

canadian adventist

Messenger

november 2016

ADRA Canada is ensuring sustainable, positive change in drought-stricken Mandera West, Kenya.

A School Without Walls

PLUS Something to Eat (p. 3)
Doing Nothing (p. 7) Fire Drill (p. 15)
SDACC Quinquennial Feature (p. 28)

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heart to heart

“You give them
something to eat.”

—Mark 6:37, ESV

Something to Eat

Have you ever been without food in a place where there was none to be had? That has happened to me a few times. And while I don't think it would hurt me to do without, I have to admit that being in that predicament made me a little anxious. But worse, what if you were not only hungry but also lacked the money to do anything about it? That would really be cause for concern, wouldn't it?

There was something so compelling about the way Jesus connected with people and how he taught them, that folks couldn't get enough. On one occasion, when it seemed as if they were going to lose track of Jesus, a huge number of them pursued Him. Late in the day out in the middle of nowhere, even the disciples recognized that these people needed food. They suggested that Jesus send the crowd to obtain their own food somewhere, but Jesus had a different solution.

“You give them something to eat,” Jesus said (Mark 6:37, ESV). In feeding the five thousand, Jesus demonstrated that religious faith without a corresponding care for the needs of those around us is without value.

To put it plainly, our treatment of others is more telling than a hundred sermons. It is impossible for godly people to mistreat others. One who claims godliness but speaks evil of others, ignores need, or mistreats those in a position of inequality is out of touch with God.

Adventists have many opportunities to demonstrate the reality of their faith. One of these is through the ministry of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Through ADRA Canada, you and I can touch the lives of countless hungry, hurting, or hopeless persons who live each day in a way that could be their last.

You see, ADRA was conceived as a way for Adventists, both individuals and families, to focus beyond themselves, become aware of a world in need, and learn to live for others. In that simple way, we come a little closer to living like Jesus.

Please join me in praying for those who need, support ADRA Canada, and live like you and I were there when Jesus fed five thousand. ■

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



What's it Mean to You?

“As long as I can remember, I've been fascinated with the First Nations people. I want my art to help build a church in Maskwacis.”

Jeanie Spratt, a.k.a. AJ McCoy
Artist, past *Adventist Review*
illustrator & MANS Supporter
Bluffton, Alberta



Jeanie Spratt is adventurous by nature. Couple that with a talent for observing and painting nature and a passion for First Nations people, and you have one tenacious artist who's determined to bring Christ to the children of Maskwacis, Alberta.

Though Jeanie changed her name to “Spratt” when she married photographer and teacher, Bob Spratt, she continued to sign her paintings as AJ McCoy, as she did when she apprenticed under master painters at the *Review*. She became internationally known as a wildlife painter, collected by art lovers such as Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Jeanie's passion for wildlife, however, was eclipsed by a new passion when she met the children of Maskwacis.

As Bob shouldered the difficult role of principal of the Church's Native School in Alberta, Jeanie supported his work through the week and became known as “Kokum” (Grandmother) as she helped lead out in church on the reserve each Sabbath. Jeanie used her art to connect her beloved young people to Jesus, to make Him more real.

That passion didn't change when she and Bob retired. As Jeanie continued to paint and be an integral part of the Maskwacis church, a new vision came to her: she could see a dedicated Adventist church rather than the rented facility with its limitations—a church with a real baptistery that had the feel of an outdoor stream with rocks and greenery like that of the Battle River that runs through the reserve.

So Jeanie's donating her gift to that cause. While she lives, the proceeds of paintings sold from Jeanie's website go to support the tiny Maskwacis congregation, and in her will, Jeanie has given the Alberta Conference the right to those proceeds, to be used for the Maskwacis church.

Someday, Jeanie dreams, there will be a remarkable baptistery in Maskwacis, filled with students from MANS.

To view Jeanie's art, go to www.ajmccoyart.com



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**

WHAT'S INSIDE

November 2016



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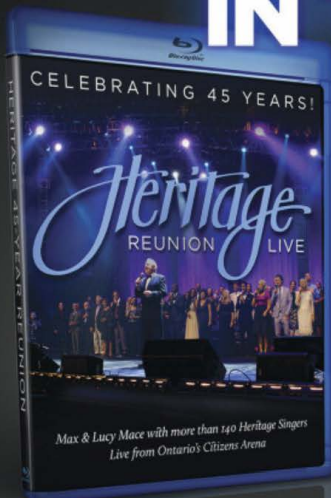
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Doing Nothing

The *Globe and Mail* carried an article by Jeffrey Simpson entitled “We’re a Country Comforted by Untruths” on Sept. 24, 2015. Here are a few quotes:

Canada continues to portray itself as a serious global player while spending less and less each year on the world . . . Canadians also believe the lie that they are not just respected around the world, but that they play a role beyond the country’s size and wealth. . . . In fact, as opposed to mythology, Canada has been punching far below its weight for a long time. . . . Here is an uncomfortable truth—Canadians are actually not much interested or involved in the world, at least in comparison with their self-image. . . . If Canada were to reach the level of global engagement of Britain and France, we would need to spend about \$30 billion.

From a very different perspective: “The world spends more on chewing gum than on humanitarian aid!”¹

I wonder how much these statements describe Canadian Seventh-day Adventists. For instance, giving to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) per member is much better in Canada than in the United States but way lower than in Australia and some European countries.

Frequently, politicians and journalists make references to “Canadian values.” While there may be no standard definition of what this entails, certain elements generally emerge, including commitment to social justice and peace.²

I believe that we all value philanthropy, giving, or charity. However, different people act on that God-given impulse in different ways, and we need to recognize those differences and broaden our own understanding:

- Some people place a higher value on supporting individuals and families than supporting institutions (and vice versa).
- The immediate, urgent needs generally get more attention than long-term, planned solutions.
- Support for traditional institutions is eroding, unless they are perceived as being genuine.

Lessons abound for us all:

- 1) Those of us in institutional charitable endeavour in the church must strive for professional, transparent stewardship, and we must engage our constituency in such a way that they can confidently support us. While we may preach stewardship and the biblical mandate for returning tithes and giving offerings, we cannot take that support for granted. Nor can we ignore the pleas, the frustrations, and the questions of church members.
- 2) All of us need to recognize, and systematically respond to, the spiritual call that comes to each one to participate in giving, sharing, and supporting *all* levels of the grand Adventist enterprise of which we are a part.

Rereading the parables of the talents and the sheep and goats,³ I am struck by a common thread that links them. Those who are “cast out” have not done something particularly bad—rather, they have done *nothing*!

Growing support from readers coast-to-coast, coupled with God’s blessing in helping us secure generous grants from the Canadian government, has helped us double ADRA Canada’s programming in the last quinquennium. Nonetheless, I frequently am asked why we are not doing more. A simple but truthful answer is that we *could* be doing so much more on behalf of Adventist Canadians if they became stronger prayer and financial partners.

Proverbs 14:31 says, “Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God” (NIV). We may oppress by doing nothing. Instead, let us *do something*! Canadian Adventists: Let’s punch above our weight! ■

James Astleford is the executive director for ADRA Canada.



¹Gareth Price-Jones, “Concrete Action at the World Humanitarian Summit,” *Care*, Dec. 7, 2015, accessed Sept. 28, 2016, www.care-international.org/news/stories-blogs/global-concrete-action-at-the-world-humanitarian-summit. See also: “Purchase V. Humanitarian Aid Spending,” *WhatsApp*, <http://indy100.independent.co.uk/article/one-statistic-that-tells-you-more-about-the-world-than-a-million-could-lyQvxBMAxBx>

²See “What Are Canadian Values,” *Durham Immigration Portal*, 2010, accessed Sept. 28, 2016, www.durhamimmigration.ca/creating%20community/Pages/WhatareCanadianValues.aspx

³See Matt. 25:14–46.

teen talk

Q: Will I go to heaven if I date a non-Adventist girl?

A: Sorry, man, but I can't answer that question with a simple yes or no. In fact, nobody can! Only God knows who will join him in heaven.

Let me suggest a different approach. Does Sarah¹ love Jesus? That's the first and most important question. Does she joyfully keep the Sabbath? Is she excited about Jesus coming again really soon? Will Sarah stay in the way between you and Jesus? Do you see yourself praying with her? Going to church with her? Bringing her to your youth group? These questions are more important than the colour of her eyes, the length of her hair, and how many followers she has on Instagram.

If you are totally in love with Jesus, you'll want to date someone who loves Him as much as you do or even more. ■



¹Totally random name, of course!

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

Moon Snail

Paddling our kayak in a quiet inlet in British Columbia, we turned into a side-channel and then into another narrower passage until we came to a shallow pool surrounded by a rock wall. We pulled our kayak through a gap in the wall and gazed down into the water.

Through sparkling, clean water, we saw that the floor of the pool was covered with living colour! Orange sea stars, pink anemones, and spiny violet sea urchins lay upon the sand. Moon snails had left large volcano-like coils of eggs to hatch in this nursery pool. I lifted an enormous moon snail with the end of my paddle to have a closer look, but it pulled itself inside its shell and hid.

Think about it.

God made shelled animals like snails with the amazing ability to clean and purify water. The oceans would be smelly and disgusting without these creatures. As we spend time with Jesus, getting to know Him, the Holy Spirit shows us sin in our lives. If we co-operate with Him, He cleans away all the polluting sins in our lives, making us more and more like Jesus every day.

Do it!

Cut a strip of coloured paper 5 cm wide and 25 cm long. Write the Bible verse on the strip. Measure 3 cm from one end and make a mark. Fold the paper down at the mark and staple near the fold. This is the snail's head. Starting from the other end, use a pencil to roll the strip into a coiled shell. Glue on pieces of pipecleaner for antennae.



Burman's Student Leaders



Left to right: Gloria Osei, Spencer Page, Nancy Reyes, Rohan Parab, Ivah Lumalang, Benjamin Amoah, Irhis Parast, Stephanie Hodder, Mark Ebajo, and Ashia Lennon.

Burman University 2016/2017 Student Association:

Ivah Lumalang, President
 Gloria Osei, Executive Vice-President
 Benjamin Amoah, Religious Affairs Vice-President
 Rohan Parab, Financial Vice-President
 Irhis Parast, Social Vice-President
 Mark Ebajo, Communications Vice-President
 Spencer Page, Student Life Director
 Nancy Reyes, Secretary
 Ashia Lennon, Newspaper Editor
 Stephanie Hodder, Yearbook Editor

REPRESENTING 456 STUDENTS FROM ALL PROVINCES IN CANADA, many states in the USA, as well as many countries all over the world, our 2016/2017 Student Association (SA) members are ready to lead by being servants to their fellow students.

While the academic year consists of many events, Ivah Lumalang, SA president for the 2016/2017 academic year, has one thing on her mind: "One of my biggest goals this year is to accomplish what I asserted in my presidential platform, and that is *togetherness*. I hope that amidst our diversity on this campus, we will unite by making our differences become our strengths. They will be the glue that binds us together with compassion and acceptance and, most assuredly, are not cause for separation. I pray that, together, we will strive for excellence in everything we do and view ourselves and one another with pride for being part of a harmonious family. I hope that through my leadership, and with the support of our amazing SA team, we can infuse this unique university with a living and breathing reflection of God's character. Finally, I hope that I can be more than just a leader but a servant to my family (see Matt. 20:26) and, most importantly, a faithful servant of Christ," remarks Ivah.

For Benjamin Amoah, Religious Affairs vice-president, the idea of togetherness and spirituality is a burden he, too, carries for the campus. "My burden is the spirituality of this campus. Even before I was in this position on the Student Association, I have been trying to figure out what works. What is it that the campus needs to have a zest for God, to seek Him out personally and grow with Him personally, to have a relationship with God that is their own? When my term in this position is done, I want students to have no doubt that they can take ownership of their spiritual experience here at Burman. I want them to know that what they want to see—in worship, in outreach, in anything with God—matters. I want the campus to know that the venue and outlets exist, and if not, it will be provided for their spiritual growth," says Benjamin.

For Ivah, her experience at Burman is what she hopes for new students and for students all over Canada who might be looking for a place where they can grow. Ivah remarks, "One of my greatest desires is for Burman University to thrive in every way and for each member of this campus to take pride in the family they are a part of. I hope that the students of Burman University excel in everything they do and, most importantly, have opportunities to reach their highest potential. I also pray that, here, everyone can seek, find, and experience Christ. I pray that we can be that beacon of light and hope for not only our city of Lacombe, but to all those around us. The success of our institution plays a significant role in the future of Canada's Seventh-day Adventist students. People all over Canada see and hear what takes place here on the hilltop. If each one of us just reaches our full potential, achieve greatness, and live as servants for Christ, we can bring back and even attract new souls. Oh, what a joy that would be!" ■

Jr Ferrer is vice-president for marketing and enrolment at Burman University.



Evelyn and Charles Hawes



Brian Hawes with his adopted sister Aurora and her son.

Living Stones

One night, as Brian Hawes walked with his translator to the evening meeting at an evangelistic series he was conducting in the Philippines, his translator said, “Your sister will be coming tonight to hear you speak.” The casual comment puzzled Hawes because he knew his sister was back home in Canada. At the end of the meeting, a beaming Filipino woman rushed towards Hawes, arms outstretched, and introduced herself as Aurora, his “sister.” Unbeknownst to Hawes, his parents had unofficially adopted this woman when she was still a girl, and they had sponsored her education from elementary school through university, and kept in touch with her over the years. He and Aurora called “their” parents, and for the very first time, they were able to hear each other’s tearful voices.

Pastor Brian Hawes’s parents, Charles and Evelyn Hawes, owned a small farm in British Columbia, where they raised their children and earned their livelihood growing corn, potatoes, watermelon, and asparagus.

“I don’t remember Dad and Mom ever having anything new,” Hawes shares. “Rather than investing in new cars or state-of-the-art farming equipment, my parents chose to make do with the least possible so they could help those in need. They supported many students by helping

with tuition, both in Canada and abroad,” he says. Once, when Brian urged his father to sell their “old clunker” of a car and buy a new one, his father’s response was, “Well, if I buy a new car, that leaves me with nothing to give away, except maybe this ‘old clunker.’”

When a man named John Howard began the ministry that would become ADRA Canada, Charles and Evelyn became lifetime supporters. After Charles retired from full-time farming, he devoted his fields to growing pumpkins and donated the proceeds to ADRA. Brian Hawes recalls his father saying, “I like ADRA Canada, and I like farming. I can support ADRA with my farm.”

In Charles and Evelyn’s will, provision was made for a large portion of their resources to be given to Seventh-day Adventist ministries, including ADRA Canada. That bequest, along with other contributions, enabled the building of the Hawes Wellness Centre in Mindoro, Philippines, which serves a large indigenous population that previously had no access to health care.

“Dad and Mom really cared about people,” Hawes writes in a memorial book created for the family. He continues, “In their life journey they positively impacted many people. They provided an example of what Christianity is all about for us

children. They were sacrificial when it came to helping the underprivileged . . . They were passionate about the work of ADRA and were strong supporters.”

As recorded in the Old Testament, people often built memorials to remind future generations of God’s deliverance, provision, mercy, and power. In 1 Peter 2:5 this idea is extended to individuals acting as memorials: “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (NIV). Charles and Evelyn have left memorials of “living stones” all around the world. These “living stones”—the people Charles and Evelyn helped—have been blessed and positively changed, and they will go on to bless others. The Haweses’ legacy continues to grow and multiply through these individuals.

Charles and Evelyn dedicated their lives and resources to service. Though they rarely wandered far from their farm, their gifts circumnavigated the globe. Charles and Evelyn helped to change countless lives.

Their story makes us wonder how we will be remembered—what memorial will we leave behind? ■

Heather Grbic is the church relations coordinator for ADRA Canada.

where are they now

Where Are They Now

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



Bill and Judy Olson

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

Messenger: *Tell me about your childhood.*

Bill Olson: I was born in Lacombe, Alta., to parents who farmed just north of what was then Canadian Junior College. I have one sister, Jeanette, two years younger than me.

M: *Where did you obtain your education?*

B: For the first four years of my school life, I attended Milton public school near Lacombe. Then my parents moved to British Columbia where the local church operated a school, which I attended from Grade 5–8. From there, my parents sent me to Langley Junior Academy for Grades 9 and 10.

During Grade 10, my father died, which left the farm operations, including the milking of about a dozen cows, up to my mother and my sister. Now I felt that I needed to stay home and help my mother on the farm and attend the local high school. But my mother would have none of that, and insisted I go away from home and finish high school at Canadian Union College.

Following completion of high school, I enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology program at Canadian Union College. Not having quite finished the theology degree, I was offered a job with Campbell Soup Company. It was while employed by Campbell's that I met a pretty little brunette nursing student at the University of Alberta. One night, while on a date, she said, "I would never marry a guy like you because you are never home." She was right. Subsequently, I went to Andrews University and completed a degree in psychology.

M: *As I recall, you did not begin your career working for the church. What influenced you to change your career path and serve the church?*

B: Following graduation from Andrews, I was hired by the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta. One of the benefits of being on staff at the university was that I got to take a few courses each year, tuition free. I took advantage of that and enrolled in the MBA program. Then the Faculty of Medicine opened up a master's degree program in hospital and health care administration, to which I transferred. While completing my studies in health care administration, I had to do a major research project at a health care facility. Allen Fowler, the administrator of Sherwood Park Nursing Home near Edmonton, allowed me to do my research at his facility. I think he must have told others of what I was doing, because one day I got a call from Bill Soloniuk, the president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference at the time. He wanted an appointment with me. Over lunch together, at the

Faculty Club, he persuaded me to accept the position of Administrator of Park Manor Personal Care Home in Winnipeg. Thus began my work for the "church."

M: *In what capacity—and where—did you serve the church?*

B: Seven years later Herb Larsen called me to the Alberta Conference as Secretary-Treasurer. From the Alberta Conference, I accepted the position of President and Chief Executive Officer for the Gimbel Eye Centre, in Calgary, working with Dr. and Mrs. Howard Gimbel. While under their employ, I was paralyzed from the neck down in a wrestling accident.

While in the hospital, I got a call from Clifford Sorensen, then president of the British Columbia Conference, asking me if I would come to British Columbia as their under-treasurer. I accepted with a "subject to"—subject to my being able to walk again. And I began to walk again! While working as treasurer of the BC Conference, we were called to the Island of Cyprus to be the secretary-treasurer of the Middle East Union. From the Middle East Union we were called to the Trans-European Division, in England, as treasurer for a territory of responsibility from Iceland to Pakistan and from Lapland to Uganda. Dan Jackson then called us back to the Alberta Conference, where I served as president from 2004 to the fall of 2008.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

B: By the way, following graduation from Andrews University and returning to Alberta, I proposed to that pretty little brunette (Judy, née Lindberg) the night before she got baptized, and shortly thereafter we were married. We have three sons: Gregory, the eldest, a pediatric and orthodontic dentist who teaches at Loma Linda University; David, our middle son is a general surgeon in Edmonton; Edward, our youngest, a chartered accountant and general manager of the Alternative Energy Division of Fortis, British Columbia. All three sons are married. We enjoy our grand-dogs.

M: *Where are you now, and what do you do in retirement?*

B: Currently, my wife, Judy, and I are retired and living near Wetaskiwin, Alta., on a small acreage with a few horses, a cat, lots of deer, coyotes, red fox, lots of birds, and the occasional moose. We both help out in our local church. Judy cares for rather extensive flower gardens (her hobby), and I try to keep the lawns mowed. We enjoy considerable travel and camping in the mountains. Our neighbourhood is our mission field. ■

Deaf school brings Healing in Rwanda



Students at the Umutara School for the Deaf learn barbershop skills in the new A Better World Canada-sponsored vocational building.

Twenty-two years after genocide struck Rwanda, deep wounds continue to heal. This small landlocked country, and Africa's most densely populated, is rebuilding lives long after more than 800,000 people were killed in 1994. A Better World Canada recognized it could help. "The country was getting out of the genocide and was rebuilding schools," said A Better World Canada co-founder Eric Rajah. "Some of the groups were getting left behind—the disabled, the deaf. There was so much need and so we looked at how we could help those."

With the support of committed Canadians, A Better World is making a difference. Located three hours northeast of the capital of Kigali, the Umutara School for the Deaf provides learning to about 130 children. The Grade 1–8 students live there, most of them coming from rural poor families in Rwanda's eastern region.

When A Better World Canada stepped in about six years ago, the school still had bullet-ridden holes from the genocide against the Tutsi people. Four classrooms were renovated and eight new ones were added. Large washrooms and bunk beds were constructed, along with a water well that was installed. A

vocational school was added where students can learn everything from sewing to cutting hair, from computers to basket-weaving. Students are also playing on a new basketball court.

The school has witnessed several positive changes from A Better World Canada's support.

"If we didn't have the infrastructure or the vocational school, there would basically be no future for these children," said Rajah. "They may have finished Grades 1 to 3 and not seen a future beyond that."

Rajah recalls one deaf boy named Musinga who wasn't attending school like the rest of his eight siblings. He stayed at home with his parents, and at the end of each day he watched his brothers and sisters return home with school books in hand. "He was left to sit at home, which most marginalized children do because they don't have a voice," said Rajah. "When he came to Grade 1, he was nine or 10 years old. He was so excited to learn sign language." Musinga, 18, is now in Grade 8. "He's just so happy to learn skills and he's trying barbering now and he loves the computer," said Rajah, who visited the school in March.

As part of its mandate, A Better World seeks sponsors to finance any projects, and then the local people are hired to build. The community also enters the partnership to ensure proper maintenance and self-sustainability.

Primary project sponsor is Red Deer-area home builder Gord Bontje, who sponsored the vocational school, water well, and toilet projects. Georgia Knight of Lacombe, Alta., also financed the vocational school.

École Élémentaire Sunshine Hills Elementary School of Delta, B.C., sponsored four new classrooms as well as the basketball court.

Rajah encourages others across Canada to get involved in Rwanda. A Better World Canada is almost done its work with Umutara, so it has since found another deaf school to help. It's located near Lake Kivu, a freshwater lake in the Great Rift Valley.

"We're specifically looking for teachers who can teach deaf children sign language," said Rajah. "[They are] very difficult to find." Financial sponsors are being sought to hire sign language teachers. One position will cost about C\$4,000 per year. ■

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

Fire Drill

“If you know you are under spiritual warfare (a spiritual fire), what measures are you taking to be prepared when disaster hits?”

A FEW YEARS AGO, while on vacation, my family was sound asleep on the 16th floor of a hotel when we were awoken by the shrill, deafening sound of a fire alarm. Immediately, my wife grabbed the baby and the keys to the van. I jumped up and proceeded to grab a hold of the two older children, aged five and three, and started making our way toward the stairwell. Within a few minutes, the children were fast asleep in their car seats while my wife and I watched the fire trucks arrive. As the firefighters pulled out their gear, we reflected on how well we had worked together during the moment of crisis.

Since that night, our family has continued to form evacuation plans in case of an emergency. Whether it is on the ferry to Vancouver Island, or in a crowded auditorium, we will quickly assess the situation and discuss a brief exit strategy.

Do you have an emergency plan?

A few months ago, our evacuation plan was put to the test again. We were sleeping in the pastors' section of Camp Hope during British Columbia campmeeting. Around 11:30 on Friday night, I overheard someone talking outside of my cabin. "There is a fire," the voice shouted. Immediately, my wife and I sprang into action. Shoes. Jacket. Keys. Wallet. That was it. We woke up the children and ran to the van. As I looked into the dark sky, I could see a fire raging. The flames were over one hundred feet in the air, consuming the night sky with bright reds, oranges, and pale blues. My family raced toward the camp exit while I stayed behind to help evacuate the camp.

Within a few short minutes the campground was

popping with concerned campers now awake. Some people were hysterical. They were panicking and screaming. Others were jumping into their cars and trying to flee. What surprised me the most was how slow some people were to evacuate. As I was clearing out one section of the camp, I observed a mother packing everything from the cabin and meticulously putting things into her minivan—as if she were packing for a family trip to the beach. The children stood in the middle of the living room with blurry eyes while their mom packed up their earthly possessions. I ran into their cabin and shouted, "You need to get out of here! Get in your car and take your kids to safety." She didn't listen to me. She continued to pack.

If it wasn't for the incredible volunteer fire team who quickly took control of the fire, the outcome could have been a disaster. Upon reflecting on that terrifying evening, I began to wonder how prepared Christians are in the face of spiritual disaster. We have been warned that the devil is like a lurking lion, waiting to pounce (see 1 Pet. 5:8). Do you believe that? If you know you are under spiritual warfare (a spiritual fire), what measures are you taking to be prepared when disaster hits? How quickly will you act when the fire hits you? Second Timothy 4:2 remind us to be ready in season and out of season. Are you prepared for the next fire in your life? ■

Kumar Dixit is the former ministerial director of the British Columbia Conference. He currently serves as the chaplain of WGTS 91.9 radio in Takoma Park, Maryland. He is the author of Branded Faith, available on Amazon.com.



Cross Point



Words by God —Exodus 14:14, NIV

Life is constantly moving and changing, and with it come new adventures and things yet to discover. None of us know what tomorrow will hold, and every day is an adventure. The future often gives us apprehensions and uncertainties, but the one thing we can always be sure of is that God goes with us and marks our path.

It reminds me of the Israelites as they left Egypt, not knowing exactly where they were going or how they would get to their new home. The path wasn't marked out, but as they put one step in front of the other in faith, God led them in miraculous ways. After leaving Egypt, the Israelites were at a cross-point of their journey, the Red Sea stretched out in front of them and they could not travel around it; they were stuck. Many of the people were discouraged and complained to Moses, saying, "We should have stayed in Egypt where we were slaves. It would be better than dying out here in the desert!"

Does that thought come to mind when we're facing a rough point? Do we wish for what was and complain about our problems?

The Israelites were upset with God for leading them into the desert where they faced obstacles that seemed impossible to overcome. The Egyptian army was pursuing them as they camped by the Red Sea. They could see the enemy not far off, and panic began to set in. It says they cried out to God for help. Moses told the people to have faith in what God would do: "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (Exod. 14:13).

In this story, what stood out to me was not the need for help and refuge or the obstacles that prevented them from moving forward. What baffles me is God's response to their cry for help. God answered, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move forward" (Exod. 14:14). How many times have we been at a cross-point in our own lives and cried out to God or been upset with Him when the answers didn't come the way we expected?

I personally know that at times, when we see the obstacles or challenges in front of us, we see only two options. How many possibilities and options does God see? He is not limited by our point of view nor is He wondering what to do when we face challenges. Is there something in your life right now that God is calling you to move forward with? Maybe the question we struggle with is not waiting on God, and instead, God is waiting on us.

The children of Israel experienced God's limitless power. The Red Sea parted before them, and they walked through on dry ground because they stepped out in faith. "Your path led through the sea ... though your footprints were not seen. You led your people like a flock" (Ps. 77:19, 20). We may not always see how God is leading in our lives, but we can be confident that in all our Red Sea moments, He goes before us and guides our path.

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



Watch "Jesus" by Chris Tomlin:
<https://goo.gl/G40iuP>



Our Father— The Hero of the Human Saga

In 1992, Derek Redmond, former British 400-metre record holder, suddenly pulled a hamstring in his right leg while running in the Barcelona Olympics. It did not take long before someone ran past security to come to his aid. It was determined that such assistance disqualified him from officially going on record as having finished the race.

His surgeon later notified him that he would never again represent his country in the sport. With the encouragement of his father, however, Derek recovered and entered to play professional basketball for the Birmingham Bullets. Eventually, his story served as an inspiration for a Visa commercial featuring the voice of Morgan Freeman highlighting that “he and his father finished dead last, but he and his father finished.”

Even though Derek is considered the hero of the story, it is the father’s action that brought inspiration to the event. When the father was out of the picture, Derek was running on his own accomplishments and strength. Sixteen seconds into the race, when he suffered the accident, the crowd watched in disbelief as he held on to his leg in agonizing pain. Some tried to help, but he refused assistance; others just could not help at all. He managed to get up and attempted to continue, injured as he was. Seconds later, hopping on one leg, he looked up and noticed that the runners had crossed the finish line; he thought that it was all over.

Suddenly, he felt a hand behind him. He was just about to push it off when he realized it was his father reaching for him. Through pain and tears, he allowed the old man to support and assist him to the finish line. He eventually finished the race while His father trailed behind. Derek’s physical pain turned to a sea of emotion when the father entered the picture; it inspired the crowd to applaud his courage to continue to the end. It was the father’s love for his son and the father’s concern for the well-being of his son that gave meaning to his suffering and demise, evoked the admiration of spectators, and ignited the son’s determination to complete the race.

This is a living portrait of the human saga. Our pain and suffering only have meaning when the Father demonstrates His love for us in Jesus Christ. The Father, in Jesus, is the true hero of the story. The Father, through Jesus, reaches out to us in our sorrowful condition. The angels pity our sinful state but cheer on when the Father accepts Jesus’ atoning sacrifice on behalf of the human race.

Jesus makes God real by inviting us to approach Him through prayer and to petition Him for our needs by calling Him Father. The Lord’s model prayer demonstrates not only that God desires to provide for us but also that our Saviour is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same heavenly Father. Through our Next-of-Kin we have legitimate access to the provisions of His Father.

Our heavenly Father claims us as His because He loves to care for our daily needs. By inviting us to pray to our Father, Jesus declares that we are loved even as He is loved (John 17:23; 1 John 3:2). “If we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Rom. 8:17, NIV).

Our Father hears every concern brought to Him in prayer. When we least expect it, He appears with a tender response. ■

Victor M. Reyes-Prieto is the prayer coordinator for Newfoundland and Labrador.



barry's blog

"Our skepticism is an innate protective mechanism that we ought to keep in tune—for our own sake and the sake of our fellow human beings."

Heresy and Science

The Trudeau government has taken a particular liking to the word *science*. In fact, it has become Trudeau's moniker. His arrhythmic cadence of the term is being used so much that it is getting tiresome. The recitation of the quantum theory soundbites he gleaned from touring a University of Waterloo facility some time ago only cemented the perception that this is a government that knows its science.

References to science pop up in the most unlikely of places. The term science appears in the names of two government departments: the Department of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development; and the Department of Science. Recently, in May 2016, Trudeau made a quip against the Conservative Party when it removed its traditional definition of marriage from its platform. "Better late than never," he said. "Who knows ... 10 years from now they might finally be willing to admit that climate change is real. Or that tax cuts for rich

people don't help the middle class. Or that government shouldn't legislate what women can wear on their heads."¹

The use of non-flattering nicknames for opponents has long been a political strategy. Donald J. Trump has that strategy down to, dare I say it, a science. "Little Rubio," "No-energy Bush," "Lyn' Ted," and his latest, "Crooked Hillary," are among Trump's current repertoire.

Similarly, the Trudeau government has sought to reframe the Conservatives and those who might hold to traditional moral norms as being "anti-science." It is the new government's attempt to look progressive and to be taken seriously because it bases its decisions on that which can be scientifically verified. It is not afraid of science; it embraces science and is moving forward. It seems that no matter what position the government takes, it prefaces its remarks with "science." Look for it in government announcements and media talking points. It is ubiquitous.

The problem, of course, is that *science* is more complicated than the media and the government would have us believe. Science is a much-contested term. How do we know that what scientists say today is not going to be refuted by another study tomorrow? How do scientists know what they know, and is it truly reliable? To what extent are the scientific studies biased or influenced by the sponsoring organization? Are the findings universal, necessary, and certain?

There are numerous problems with “scientific findings.” Consider that for a long time the tobacco companies were supporting their trade of noxious substances with “scientific proof” that the “science” on the harmful effects was inconclusive. This is not much different from those who profit in the sugar industry and commission studies that would have us believe that the science is inconclusive on the harmful effects of sugar. CBC Fifth Estate’s documentary *The Secrets of Sugar* clearly illustrates my point.

To be sure, science has made great strides over the last few hundred years. I am digitally typing this piece at 11,582 metres above sea level over Western Canada in a metal tube that is travelling over 800 km/h. We have benefitted from science in innumerable ways, but that does not mean that we should not be skeptical or that we should simply take, at face value, pronouncements of “science” from politicians or industry leaders or media who have a particular axe to grind. Our skepticism is an innate protective mechanism that we ought to keep in tune—for our own sake and the sake of our fellow human beings.

The nature of science is that we are forever learning. Newton’s law of gravity was replaced by Einstein’s theory of general relativity, and so on. The point is we have to maintain an open mind. A mind that questions and takes the science as it is but with an eye to the future. Our current “scientific” views may not stand the test of time and may someday be considered ignorant and dangerous. Think only of the “science” of eugenics in the 1930s. The great thinkers of the day—including lawyers and judges such as Justice Oliver Wendell

Holmes, declared, “Three Generations of Imbeciles Are Enough.” And even the “Famous Five” feminists of the famous “Persons Case” advocated for eugenics!

William A. Wilson’s article “Scientific Regress” analyzes a recent report of the Open Science Collaboration’s (OSC) attempt to replicate 100 published psychology experiments from three prestigious journals. The OSC used original materials and sometimes with the original researchers. Their study found that 65 percent “failed to show statistical significance on replication, and many of the remainder showed greatly reduced effect sizes.” In other words, they were flawed studies for one reason or another. Social studies is not the only field in which problems with scientific research emerge. It is not uncommon for researchers to take shortcuts in their work in order to advance a popular theory and, by doing, so further their career. At times there is outright fraud. The most successful researcher appears to be the one who can get published in a “peer-reviewed” journal but whose articles are never read again to be verified or taken seriously.

The nub of the matter is this, every profession whether it is law, medicine, religion, business, or science is subject to the “human factor.” Unfortunately, we make wrong decisions based on any number of motives, including profit and fame. People do people things. No profession is exempt.

Therefore, we are and must be wary of any mindset—whether it be religion or science—that says they have all of the answers to our current problems. We need to weigh the claims against the best information we have and be ever mindful of the human factor. That is not heretical; that is just common sense. ■

Barry W. Bussey’s opinions are his own and do not reflect those of his employer. He blogs at lawandreligion.org.

¹ Janyce McGregor, “Freedom and Respect: Conservatives Strike Marriage Definition From Party Policy,” *CBC.ca*, May 28, 2016, accessed Sept. 28, 2016, www.cbc.ca/news/politics/conservative-convention-sat-urday-votes-1.3604990.



Photo: Keith Chant

Almost vegan

The United Nations has designated 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. Not only are pulses high in fibre, protein, iron, folate, and potassium, they are also affordable and one of the most sustainable food crops grown. But what is a pulse? Pulses are members of the legume family and include dried peas, beans, lentils, and chickpeas.

We enjoy cooking with pulses, and one of our favourites is the lentil. This month we take a traditional Latin American dish, the tostada, and introduce a Canadian twist: serving the lentils over a toasted English muffin instead of a toasted tortilla. One thing to remember when using dry pulses: Always sort them (on a cookie sheet) and remove any damaged or shrivelled beans and any foreign material, and then rinse them thoroughly. ■

Keith and Cheryl Chant, along with their son Ben, enjoy baking, cooking, and experimenting with flavours and recipes.

Lentil Tostadas

INGREDIENTS:

Lentils

2 cups (500 ml) uncooked lentils, rinsed
5 cups (1 L 250 ml) water
1 Tbsp (15 ml) chicken-style seasoning
2 cloves garlic, minced
dash of Tabasco sauce

The Rest

Chopped lettuce
Diced tomato
Diced cucumber
English muffins
Vegan margarine
Vegan ranch dressing

INSTRUCTIONS:

- After rinsing the lentils, put them in a medium pot and add the water, chicken-style seasoning, garlic, and Tabasco sauce.
- Bring to a boil and then reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 45 minutes or until lentils are tender.
- While the lentils are cooking, make a simple tossed salad by combining the lettuce, tomato, and cucumber and mixing together in a bowl.
- Toast the English muffins and spread with vegan margarine.
- Put lentils on the English muffins and top with salad and dressing.



Love Thy Neighbour

Hospitality is part of our DNA here in Newfoundland and Labrador, and as Christians we know the Good Book directs us to "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

The Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) welcomes visitors, neighbours, and listeners over the airwaves 365 days a year, and sometimes we are privileged to meet them in person!

What a blessing it is for staff to hear from listeners who respond in a neighbourly fashion to let us know how much they appreciate their favourite family radio station.

Dear VOAR,

I came to visit your station in July of 2010. Your manager gave me the grand tour and told me all about your programming. I am writing to say thank you for your continued work and for being so gracious to my wife and me when we had the chance to visit.

I am thrilled that VOAR has taken up the challenge to move from AM to FM, no small feat for sure. My heart is deeply stirred to care for the church, and for Canada. This nation can and will move into God's purposes as the prayers of the saints are lifted up before Him.

Please be encouraged to know that your listeners are always eager to hear how VOAR is progressing. Thank you for keeping us posted. We pray for you often. God bless your radio work in Newfoundland and Labrador and across the country. I am a Catholic Christian. I've always enjoyed your programming and have respected the views of other Christians.

Bless you all, and all who listen to your programs!

*Yours Truly,
Doctor Robert
Woodstock, Ont. ■*

Sherry Griffin is the station manager for VOAR.



Rebecque Johnson

ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

AT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH IN ALBERTA AND THE COLLEGE PARK CHURCH IN ONTARIO.

Lee Patterson: My hair.

Urpo (John) Maattanen: My aging, creaking joints, and to have even closer communion with God daily.

Jason Perkins: I wish I could have better memory and study skills.

Karen Laan: Be more outgoing and able to share my faith without being insecure.

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

ADRA Canada is one of the organizations that make me proud to be an Adventist in Canada. This month I would like to introduce you to their finance director, Stephen Keys. Stephen holds a very noble position at ADRA Canada, as he is the man who makes sure that all funds are used according to policy and procedure, and presents all financial data to both government and church auditors.



Stephen and Carrie-lynn Keys with their children, Emma and Christopher.

EDITOR: *Tell me a little bit about yourself.*

STEPHEN KEYS: I have been married for 14 years to my beautiful wife, Carrie-lynn. I am a proud and devoted father to Christopher, 7, and Emma, 5, and believe in spending quality time with family as well as living a life that upholds the moral standards that reflect a relationship with the Lord. In my free time I enjoy being a property manager for rental properties I own and manage with family, and planning travelling experiences for us. I also enjoy exploring nature and participating in outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, and camping.

I like to learn how things work, and my wife calls me a handyman. I have other interests such as meteorology, history, and, of course, anything to do with finance and investments. I have been a coin collector since I was a boy, and now I continue that pastime with my son. As well, I have a passion for good food and can be found many times in the kitchen trying a new recipe or making an old-family-favourite recipe new again.

EDITOR: *How did you end up in humanitarian work? Was it a lifelong dream?*

STEPHEN: I stumbled into it. After completing university and working in the United States for the General Conference, I moved back to Canada, and a position at the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada became available.

Working for ADRA was something I had never thought of before as a career goal. Before I applied, I read and researched who ADRA was and what they did,

because I had known the name from family and friends who had volunteered over the years, but I didn't know the agency myself. I was very intrigued that the church had an agency that did all of this work beyond disaster response. It was so much more than the volunteering trips that family and friends had been on or the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. I felt, right from the outset, that this was a place for me.

EDITOR: *What role does finance play in projects, and why is it so important for a successful project?*

STEPHEN: Finance is an extremely important part of our work. Our projects can be quite complex. Finance ensures that they are on track. It is through our financial statements and audits that we can be accountable to our supporters and demonstrate that we are carrying out the work they have entrusted to us. I take these roles very seriously and strive to make improvements for the better of the company and communities supported by ADRA.

One issue we have grappled with is foreign currency exchanges. These can wreak havoc on our projects plans, and so we need to keep a close eye on the currency exchange rates for the countries where we operate. If the rates move more favourably to the Canadian dollar, we can include more people in our projects or provide them with more assistance. If they move unfavourably, we then have to adjust our work to compensate for the loss or try to raise additional funding to supplement what we have and maintain the project.

EDITOR: *Do you encounter fraud and corruption overseas? How do you prevent and/or deal with it?*

STEPHEN: Our staff and colleagues around the world are honest and accountable, in my experience.

There are, however, cultural and educational differences that we do encounter. In some cultures it is expected that our staff will give preference to their families, neighbours, or tribes. Since we help the most vulnerable regardless of other considerations, we cannot allow preferential treatment.

Also, not all countries follow the same accounting standards that we do.

We address both of these issues through training. As a network we have a clear set of values, and we do our best to communicate and live them out.

We have encountered situations where we have had to make some very difficult decisions based on staff actions, but thankfully, those instances are very uncommon and have not had anything to do with charitable funding being misused.

EDITOR: *Why is cash the best donation?*

STEPHEN: Cash gives us flexibility. The needs in each of our projects vary. Cash gives us the flexibility to address these different needs, especially when donations are made to our "Where Needed Most" fund.

Cash also allows us to respond quickly to disasters. It allows us to plan an immediate response, as we can move forward with purchasing what will be required.

Cash also lessens our administrative work, as we do not have to value and receipt goods. It helps us to do our work more efficiently and effectively.

EDITOR: *What would surprise our readers about your work?*

STEPHEN: The level of detail that it is involved from the conception or creation of a project until the final report is submitted. Our reports can be hundreds of pages long. Analysis of particular successes and failures can involve a huge amount of data, and financial reports can be hundreds of lines long with volumes of transaction records to prove the money has been spent the way it was intended. However, the most surprising, I believe, is what we do, because although ADRA does build things occasionally that allow you to hang a plaque on a wall and having something to take a picture of, ultimately we are a community-based organization whose goal is to improve the lives of the poor through education.

EDITOR: *What is your favourite Bible verse, and why?*

STEPHEN: As ADRA's mission is a personal passion, I would love to select all 2,100 verses in the Bible that deal with poverty and justice. Narrowing this to one is a challenge, but I would have to choose Mathew 25:35. It captures the essence of what, I believe, is the most important duty our church needs to undertake to ensure our message will be heard throughout the world. ■

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

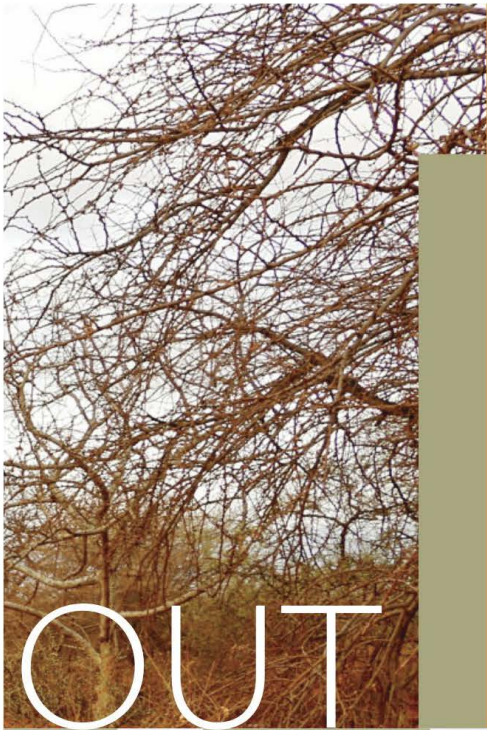
A SCHOOL WITH

The heat is oppressive in Mander West, Kenya. Stricken by drought since 2011, the landscape is reminiscent of the Mars Rover images. The red, hard-packed earth is punctuated by the occasional weary bush. A single glance makes one wonder how anyone could live there.

Traditionally pastoralists, the locals cared for their animals as their primary source of food and income. They were also small-scale farmers, growing food for their families. Though never rich, the locals were once able to meet their own needs. There was ample grazing land and enough water. The extended drought has caused the death of much of their livestock. Fathers migrate 150 kilometres with the remaining emaciated herds to Ethiopia in search of pasture and water. Mothers are left at home, worry creasing their faces. Children suffer hunger pangs and the effects of malnutrition. Small farms no longer produce food, as cleared land suffers from wind and soil erosion. As the drought drags on, parents skip meals to ensure their children have something to eat. When times are toughest, the whole family misses meals.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has been working in Mander West since the beginning of the drought in 2011. The initial response sought to get emergency food to families fast through a voucher system. The families took the vouchers to local shops and bought the food they needed. The voucher system ensured a rapid response, bypassing the logistical delays of food aid procurement and transportation. ADRA distributed 6,000 food vouchers to 500 families, an equivalent of 291 metric tonnes of food relief.

The drought continued. The affected families did not want to be dependent on emergency aid indefinitely. ADRA knew that a more sustainable solution was needed.



He calls
ADRA
his "school
without
walls."



Issak Abbey

OUT



ADRA began teaching families how to grow their own food. This seems counter-intuitive in a drought-afflicted land, but it was successful. For years ADRA has been teaching families in places affected by drought and dry seasons how to effectively use scarce water to grow nutritious food to feed their families. The permaculture techniques are low-cost, environmentally friendly, and sustainable.

Multi-storey gardens in burlap bags, referred to as “kitchen gardens,” require minimal water to grow vegetables. Vegetables from these gardens plus food vouchers meant that families were finally able to eat three meals a day. Children were getting the essential nutrition that their growing bodies desperately needed. In many cases the gardens actually produced more than the families could eat, so they sold the excess in markets. This boosted many families’ incomes significantly, allowing them to obtain even more healthy food.

These measures made good progress towards enabling the families of Mandera West to meet their most important needs again. But something more needed to happen to allow families to stand fully on their own. The herds needed to increase, providing meat, milk, and income. Farms

needed to produce crops, providing more food and income for families. The land, long suffering under drought, needed to be healed. Looking out across the almost barren landscape, one would conclude this to be an impossible mission.

The difficulty of the task increased as a terrorist group from nearby Somalia made fatal incursions to areas in Mandera East. The tense security situation caused ADRA to move with increased caution, but it did not stop its efforts entirely.

Helping these people is possible. And it is happening.

ADRA, with its partner the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, has begun a new project that works alongside community members to reclaim and rehabilitate the natural grasslands of Mandera West. The method is called Farmer Managed Natural Resources (FMNR). Just beneath the cracked and dry surface of the ground is untapped potential for regrowth and regeneration. Live tree stumps and seeds wait for the opportunity to grow and thrive: all they need is the chance and the care. Through FMNR, community members are giving the natural vegetation the chance to make a comeback. The community members are also learning

how to properly prune and tend the vegetation as it grows back, thus giving the plants the care they need to re-establish themselves. The trees and grasses hold the soil in place, retain moisture in the soil, and provide protection from wind and sun. This means renewed grasslands for cattle and fertile land for farming. It means the radical, sustainable change that is needed to make lasting and positive change in people’s lives.

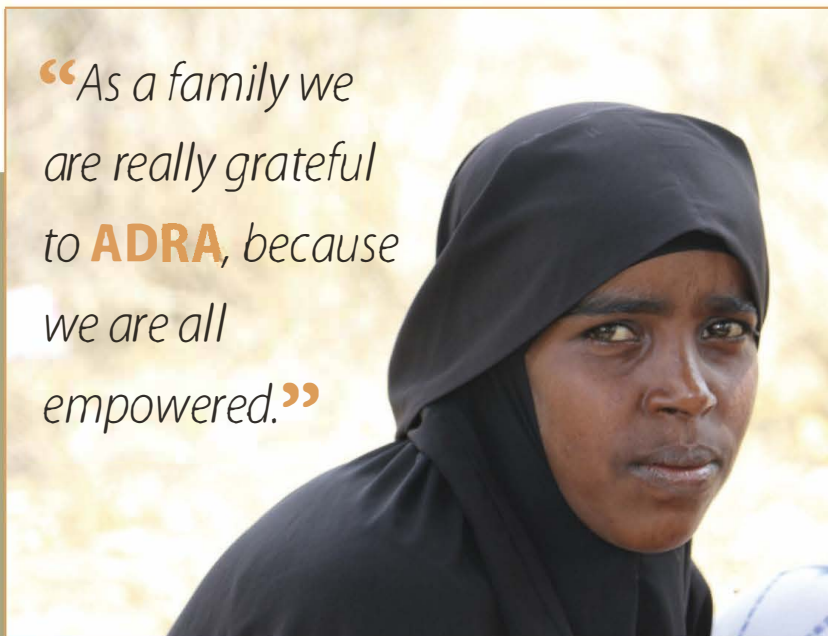
In addition, the local people are also being shown how to create and maintain “waterpans” (small reservoirs) so that rain-water can be fully used to irrigate grasslands and water herds. The community members were also taught to create grazing plans and build fences for herds to preserve pasture. These simple methods are having life-changing impacts. Already at least 3,000 acres of range land have been reclaimed by the local people.

Fifteen of those acres belong to Issak Abbey. Issak and his wife, Abdia, have been with ADRA since the beginning of the first project. In 2011, during the worst of the famine, they received food aid in the form of beans, maize, oil, and salt. Abdia was relieved. She was pregnant with her second child, and the food distribution enabled her to properly feed her family and herself. Her relief was even greater, given that her previously poor diet had caused her to be constantly sick and anemic during her first pregnancy.

The kitchen garden provides vegetables and fruits that have vastly improved the family’s diet and addressed the children’s malnutrition. Before learning how to garden, Abdia’s family had no vegetables in their diet, because they were too expensive. Now she has learned not only how to grow them but also how to prepare and eat them. Now pregnant with her third child, she is healthier and stronger.

“As a family we are really grateful to ADRA, because we are all empowered. We have become role models in our village, and neighbours are flocking to our home-stead to learn about this transformation. And we are providing them with the

*“As a family we are really grateful to **ADRA**, because we are all empowered.”*



Issak and his wife, Abdia, have been with ADRA since the beginning of the first project.



Alion, Issak's neighbour, has used his new income to invest in beekeeping.

training we received from ADRA," says Abdia. Issak is putting into practice all that he learns about FMNR. He calls ADRA his "school without walls."

Issak used to migrate with his herds and family to Ethiopia, a 150-kilometre trek through the desert. The journey left Abdia and her children exhausted. They were locked in a cycle of grinding poverty and shortages. Now, however, life is very different. "We have two types of farms," Issak explains. "I take care of the pastoral farm. My wife takes care of the kitchen garden."

The pastoral farm has flourished to the point that it not only supports Issak's herd of three camels and 10 goats but also provides a fodder surplus. Issak profits from two fodder harvests a year that produce 1,000 bales. Between these two farms, the family's monthly income has increased by 500 percent.

The benefits of ADRA's projects are not restricted to direct beneficiaries. In fact, one of the requirements for participation in the project is a commitment to train at least two other community members who are not beneficiaries. This requirement encourages the "ripple effect," ensuring that sustainable, positive change reaches even more people than the project is able to on its own.



"Waterpans" (small reservoirs) are created so that rainwater can be fully used to irrigate grasslands and water herds.

Ten of Abdia's neighbours have asked her to teach them how to grow a kitchen garden. Alion, Issak's neighbour, is one of the two people Issak is training. "He is hardworking. That's why I chose him," testifies Issak. Under Issak's tutelage, Alion is rehabilitating 25 acres of range land. Alion is enjoying the fruits of his labour. He is growing enough fodder for his own animals. Because of their improved diet, his animals are producing more milk and better milk. The income he earns has enabled his family to eat three instead of only two meals a day. Alion even used his new income to invest in beekeeping; he now has about a dozen beehives. "I really appreciate ADRA," he says.

ADRA's mission is "Empowering Communities, Changing Lives." By God's grace and your prayers and support, we are doing just that.

Many thanks from ADRA and from those you have helped, such as Issak, Abdia, and Alion. Where once there was barren land, now there is regrowth. Where once there was hunger, now there is plenty. Where once there was poverty, now there is security. Because of you, now there is hope. ■

Sharmilla Reid is the donor relations director, and Heather Grbic is the church relations coordinator for ADRA Canada.

Christ, Our Hope

More than 200 delegates, delegates-at-large, representatives of Canadian Seventh-day Adventist ministries and educational institutions, as well as the officers of the North American Division, gathered together in Lacombe, Alta., for the 18th Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. The quinquennial session was held on Aug. 19–21, 2016, at Burman University.

Western Hospitality

Holding the session at the Burman University Campus in Alberta proved to be a treat because we took pleasure in the beauty and the quietness of the campus. The weather was on our side, allowing us to enjoy this beautiful place with several charming lakes, a large and impressive green area, a new first-rate fitness centre, a lovely church, and a very cordial and hospitable staff. Being able to experience what the students have access to during the academic year and being in awe of their delightful living conditions is something that will stay with the delegates for a long time.

What sets this session apart also is that it was able to make a difference 570 kilometres north of the campus. The delegates, along with other people in attendance, decided to transform the character of the weekend from a focus on administration to acts of kindness and solidarity. Because this session inevitably brought together musicians from all over Canada, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) decided to organize a benefit concert as part of the session. The \$4,000 raised would be used by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada leadership, known for their selfless service, to help the population affected by the fires in Fort McMurray. We are thankful



Mark Johnson was re-elected as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Right: Prayer was an integral part of the weekend meetings.

Below: All Session events were held at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alta.



for all the donations from the delegates, the members of the College Heights Church, as well as guests from the community of Lacombe, for making this possible.

Spiritual Peak

The entire weekend was, above all, a spiritual feast, leading the delegates to a better understanding of God's beauty and to a bold commitment to the church mission in Canada. The sermon by Dan Jackson, NAD president; the messages of Alexander Bryant, NAD secretary and Tom Evans, NAD treasurer; and the devotionals by Ron Sydenham and Steve Reasor served as an effective framework for all aspects of the session.



Photo by Daniel Stojanovic

and Wholeness

Massiel Davila-Ferrer led a stimulating and inspiring Sabbath school discussion about an authentic Christian vision of compassion and how it can be included as an everyday essential. The balanced and the deeply spiritual lessons of that morning dialogue illuminated the whole weekend.

We cannot forget the significant contribution of the prayer ministries during the session. Through a well-prepared plan and an intentional search for God's presence, Don Corkum, SDACC Prayer Ministries coordinator, and his team left a lasting impression on the delegates. More than nine hours of meaningful and powerful prayer during the session took place and allowed each and every one to feel close to God.

Administration

The delegates re-elected Mark Johnson as the SDACC president. In the same way, Daniel Stojanovic will continue to work as executive secretary and Paul Musafili as under-treasurer. A new treasurer was selected during the administrative meetings. Ulysses Guarin, former Ontario Conference treasurer, is the newly appointed SDACC vice-president for finance. In addition, after Dennis Marshall's decision to retire, the nominating committee recommended and the constituency appointed Betty Bayer as the SDACC Education director for the next five years. Troy McQueen, communication director of the Alberta Conference, declined the invitation to the position of SDACC communication director. It is now the duty of the SDACC Board during their first meeting in November to appoint a new communication director. All other department directors were returned to their positions.

The delegates, sent by vote of their conference boards, were not representing their local churches as is the case during the conference sessions. Instead, their role was to speak and act on behalf of their conferences and to contribute to the unity of the church. The quality of the presentations and individual contributions helped to invigorate and reconnect the membership across Canada.

For example, Ishmael Ali from Alberta, Wayne Williams from Ontario, and Chris Holland from *It Is Written* Canada delivered a remarkable presentation on the topic of diversity. It was an open, insightful, and practical discussion about the critical importance of reaching the second generation of Canadians. Undoubtedly, their document will, for years to come, be considered a valuable contribution to a complex topic the church is already facing. And it is clear that we need to keep this discussion alive if we want to succeed in fulfilling our mission. We are committed to diversity at all levels of church structure and thus reach all sectors of the Canadian population. Not taking this value and goal seriously would jeopardize our relationships, hurt our harmony, and stunt the growth of the church.

Perspectives

The main desire of the delegates representing six conferences, one mission, and close to 70,000 members is to see Jesus coming very soon. He is the only solution for this planet and for the population living in Canada. The prominent memory that the 2016 session should leave us with is not the good food, the superb music, or the remarkable work of the registration team. Rather, the main vision to come away with after this experience at Burman University is that Christ is our hope and wholeness. May we stay strongly attached to Him. It is only through His power that we will be able to fulfill the mission of the church for the salvation of many. ■

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

All photos for this feature are courtesy of Burman University, unless otherwise noted.



Photo by Daniel Stojanovic



Ulysses Guarin, former Ontario Conference treasurer, is the newly appointed SDACC vice-president for finance.

Daniel Stojanovic was re-elected vice-president for Administration. Below, he is seen performing at the benefit concert on Saturday evening.





“It’s not a coincidence. It’s not a coincidence.”

It had been a rough start to the day as I began knocking on door after door. The morning proved to be disappointing, and as afternoon approached, I prayed to God to help me and to work something out for me. Approaching a house, I knocked, and when a woman answered, I began my presentation. “Hello, my name is Stacey, and I am a student with Canada Youth Challenge.” But as I continued my presentation, showing her all the books I had and explaining each one, the woman kept saying, “This is not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence.” I continued my presentation and still, constantly, the woman repeated, “This is not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence.” Silently, I wondered what was going on, why she was saying this. But I kept going.

I pulled out the book *Peace Above the Storm (Steps to Christ)*, and as I began to talk with her about it, the woman said even louder, “This is not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence!” She then said, “I don’t think I have any money, but let me just go inside and check.” She left and returned a few minutes later with \$20. I asked her which book she wanted, and without hesitating, she said, “I want *Peace Above the Storm*.” As I filled out her receipt, she started crying, still saying to herself, “It’s not a coincidence, it’s not a coincidence.”

It was clear that something had been going wrong in this woman’s life, so I said to her, “Would you mind if I pray for you?”

“You can go ahead,” she responded. So I took her hands in mine and began to pray. As I did, I felt her tightly squeezing my hand. The prayer ended, and I began to pull out an information card to see if she would be interested in things like Bible studies or cooking classes. As I did, she broke down into sobs and closed the door.

I never learned what was wrong, but as I left the receipt at her doorstep, I prayed that whatever the problem was, God would work it out for her. I prayed that she would truly come to know peace above her storm and that she would come to know God.

There is a world full of hurting people who need to know the peace, love, and healing that Jesus gives. Jesus said, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (NASB). The problem is, many have never heard this call. Many are still carrying burdens too hard to bear. That’s why Jesus also asked us to go and tell the world that they can find peace and rest in Him. That woman was right. It was not a coincidence that I was at her door, sharing God’s love with her in her time of need. I do not know what her burden was, but I know I was sent there for a reason. God wants to send you, too. There is someone out there who needs to hear from Him, and God is sending you. Will you go? ■

Stacey Wheatley shared her story with Lifestyle Canada, a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada. To learn more about the ministry, please visit LifestyleCanada.org, or contact us at mail@lifestylecanada.org.

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Kingsway College Alumni give back



Every day as I walk around this campus, I am reminded of the tremendous blessings Kingsway College has received over the years from its alumni.

AS YOU DRIVE TO THE KINGSWAY COLLEGE CAMPUS, one of the first things you see is a Kingsway College stone sign welcoming you to our beautiful property. Continuing down Kingsway College Drive past the boys' dorm, you observe an attractive gazebo made from cedar with a blue metal roof in memory of the old administration building. Turning around and heading up toward the Kingsway Greenhouse, you notice the new sidewalk, paved road, and new entrance and steps to the boys' dorm. As you round the corner past the greenhouse, heading north, what stands out is the King Fitness Complex, the Administration Building, and finally Leland Hall (classroom building). Moving inside Leland Hall, you are welcomed by a series of hand-painted designs of nature and biblical themes by the Goodwin family. Downstairs, new lockers surround you on either side of the hallway as you walk where thousands of students once walked, hurrying to class.

Each of the described scenes are just *some* of the gifts the Kingsway College

alumni have given to their alma mater over the past 20 years through donations of time, materials, and finances. Kingsway College has been blessed to have such a rich heritage of Adventist education in North America. For 113 years Kingsway has educated young people from all over the globe. Graduates from our school have gone on to be leaders in their communities, businesses, workplaces, and churches all over the world. So many stories are told each year at alumni weekends about past events while at school and the lifelong friendships that were formed during those years.

At the May 2016 alumni banquet, a capital project was announced to completely renovate the washrooms of the Administration Building as well as the showers, locker room, and washrooms of the King Fitness Complex. A Kingsway alumnus offered a \$50,000 gift toward the project, if other alumni would match the gift. Within four weeks, \$68,000 was raised, with 99 percent of the donations coming from alumni.

Immediately following graduation in

June, and with \$118,000 in hand, the dismantling of the washrooms began in earnest. The major portion of work to be done was the tile, and with Durham Region's housing boom, it would be months before any tile trade could commit to the work. Alumnus Brian Hampson suggested I call Emmanuel Baston, a very well regarded tile trade in the area. When I first mentioned the project to Emmanuel, his quick response was, "I cannot say no. Both my girls graduated from Kingsway and had a great experience." God answered yet another prayer for the work at His school. The alumni support did not stop. Gerald Brown, a Kingsway graduate and a well-respected plumber in the area completed all the installation of toilets, urinals, and sinks. Alistair MacVarish completed the installation of new LED lighting, while several other alumni contributed many hours of time and other resources to complete countertops and other miscellaneous items important to the project's completion.

Every day as I walk around this campus, I am reminded of the tremendous blessings Kingsway College has received over the years from its alumni. At the end of the day, every cent, every hour, every item that is donated contributes directly, in one way or the other, toward the young people who walk the same sidewalks, hallways, and grounds as most of our alumni have over the past 113 years. I realize we do not always "get it right" and mistakes are made; however, I strongly believe in Adventist education. The young people I see walking this campus every day cements in my heart and mind that Kingsway College is God's school. We have a mission to prepare our students for life on this earth and the life to follow.

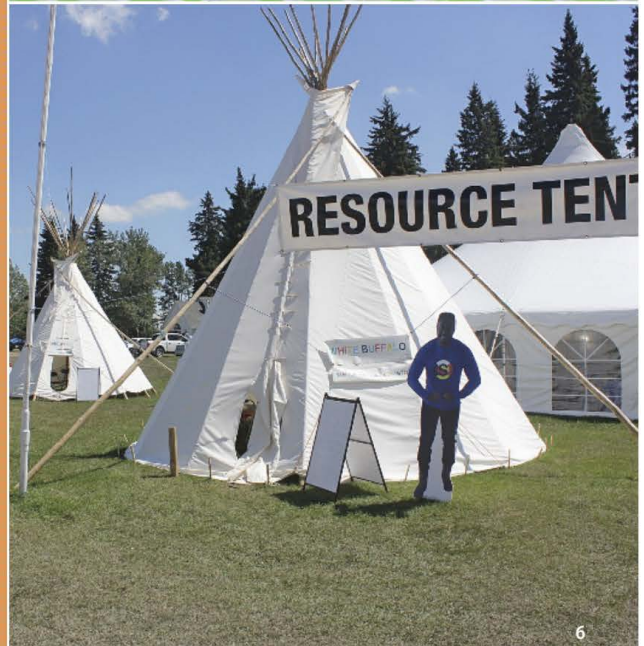
A thank-you really isn't enough. However, on behalf of the more than 240 currently enrolled students at Kingsway College, I thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated. ■

Greg Bussey is the director of enrolment services, development, and alumni relations at Kingsway College.

A Super MANS Summer



1. Curtis Letniak, Conference Executive Committee member and owner of Spyder Controls, shares why he supports MANS's expansion and the new Industrial Arts Centre, during the first Sabbath divine service at Foothills Campmeeting.
2. Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) principal Gail Wilton receives the 2016 SDA Church in Canada Principal of the Year Award from SDACC president, Mark Johnson, and Alberta Conference superintendent of education, Janet Griffith, at Foothills Camp, July 16.
3. Bridge Campaign manager Lynn McDowell and Myken McDowell serve up cotton candy during an afternoon of fun at Foothills Campmeeting.
4. Aboriginal-themed crafts for kids (bead and pipe cleaner "Indian Corn" pictured)—coordinated by Gina Guiboche, the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Program director, Burman University.
5. SUPER MANS (Lyle Notice) takes back the Campaign Fortune stolen by Bad Guy (Daniel Innocent).
6. Besides providing information and videos, MANS stepped up its presence at Campmeeting 2016 with MANS Cree Camp—three authentic teepees, Moose Stew, and Bannock at the International Food Fair.



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

The Excellence in Education Award is an annual award the SDACC Office of Education bestows on teachers and school administrators who have demonstrated excellence in their teaching ministry. The five awardees listed below (four teachers and one school administrator) were chosen from a list of nominees by a panel of judges made up of members of the SDACC Education Council.

ADMINISTRATOR AWARD



Gail Wilton

GAIL WILTON graduated from Canadian University College (now Burman University) in 2004 with a B.Ed., and is currently working on her master's degree at LaSierra University. She is married to Larry Wilton, and they have three grown children: Andrew, Matthew, and Trevor.

Gail taught school for 12 years at College Heights Christian School and Mamawi Atosketan Native School in Alberta, where she now serves as school principal.

She cites as her memorable teaching experience the occasion when she travelled with her students to the North American Division in November 2015 and having family members, band members,

and conference officials praying for them. Gail was overwhelmed with joy as she watched her students performing on stage, seeing their self-esteem rise.

Gail chose to teach in Adventist schools because she had a positive school experience in Adventist education, and all her children attended Adventist schools. There was never a doubt that she would be teaching in the Adventist school system. Her desire is not only to give her students a good education but also to help lead them into a relationship with Christ.

Gail's hobbies are camping and spending time with family.

TEACHER AWARDS



Luz Ahumada

LUZ AHUMADA graduated from the Université de Sherbrooke in 2008 with a master's in education. She and her husband, Carlos Medel, have two grown children: Christian and Sebastian.

Luz has been teaching for 35 years. She has taught Spanish and English in five educational settings and is currently the head teacher at Academie Adventist Greaves Campus Sartigan.

Luz recalls her most memorable teaching experience as being asked to be a Sabbath school teacher only a couple of weeks after being baptized as a member of the church. She wondered how she, a new convert, would be able to teach her brothers and

sisters who were seasoned church members. It was a challenging time for her, but she was glad God gave her the courage to do it.

Teaching came naturally to Luz because she loves learning and enjoys helping others learn. She gets a thrill when she sees the sparkle in the eyes of her students indicating that they have discovered something new. She believes that becoming an Adventist teacher was God's doing. She accepted the call and never regretted doing so, for there is nothing better than Adventist education.

Her hobbies include exploring nature, reading, music, travelling, studying, and listening to people talk.

MARTHA BOEHRER graduated with a B.Ed. in elementary education from Canadian University College (now Burman University) in 1997. She is married to Brad Boehner, and they have two children, Ashley (15) and Brooke (14). Martha has 16 years of teaching experience in Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. She currently teaches at Sandy Lake Academy in Nova Scotia.

Martha describes her memorable teaching experience as remembering things about her students: how happy her students were when helping others,

how innocent they were, how they said things that came straight from the heart, and how they just wanted to be loved.

She chose teaching as a career because she was blessed to have had many great teachers who supported her. By choosing to become a teacher, she was giving back to the same system that had given so much to her while growing up. Martha wants to reflect Christ's character every day to her students "so I can be like the great teachers I have had growing up."

Her hobbies are reading and Pinterest.



Martha (Lucier) Boehner

LINDA KING graduated with an MA in education from La Sierra University. She is married to Leif King, and they have two grown children (Serena and Courtney) and two grandchildren. Linda has been teaching for 27 years in Canada and the United States. Currently, she is the vice-principal of Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in British Columbia.

Linda cites her favourite moments in teaching as those occasions when her students are engaged in conversations: sharing spiritual discoveries, personal testimonies, and life experiences. At times, such sharing triggered tears, and Linda would cry with her students. Also,

she admires her students when they perform songs that they have written for their class.

Since childhood Linda had wanted to become a teacher because, she says, "It was just the way God made me." She loves learning new things and connecting them to her life and finds it "so exciting to help children experience that." She chose to teach in a Christian environment "because it's a harsh world, and I need to be able to direct my students to the only solution (Jesus)!"

Linda enjoys camping, reading, music, cooking, looking after her dogs, and, of course, her grandchildren.



Linda King

MATTHEW OKIMI graduated with a B.Sc. in mathematics from Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) in 2000. He is married to Sachiko Yamaguchi and has an adorable seven-year old cat named Joey.

Matthew taught in brick-and-mortar schools for six years in British Columbia and Alberta. Currently, he teaches for Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool in the Alberta Conference, where he is beginning his fifth year.

One of Matthew's most memorable teaching experiences is of a student who had a natural aptitude in mathematics but an aversion to studying. The student graduated but was unable to get into the

university program of his choice. A few years later, however, this student contacted Matthew to inform him that he was almost finished with his master's degree in mathematics and thanked him for encouraging him in high school. Reflecting on this experience, Matthew said, "It reminded me that our words and actions now—positive or negative—can bear fruit in the future."

Matthew chose teaching as a career because his teachers at Kingsway College in Oshawa, Ont., particularly Mr. Bayer and Mr. Chant, inspired him with their enthusiasm for and dedication to education and faith.

His hobbies are snowboarding, hockey, enjoying the outdoors, and photography.



Matthew Okimi

Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"I love this campus. It feels like what heaven will be like."

Parkview Adventist Academy is a safe space for students to learn about their gifts and skills as they find their place in God's plan. For many, this safety is emotional protection, as the campus is separate from the struggles of daily life, but for Oleksii Zahreba, PAA is physically removed from the literal battlefield of his hometown.

Growing up in Donetsk, Ukraine, in an Adventist home, Oleksii matured more quickly than his peers when the family became refugees. They were forced to leave the region as the conflict caused by the invading Russian army became more acute. "When the war started, the Eastern Conference of Ukraine moved my father, who is a pastor, to another city. My family then began talking about my leaving to study in Canada."

Oleksii joined the PAA student body in November 2015 and quickly worked to increase his knowledge of English and catch up in his Grade 10 classes. He says, "The decision for me to study in Canada was a really good one, but difficult for my parents because not everyone can send their child to another country. My mother asked me if I wanted to go, and I asked her if I could leave her. We began applying for a visa right away."

A family member in Edmonton recommended that Oleksii enroll at PAA, since it is the only Adventist University/High School Academy campus in Canada. Oleksii shares, "My uncle said it would be the perfect school for me, and since I have come, I see what a privilege it is to be here. I want to encourage people that they should use the opportunity that they have to enjoy the Christian environment and the emphasis on a good education."

In his shortened year at PAA, Oleksii has embraced all that campus living has to offer. He immediately volunteered to be part of Campus Ministries, using his technology skills to assist in programs and make films of various school events. Three months after his arrival he was preaching in English for the Medicine Hat and Lethbridge churches as a member of Dauntless, the touring student ministry team. "What a blessing that was for me," Oleksii recalls, "especially since my family could watch my first sermon over live-stream."



Oleksii Zahreba

On the academic front, the amount of reading and writing in a new language was challenging, but Oleksii shares, "My teachers were really happy to see me and forgive my mistakes and help me to succeed. Everyone here at PAA has supported me."

In return, Oleksii has wholeheartedly supported PAA by independently entering more than 20 different contests involving writing essays, poetry, or other creative submissions. He has honoured his school with several notable successes, including first place in a radio commercial broadcast with the local Christian Radio station, Shine FM, which he entered with a classmate he had recruited.

"I love this campus," Oleksii says. "It feels like what heaven will be like. I have made many friends, and every moment of my life is my best moment here."

Each year the PAA staff choose two students to thank for their unique and irreplaceable contributions to the school, and for 2015/2016, Oleksii was unanimously chosen as PAA's male "Student of the Year."

His plans for next school year include highlighting PAA's 110th institutional anniversary and creating more opportunities for his peers to experience worship. He recalls the decisions for baptism many of his friends made this last year and eagerly affirms, "PAA has great spiritual people, and together we explore our faith. It is a good environment to be with God and grow up in the church."

The benefits of Adventist education can never amount to a monetary value; for Oleksii, PAA has changed his life. As a school we will seek to be his safe haven for the rest of his high school education. Please keep his family, and all those in conflict zones around the world, in your prayers until Jesus comes. ■

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

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

Alberta

Breaking Down Walls

"When people write you off, remember that God has a bigger pen."



Eddie Hypolite

What do you get when you have over 450 youth, and a powerful Holy Ghost-filled speaker all the way from Australia? You get Alberta Conference Teen Youth Rally with Pastor Eddie Hypolite.

This year's teen youth rally was one of the best ones yet. Teens from all over Alberta were excited to fellowship and excited to hear the world-renowned speaker. Hypolite, originally from London, England, has one of most

unique ministries there is. Hypolite grew up on the rough streets of London, where he fought his way through life. Unfortunately, one day it all caught up with him, and he decided that street life was not what God wanted for him. He gave his life to Christ and has been preaching the gospel ever since.

While pastoring as youth director in London, Hypolite ("Pastor Eddie") started several interesting initiatives for youth. One of the initiatives was a

program called Food for the Brain, an invitation to the local troubled street youth in London for a safe place, a warm meal, and positive spiritual discussion every week. He also came up with an amazing leadership program called How to Be a Player, where youth gathered for an entire week of team-building exercises and leadership activities.

As Pastor Eddie preached for our teen youth rally, he emphasized the importance of God's power to change lives. One of his tag lines was, "When people write you off, remember that God has a bigger pen." He shared a personal story about how far away he was from God and how people did not expect anything good from him. He was constantly in and out of jail, running the streets of London, failing school, and never expected to graduate, but by God's amazing grace he was able to turn into a success.

At the end of the weekend Pastor Eddie had also preached on the importance of community, breaking down walls, and connecting with others.

He invited youth forward to give their lives to Jesus and connect with their heavenly Father. Nearly the entire front auditorium was filled with youth who had tears in their eyes. That weekend the many walls of guilt, shame, hurt, and hate were broken down and given over to Jesus.

We are grateful for this powerful man of God who had come all the way from Australia to help break down spiritual and emotional walls in Alberta. ■

—Lyle Notice, Associate Youth Director, Alberta Conference

British Columbia

Education Minister Helps Get the Peace Christian School Haskap Project Planted



Darren Shankel and Mike Bernier planting Peace Christian School's first Haskap plant.

BC Education Minister Mike Bernier was at Peace Christian School in Chetwynd, B.C., during his "summer holidays" to plant the very first Haskap plant as part of an exciting new school project starting this fall. Although we only asked him to plant one, he stayed to help us with an entire row!

Haskap (*Lonicera acerulea*) is an exciting new crop for North America. In recent times it has caught considerable interest of small fruit growers across Canada. Farmers refer to it as a berry goldmine waiting to be developed, a cash crop that could catapult the Haskap to the top of the Canadian berry heap, alongside the mighty blueberry.¹ According to scientific publications, it is rich in antioxidants with a special property of fighting cancer cells.² The University of Saskatchewan fruit program,³ led by Dr. Bob Bors, has been actively engaged in breeding and releas-


ing Haskap selections as potential varieties for commercial production. Presently, large cultivations of Haskap are restricted to mainly the prairie regions of Canada because of its adaptability and cold-hardiness (-47° C).

The school board and staff of Peace Christian School have agreed to participate in a research study in cooperation with the University of Saskatchewan and Dr. Ashish of Floramaxx in the Okanagan to determine the viability of Haskap as a new agricultural option for Northern British Columbia. Teachers and students will gather data and report on how the plants grow and how much fruit they yield. Recommendations for planting in the Peace Region will be based on the results of the research conducted by the students of Peace Christian School.


These are exciting times as we continue to find new and creative ways to engage students in the process of learning. We encourage you to follow our progress. We are also inviting those who would like to support this project to sponsor one or more of the 1300+ plants soon to be in our orchard. We will provide updates on our website, www.peacechristianschool.ca, or you can always call us for more information. Please keep us in your prayers that we learn from the mistakes that we are sure to make and to celebrate the blessings. ■

—Darren Shankel, Principal,
Peace Christian School

- 1 Joe O'Connor, "Better Than Blueberries? Introducing Canada's New Superfood," *National Post*, Sept. 18, 2015, accessed Sept. 28, 2016, <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/better-than-blueberries-introducing-canadas-new-super-food-the-haskap-berry>.
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- 3 University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, "Haskap," no date, accessed Sept. 28, 2016, www.fruit.usask.ca/haskap.html.



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Ontario

Practical Country Living Skills Campout



What many people loved about this campout was how hands-on it was.

This year the Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Company mailed out 150 invitations to our Practical Country Living Skills Campout. Kendra Ploughman, a member of our church and one of the event coordinators, said, “The Practical Country Living Skills Campout was a huge success. The church in Madoc is built up of a diversity of Adventists from many backgrounds, cultures and lifestyles. Many of its members live in, moved to, or are in the process of having a country home. The Madoc members have had a desire in their hearts to help those who wish to follow the country living counsel. For many members the process of achieving a country home was not easy, but took time, effort, a lot of prayers, and so much ‘relearning’ of how to live without the conveniences of the city.”

This year’s Practical Country Living Skills Campout reached out to all the Ontario Seventh-day Adventist churches. It was held from Thursday to Sunday, with a special speaker, Lynn Hoag, who came from California to teach a variety

of subjects, including planting skills from Ellen White’s writings. You may have heard of Lynn Hoag or seen his video “Planting by the Blueprint.” He also taught how to yield 100 pounds of tomatoes from one tomato plant, and how to aid our depleted soil to increase the nutritional value of our homegrown foods. Hoag has many years of experience planting this way, having discovered that plants grow at an exceptionally fast rate compared to the forestry method. Everyone who attended was blessed by his seminars, hands-on demonstrations, and his gentle character. We particularly loved his involvement of all the children at the campout. The children were thrilled to be included in the planting of the tomatoes and digging the three-foot holes for the fruit trees.

Over the course of four days we had many Adventists come from all over Ontario. The Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church was delighted to hear many testimonies from those who attended the campout and how they had come to find out about this event. We had 300 chairs

that, for the most part, were all occupied. On Sabbath many more Adventists came for the day, and we ran out of available seats. Everyone who came was blessed and is asking for another campout again next year. We provided the many children who attended with some crafts and activities throughout the weekend. We also had a few other topics that our own members presented, such as a Solar Power, Small Engine Repair, Sprouting, and Canning and Preserving, seminars and workshops that many found interesting and helpful. On Sabbath our local brother Ramalho Gayle brought us God’s Word for the divine service, and we had many opportunities during the weekend for praise and testimonies. The testimonies were powerful and encouraging. A real sense of Christlike love permeated the campout. Many commented that the Sabbath potluck took place in an atmosphere that made us think of heaven, sharing God’s blessings together and really feeling like family even though many of us had only met for the first time.

The Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church is praying for guidance on a Practical Country Living Skills Campout for next year. This year people travelled from as far as North Bay, Pembroke, Barrie, Hamilton, Toronto, Niagara, and St. Catharines. Who knows what next year will bring, and how far others will travel to attend? It was a blessing to all who attended, but mostly it was a blessing for the Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church to meet so many beautiful Adventists who are searching for God’s leading hands. Jesus is coming soon, so let us prepare our hearts, minds, and willing hands to do His good will. Check out our website at www.madocadventist.org for our upcoming events! ■

— *Evaldo Vicente, Pastor,
Madoc Seventh-day
Adventist Company*

Seniors on the Move to Sight and Sound Theatre, Pennsylvania

On July 25, 2016, the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, under the leadership of the conference president, Mansfield Edwards, organized a seniors' bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Penn., to enjoy the live biblical play *Samson*.

The story of Samson is a well-known Bible story found in Judges 13–16. The live performance brought the story to life. Samson struggled with himself while growing up. He wanted to know why the angel had not appeared to him directly and told him his purpose, yet he knew that he was different when the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and caused him to tear a lion apart with his

bare hands. His never-ending struggle was between pleasing God or himself. What a lesson for us all! In rich detail, the play showed Samson as he argued with his father to get him a wife from among the Philistines despite their disapproval. He insisted that he would marry a Philistine woman from Timnah, who eventually was taken away from him. He struggled daily. Finally, overtaken by Delilah, he revealed the secret of his strength to his enemy, who had posed as a friend.

And through a series of unfortunate events, surely the walls came tumbling down. Yes, every pillar fell and crushed the Philistines to death in the temple. The little boy who led Samson to the

pillars that supported the temple ran out as Samson had instructed him. The last pillar fell on Samson, and he died with the Philistines, his enemies. At that point, the theatre was consumed in darkness. Suddenly, the God of heaven revealed Himself as Commander, Ruler and King, and the play came to a dramatic end.

Thanks to the Ontario Conference for organizing this trip. Many seniors would not have reached the Sight and Sound Theatre in Pennsylvania were it not for our conference's efforts. All in all, it was a rewarding and unforgettable experience, a biblical story brought to life! ■

— Judy Williams, Brampton Adventist Church

The Vital Role of the Church in the Community

The Belleville church has decided to embrace Christ's method of reaching out to those around us, as described by Ellen G. White in her book *The Ministry of Healing*: "The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

On Sunday, Aug. 14, we held a Family Fun Fair Day. This was a free event, with activities for all ages: climbing wall, games, lunch stand, fire truck, health info, inflatable bouncy castle, balloon twister artist, and much more. The church used their parking lot and a city facility located next door, and local press media *snapt Quinte* covered the event.

On Friday, Aug. 19, we held our first distribution event for God's Closet—Belleville. The Belleville church is honoured to be the first Canadian chapter of God's Closet, an outreach started in 2009 in the United States that has grown to become a North American Division (NAD) ministry.¹ Each local church chapter of God's Closet hosts "free shop day" events, where parents and grandparents can select new and gently used children's clothes donated by individuals and businesses. A family pays an



Belleville youth helping at the bouncy castle on Family Fun Fair Day.

entrance fee of \$1 to cover expenses, and then they can "shop" for a certain number of bags of clothes, depending on how much is available. More than 40 local families attended our first distribution event. Some requested prayer, and one of them specifically requested Bible studies.

Michelle Aylward, a member of our church and the director of God's Closet—Belleville said, "Things have been wonderful so far, and we're excited by how many people have come out with it

being our first event. Also, many schools have donated their lost and founds and are now allowing us to come back at Christmas, March break, and the end of school year to pick up clothes." Altogether, Aylward said the schools donated 100 large bags of clothing. She added church members have also been incredibly generous. "One of our mandates is that we don't have to wash the clothes, but 75 per cent of these clothes have been washed by church members who took them home."



Michelle Aylward, Director of God's Closet, folds a sweatshirt during the Free Children's Clothes event at Belleville's Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Aylward said the goal of the event is to give back to the community. She said the timing of the event is ideal, because people will be doing back-to-school shopping. "Parents are bringing their children, and they are excited to take the bags and go shopping and the parents know that they don't have to look at the price tag," she said.

The organization will be holding a Free Children's Clothing event every season. Aylward said she is looking for local

businesses to hold a donation bin for clothing collection. One is already set up outside of the Adventist church in Belleville. The organization accepts gently used children's clothing, shoes, and bedding. We praise God for His blessings, and the church is looking forward to our next distribution event.

Additionally, the church will begin sending volunteers to minister to another outreach called "Nightlight Canada—

Belleville." Located downtown, the outreach opens its doors three times as an adult drop-in centre that services those on the margins. It aims to be a safe place to build meaningful relationships.

Please keep us in your prayers that we may reflect Christ's character to those we come in contact with. ■

—Evaldo Vicente, Pastor,
Belleville Seventh-day
Adventist Church

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of Aug. 31, 2016, there were 427 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,097,992. There were 86 loans with a value of \$26,611,407.
For more information or to make a deposit, contact Girly Quiambao—quiambao.girly@adventist.ca; 905/433-0011.

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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.
- If the nominee is a teaching principal, the nominator must select either Teaching or Administrator Award. All letters of recommendation must support the appropriate award they are being nominated for.
- *Important- please check with local conference or boarding academy to see if the teacher and/or administrator that you want to recommend fulfills the requirements for the Nominee noted below.
- 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).

Nominee:

- Must have a valid Standard, Professional, or Administrator denominational teaching certificate.
- Recipient of teacher award must have a minimum of one full year teaching experience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada school system.
- Recipient of the administrator award must have a minimum of two years of administrator experience at the current school to be eligible for the administrator award.
- 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 having them as excellent teachers in 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.

Deadline April 15

- All announcements 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 have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the provided form (both print and electronic forms are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger), and completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased.
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.

Announcements

The Kitchener-Waterloo SDA Church is inviting everyone on Nov. 18-19, 2016, to celebrate the 65th anniversary of our church. Our guest speakers will be Anthony Kern from Alberta, Steve Cassimy from New York, and Joseph Bulgin from Ontario. Lunch and evening refreshments will be served. The church is located at 235 Williamsburg Road, Kitchener, ON. N2E 1K8. Website: www.kwsda.org. Email: info@kwsda.org. Phone: 519/742-9757

New Members

ONTARIO
Diana Barikor-Wiwa was accepted by profession of faith in Peterborough, Ont., on April 16, 2016, by Peter Caran. She is now a member of the Peterborough church.

Elaine Bobbie was baptized in Peterborough, Ont., on April 16, 2016, by Peter Caran. She is now a member of the Peterborough church.

Charles Rhude was baptized in Peterborough, Ont., on April 16, 2016, by Peter Caran. He is now a member of the Peterborough church.

Births

Junia Lael Sintich was born on June 8, 2016, to Adrian and Heather (née Welch) Sintich of Armstrong, B.C. A little sister for Alexander.

Weddings

Samantha Nickol and **Timothy Irish** were married on July 15, 2016,

by Jared Brown in Oshawa, Ont., and are making their home in Lacombe, Alta. Samantha is the daughter of Blake and Joy Nickol of Oshawa, and Timothy is the son of Jason and Deanna Irish of Lacombe.

Elaine Bobbie and **Charles Rhude** were married on May 1, 2016, by Peter Caran in Peterborough, Ont., and are planning on making their home in Bethany, Ont.

Anniversaries

Frank and **Pat Owens** of Creston, B.C., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2016. Attendees



came from Alaska, Washington, California, New York, Tennessee, and the Creston area. The Owens have three children, Ralph Owens, Donna (Calvin) Ferguson, and Eri Peterson; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Birthdays

Florence Selma (née Hanson) Foulston of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated her 90th birthday on June 18,



2016, at Sunpoint Village, B.C., with daughters, Louise, Sandra, Dalcyce, and Janice; sons Delbert and Brian; neighbours; and friends. Florence has seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Yolanda (née Kovac) Andolsek was born on June 4, 1932, in Vukovan, Croatia, and died on July 21, 2016, in Salmon Arm, B.C. She joined the

Salmon Arm church late in life and graced the fellowship with a winning smile and constant spirit of rejoicing in our Saviour's goodness and mercy. Yolanda is predeceased by her husband, Slavko Andolsek; and son, Ricky Andolsek. Surviving: sons, Harley Andolsek and Harvey Andolsek; daughter, Vicki MacLean; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Edna Betty Alyss (née Elvedahl) Befus was born on May 19, 1936, in Kelowna, B.C., and died on June 7, 2016, in Vancouver, B.C. She worked at Canadian Union College (now Burman University) from 1959–1966, teaching English at both the academy and college, as well as Dean of Women in 1966. She is fondly remembered as a caring and inspiring teacher. Edna is predeceased by her parents, Leif and Edna Elvedahl; and brother, Gerald Elvedahl. Surviving: husband, Lane Befus; son, Rafael Befus; and sister, Doreen Kuhn of California.

Randy Carlson was born on Aug. 21, 1963, in Sidney, B.C., and died on June 28, 2016, in Entwistle, Alta. He attended Canadian Union College in Grades 11 and 12, before becoming a certified chef. He enjoyed camping, fishing, canoeing, and being in the outdoors. Surviving: parents, Dennis and Eileen Carlson; and sister, Tammy (Dale) Burns of Lacombe, Alta.

Hannah Jessie (née Swamidian) Christian was born on July 3, 1936, in India, and died on Dec. 3, 2015, in Baltimore, Md. She served at Branson Hospital, in Ontario, and at the British Columbia Conference. Surviving: husband, Johnson S. Christian; son, Richard Randal Christian; daughter, Margaret Rose Christian; half-brothers, Sam, Lyndon, and Kennedy; sister, Evangeline; and five grandchildren.

Florence (née Hanson) Foulston was born on June 18, 1926, in Sawyer, Sask., and died on June 23, 2016, in Kelowna, B.C. She is predeceased by her husband, Walker Ivan Foulston; and son, Kevan Foulston. Surviving: sons, Delbert (Joan) Foulston of Tugaska, Sask., Brian Foulston of Saskatoon, Sask.; daughters, Louise (Bill) Keyt of Salmon Arm, B.C.; Sandra (Bob) Upton of Stouffville, Ont., Dalcyce (Lawrence) McMullen of Kelowna, Janice Foulston (John Wall) of Winnipeg, Man.; 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Eva (née Kushmiruk) Homenuk was born on May 27, 1931, in Buchanan, Sask., and died on April 12, 2016, in Porcupine Plain, Sask. She was baptized in 1961 and was dedicated to serving the Lord. Eva is predeceased by her husband, Nick

Homenuk, and daughter, Beverly Radcliffe. Surviving: son, Joseph (Myra) Homenuk of Weekes, Sask.; daughters, Sharon (Alex) Vaneck of Red Deer, Alta., Donna (Albert) Wollmann of McCreary, Man.; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Michael Luchak was born on Nov. 3, 1919, in Vilna, Alta., and died on Oct. 11, 2015, in Lillooet, B.C. Following his service in the Second World War, he taught at Canadian Union College (now Burman University); Castle Valley institute in Moab, Utah; and Fountainview Academy in Lillooet. He is predeceased by his wife, Marjorie Luchak; parents, Nick and Mary Luchak; brothers, Bill Lucas and Alec Lucas; sisters, Doris Matthews, Sadie Webster, Janice Chance, and Violet Melenchuk. Surviving: son, Peter (Rachel née Knauff) Luchak of Lillooet; daughter, Heather (Steven) Lee of College Place, Wash.; brother, John Lucas of North Vancouver, B.C.; and five grandchildren.

Bernice (née Thiessen) Nahorney was born on Feb. 19, 1934, in Shamrock, Sask., and died on Nov. 18, 2015, in Lacombe, Alta. She loved working with children in the primary division, as well as Vacation Bible School. Surviving: husband, Lorence Nahorney; sons, Barry (Diane) Nahorney of Athabasca, Alta., Kerry (Darlene) Nahorney of Ardrossan, Alta., Todd (Gwen) Nahorney of Sherwood Park, Alta., Brad (Shelley) Nahorney of Lac La Biche, Alta., Trevor (Juanita) Nahorney of Ponoka, Alta., Landon Nahorney of Ponoka; daughters, Cindy (Brian Brownlee) Thomson of Sundre, Alta., Rae (Russ) Nielsen of Lacombe; sisters, Evelyn (Doug) Hawes of Falkland, B.C., Myrtle Davis of Texas, Elvina (Mel) Stearns of Lacombe, Marion McKenzie of Mayerthorpe, Alta., Frannie (Burt) Vanbommel of Chatham, Ont.; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Caesar Nawalkowski was born on May 29, 1934, in Rackham, Man., and died on June 5, 2016, in Ponoka, Alta. He worked most of his life in classrooms from Ontario to B.C. When asked what he taught, his answer was invariably, "Students!" Caesar is predeceased by his parents, John and Rose Nawalkowski; sister-in-law, Frances Nolan; brothers-in-law, Chris Olesen and Les Eaton. Surviving: wife, Linda (née Lucas) Nawalkowski; son, Treavor (Nancy) Nawalkowski of Calgary, Alta.; daughters, Shawna Dalka of Loveland, Colo., Lauris (Daryl) White of St. Louis, Mo.; brothers, Mitchel (Eleanor) Nawalkowski of Sandy Lake, Man., Ernie Nolan, Nelson

advertisements

(Ronna) Nawalkoski of Creston, B.C.; sisters, Olga Olesen of Holland, Mich., Marie Nawalkowski of Creston, Elsie Eaton of Creston; and two grandchildren.

Joan (née Smalling) Spano was born on Aug. 16, 1933, in Amityville, N.Y., and died on May 24, 2016, in Spokane, Wash. She served as the girls' dean at Kingsway College in 1968/1969. Joan is predeceased by her husband, Carl W. Spano; parents, Alden and Dorothy (née Smaglio) Smalling; and sister, Joyce Lauriguet. Surviving: son, John W. Spano; foster children, Gene Kostreba, Tony Kostreba, Louis Sophia, Christine Sophia; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Addison Howard Spencer was born on July 23, 1918, in Tiago County, Penn., and died on May 31, 2016, in Oshawa, Ont. He was most recently a member of the College Park church in Oshawa but was also a faithful member of the Canton church, holding many church offices. Howard is predeceased by his wife, Elissa (née von Gunten) Spencer; parents, Addison and Melvina (née Chisholm) Sencer; sister, Henrietta Choban. Surviving: sons, Howard (LaVonne) Spencer of Watkins Glen, N.Y., David (Kathryn) Spencer of Toronto, Ont.; daughters, Emily Steele of Oshawa, Janice Martin of Phoenix, Ariz.; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Emma (née Patzer) Trefz was born on Oct. 5, 1910, in Alta., and died on June 8, 2016, in Kelowna, B.C. She worked with the Rutland church community services making countless quilts, crocheted doilies, and delicious baked goods in reaching out to the

needs of the Kelowna community well into the later years of her life. Emma is predeceased by her husband, Daniel Trefz; and daughter, Georgia Trefz. Surviving: sons, Kenneth (Ruthie) Trefz of Kelowna, Dale (Patsy) Trefz of Waimea, Hawaii; daughter, June (Jack) Hedlund of Vernon, B.C.; sister, Lavina Stewart; 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

Corrine (née Kandoll) Vanderwerff was born on Oct. 15, 1939, in Cathlamet, Wash., and died on July 2, 2016, in Edmonton, Alta. She taught English at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy and Okanagan Adventist Academy; served as a missionary in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo; and authored numerous books, short stories, and articles. Corrine is predeceased by her parents, Ernest and Marjory Kandoll; and brother, Doug Kandoll. Surviving: sons, Jon (Judy Strutz-Vanderwerff) Vanderwerff of Loma Linda, Calif.; daughter, Joann (Richard) Chabaylo of Sherwood Park, Alta.; brothers, Greg (Kari) Kandoll of Cathlamet, Wes (Maretta) Kandoll of Vancouver, Wash.; sisters, Marja (Tom) Brizendine of Battle Ground, Wash., Knight Cheryl of Lincoln City, Ore.; and two grandchildren.

Peter Yaceyko was born on Aug. 1, 1924, in Derwent, Alta., and died on Oct. 31, 2015, in Lacombe, Alta. For 10 years after he retired, Peter volunteered many hours to work in the Adventist Community Services centre in Beauvallon, Alta., where he sorted and baled clothing prior to shipment. Peter is predeceased by his parents, Prokop and Annie (née Trynchuk) Yaceyko; brothers, Bill

Yaceyko and John Yaceyko; sisters, Sophie Noster, Mary Taylor, and Tillie Yaceyko. Surviving: brothers, Alex (Lena) Yaceyko of Elk Point, Alta., Steve (Esther) Yaceyko of Lacombe, David (Evelyn) Young of Loma Linda, Calif.; sisters, Nancy Chmilar of Vilna, Alta., Kathleen Paley of Langley, B.C.; and 21 nieces and nephews.



MacLean at Canadian Union College during the 1940s, when they were both very young and full of unbridled adventure. Over the next 51 years, they worked together in the mission fields of Africa for 18 years, and they enjoyed vibrant careers at the Branson Hospital in Willowdale, Ont. During the course of their life's journey, they utilized all of their talents, determination, and compassion to make an imprint on the lives of others. They will forever remain in the hearts of friends and colleagues across two continents.

Between Gerald and Althea, they raised two children, Gordon and Elizabeth, and they both lived to see their grandchildren Gerry and Laurie Turnbull thrive! Althea passed away seven years ago, and from that time until present, Gerald has been waiting patiently to reunite with the love of his life!

Thoughts and messages of condolence may be sent to the family via email: elizabethturnbull09@gmail.com.

Kenneth and Hazel Hill of Canoe, B.C., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in May 2016 with their four children and their families; Karen (Henry) Leung, Kelvin (Marcia) Hill,

■ Advertising Policies

PROCESS:

- All advertising should be submitted with local conference approval.
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■ Tribute

Gerald William Turnbull of Winnipeg, Man., passed away peacefully on July 4, 2016, in Lethbridge, Alta., at the age of 90.

Gerald met and married Althea

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Colin (Sheila) Hill, and Susan (Kroy) Christison, including five of their seven grandchildren. A few close friends from the Salmon Arm Seventh-day Adventist Church added their best wishes during an evening meal in June.

Ken and Hazel were high school sweethearts at Stanborough Park SDA School in Waford, U.K., and married after Ken completed physiotherapy school in London. Their journey in Canada began in 1967 when they immigrated to Halifax, N.S., where Ken began his teaching career at Dalhousie University and their children could be enrolled in an Adventist school. As a team they have faithfully served God and their church in various capacities in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, in addition to many months of humanitarian service with A Better World in Kenya during their retirement.

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from the editor if it was not for ADRA ...

"IF IT WAS NOT FOR ADRA, I WOULD NOT HAVE FOOD FOR MY CHILDREN." Her statement still haunts me. In the past, hearing about situations that are a zillion miles away on the other side of the world had little effect on me. But listening to them firsthand the way I did in war-torn South Sudan earlier this year captured my thoughts for a long time.

Giving up a meal in a restaurant once a month really means nothing for us in the long-term, but those same funds could provide a struggling widow with food for her family for well over a month. I have had face-to-face conversations with those moms. To me, they are no longer just a photo on piece of paper; I have heard the quiver in their voices and seen the gratitude in their eyes.

This month the *Messenger* team has partnered with ADRA Canada to dedicate the November issue to showcasing the significant difference they make thanks to Canadians like you and me.

When the crisis hit in the Ukraine, the Canadian government contacted ADRA Canada to implement emergency care because they knew we had already had "boots on the ground." In Fort McMurray, Alta., ADRA Canada stepped up to the plate and received a significant amount of funding to manage the warehouse for distributing goods to those affected by the wildfires.

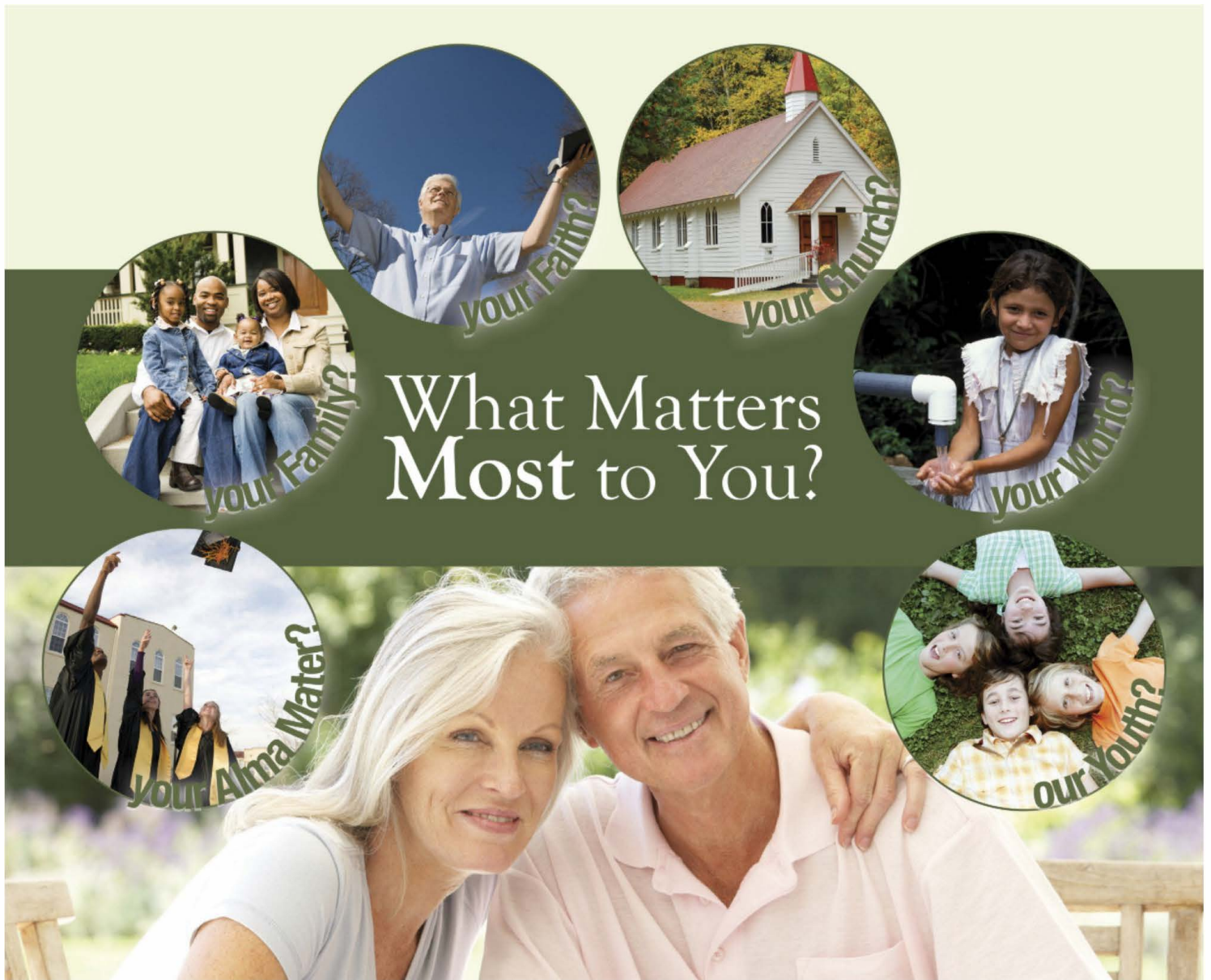
Last Christmas I was thrilled when I learned my children had purchased items out of the ADRA gift catalogue for my gifts. And the tradition continues as my five-year-old grandchild saves up her earnings and purchases gifts year-round from the ADRA catalogue.

ADRA Canada is one of the organizations that make us proud to be Adventist. We can freely tell our co-workers of the unconditional love that we provide to those who are in a situation we would never want to be in. The team at ADRA Canada is remarkable, and it is accountable for the funds they are entrusted with—both from us and from the federal government.

I cannot feed the hungry or clothe the naked in places I cannot be, but I can support those who diligently and faithfully do. ■

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

Stan Jensen, editor
Canadian Adventist Messenger



What Matters Most to You?

“Those who loved you and were helped by you, will remember you....”

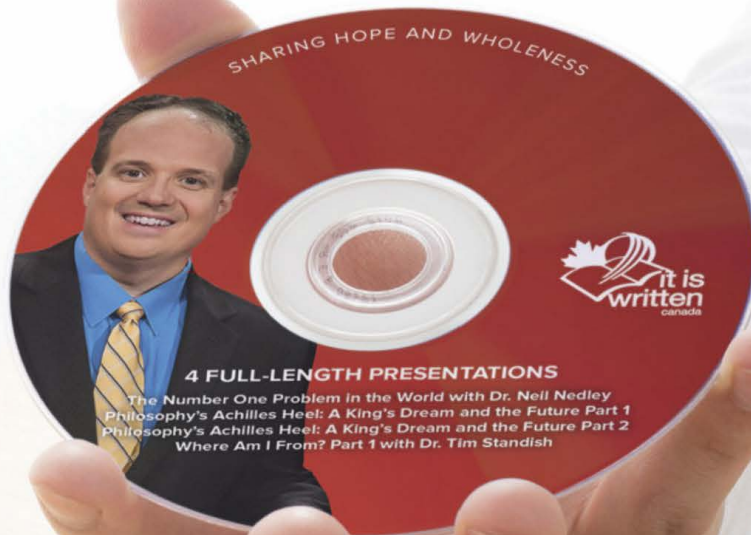
Charles Spurgeon

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