gives them the unique opportunity to change lives, mold minds, and affect generations for this life and the next.

Although KC is, for me, across the border and in another country, wherever the Lord would have my children be is where I want them to be. Please don't get me wrong, KC is not perfect; no Seventh-day Adventist educational institution is. "But they are prisoners of hope"³, and the promises of the Lord are sure. If the schools happen to stray away from the path delineated, "God will bring them back." "For this reason our schools have been established, that youth

and children may be so educated as to exert an influence for God in the world."⁴

While Noah and his family were in the ark, the rain, the wind and the raging sea tossed the boat to and fro. The inside must have been very smelly, with all the animals. It must have been very uncomfortable, but it was the ark of safety, Kingsway College—and all Adventist schools—have their challenges, but they are our modern-day arks of safety. They represent parental compliance to God's Word, which is equivalent to the obedience Noah demonstrated in the face of ridicule. Although there are no guarantees, would you rather have your children inside the boat, or in a place where they may be swept away by the attractions of the world? ■

Ligia Holmes is the mother of Roger and Algil Holmes who are currently studying at Kingsway College. Ligia works for the Northeastern Conference of SDA in Jamaica, New York and resides in Rosedale, New York.

¹ (Nashville, TN: Southern Publishing Association), 289. Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1954), 561.

²Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance* (Washington, D.C.:

³White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 290. ⁴Ibid.

Parkview Profiles

"I'm not the same person I was when I first came here. I've changed in the way I view things."



Katanna Webb

Katanna Webb had never heard of the Sabbath before coming to Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA). In the summer of 2013, she accompanied a friend to BC's campmeeting and happened to meet a representative from PAA who challenged her to pursue something new.

"They said I should try it for a semester, and then I could leave if I wanted to." A year and a half later, Katanna is still here.

"I like the people, all the activities, and living in the dorm," says the smiling Grade 11 student from Revelstoke, B.C. Katanna belongs to the Dene First Nation and values deep connections with people. In transplanting her life to campus, Katanna bonded with her classmates and made many lifelong friends, which helped her decide, "I didn't want to leave."

Life on campus is consistently busy, and Katanna thrives within the routine. "There's a lot of independence here, even though there is a schedule and everything is laid out." Some of Katanna's best memories as a PAA student are of school programs like Class Challenge, "where we painted banners and had our little class meetings to get ready for going up against the college. It was pretty fun class bonding time."

Because she likes to be active, Katanna also enjoys PAA's class parties, banquets, concerts, athletic events, service days, and worships. "There's just so much to do!" Katanna says, and she wants to be part of it all.

Considering the distance and the cost of Adventist education, she is glad of her choice to stay at PAA. Here she discovered a place where she can be herself and fit in: "There are so many of us around here; it's the same as having a family." However, in order to join the PAA family, Katanna had to leave hers, and while she wishes that she could spend more time with her younger siblings, Katanna says, "I know I can be better for them later by being educated now."

Though Katanna's family does not have an Adventist background, they are supportive of her attending a church school: "My dad is proud of me going here," she says, "because he knows I'm going somewhere in life and this school is a good place."

Individually, Katanna has taken great steps of faith as a student at PAA. Through daily dorm and classroom worships, she is learning more about the God who loves her and the people who love Him. "I believe in mostly the same things as Adventists," says Katanna, "but I didn't really know much about this church before religious studies class. I really like the music at chapel, vespers, and afterglow, and even though I don't sing, I love to listen. All the people here are really nice, so funny and outgoing."

PAA is a place of great opportunity and personal growth, where decisions about the future can be made with confidence. Katanna says, "I'm not the same person I was when I first came here. I've changed in the way I view things. I've learned that the choices you make now are going to affect your future."

The choices Katanna has made concerning her influences and education show that she wants to be part of the kind of community found in the hallways, classrooms, and worship spaces of PAA. Katanna now enjoys relaxed Sabbaths spent with friends. She plans to graduate from PAA in 2016 with people she cares about, and then live her life in such a way as to help others find the kind of support that she has found here.

"This is a good place for people who want to take college and life seriously. Even if someone comes here just to mess around, they should at least try it, because," according to Katanna, "PAA might make you a better person." ■

Katelyn Ruiz is the director of public relations at Parkview Adventist Academy.



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The Grade 2's and 3's of MANS work together to make and take their cookie care packages to communities off the Maskwocj Reserve. "From small hearts with great love," read one note received by neighbours.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Mamawi Atosketan Native School Transforms Relationships with Cookie Ministry



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL (MANS) receptionist Sharon Prodigier is now in her 19th year at MANS. "I love every minute of it!" she says. She smiles when she looks back on the transformation she has seen in the community's attitude toward the school over the past decade, when MANS moved to its present location. The recent open house for MANS's immediate neighbours is, she agrees, a testimony to the effectiveness of a consistent witness and simple acts of kindness.

When MANS was being built 12 years ago, some neighbours protested. "They were worried about vandalism and kids leaving the school," remembers Sharon. But getting acquainted with students and what actually happens at the school—including a cookie ministry—has turned a cool reception into warm relationships.

"Mamawi Atosketan means 'working

together' in Cree," says school principal Gail Wilton. Working together to benefit and bring cheer to others is an important and regular part of the MANS experience. "We want them to know that it is important to give to the larger community as well as those within their local area," says Wilton. Thus, the MANS cookie ministry was born under the leadership of Grade 2 teacher Charissa Hawes.

Making and delivering cookies has become the hallmark of the school. Periodically, children brimming with enthusiasm deliver freshly baked cookies they have made, delighting those who answer their doors. Neighbours who were not home found not only a delicious treat but also an invitation to the neighbourhood open house.

One family that was not able to attend the open house sent candies and a thank-

you note that read, "With many thanks for the delicious cookies left at our house. We wish you the very best in your future endeavours, and thank you for being such good neighbours."

Another gentleman was moved when he saw the Bible verses painted on prominent interior walls. He left a donation.

The caring Christian attitude that pervades the school extends to the world-wide community. Students are learning to "cast their bread upon the waters" and witnessing the good that comes back. ■

Melissa Myers volunteered at the Maskwocj Reserve church as part of CUC's First Nations ministry group.

Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving and Trust Services/Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference.

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Alberta

Adventurer Families say "I Do"



Being a spiritually strong and successful family in today's society can be very challenging. So many issues that families face today contribute to the breakdown of the family unit, such as work demands, job uncertainty, poverty, depression, divorce, health, and finances, just to name a few.

Adventurer leaders Debbie Acquah and Elaine Thompson from the Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church decided that something could be done to affirm families and highlight the importance of the family structure in the economy of God.

On Dec. 20, 2014, the "Say 'I Do' Again" Family Commitment Ceremony was held. As families walked into the sanctuary with their children in tow, it was encouraging to see so many families in attendance. The laughter, smiles, and

sounds of giggling children set off a certain positive internal chord of childlike happiness within those present. Seeing families sit together and experience God's presence was a great feeling.

During the program it was evident that commitment was an important part of the ceremony. The speaker invited all the families to repeat a special vow that spoke of the commitment to God, family, and service. Near the end of the ceremony, the husbands and wives received a special certificate of declaration and were invited to the front to face the congregation and receive the statements of commitment outlined in the document. It was a powerful display and a reminder of the commitment they were agreeing to.

This ceremony served to inspire, empower, and encourage families to stay

committed to God and one another. As we slowly approach the end of time as we know it and the moral fabric of our society begins to unravel and collapse, it is encouraging to see that church and families are intentionally engaging in programs and initiatives that will help strengthen the family unit.

After the ceremony concluded, all families were invited downstairs to the fellowship hall to enjoy a month-long banquet. With tables set and varieties of savoury foods ready to be enjoyed,

everyone took their seats. As the blessing was pronounced, everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship as "families" were celebrated.

Families are close to God's heart. The Bible teaches that the institution of family originated from God and that God places high value on families. Christ was willing to sacrifice His life on the cross for all individuals, all of whom are connected to some family unit.

The answer for achieving healthy families lies within the pages of the Bible, all the more reason today for families to come together to seek God, worship Him, and pray. As some have said, "Families that pray together stay together!" ■

—Lyle Notice, Associate Youth Director, Alberta Conference

British Columbia

2014 Youth Retreat



Youth Retreat: an annual event for which youth from across British Columbia gather at Camp Hope to meet new and old friends and, in the process, get closer to God. This past November I was given the opportunity to go, but before I received the invitation, I honestly didn't feel a need to attend for a second time. As a high school senior, I have a lot on my plate: scheduling to volunteer around my community, fundraising for a mission trip in the spring, leading and planning as the class president, and other commitments. I felt as though I had enough God in my life and I was doing fine on my own. But the moment I was invited, I almost felt like He was telling me, "Aaron, just go for the sake of it. Please go." By the next day, plans were made and I was ready to head off to Camp Hope.

My friends and I arrived Friday night and saw many familiar faces. Being an introvert, I didn't make much conversation. Thankfully, others made it known that they were glad I was there through smiles and greetings. The next day began with a devotional by Pastor Brian Wahl and an

amazing waffle breakfast. It continued with team-building exercises, meeting our "family groups," and watching *The Record Keeper*. As a new TV series, *The Record Keeper* is an interpretation of the book *The Great Controversy* set in the highly stylized steampunk era. The way that the plot shifted between episodes made it easy for those who understood *The Great Controversy* to know what was going on.

The next day flew by as we completed more team-building exercises and were blessed by Pastor Moses Ruiz. The stories he told were always entertaining and relatable yet thought-provoking. One story we heard was about a woman who was extremely independent and never needed anyone else in her life. Besides her own dog, she loved nothing else but being an athlete. While on a jog one day, she tripped and fell into a canyon. Four days later she was finally found, thanks to her concerned neighbour. On the brink of death, she finally realized a need for something greater in her life. She needed someone else to depend on. That was the

moment when I found myself realizing that I couldn't continue living a life of extreme independence, because eventually, I wouldn't see a need for God in my life. Ultimately, I found myself once again committing my life to God. As the weekend wound down, memories of laughing with friends, meeting new ones, and growing closer to God brought a smile to my face.

I am extremely thankful that I chose to attend the youth retreat, as I realized something valuable that weekend. In life we tend to forget that God is right there next to us to help us up when we fall. During that weekend, I felt God pick me up after I had fallen spiritually. I couldn't be more thankful for what God has done for me and what He will do for you if you allow Him into your life. Remember this: You are never too far from God to come back into His arms. ■

— Aaron Guillen,
Oakridge Adventist Church

>> See more at: <http://bit.ly/1AX9HF>

Caleb Lorenson: A Celebration of Life



A beautiful ceremony was held in the Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel on Sept. 6 at 3 p.m. for Caleb Reuben Daniel Lorenson (Oct. 23, 1988–Sept. 1, 2014).

Pastors Samir Chahine and Timoteus Nagy officiated with comforting words for the family and about 350 friends, including members from the Maple Ridge, Vancouver Filipino, and Burnaby churches.

Pathfinders from five different churches came in all dressed in their uniforms. Caleb's dad, Lester Lorenson, is leader of the Pathfinders in these churches, and Caleb loved being with the children.

Jacque Sewell gave an encouraging eulogy. Many people spoke about their involvement in his life, which was a great time to reflect on Caleb's life. ■

—Trudi Charles, Communication Secretary,
Maple Ridge church

Ontario

Merry Christmas, Toronto!



On Friday, Dec. 19, members of the Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church's Children, Junior, and Youth Choir bundled up in their winter wear and sang Christmas carols outdoors on the steps of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Berea Church is uniquely located on the corner of two major streets in downtown Toronto, which made it an ideal place to witness to passers-by about the true "reason for the season."

People on foot, in cars, and on the bus were greeted with happy Christmas songs, cheerful smiles, and a resonating Merry Christmas.

During the course of the evening, magnets with a Jesus-centred

Christmas message and a link to both churches were handed out as well, giving about 300 people a connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and, most importantly, to Jesus Christ. The young choirs of Willowdale range in age from 4 to 18, with a total membership of about 120 children/youth. These young people love to raise their voices for the Lord and have been blessed to share their joy both in and out of the church. They are looking forward to their next opportunity to "make a joyful noise"! ■

—Sujatha Mathi, Willowdale church

Haileybury Church Celebrates Joy

Amid the December hustle and bustle of the modern-day world of celebrations comes the joy of service. "Some people may be ready to ask 'What joy?' when you consider that people go further and further into debt — \$1,400 per person, according to studies!" says Phil Lee, the pastor who delivered a beautiful sermonette. However, when you celebrate in truth and lift up Jesus, when you rejoice because Jesus lives and the Word of God is alive, and when you take the privilege to invite people from our communities to take part in the programs, you will experience true joy. Guests and participants felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the star of the evening was none other than the Lord.

Many who attended the program thoroughly enjoyed the journey through the Scriptures, which was interspersed with the singing of carols. All in all, it was an old-fashioned way—and one that was as genuine as it gets—to build relationships: sharing love. We must not forget the beautiful supper that was shared (most of the 20 guests stayed for food and fellowship). Many thanks to all the volunteers and participants. A good way to describe how we felt about the effort is "We may be



Enoch and Chloe Lee, and Ruthann MacDonald (seated)

few in number, but we lovingly serve an Almighty God!" ■

—Debra Mallais, Women's Ministries,
Haileybury church

Maritimes

40th Anniversary and Alumni Weekend



Gordon Pifher speaking at Sandy Lake Academy's 40th anniversary and alumni weekend.

Sandy Lake Academy's 40th anniversary and alumni weekend on Oct. 3-5, 2014 was an amazing, uplifting event. Gordon Pifher's presentations throughout the weekend emphasized that when God's children have a vision and the Lord is behind it, they

will begin experiencing many miracles and lives will be changed. On Saturday evening, in an interview with two of SLA's founders, Verena Longard and Melvin Boutilier, it was thrilling to learn of the many miracles that took place in establishing our school.

Principal Chris Dupuis also presented SLA's exciting and challenging vision for future growth within the five pillars of SLA's mission: extraordinary spiritual emphasis, exceptional academic curriculum, outstanding music program, excellent practical skills program, and a terrific health and fitness program. Although SLA faces giant obstacles, as David faced Goliath, we are assured that, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). The offering collected on Sabbath to help establish the new Junior Primary program totalled \$1,000!

The weekend culminated in loads of fun games and activities and great food at the Fall Carnival. The gym was crowded with participants eager to enjoy numerous activities including face painting, throwing wet sponges at friends or competing in a washer toss game. Many thanks go to John and Dawn Graves for the incredible amount of work and planning they put into this event. In all, \$900 was raised for SLA's spring mission trip!

We would also like to say a big thank you to each one who attended and participated in the 40th anniversary celebration. ■

—Heather D. Harrington, Sandy Lake
Academy Alumni/Marketing

SDA Church in Canada

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada 2015 Excellence in Education Award

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Excellence in Education Awards.

The Process for Nominators

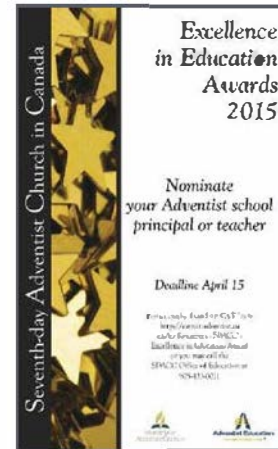
- Must be a stakeholder (superintendent, principal, school board member, teacher, pastor, school staff member, parent, student, or church member).
- Must not be immediate family members of the nominee.
- Must complete the Nomination Form, Letter of Recommendation Form, and a Letter of Recommendation.
- Must find two other stakeholders (one from each of the two other categories), unrelated to the nominee, to complete the Letter of Recommendation Form and write Letters of Recommendation. For example, if the nominator is someone from the School Leadership category (superintendent, principal, or school board member), the remaining two letters of recommendation must be from each

of the remaining categories, one from Colleagues (teacher, pastor, or school staff member) and one from School Community (parent, student, or church member).

Nominees

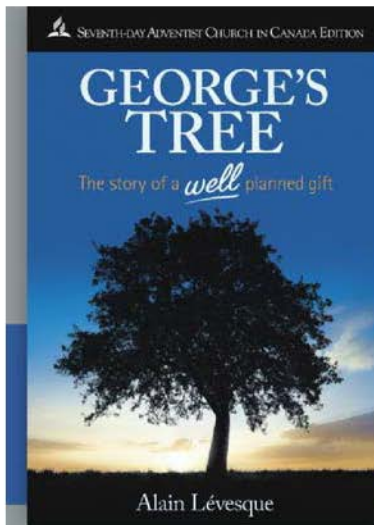
- Must have a valid Standard, Professional or Administrator denominational teaching certificate.
- Must have a minimum of one full year teaching experience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must be a teacher or administrator who is employed at least half-time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Must not have received an Excellence Award within the last five years. (A list of teachers who have received awards are posted on CAT~net: <http://catnet.adventist.ca>.)

It is our hope that the SDACC Excellence



in Education Award will inspire our teachers and school administrators to always strive for excellence in teaching and service, and that those who are presented with this prestigious award will truly appreciate it as a token of our thanks for their contribution of excellence to our school system.

Please take the time to nominate your Adventist school teacher or principal today. Nomination forms can be found on CAT~net, <http://catnet.adventist.ca>, under "Resources > SDACC > Excellence in Education Award", or you may call the SDACC Office of Education at 905/433-0011 x2072. ■



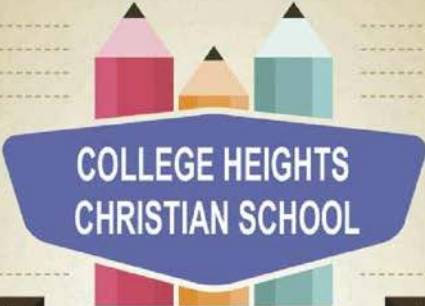
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To receive your FREE copy of GEORGE'S TREE, please email legal@adventist.ca with your name and address, or call 905-433-0011, ext. 2078.

Also available in French.

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Jan. 31, 2015, there were 431 depositors with a total deposit of \$24,948,636. There were 81 loans with a value of \$23,275,702.


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



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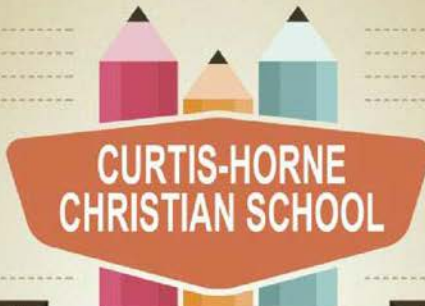
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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Aimee Perez (perez.aimee@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

62nd TJACAA Alumni Homecoming Weekend—Crawford Adventist Academy will be holding its 62nd Alumni Homecoming Weekend on May 22-24, 2015, honoring our TJA Classes of 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, and all classes prior: CAA Classes of 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, and 1985. We welcome all our alumni and families, former and current administrators, board members, faculty and staff, parents, friends, and supporters.

Please contact the Office of Advancement, TADSB—Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, 416/633-0090 or 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 @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook "The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group." (5/15)

Please Join Andrews University for the presentation of a *Festschrift* to George Knight in honor of his distinguished teaching, research, editorial and publishing career. The recently released book *Adventist Messiah: A Celebration of George*

Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought, is a collection of writings by colleagues and students who have come to highly respect Knight and his scholarship. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel at Andrews University and will feature tributes by the editors and a response from Knight. A reception will follow in the Seminary Commons. All are welcome.

■ Missing Members

The Carleton Place church is looking for the following missing members: Cynthia Clark, Brenda Oenike, Sue Oesjardin, Melissa Dorion, Daniel Fortin, Marilyn Gerhardt, Michelle Marriage, Lori-Ann McIntosh, Christophe Merani, Lincoln Meenan, David Moore, Edward Fugh, Kathleen Service. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Didier Fourny at 613-937-3124 or dfourny@adventistcanario.org.

The Perth church is looking for the following missing members: Janice Berney, Robin Cheres (McCallough), Melanie Daigle, Robin Daigle, Steven Dowdall, Puzdek Driscoll, Mildred El Bizar, Arthur Lembe, Lilian Lembe, Bonnie McCann, Uriah McCann, George McCullough, Felicitia Mercado, Maria Mercado, Samuel Mercado. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Didier Fourny at 613-937-3124 or dfourny@adventistcanario.org.

The Smiths Falls church is looking for the following missing members: Kyle Daigle, Pamela Heck, Priscilla Heck, Darrin Ireland, Nancy Pelletier. If you have a current phone number and address for any of these people, please contact Didier Fourny at 613/937-3124 or dfourny@adventistcanario.org.

■ Anniversaries



Bob and Joan Mumford of Clearwater, B.C., celebrated their

50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 3, 2014. They were married in Vanderhoof, B.C., where they made their home for many years and retiring in Clearwater. The Mumfords have three children and six grandchildren.

Lyte and Bonnie Walker of Mission, B.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 26, 2014. They



were married in Armstrong, B.C., and have made their home in Mission. The Walkers have three children and six grandchildren.

■ Birthdays

Caroline Kuehnbach of Calgary, Alta., celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 20, 2015, in Calgary. Her family and friends are grateful for her long and happy life.

■ Obituaries

Mary (née Flehowsky) Dreyer was born on Aug. 21, 1920, in Kalilow, Russia, and died on Nov. 25, 2014, in Kelowna, B.C. She participated in many years of (gatherings in Yorktown, Sask., sponsored two students in Mexico and India, and wrote plays. She also served as Sabbath school superintendent, deaconess, and investment leader. Mary is predeceased by her husband, Fred Dreyer; parents, Andrew and Ordie Fallowsky; brother, John Gerhardt Fallowsky. Surviving: son, Ken Dreyer; daughter, Joan Pinder; sister, Helen Steffens; six grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Joseph A. Elkow was born on Feb. 2, 1932, in Two Hills, Alta., and died on May 17, 2014, in Vegreville, Alta. Joseph loved studying the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and sharing the plan of salvation with others. In 1962 he was involved in the construction of the Vegreville church. At the time of his death he was head elder, church groundskeeper, personal ministries director, adult Sabbath school teacher, sunshine bond leader, and ADRA annual appeal director. In 2013 he was honoured by the Alberta Community for 40 years of volunteer service. He is

predeceased by his son, Joseph Harvey Elkow; parents, Alex and Maria (née Lysanchuk) Elkow; brothers, John Elkow, William Elkow, Mike Elkow, Max Elkow, Andrew Elkow, Dmytro Elkow, and Nick Elkow; sisters, Annie Oadensky, Pearl Wernika, Nettie Elkow, Sophie McLean, and Victoria Diakiv. Surviving: wife, Sandra (née Fedorak) Elkow; sons, Kenneth James (Venita) Elkow of Calgary, Alta., and David Wayne Elkow of Vegreville; daughter, Elizabeth Marie (Reiter) Kupperts of Mission, B.C.; brother, Marshall (Nadja) Elkow of Edmonton, Alta.; sister, Isabel (Mike) Topolinski of Two Hills, and Esther Mandrusiak of Edmonton; and one grandson.

Isabel (née Bushby) Kinney was born on April 5, 1925, in Carlisle, England, and died on Dec. 17, 2014, in Bath, N.B. She was a member of the Perth-Andover church, where she served as treasurer for 30 years and was actively involved in the orange outreach program for many years, along with other church activities. Isabel is predeceased by her husband, Basil Kinney; daughter, Suzanne Jackson. Surviving: sons, Robert (Peggy) Kinney of Cartingford, N.B., Donald (Norma) Kinney of Holmesville, N.B., Jack (Claire) Kinney of Renfrew, N.B., Lynn Kinney of Kingston, Ont., Tony Kinney of Enfield, N.S.; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

William Klatt was born on Aug. 19, 1929, in Kelowna, B.C., and died on Mar. 17, 2014, in Oliver, B.C. He faithfully supported the Adventist Church, serving as an elder, deacon, church school board member, and Sabbath school teacher. In addition, he strongly supported Adventist education and ADRA for many years. Bill is predeceased by his wife, Dolores (née Bachus) Klatt; son-in-law, Scott Church; parents, Samuel and Emilie Klatt; brothers, Arthur Klatt and Harry Klatt; sister, Esther Thorp and Lydia Manzuk. Surviving: sons, Bernard (Bevzley) Klatt of Oliver, Harvey Klatt of Oliver, Russell Klatt of Spokane, Wash.; daughter, Beverly Church of San Francisco, Calif.; sisters, Erna Seaton of Terrace, B.C., Doreen (Marian) Moss of Ellensburg, Wash.; and one grandchild.

Benjamin Lippert was born on Aug. 9, 1927, in Bassano, Alta., and died on Nov. 24, 2014, in Ponoka, Alta. He is predeceased by his wife, Shirley Lippert; brother, Henry Lippert; sisters, Clara and Elsie. Surviving: daughter, Marlene (Morgan) Taylor; pen-pal daughter, Pamela (Jim) Soper; sisters, Ruth Taylor and Lilian Lewis; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Evelyn (née Jones) Mundall-Nowell was born on July 12, 1921, in Green Bay, Wis., and died on Dec. 1, 2014, in Lytton, B.C. Her long and full life was marked by an unusual optimism, generosity, and vitality. In addition to being a loving wife and mother, she was a pioneer and co-founder of La Loma Luz Hospital in Belize, and donated several churches and church schools; she was a Bible instructor, musician, correspondent, and fundraiser. Evelyn is predeceased by her first husband, Raymond Mundall; son, Nathaniel Mundall; brother, Bob Jones; sister, Lois Bower. Surviving: husband, Bryce Nowell; sons, Bernard (Lois) Mundall of Portland, Ore., Lawrence Mundall of Lytton, Jon (Eloyce) Mundall of Connell, Wash., Mendie (Becky) Mundall of Lytton, Daniel (Ruth) Mundall of Lytton, Derrell Mundall of Loma Linda, Calif., Jonathan Mundall of Belize, Central America; daughters, Rosalie (Gary) Schroeder of Appleton, Wis., Mary (Keith) Hansen of McDonald, Tenn., Laurel (Ron) Demask of Grimsby, Ont., Cynthia (Doug) Zimmerly of Angwin, Calif., Sherri Mandall of Oak Park, Calif., Shellie (Steve) Boydman of Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Jennifer (Gary) Manton of Grand Prairie, Ala., Stephanie Mundall of Kamloops, B.C.; step-daughters, Anita (Paul) Newberry of Ridgecrest, Calif., Judy (Clarence) Anderson of College Place, Wash.; 45 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

Margaret Mae (née Deshaene) Young was born on Sept. 19, 1923, in Madbank, Ont., and died on Jan. 1, 2015, in Peterborough, Ont. Mae and her husband were very active in their church, and her second love was working in her flower and vegetable gardens. Mae is predeceased by her husband, George Young; sons, Gordon Young and Orville Young; parents, Joseph and Lillian Deshaene; brothers, George, Arnold, Carmen; sisters, Emily, Florence, Amelia. Surviving: son, Bryce (Mary Ann) Young of Bartleford, Sask.; daughter, Donna Delina of Peterborough, Ont.; sister, Josephine (Don) Armstrong of Kingsman, Ont.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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If you are interested, please send a detailed resumé with your qualifications and possible references of previous performance and service to: CPL Canada, 5700 Yonge Street, Suite 200, Unit 244 Toronto, ON, M2M 4K2. Fax: 647/777-1406, Telephone: 647/777-1405, www.cplives.ca, Email: canadadmissions@cplives.org. (3/15)

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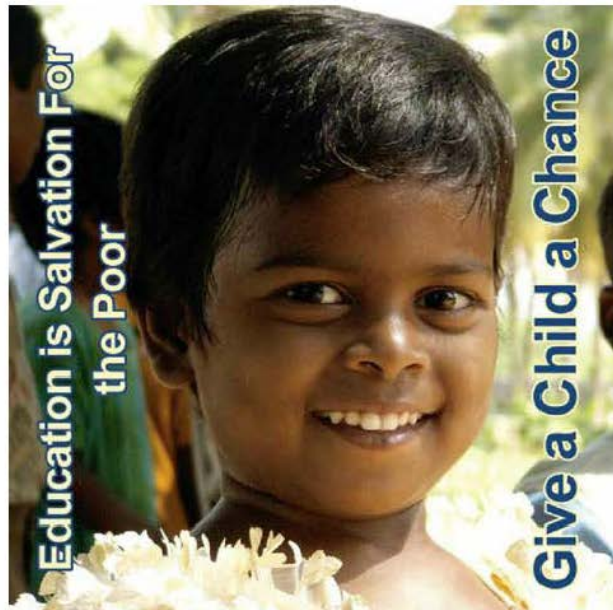
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from the editor

Spiritual Know-it-Alls

EARLY ON IN MY CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE, I enjoyed studying the Bible, but my motivation was to let other people know where they were wrong, which meant that I, of course, was right. I remember feeling the joy of victory after studying with John on a topic of utmost importance to his faith. I rejoiced when I was able to clearly show him that he was wrong.

John was surprised to know that people outside of his faith group studied the Bible as much or even more than his denomination claimed to. Within days, he stopped any kind of praying, fellowship, or religious thinking. He felt betrayed and tricked by his lifelong friends and religious leaders and began to wonder what else he had “fallen” for. John was terminally ill, and I destroyed his faith. I failed him and my God. Within weeks, John died. He never recovered from the spiritual axe I threw at his Christian experience.

But I was able to show that I was a spiritual know-it-all, so I won, right? This was a clear failure on my part. I am ashamed of how I represented Christ in that situation, but I have since taken it as a learning experience. Nothing but the grace of God can remove that from the guilt bank that I keep tucked in my brain. Thankfully, God does not remember it, except for the times that I keep bringing it up to Him. How many of us remind God, too often, of the sins that He has already cast in to the depth of the sea?

I have found that every praying person has always learned something that could enhance my own spiritual life. I have also learned that it is OK for God, not me, to tell someone that it is time to move away from their mistaken beliefs. I have taken my experience with John and used it to connect with and strengthen others.

Now I read the Bible for my own edification, and I continue to find more and more powerful and inspiring statements. Even after I have read a chapter a few times, discovering new truths makes it feel as if I am reading it for the first time. Open your Bible and read each chapter—not for points to prove an argument, but for your own understanding and enrichment. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger

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PREVIEW WEEKEND

April 17-19, 2015

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