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“...I’m encouraged by what I hear.”

Young and Adventist

I’m excited about Adventist young adults across Canada. Over the last few months we’ve had conversations in churches, at camp meetings, at CUC, in homes and at restaurants, and I’m encouraged by what I hear.

Not everyone says exactly the same thing, but you wouldn’t expect that, would you? What is being said is incredibly important to faith and the future of our church. Here are some general trends that I’m picking up:

Young adults are anxious to see Jesus soon. They recognize that He is the only solution to the mess that we’ve made. They have a faith to share.

These folks are ready to be involved in their church in a meaningful way. They have energy and ideas. Theirs is a fresh set of eyes that may see fresher solutions than we’ve noticed before. They stimulate the church’s thinking. That’s good; we need it.

They respect folks older than them but would like to be respected themselves. Sometimes it seems that the church appoints them to token roles. That’s discouraging and feels like a lack of trust. They see the need to work together. They’re just waiting to be asked.

Many young adults in the church are deeply interested in social justice and humanitarian work. They want to do something about poverty and inequity, and they are not afraid to involve friends who are not part of the Adventist faith to join them in that work. They integrate better with those of other faiths and cultures than some of us who are older.

Young Adventists want the faith they share to be practical, one that really works between the weekends.

I could share a lot more, but I won’t. I’m glad for the many young Adventists I’ve met and those I haven’t yet. We need them in our churches, on our boards, and in our conference committees.

If you are a leader in a local church, please spend time connecting with younger Adventists in your congregation. Look for ways in which they can use their energy and insight for Christ in your community.

If you are a young Adventist, thank you for being a part of Christ’s church. Thank you for your ideas, your fresh perspectives and your faith.

The Adventist faith was founded by young adults. You are needed as leaders today.

Mark Johnson is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada
## WHAT’S INSIDE

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Donelda’s Story

When I come up out of the water, I’m going to be a vegetarian,” was the emphatic statement by Donelda Turley the week before her baptism. A Gitskan’ native of northern Canada, she was previously known in the village of Gitanyow, B.C., as the “evil woman,” for she was an alcoholic, mean-tempered, and abusive to her children.

One day, Zanna and Leif Ove, Bible workers serving on the Gitskan Reserve, gave her son, Travis, a ride to Kitwanga. They had just finished delivering Native New Day Bible lessons to 22 homes in the area. On the way to Kitwanga, Zanna handed Travis the Radiant Native Health magazine. He thumbed through it and paused at the back cover, where there was an advertisement for the Native New Day Bible guides. Zanna asked if he would like to receive them too. He said yes, and the next week she began to deliver the lessons to his house.

When Travis wasn’t home, his mother would answer the door. At first, she didn’t say much. After about two months, she showed Zanna her little greenhouse at the back, becoming friendlier with each visit. One day she admitted that she enjoyed reading the Bible lessons but said that she couldn’t ever go to church because of how badly she had been mistreated at the residential school. When she had completed the 30 lessons, Zanna asked her if she was interested in watching the Native New Day DVDs. It wasn’t long before her husband, Moses, and her son, Travis, were watching the DVDs with her.

One Sabbath, Donelda agreed to visit the Terrace church with Zanna and Leif. When they entered the church, Donelda was visibly nervous and trembling very badly. She sat by the door in the back row. The students of the Spring Creek Adventist School were in charge of the service that morning, and as the children sang, Donelda wept. Later that evening, Donelda took a beer from her fridge and poured herself a glass. She took a sip or two and pushed it back saying, “I can’t do this; it just doesn’t seem right! I can’t go to church and then come home and drink! It just isn’t right!” She never drank again.

Soon after visiting the Terrace church, Donelda asked Pastor Charles Aguilar if she could be baptized. Several of her relatives from Terrace came to witness the happy event. She came up praising the Lord, and true to her word, she has been a vegetarian ever since. After her baptism, with the help of funding from ADRA Canada, Donelda began to serve soup to the elders and others in need in Gitanyow in an effort to show her community that she had changed.

The villagers are amazed at her sudden transformation. She is no longer the “evil woman” but a kind, generous-hearted servant of the Lord. Her husband, Moses, has now quit drinking as well, and he and the boys have visited the church.

“It’s like God has His hand covering me like this,” says Donelda, cupping her hands together. “There is no way for me to be set free. God is with me.”

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Leif and Zanna Ove serve as Bible workers under the Terrace SDA Church in British Columbia, Canada. They have been serving the Gitskan Nation since October 2007.

1 The Gitskan are an indigenous people whose home territory encompasses approximately 53,000 square kilometers of land in the area known as the Skeena Country in British Columbia, Canada.
Dr. Chen-Bo Zhong, who teaches at the University of Toronto, recently conducted a fascinating study that demonstrated that when it comes to making ethical decisions, we might be better off trusting our “gut feelings” rather than our logic. In his study Dr. Zhong paired individuals who didn’t know each other and gave them the opportunity to cheat their partners or treat them fairly. If they cheated, they would gain monetarily at the expense of their partner.

Before the participants made their decision to either be fair or cheat, they were given some guidance. Some were encouraged to think rationally about the situation and to ignore their emotions. Others were told to “make decisions based on gut feelings.” Sixty-nine percent of those who thought rationally about their options chose to cheat their partner. Only 27 percent of those who trusted their gut feelings cheated.

I was confronted with the choice of following my gut feeling or my own rational arguments recently at a Thai restaurant. When I checked the bill, I noticed I had not been charged for one entree. My immediate gut reaction was, “I need to let the waitress know because I don’t want to cheat her.” But, as I waited for the waitress to return to my table, the rational part of my brain began suggesting, “The food wasn’t all that good. The service wasn’t all that great. Not having to pay for one entree would be a fair exchange.” Thankfully, I listened to my gut!

When the serpent confronted Eve with temptation, her first, gut response was the right one, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden.’” (Gen. 3:2, 3, NIV). It wasn’t until she thought about the situation and how beautiful and appealing the fruit was that she made a horribly wrong choice.

Every September I have the opportunity to speak to all of CUC’s new first-year students. One of the things I tell them is to trust their gut feelings when they make ethical decisions. I know this may seem like an odd thing to tell students entering an institution of deep thought and higher learning. But because we are fully surrounded and constantly bombarded with rational-sounding arguments that contradict the Bible, now, more than ever, we need to be tuned in to what I believe are our God-given gut feelings, our conscience, and the whisperings of His still small voice.

To that end there are three powerful ways we can keep our gut feelings fully synchronized with the principles of God’s kingdom. The first is daily Bible study. David knew what it was like to disregard his gut feelings; perhaps that is why he wrote, “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Ps. 119:11, ESV).

Second, because our core values guide our gut feelings, we should not fill our mind with media and messages that corrupt our core values. Paul explains it this way: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise” (Phil. 4:8, NLT).

Finally, we keep our inner voice, our conscience, our gut feelings in tune with God’s will by taking time to “watch and pray.” Often God guides us with barely audible whispers we will not hear if we have no quiet time. Many times our gut may offer just a gentle nudge that we will not notice if we are busy multitasking. I think this is why David wrote, “In Thy precepts I meditate, and I behold attentively Thy paths” (Ps. 119:15, YLT).

Mark Haynal is the president of Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta.
Finding Jesus

Help! I’m trying to read the entire Bible but can’t get past Leviticus.

In my journey from youth to adulthood, I went from reading the Bible because I was supposed to and because it was important but sooo boring to gradually discovering it is anything but boring, so this is a question I get really excited about!

If you are anything like I was, you read through Genesis pretty well, skipping the lists of genealogies, of course. I mean, does anyone really need to know who begat whom? Then Exodus is pretty cool until about chapter 25, when the instructions for building the temple begin. Come on; do we need all this detail? Get on with the action already! Then Exodus gets back to the story with the golden calf, and then comes … Leviticus. Who needs sleeping pills, right?

Am I describing how you feel? Let me be honest. There are rules in Leviticus I still don’t get. But before we throw it all away or give up, let me tell you a “secret.” The Bible is a story. You like stories. Better yet, the Bible is about you. The people in the stories are just like you. They want to do good things and they want to do bad things. There are villains and there are heroes and there are “boring” parts. Do you know what makes something boring? When you can’t see what it possibly means to you. If I want the young people in my church to perk up during a sermon, I only have to mention something they can relate to. Adults are the same. So are children. Guess what. The Bible was written just for me, or just for you. It is full of history, poetry, battles, intrigue, murder, rape, adultery, rules, construction projects, politics, etc. All this being true, the Book only has one theme. That theme is a person. His name is Jesus. Oh, you won’t find His name in Leviticus or anywhere else in the Old Testament but you will find Him. He is the one who came to tell Adam and Eve He had a solution for their tragic mistake. He is the one who came to talk to Cain about his dangerous choices. He is the one Enoch walked and talked with. He is the one who patiently explained to Noah how to build the ark and then gently closed the door after they were safely inside.

Remember the book Where is Waldo? Read the Bible like that. Search for Jesus, and on the journey there will be parts you don’t get. Keep going. On the journey you will find characters you can relate to. Spend time with them. Learn from their choices, walk in their struggles, think through their challenges. It won’t be long before you may face a similar one.

The Bible is not a rule book. It is a story. It is His story about our sin and His rescue plan. It’s the story of how we relate to Him and how He relates to us. Someday the parts you find boring now will suddenly come alive and you’ll be glad they are there. For now just keep going, and as you turn the pages, ask God to help you find Jesus. He is in there, sometimes in the most unexpected places, even in genealogies. ■

1 If you aren’t familiar with Where is Waldo? be resourceful; Google it! 😆
Owen and Mzee

On December 26, 2004, a powerful earthquake in the Indian Ocean sent a tsunami, or tidal wave, crashing upon the coast of Kenya. A pod of about 20 hippos was swept out to sea, where they drowned. But there was one survivor. It was a one-year-old baby hippo, who was later named Owen.

Owen was rescued and brought to a wildlife refuge where he was put into an enclosure with a 130–year-old Aldabra tortoise. Tortoises are cold-blooded reptiles that do not care for their babies. So it was a shock to everyone that Owen and Mzee became close friends. They did everything together. They ate the same food, swam together, slept together and even developed their own way of talking to each other.

Think About It.
People cannot explain how a reptile like Mzee could be friends with a mammal like Owen. They’re just too different. But baby Owen needed Mzee, so it seems God put love into the old tortoise’s heart for orphaned Owen. And love keeps them together. That the Creator of the universe would want to be friends with sinful, rebellious people is also impossible to explain. Except for one thing—love. It’s God’s love for us that makes Him want to be friends with us. And the only thing that we have to offer Him in return is our great need.

Do It!
Try and count the ways in which God has drawn you by His love. I dare you to try and list all the different ways He reaches out to you! How have you shown Him your need for His friendship?
Want to learn more about Owen and Mzee? Here’s their website address: www.owenandmzee.com

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God’s creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com.
Big Changes
in the Lives of Students at Canada’s Adventist University

“In Washington, D.C., I discovered, that my best is good enough.”

—Colleen Connors, Lacombe, Alberta, international studies major, global health studies track, Class of 2012, top intern at the Protection Project, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.

Colleen was no stranger to the hilltop when she enrolled as a business major at CUC, thinking she’d like marketing and perhaps work in an agency. With her family part of the fabric of CUC for almost 20 years—her father is John Connors, chair of the psychology and behavioral science department, and her mother Dianna Connors, head of Loma Linda’s marriage and family therapy program—Colleen knew about the personal attention students get and the exceptionally high medical school admissions rate at CUC. Still, Colleen wondered whether she was in the right major and at the right school.

A class with Dr. Marc Froese was a turning point. As she researched the genocide in Darfur, she realized that compassion was core to who she was. Later, when Colleen followed up on Froese’s invitation to attend an information session about internships in Washington, D.C., she was energized by the prospect of living in a political hub and working with like-minded people at the Protection Project of Johns Hopkins University. A conversation with the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars representative after the presentation cinched Colleen’s decision to apply for an internship and to become an international studies major.

The Washington Center was impressed with Colleen’s application, and her supervisors were even more impressed as Colleen emerged as a leader among 16 interns at the Protection Project. She stood out at the Model United Nations Conference, researched and prepared polished documents, and met with congressional staff alongside victims of forced migration to enlist government support in a torture abolition campaign.

When her first evaluation arrived, Colleen was afraid to open it—afraid that her A’s from CUC were really B’s or C’s next to her internship colleagues from American Ivy League colleges. Instead, she found she had gotten a perfect score from her supervisors—the best of her cohort. As the semester-long internship drew to a close, the head of the interns at the prestigious academic center that champions human rights called Colleen aside. “We haven’t had an intern as strong as you in many years,” she told the surprised Colleen.

As a result of her hands-on work, Colleen has broadened her focus from one-on-one rescue and advocacy to making systemic change on a national
and international level through legislation. The next step in Colleen’s plan after graduation is law school. “For many years, I had compassion for everyone but me,” says Colleen. “I’d beat myself up for not knowing what I really wanted, for changing focus, not being ‘good enough.’ People don’t realize that a huge part of the value you get at CUC is the personal interest of the professors. They point you in the direction of opportunities and help you find your way.”

“If I’d gone to a big school, I would have missed that. Now I know that my best is good enough.”

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CUC Diversifies Its Professional and Grad School Prep Programs: The International Studies Tracks

Professor Uses Professional Publications to Give Students an Edge

Marc Froese, PhD, knows what it takes to survive and thrive at the University of Toronto and in York University’s “publish or perish” political science department. Froese recently had a book of his own published by the University of Toronto Press (Canada at the WTO: Trade Litigation and the Future of Public Policy), but as a graduate student at York, Froese helped author numerous articles with one of Canada’s foremost political theorists. He’s passing on that professional edge to students in CUC’s new BA in international studies program because Froese not only wants students to develop professional skills but also wants to see them in the graduate or professional school of their choice.

“The international studies program was created as a crowd pleaser,” says Froese, who, like his father, Pastor Dan Froese, attended CUC before it expanded its range of degree offerings. “The program still has a lot of things students like to study, but it’s become more rigorous.” Students who have worked with Froese are getting into some of the top interdisciplinary graduate programs, including the prestigious University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, the school of choice for the offspring of many British diplomats.

“Our students have the advantage that we get to know them,” says Froese, who regularly writes detailed two-page recommendations for grad school applicants rather than the one or two paragraphs typically seen from large universities. There’s more to say about CUC’s grads; besides being in a highly individualized program, students have the opportunity to assist with research for publications that will help them stand out.

When Froese began creating the program in 2007 at the request of then-president Andrea Lutxton, he didn’t foresee the enthusiasm with which students would embrace the “study outside Canada” requirement. CUC’s study tours to Europe, South America, Tibet and other less-traveled places are just the beginning; a year studying at another Adventist Colleges Abroad school or a semester interning at one of several prestigious institutions (see Colleen Connors’ “Big Changes” story), or even independent study in another country allows students to tailor their studies to career goals.

“We have to be highly individualized to meet students’ needs and interests,” says Froese, who devised two tracks for the degree—global health studies, and world cultures and societies—which involves more than 15 professors from diverse disciplines.

“This program tends to attract motivated, academic students,” observes Froese, who, based on his experience, sees them as competitive with the top 20 percent of all college grads who get into graduate schools. And Froese ensures that every step toward their success in the international studies program will be a personalized experience.
An interview with Janet Hall, principal of Prairie Adventist Christian School, by Stan Jensen, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Communication director and Messenger editor

Until just a few years ago, if you wanted your child to receive a Seventh-day Adventist education, you would have had to physically live near (or move near) an Adventist academy or, depending on the age, send him or her away to an Adventist boarding school. Not having access to an Adventist school is a major reason some families choose to homeschool. New developments in technology are expanding our options, however. Adventist education has begun tapping into the possibilities of distance education in order to make our education more available.

In an effort to find out more about Adventist distance education, I decided to speak with Janet Hall, principal of Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool (PACeS), based out of Red Deer, Alta.
STAN JENSEN: Tell us briefly about the history of this Alberta-based online Adventist school. Is it fully accredited?

JANET HALL: Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool started in the fall of 2007 because of a mandate from the Alberta Conference to provide Adventist education to all of its student-age constituents. They wanted it to be more than a correspondence school and wanted the students to have an actual teacher teaching them via the Internet.

PACeS was a result of this thought process. The school is fully accredited with the Alberta government and has permission to export the program out of province. All of the teachers are Adventist and Alberta-certified. All of them are either certified through the North American Division or in the process of obtaining the certification. The program can help pre-existing schools by providing for higher grades in small school settings or by providing single courses for schools that may not be able to hire specialized teachers (e.g., physics).

SJ: How does PACeS differ from a correspondence school?

JH: PACeS differs from a correspondence school in that it provides live teaching through the program Elluminate. In this program the teacher can be seen, heard, and can provide visuals such as PowerPoints, videos, audio clips, animations and interactive tools for the students. The students can also be heard and seen through webcams. The students are in their grade-appropriate groups for classes and enjoy the feeling of belonging to a group.

SJ: How does this differ from homeschooling? Can homeschoolers also be part of this?

JH: The program differs from traditional homeschooling because of the live teaching component and the sense of belonging to a class. The students learn how to interact with an adult and other students their own age. Homeschoolers are welcome to join PACeS. It switches the curriculum from being solely parent-based to teacher-based with parental input. Parents do not have to wonder about whether their child’s level of education is adequate.

SJ: How many students, full- and part-time, are there? What is required for them to be enrolled as students? Do they have to live in Alberta? What about missionary kids?

JH: Currently, we have 84 full-time students and 12 part-time students. We welcome more students from outside of Alberta. Some conferences even help with paying tuition. Please contact your local conference to see if they will help you. Students can register for PACeS either by filling out the online form or by downloading the forms and sending them to the school. We can provide this service anywhere in the world. Go to www.albertasdadl.com for more information.

SJ: How many teachers does PACeS have? Where are they located? Do you need more teachers? Are they all fully certificated by the denomination?

JH: Our teachers live all across Canada, and the requirements to be a teacher for PACeS is to be an Adventist, be able to be Alberta-certified and able to be denominationally certified. We have 10 teachers at present covering grades K–12. Interested teachers may apply for jobs that are posted on the CATnet.sdacc.org website.

SJ: What computer equipment do students need?

JH: The computer equipment needed is to be able to have an Internet connection, JavaScript download, Adobe Reader, a sound card, a video card, a webcam and a headset with a built-in microphone. Training on how to use Elluminate is given prior to joining the class.

SJ: Can Adventist students who are not able to go to Adventist Schools take some of the classes such as Bible, health, etc.?

JH: Students who are attending public schools can access our classes. They probably cannot attend the live classes because of scheduling, but they can listen to the recordings and/or do those classes by correspondence through us.

SJ: What kind of social events are available for students to participate in? What about recess—what I remember as being the most important part of school?

JH: PACeS does try to do some social events, although...
that is restricted somewhat because of distance. The high school program plans a mission trip abroad each year, a local Alberta mission trip, weeks of prayer, monthly assemblies, spring field trips, ski trips and fun days throughout the semesters. The elementary program is part of the conference programs. We have a conference-wide sports day, grade 5/6 outdoor school, grade 7/8 canoe trip, grade 9 outdoor education trip and PACeS spring field trips. Of course, some of these onsite programs would be hard to attend if you live too far away. Parents are encouraged to do local field trips where possible.

SJ: Where can people go to find out more information about classes and cost, for example?

JH: For more information on classes and cost, please go to the PACeS website, at www.albertasdsl.com.

I am thankful for the work of Janet Hall and other educators and administrators in our church for their commitment to Adventist education and for their effort to make it more accessible. For your information, in addition to PACeS, there is another Adventist distance education school you can check out: West Coast Adventist School (WCAS), operating out of Williams Lake, B.C. WCAS’s website is www.wcasdsl.ca. May God continue to bless all of our schools, principals, teachers, staff and students as they teach, learn and serve to grow God’s kingdom.
Stepping in the Water

...God asked them to put their toes in the water and trust Him, and He performed a miracle on their behalf.

When God brought the children of Israel to the Red Sea, He wanted them to learn that He takes care of His children. They did not see a way through, but God asked them to put their toes in the water and trust Him, and He performed a miracle on their behalf. In a similar way, God may bring us to a place where we can only move forward in faith. He asks us only to step into the water and watch the miracle He will perform.

Seventh-day Adventist education provides an opportunity to exercise that kind of faith. Current data shows that only 25 to 30 percent of our kids attend our schools. Studies have shown that 70 percent of those who attend will remain as active members within our church. Only 30 percent of those who do not attend a Seventh-day Adventist school will remain active members. I don’t know about you, but that is a risk that I’m not willing to take.

I first learned what faith was from my mother, who took the risk, by faith, to send her two children to Adventist schools. We had just moved from Germany, where my father had been stationed in the Canadian Armed Forces, to Canada’s capital, and my mother began taking us to the Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist Church. Over the next two years, the Holy Spirit and Pastor Glen Corkum worked with her to enroll her kids in the Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist School. She faced a number of large obstacles: first, my father did not want his two boys going to a Christian school; second, we lived in Manotik, an 18-kilometre drive to the school, and had only one car, which my father took to work each day; and third, we did not have the finances for tuition.

On the Friday night of Labour Day weekend, my mother petitioned our King with tears for a timely answer, while our faith-filled church and pastor prayed for a miracle. My mom took us to church that Sabbath with a heavy heart, but by the time we returned home, the first of God’s miracles had already taken place. A blue Toyota station wagon was sitting in the driveway. My dad had received the car from one of his friends who owed him some money.

Another miracle followed. When my mother approached my dad for permission to enroll us at the Ottawa SDA School, he agreed if we could find the funds. Grandmother to the rescue! On Tuesday morning my brother and I were sitting in the basement of the Benjamin Avenue church, ready for our first day of school.

As I look back on my life, I see how God answered this prayer over and over again. When I needed $600 to re-register at Andrews University, for example, God sent a precious lady, whom I had just met at Heritage Green, with a cheque for $1,000. Now that I am a parent, these stories of faith are being relived as we commit to sending our two teenage kids to Sandy Lake Academy. There would not be enough room in the Messenger for all the incredible miracles God has wrought to make an Adventist education a reality for them.

At Sandy Lake we are witnessing another story of faith. A few years ago, our principal, Chris Dupuis, initiated a prayer warrior program. The students had one main prayer request: 70 students for the next school year. God rewarded their faith with 73 students, a substantial increase over the 56 in 2009/10. These students continued to pray. This year, enrollment increased to 81 students, and they are now praying for 100 students for the next school year. What will happen when all of us start praying for our children? What will happen when we start walking in faith to obey what God has asked us to do? We know the answer!

If your children are not currently attending an Adventist school, I challenge you to put God to the test. Too many parents have told me that they wished they had sent their children to our schools as they watch them slowly drift away from God. Don’t look at the Red Sea of obstacles before you. Step into the water in faith and see what God will do. We will need a book to contain all the miracle stories that will result from this simple prayer of faith. ■

Paul Llewellyn is education superintendent, summer camp director, and men’s ministries leader of the Maritime conference.
What’s Your Reputation?

Do you wonder what people are saying about your church or organization? What kind of reputation do you have?

The current trend in social media is to “check in” to where you are. For example, if you were at an Olive Garden restaurant, you would check in using Facebook’s Places application or the FourSquare application that aggregates your information to Twitter. Each of these applications gives the user an opportunity to post a tip or critique. You can write a tip about the quality of service, suggest what dishes to try on the menu, or advise of a particular server to avoid.

The power is in the user to shape your reputation.

More companies are devoting their time on social media sites to see what others are saying about them. This is very serious because social media users hold incredible power to give credit or discredit a company. In 2010, when the state of Arizona introduced an unprecedented, stringent law against illegal immigration, it generated significant controversy in North America and even abroad. However, the state tourism office of Arizona failed miserably to tackle the resulting social media boycott of the state. Because of Arizona’s controversial immigration law, organizers of the boycott were asking companies and individuals to halt all plans to the state, therefore potentially causing an economic challenge. Caught up in the upheaval was Arizona Beverage Co., an iced tea brand that quickly became a marked target because of its name. Unlike Arizona the state, the iced tea company quickly struck back by explaining to potential boycotters that they were headquartered in Long Island, NY.

Organizations and churches should carefully “troll” the Internet to see how their reputation is perceived. Here are a few suggestions to use as you protect your brand:

Be Prompt in Your Response
I once tweeted that I received great customer service with the Internet giant Go Daddy (godaddy.com). Within 20 minutes, Go Daddy responded to my tweet, thanking me for the compliment. By responding to my tweet, they let all of my Twitter followers as well as their followers know that they were paying attention and that customer service mattered.

Let People Know You Are Working On the Problem
Shashank Nigam is a well-known airline marketer and blogger. He was trying to reach out to JetBlue on Twitter to inquire about a delayed flight. JetBlue sent him one message but seemed to ignore him on subsequent requests. Nigam decided to reach out to Southwest Airlines to see if he could get faster service and find a way home. Southwest returned his Twitter message and continued to stay in touch with him until the matter was resolved.1

Don’t Have a One-Sided Conversation
One of the cardinal rules of social media is conversation—rather, a two-way conversation. Blogs are not supposed to be short articles, but rather a forum for discussion. During a recent snowstorm in Maryland, the Howard County executive used his Facebook and Twitter pages to update residents on the snow removal. The propaganda was heavy from the local city government, with verbose messages assuring the residents of a fantastic job. The problem was it was only a one-way conversation. Many residents (including me) responded to his messages, asking questions and making suggestions. There was no response. Apparently, his PR staff didn’t understand how important it was to have two-way dialogue.

Re-tweet the Compliments
If somebody tweets that they had a good experience at your church or organization, share it! After enjoying a fabulous meal at a well-known restaurant in Washington, D.C., called Founding Farmers, I tweeted my experience while still in the restaurant. In response, that restaurant re-tweeted my comment for their thousands of followers to read. Once upon a time, companies would post a complimentary letter for their employees and patrons to read on a bulletin board. With the advent of social media and Internet blogging, you have a worldwide Internet audience to share the compliment with.

Google Your Organization or Church
Type in the name of your church or organization. You may want to use many variations of your name.

For example, New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, New Hope SDA Church, New Hope Church, New Hope Adventist, New Hope Adventist Maryland, etc.

What information is coming up? Is the information current? Is it correct? Are people writing comments and reviews of you? If so, what are they saying?

Invite Members to Write a Review
Ask members of your church or organization to write a short review about their experience of your church. This is critical for first-time visitors who are thinking about attending. Reading someone’s personal experience can be a compelling reason to attend.

Rajkumar Dixit is a pastor, and the author of Branded Faith: Contextualizing the Gospel in a Post-Secular World.

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1 Amber Mac, Power Friends: Demystifying Social Media to Grow Your Business (New York: Portfolio, 2010), 49.
Thirteen-Year-Old is the Youngest Registrant as the Ontario Conference School of Evangelism (OCSE) Launches Four New Schools

Thirty-one-year-old Kendrick Ireland from the Kitchener-Waterloo Seventh-day Adventist Church is the youngest person to register for the Ontario Conference School of Evangelism (OCSE) as four new schools were launched in the space of just eight days (March 24–31, 2012).

Pastor Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, was the keynote speaker at the Kitchener-Waterloo and Ottawa Adventist Churches for the launch on the afternoon of March 24 and 31, respectively. He was joined by Pastors Halsey Peat, Theodore Sargeant and Eustace Williams, organizers of the OCSE.

Although intended as a time when registered and prospective students could meet their teachers, the launch of the new schools was also a time of worship and inspiration. At Kitchener-Waterloo, the praise team and band from Hamilton Mountain Church led out in vibrant worship.

Edwards based his message on Mark 5, the healing of the demon-possessed man. He used this story to demonstrate the value Jesus places on the individual by travelling across a lake for the sole purpose of rescuing him from demon-possession and restoring him to his right mind.

“When Jesus commanded the demons to ‘go’ from the man,” said Edwards, “it’s the same word used to command us to ‘go’ and make disciples of all men in Matthew 28:18–20. The same power is associated with it. We can be confident that as we ‘go’ and reach people with the gospel, we do so with the same power of God!”

He also said: “This man became the first evangelist in that region. Jesus rescued him, and while he wanted to remain with the Saviour, Jesus sent him to go back to his family and back to his town to tell them what Jesus had done for him. We cannot do any less!”

A number of people responded to Edwards’ invitation and joined the registered students and teachers for a consecratory prayer.

Pastor Eustace Williams was clearly pleased with the outcome and said: “When we were led to begin a school of evangelism, we had no idea that it would grow so quickly. Who would have thought, a year ago, that we would now be operating six schools across our province? But God always has a greater plan than ours. We are praying that many more of our church members will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and be part of God’s plan."

At both locations, pastors representing nearly all the churches in each region were clearly visible, and their presence demonstrated their strong support for the school of evangelism. Even those who are not involved in teaching courses for the school have committed themselves to assist in making it a success. At least three pastors from across the three regions have even led their church boards to provide financial assistance for their members who register for the school.

At Kitchener-Waterloo, two schools were launched for the Southern Ontario region churches and one for Western Ontario. The Southern Ontario schools will be held at Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton Mountain, while South London will host the Western Ontario school.

The new schools will follow the same curriculum as the original school held in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and will offer training in personal evangelism and lay preaching. In March, a second school began in the GTA, offering the same curriculum. This curriculum will not be offered in the GTA or any of the other regions for the next two years. In 2013 and 2014, specialized courses in areas such as small group evangelism, family evangelism, youth evangelism, etc., will be taught. However, these courses will only be open to those who have graduated from the basic training that is presently being offered.

Halsey Peat, Communication Director, Ontario Conference
“I came . . . so that they could live life to the fullest”

Creation Heal

the Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church presents a unique health seminar in Kiti
Kitimat is a beautiful coastal city in northwestern British Columbia. There are no Seventh-day Adventist churches in the city. The closest Adventist church is 60 kilometres away, in Terrace, B.C.

As part of our church planting strategy at the Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kitimat, we have envisioned that one of the best approaches to use in our initiative is health. We evaluated several Adventist health programs and decided to go with CREATION Health (creationhealth.com).

Jesus stated, “I came . . . so that they could live life to the fullest” (John 10:10, CEB). In light of Jesus’ desire for people to live abundant lives, CREATION Health was “designed to help people live life to the fullest by focusing on the eight universal principles of whole-person health God originally gave at Creation.”

CREATION is an acronym that highlights important dimensions of holistic health; the letters stand for the following health principles (as stated on the CREATION Health website):

- **CHOICE** is the first step toward improved health because people who believe they are in control over their own lives are healthier and live longer.
- **REST** is good sleep and also taking time to relax. Relaxation lowers blood pressure and reduces stress.
- **ENVIRONMENT** is our external world but also affects what happens within us for the better or worst [sic].
- **ACTIVITY** includes physical and mental conditioning. Our goal is to be active in mind, body and spirit.
- **TRUST** in God speaks to the relationship between spirituality and healing. A link exists between faith and wellness.
- **INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS** strengthen our well-being. Social connection fortifies our resolve and improves our health.
- **OUTLOOK** creates our reality. Our mind influences our body and our attitude impacts our health.
- **NUTRITION** is the fuel that drives the whole system. Small improvements and strategic substitutions produce profound results.

We were excited to begin the Kitimat CREATION Health seminar on Wednesday, Jan. 11. It continued every Wednesday night until its culmination on Feb. 29, 2012. We started at approximately 7:15 p.m. and finished by 8:30 p.m. each evening.

The seminar was held at Kitimat General Hospital’s beautiful conference room; its use was provided to the Terrace church free of charge by the hospital administrator, Jonathon Cooper.

On opening night, a total of 28 people attended the seminar, and 25 of them were non-Adventist!

The participants were quite impressed with the professional quality of the materials. The full-colour workbooks, brightly coloured bags, handouts, glossy folders, as well as high-quality and engaging videos were inviting and easy to use.

The participants also liked the interactive format of the seminar, which incorporated good doses of group discussion. A really neat thing about the program is that it requires attendees to appoint an accountability partner to follow up with during the eight weeks so that people will encourage one another to stay on track. This clever requirement is more than enough for anyone to make a new friend.

A beautiful thing about CREATION Health is that right up front—and it is repeated at every session—the participants are told that in order for all of us to experience life to the fullest, we have to recognize that we are spiritual beings. Each evening, we start with the Bible and end with the Bible; there is no hiding it. At the beginning of the program, I was even introduced as a pastor, and the audience was OK with it.

On the second session, which was on Rest, I was really impressed with how CREATION Health approached the subject, a really good balance between biblical truth and scientifically backed benefits. For instance, the Sabbath was presented as a healthy ritual everyone should adopt. I have to say that overall, the scientific research that was put into the materials is simply awesome.

After the topic of Rest was presented, Alisia Thomas, our coordinator in Kitimat, said, “We should present this every quarter!” The participants were very involved in the discussion on Rest. Some even asked about our Adventist Sabbath traditions, and it was so neat to share our Sabbath practices in a very friendly and conversational manner. A non-Adventist couple happily shared the positive Sabbath experience they had when they visited the Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church months ago.

One topic that really resonated with the participants was the topic Outlook.

You see, Kitimat is considered to be one of the more depressed areas on the north coast of B.C., economically and otherwise. Several major industrial companies have closed down within the last three years, and jobs have become very scarce as a result.

And yet, after the Outlook presentation, the participants were clapping their hands in a cheery mood. It was like they had seen a glimmer of hope! I would have to say, it was one of the most interactive and inspiring nights I have led in the program.

At the conclusion of Outlook, I received so many thanks from the participants as if I had done something special, but all I did was present Bible truths, moderate the discussion and press play on the DVD player.
At first, I was really concerned about a two-week trip to Israel I was scheduled to take right during the program. I was worried that nobody would be able to continue the presentations and that we would lose our momentum. However, after studying the materials designed for coordinators and leaders, Jacqueline Barker, one of our Adventist coordinators in Kitimat, presented the sessions with ease.

The leaders’ and presenters’ materials are so well organized and well thought-out that anyone could, in fact, do the seminar.

At the last session, which was on Nutrition, we gave each participant a DVD copy of the documentary Forks over Knives and gave away two free annual subscriptions to Vibrant Life magazine.

On the last night, we also connected with Erbert Operana, an Adventist chef who works for the culinary arts program at Northwest Community College in Terrace. He demonstrated how easy it is to prepare healthy and delicious meals.

Alisia Thomas made this observation: “It was a joy to see people rushing in from work or whatever their schedules were just to attend the seminar and learn about God’s plan for their human bodies. … It was truly a positive learning experience for all of us involved. The presenters found many innovative ways to facilitate our learning, which included visual aids, group discussion and feedback.”

We provided opportunities for participants to submit a survey with comments. The feedback from our group was good.

Here are some of the results:

When asked which sessions they enjoyed the most, 62 percent stated Nutrition, while 23 percent stated they enjoyed them all and 15 percent were undecided.

When asked to rate the presentations and materials, 92 percent stated it was excellent and very high quality. Eight percent took up all their writing space to comment about how great the food that was served tasted.

Finally, when asked what other conferences or programs they would like to have in Kitimat, 31 percent said they wanted healthful cooking classes, eight percent wanted a seminar on financial freedom and money management, eight percent on caring for the elderly, eight percent on parenting, eight percent on marriage and family, 38 percent wanted more on health, another 8 percent wanted career guidance, 15 percent wanted a spiritual seminar, and 23 percent stated that they would be happy to attend whatever we offer. Only 8 percent did not make any suggestions.

Because the extreme winter road conditions made it very challenging for many people to attend, only 16 of the original 28 attendees received their beautiful CREATION Health certificates on closing night. But we praise God for those we did retain and for the seed that has been planted to effect positive change in His children’s lives.

CREATION Health has helped us plant a ministry in a city that we hope will someday grow a healthy Seventh-day Adventist congregation.

Charles Ed Il Aguilar is pastor of the Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church and North Coast B.C. Church Planting. www.terraceadventist.org; www.antcreations.com
Perth-Andover Flood Disaster

On Friday morning, March 23, 2012, a siren warning of imminent flooding sounded in Perth-Andover, a town in northwestern New Brunswick straddling the Saint John River. A mandatory evacuation of the residents along the low-lying areas of the town was initiated, and the residents had only a couple of hours to walk away from their homes before they were completely flooded.

Because of unseasonal temperatures, the river ice was breaking up, and an ice blockage downstream from the town caused the river to back up and flood the town 1.5 meters higher than the last major flood in 1987, which had also caused major damage to the town. The present flooding is considered the highest within 100 years.

The local Seventh-day Adventist Church, which operates the local Care to Share/ADRA community service centre (clothes and furniture bank), immediately stepped into action by handing out food and distributing clothing and hygiene kits to the affected people; up to nine active church members were involved in the work under the leadership of Fred Clark, the director of Care to Share/ADRA.

The emergency responders were eventually located in the Perth-Andover Middle School, where Care to Share (identified as ADRA) worked together with other NGOs. ADRA was given the immediate responsibility of supplying hygiene kits and clothing. ADRA has also been given the ongoing assignment to assist with the resettlement and support of local families, which will include the purchase of household items/furniture/appliances, personal services, as well as transportation for people to access other needed services and moving households into new facilities.

ADRA worked together with other groups in providing relief: Social Development, Samaritan’s Purse, Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), Village of Perth Andover Flood Relief, and the Canadian Red Cross. ADRA at one time supplied the Red Cross with hygiene kits because they had run out. As of the evening of March 28, the emergency response centre was moved from the middle school to the Perth-Andover Civic Centre. The Canadian Red Cross gave ADRA a special invitation to come and continue to work alongside the Red Cross. The Red Cross has held the work done by ADRA in high regard and considered the group a crucial part of the effort. ADRA Canada has very graciously committed up to $10,000 to help fund this relief effort in Perth-Andover.

Mogens H. Sørensen, ADRA Representative, Maritime Conference
Ontario

Date Night At FilCan

When was the last time you went on a date with your spouse? Before the kids came along? Before the mortgage payments started? Before the wedding? The FilCan Youth and Young Adults (FYYA) youth ministry of the Filipino-Canadian (FilCan) Seventh-day Adventist Church in Toronto, Ont., coordinated Date Night, an event for the married couples of the church. For one night, parents and couples could enjoy an evening of sumptuous food, get their cars parked by valet parking, have their coats checked and just enjoy each other’s company.

The Young Couples Ministry assisted with the event, providing support for food, supplies, setup, etc. The fellowship hall of the church was converted into a restaurant-like atmosphere, with each couple having their own candlelit table. Various members of FYYA coordinated the valet parking and coat check and acted as the hosts and hostesses, waiters and waitresses, and kitchen crew. Feedback was received in the comment box as couples paid for their meals and left for the evening. Some of the comments include: “Excellent service! Great Food! We should do this at least once [every] 3 months or earlier. Great job Fil-Can Youth!”; “Awesome. Perfect Night. Do it again please. Beyond my imagination ;”)”; “Thank you so much! This is a night to remember. Had a wonderful night!”; “Amazing. Speechless.”

The event was also a fundraiser for FYYA, with approximately $500 received, to go toward the many plans and activities set for 2012. Let’s continue to pray and support youth ministries for the work God has entrusted them to do. ❧

Pearlie Cada, Communications, Filipino Canadian SDA Church.

MOPS
Mothers of Preschoolers

Five years ago, while pregnant with my first child, I would take walks around my neighbourhood. It was during one of those walks that I met a young Christian mother. We started talking, and she invited me to an informal group for mothers at her Methodist church. I joined and slowly saw the weekly gathering of six to eight moms become an organized Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group.

The friendships deepened, and at one point, two mothers who joined the group began to attend that Methodist church. Later I learned that MOPS groups can now be found across the world. For almost 40 years, this Christian organization has ministered to thousands of mothers through friendship, creative outlets and instruction, sending the message that “mothering matters.”

When I mentioned my experience to our Bowmanville Adventist Church family, somebody suggested that forming such a group would be a great outreach opportunity since there was no group in our municipality. Shortly after, I received the responsibility to start organizing our MOPS group, find toys and supplies, and
work on advertising. God provided seven church members who volunteered to sacrifice three hours of their time every other week to supervise the children while the mothers got the opportunity to recharge.

Our first meeting took place at the end of September 2011. I was nervous and hoped that at least two to three mothers would show up. My fears were quickly put to rest when I saw the first non-Christian young mother with her three children walk into the church. For two hours, four mothers were able to relax, share tips on motherhood, get to know one another and find support. The moms found the meetings so helpful that the word spread, and by the third session, their numbers had doubled. One of them told the group, "I am counting the days and hours until it is time to come to MOPS!" Another said, "It’s nice for me to be out with other moms while my kids benefit from the social interaction with other children their age—all in a safe environment," and another asked for a pen to write down some useful tips.

Currently we have around eight to 11 mothers and 13 to 20 children coming. Over half are non-Adventist Christians. We’ve been watching the parenting DVDs provided by MOPS International and have enjoyed our own guest speakers as they have dealt with various topics ranging from developing a positive attitude and a strong emotional health to dealing with a disabled child. The volunteers in the other rooms assist the children in doing crafts, activities, singing and playing, while the babies are simply held and loved. Different procedures and policies are put in place to ensure a safe environment for all.

One mother has decided to bring her children to Sabbath School while she attends the adult class. Another mom expressed her desire for a closer walk with God, so we are now doing Bible Studies together.

We have discovered that this is a wonderful avenue to help people connect with Jesus while meeting their felt-needs first.

Better moms make a better world. They hold the next generation in their hands. How important it is for them to know Christ to fulfill this high calling. Mothers need mentoring, but mostly, they need to meet Christ. We have the privilege of revealing Him to others. It takes time and it takes energy, but the rewards are eternal. So why not think of how to meet a similar need in your community?

Denisa Zita, Bowmanville MOPS Leader
Malton Member Ministers from the Skies

God’s call comes in many different forms. For Irwin St. Hillaire, from Malton Seventh-day Adventist Church, it came as an appeal to his commercial pilot expertise and passion to “share the love of God with my fellow distant brothers and sisters who may not have ever had the chance to experience it,” says St. Hillaire.

The support he received from his home church was inspirational. As one of their resident piano players and beloved church members, he would be missed, but the church members saw an excitement in him as he prepared to leave his hometown for the first time and do God’s work abroad. So with his plan and budget in hand, they not only approved his request but assisted him in conducting a fundraising concert in his honour.

St. Hillaire first became acquainted with Wings for Humanity Guyana (developed by Adventist World Aviation (AWA) and partnered with the Guyanese Ministry of Health) through Ed Brennan, project manager of the Philippines for AWA. He quickly volunteered as a short-term missionary pilot and flew out on April 1, 2011, for Guyana, South America.

Over the following five and a half months, St. Hillaire participated in building a permanent missionary house facility in the remote interior village of Baramita, assisted a dental team from British Columbia in the outback of Mabaruma, homeschooled the missionary children and added his instrumental accompaniment for church services. St. Hillaire relays one experience he enjoyed in particular: “On quite a few occasions, I was also given the opportunity to evangelize in the villages by handing out tracts and praying for those who requested prayer, or simply helping those who needed a helping hand.”

The greatest impact he experienced, however, was the personal connections he made with the Guyanese people. He would often see them “coming out of their villages by the canoe loads,” which, he expresses, “was an amazing sight.”

His introduction to a South African missionary named Zuko Mbewu was one of kindred brotherhood. Together they held a one-week revival series in Port Kaituma, which is the former infamous Jonestown. This revival was such a stark contrast to when Jim Jones led his followers to commit suicide—praise God! St. Hillaire shares, “The Adventist youth were overjoyed when given the opportunity to lead out, as this is not the norm there.”

Two newly converted men in Christ both made a lasting personal impact on St. Hillaire’s life while in Guyana—Brother Arnold and old Brother Prince. He considered witnessing and praying with both men such an honour. He says, “I will never forget old Brother Prince, who accepted the message and came out to church as much as he was able.”

He leaves this commission for his Amerindian friends: “My hope and prayer for Mabaruma and the surrounding town and villages is that God will continue to draw them to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.”

Although St. Hillaire’s Guyana trip involved little aviation and more mission-oriented service, he plans on returning to Guyana in the future, this time as a full-time missionary pilot. ■

Teresa VanWart, Ontario Conference
The Campbell River company is pleased to report the recent success of our Vegan On The Run health and nutrition course, which was developed as a follow-up to Dr. Neil Nedley’s Depression Recovery Program and a free public showing of the film Forks Over Knives.

All eight sessions were very well attended with an average of 54 people each week. Dr. Fereria was an important part of the nutrition education we provided by showing It Is Written’s Eating Well DVDs. This was followed by food preparation demonstrations, plenty of tasty food samples and lots of door prizes. The eighth session consisted of a celebration banquet, which was entitled You Made It! All the dishes were lovingly prepared by our participants and shared, not just amongst the participants, but also with family and friends who were invited to attend. It was a huge success; nearly 100 guests attended.

The classes were enjoyed to such an extent that we have decided to run a monthly class entitled Vegan for Life, and already over 50 people have signed up! “The follow-up sessions will be a good way to stay motivated and exchange ideas,” said one enthusiastic participant.

Ellen White was right when she said that we can reach the people with our health message. “Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel’s message from reaching the hearts of the people might be removed if more attention were to be given to health reform. When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the entrance of other truths. If they see we are intelligent with regard to health, they will be more ready to believe that we are sound in Bible doctrines.”

Making a difference for the people in our community has encouraged us very much. Given the positive response we received from this latest of our health ministry programs, we know we are on the right track. With serious illness on the rise and a health care system in crisis, people are starting to see that they can no longer afford to be uninvolved in their health. People are ready for change, and we are ready to help them through it. Please pray for our ministry to the community of Campbell River, B.C.

Ruth Fritz, Kristiina Smith, Sue Hummel and the Health Ministries Team volunteers

1 Ellen G. White, Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene (Ringgold, GA: TEACH Services, 2005), 121.
ACTS for Christ

ACTS for Christ is a youth training conference held every year in western Canada. ACTS stands for Adventists Commissioned to Train Servants and is designed to inspire, empower and deploy young people into service for Christ. ACTS for Christ 2012 focused on the idea of Dying to Live and how that necessary action impacts each individual Christian life. The theme verse is John 12:24, 25, which gives the calling of giving all to Christ. “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (NKJV).

This year’s ACTS for Christ conference, held on April 5-8 in Vancouver, B.C., gave attendees the opportunity to critically examine their relationship with Christ and their individual, specific call to ministry. The morning devotional messages, given by Justin Kim, spoke to the necessity of allowing Christ to change our hearts from the inside out so that our external behaviours and actions become a true reflection of the biblical Christ and not a parody of the various societal ideals of what being a follower of Christ is.

The evening devotional messages, which were given by Jay Rosario, focused on the idea that “the law of self-serving is the law of self-destruction; the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation.” We examined biblical characters who lived both of these lifestyles and what the consequences and rewards of their choices were. Examples of self-sacrificing individuals included Ruth and Joseph, and examples of self-serving individuals included King Rehoboam (from 2 Chron. 12), the rich young ruler (from Luke 18), Agrippa (from Acts 26) and Felix (from Acts 24).

The seminars covered topics such as Practical Christianity, Apologetics, Christian Manhood/Womanhood, and Training Centre Churches. An exciting training session entitled Deployment: Church Structure and How You Fit In was held that focused on giving a foundational understanding of the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, from how the General Conference works to the local church structure. Understanding this structure allows young persons to become more active, supporting members of their local church and to use their strengths and talents for passionate service for God, and to know how to hold their church leadership accountable to biblical principles and inspiration.

ACTS for Christ provides a crucial opportunity for understanding the world we are in, our role as followers of Christ and the unity of purpose and action required to advance the second coming of Christ. The lessons learned at this year’s conference give the young people the understanding of the link between personal devotion and the need for whole-hearted service for His work. The emphasis of this conference is on the reality that true, Bible-based evangelism is not possible without dying to our personal ambitions and desires and letting God transform our hearts to produce fruit. This is a critical, timely message for our church and the youth whom God will inspire to finish the work.
The recent approval to broadcast the Hope Channel, the official television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission was a significant step in advancing media in Canada.

That was the first step. The next step is to get the Hope Channel on the various cable and satellite networks across Canada so it can be viewed by church members and those seeking spiritual answers.

We are in the process of developing a packet for churches on how they can join other communities across Canada that are already broadcasting this Adventist channel 24 hours a day.

We are asking churches to please contact us to receive more information. Presently we are creating these packets for the smaller cable companies and not the major ones such as Rogers, Telus and Bell.

More good news—we are also making an application with the CRTC for other languages offered by the Hope Channel such as: Arabic, Czech/Slovak, Chinese, German, Indian (Hindi, Tamil and more), Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Ukraine.

We are seeking leaders to help gather letters of support for these applications. If you are willing to help, please have your pastor or other church leader contact us at communications@adventist.ca.

Greetings from the Dawson Creek SDA church! We are happy to announce that we now have a VOAR tower set up to serve God’s ministry in the North. By God’s grace everything moved along very smoothly. The ABC Bookmobile was passing through Prince George soon after the tower was delivered there and was able to transport it to its final destination, saving us the long trip. We were also blessed to receive a donation of concrete to help with the construction of the tower. God was in the works the whole time! Next time you visit Dawson Creek please tune in to 106.5 VOAR and enjoy some quality Adventist Radio.

Cavin Chwyl, pastor, Dawson Creek SDA Church

Let’s turn up the volume!

Give now Tell others Learn more

From this tiny island, lives are being changed.

Partner with AWR to expand our shortwave station on Guam - and reach more listeners with the gospel throughout Asia.

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800-337-4297 | awr.org
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**Announcements**

**Process**
- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Hermione Wilson (wilson.hermione@adventist.ca) or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries must be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submittable) are available at www.adventist.ca/messenger.
- The Messenger assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about Messenger announcement policies, go to www.adventist.ca/messenger, click ‘writers’ guidelines’ then click ‘announcements’.

**New Members**

**Ontario**

Hirfa Douglas was baptized in Willowdale, Ont., on Feb. 11, 2012, by Rick Bacchus. She is now a member of the Willowdale church.

Lamar Lendore was baptized in Willowdale, Ont., on March 3, 2012, by Larry Milliken. He is now a member of the Willowdale church.

**Alberta**

Marja Meier was baptized in Ryley, Alta., on Feb. 11, 2012, by Olaf Clausen. She is now a member of the Ryley church.

**59th Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend**


**Tillamook Adventist School in Tillamook, Ore., invites past students, faculty and friends to a weekend celebration of 75 years of Christian education on May 18–20, 2012, at the school campus. Special rates at Ashley Inn 503-842-7599. Visit www.TillamookAdventistSchool.org, join Tillamook Adventist School Alumni Facebook group or call 503/842-6533. (4/12)**

**Kingsway College 2012 Alumnus Homecoming**

If you are an alumnus of Kingsway College or Oshawa Missionary College, then you are invited to join us on May 11–13, 2012, at Kingsway College Campus, 1200 Leland Road, Oshawa, Ont., L1K 1H4, Canada! Honoured Classes: 10 years (Class of 2002), 20 years (Class of 1992), 25 years (Class of 1987), 30 years (Class of 1982), 40 years (Class of 1972), 50 years (Class of 1962), 60 years (Class of 1952), 70 years (Class of 1942). For more information, including schedule of events and class contacts for honoured classes, please visit www.kingswaycollege.on.ca or call 905/433-1144 ext. 210.

**Births**


**Anniversaries**

Ed and Judy Knox of Lethbridge, Alta., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 21, 2012. The Knoxes have four children and one great-grandson.

**Obituaries**

Marjorie (née Warman) Girvan was born Jan. 26, 1920, in Molus River, N.B., and died Dec. 21, 2011, in Ford Bank, N.B. Marjorie was a long-standing member of the Moncton church. She is preceded by her sisters, Vera Cail and Janet Hudson. Surviving: husband, Gordon Girvan; sons, Fred (Nancy) of Richmond Hill, Ont., and Ross (Lynne) of Lindsay, Ont.; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Harriet Marion (née Gustavsen) Jones was born Oct. 13, 1915, in Brancepeth, Sask., and died Feb. 11, 2012, in Kelowna, B.C. Harriet taught for nearly 40 years at Okanagan Adventist Academy. She is preceded by her husband, Thomas Albert Jones. Surviving: sons, Bruce (Leni) Jones of Kamloops, B.C., Gerry (Welman) Just of Kelowna, and Robert (Jackie) of Vernon, B.C.; daughters, Joyce (Roland) Ritchey of Kelowna and Dorothy (Jack) Decker of Calimesa, Calif.; 17 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Marjorie Beryl (née Stiles) Matthews was born May 15, 1916, in Monceton, N.B., and died March 16, 2012, in Kelowna, B.C. Marjorie was a faithful member of the Moncton church, where she served as a deaconess and in the children’s department for many years. She is preceded by her husband, Floyd; her brothers Clifford and Esmond Stiles; and her sisters, Evelyn Bernice Stieves, Mildred Kate Tranman, Helen Jean O’Bliss, and Lillian Doris Morton. Surviving: son, Robert (Barbara) of Loma Linda, Calif.; daughter, Elizabeth “Betty” (Manford) Simcock of College Place, Wash.; brother Fred James Riley (Sylvia) Stiles of Edmonton, Alta.; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

James Polishak was born Sept. 1, 1922, in Melville, Sask., and died Oct. 25, 2011, in Brantford, Ont. James was a faithful member of the Brantford church, where he served as a deacon and a Community Services volunteer. James is preceded by his wife, Betty Grummert. Surviving: son, Russell (Pat) of Cambridge, Ont.; daughters, Lynn Polishak of Paris, Ont., Denise (Mark) Wray of Owen Sound, Ont., and Cheryl (Mark) Dubiecki of Paris; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Raymond Clifford Stansal was born May 22, 1921, in Maymont, Sask., and died March 5, 2012, in Swift Current, Sask. Raymond was a dedicated member of the Swift Current church. He is preceded by his sisters Verna Rose, Mona May and Dorothy Smith. Surviving: wife, Dinah; sons, Glenn (Jeanette) of Lacombe, Alta., and Jonathan Liam Dallison of Victoria, B.C.; daughters, Bonnie Lynne (Marvin) Wilde of Sooke, B.C., Jennie Colleen (Skip) Carby of Sidney, B.C., Martha Mae (Greg) West of Victoria, Anne Holly (Keith) Sutherland of Saanich, B.C., and Mary Ellen Liske of Sidney; sisters Pearl Nickel of Grand Terrace, Calif., Lorraine Mironowicz and Marjorie Morwick of Saanich; 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Grace Pearl (née Robinson) Villeneuve was born Nov. 12, 1919, in Lachine, Que., and died Feb. 21, 2012, in Oshawa, Ont. Grace was employed at Marine Press, Reanson Hospital, and Home Health Ed. Service Canada, for five years each. She was a charter member of the Bowmanville church, and a dedicated member of the College Park church for 60 years, where she served as a deaconess and the Kitchen and Saturday School teacher. Grace is preceded by her husband, Armand, her brother Ashton, her sisters Minni Mulligan and Myra L’Herault, and her half-sister, Mary James-Viecht. Surviving: sons, John (Mary) of Brockville, Ont., David (Judy) of Courtenay, Ont., Richard (Marylinn) of Norwood, Ont., and Stephen (Christine) of Cambridge, Ont.; daughter, Midge (Paul) Hey of Mesa, Ariz.; brothers Robert and Don; sisters Roberta Woods and Isabel Buchanan; 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Isabell Mavis Wiebe was born March 27, 1936, in Bankend, Sask., and died Jan. 22, 2012, in Chilliwack, B.C. Mavis had a great love of singing and praising God. She is preceded by her brothers, Norman and Henry Wiebe, and her sisters, Viola Elizabeth Wiebe and Diana Josephine Rempel. Surviving: sisters, Grace (Jack) Welsh of Texas, U.S.A., and Iris (John) Lemky of Chilliwack, B.C.; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Edythe (née Vatcher) White was born Jan. 21, 1919, in Winnipeg, Man., and died Feb. 24, 2012, in Victoria, B.C. Edythe served her local church in many offices, such as Sabbath School superintendent and teacher, and as mission with her husband in Africa. Edythe is preceded by her brother Howard Vatcher. Surviving: husband, William “Bill”; sons, Dayle (Linda) and Ken (Ronda); brother, Leslee; sister, Elizabeth Sneeby; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mabel Florence (Moyst) Dingwell passed peacefully away April 20, 2011, at the Corner Brook Long Term Care
Facility in her 94th year. Mabel was the last surviving member of the Thomas and Amelia Moyst family. She was predeceased by her parents and her brothers, Joseph, Herbert, Louis, William, Ralph and Frederick Moyst, as well as sisters Violet (Mac) Morgan and Anita (Bill) Bothe.

Mabel’s father was an engineer with the Newfoundland coastal and ferryboat service, and the family lived in a variety of ports, finally settling in Port aux Basques. Mabel married Roderick Dingwell in Corner Brook, Newfoundland on Jan. 28, 1940. When the Gulf Ferry SS Caribou was torpedoed in 1942 and Thomas lost his life, Mabel’s mother, Amelia and brother Ralph joined her and Rod in Corner Brook. Rod predeceased Mabel in July of 1994.

Mabel carried on the tradition of hospitality her mother had established and her home was always open to visitors. Her multitude of relatives, friends and acquaintances kept in contact with her until her death. Although Mabel had no children of her own, she was a favourite aunt to her many nieces and nephews, and many of them have fond memories of summer vacations spent with the family at the cottage in Steady Brook.

Left to mourn her passing are her brother-in-law Murdoch (Alma) Dingwell, sisters-in-law, Joanne Myer, Blanche Martin, Rosemary (Roy) Billaard, Lillian Dingwell, and special “daughter” Elizabeth (Phone) Krouth.

Mabel was a devoted member of the Corner Brook Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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Fountainview Academy is seeking a cafeteria manager. Key Duties: plan and prepare menus that are based on fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, as well as other vegan food options; ability to keep abreast of vegan dining trends and to seek out or develop new recipes. Must provide leadership and direction to kitchen staff and students. Qualifications: experience in quantity food prep and kitchen maintenance, knowledge of vegan cooking and balanced nutrition, good organizational skills, ability to work well with a team and willing to travel to prepare meals for activities on the road. Also seeks a assistant vegan cook. To support the cafeteria manager with food prep, you must be knowledgeable about vegan food and cooking techniques. Qualifications: same as above for cafeteria manager. Remuneration $23,100–$27,030, based on experience. Please consider sending your resume to Elaine Roque at croque@fountainview.ca. (6/12)

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Deadlines

June issue: July issue: August issue: April 18 May 1 June 4

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West Park Manor Personal Care Home, a 150-bed facility in Winnipeg, Man., is seeking a qualified individual to serve as Director of Resident Care Services. The ideal candidate will be a nurse leader, enjoy working with the elderly and be responsible for directing the operations of a nursing home. These operations include planning, organizing, coordinating and relating effectively with nurses and care teams in the delivery of high-quality resident care according to provincial standards by promoting clinical practice guidelines, quality initiatives and research while tactfully maintaining positive relations with families and community partners. General requirements: excellent interpersonal skills, highly organized, established computer skills (eg., MS Office), and use of MDS care plans for outcomes, a leader in nursing care teams in the development, implementation, and evaluation of resident care services, delegate authority, scheduling, recruit and evaluate staff, and assess new practices, write/review policies and procedures, conduct audits, assist in budgetary process, resourceful, self-motivated, identity problems and make timely management decisions using outcomes. Be able to complete multiple tasks when faced with interruptions yet adaptable and flexible in order to meet new challenges that arise. As a leader you are able to embrace change, manage confidential and sensitive information, and supervise a diverse group of staff and colleagues. Please assist us in fulfilling our mission while exemplifying a knowledge of the Adventist holistic healthcare philosophy. Post-studies in nursing administration or BN required, current registration with nursing licensing body, experience of post-graduate work in geriatrics or long-term care nursing desirable. Minimum 3 years experience in supervisory capacity in hospital or nursing care facility. In return we offer a competitive wage and full benefits package and a great place to work. Please, send a cover letter and resume by email as soon as possible to: R. Wollmann, CEO, at twollmann. wpm.ego@msn.net or phone 204/889- 3330 ext. 224 for more information. (4/12)

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS have long been reaching out to their communities through the health message. In a society increasingly opposed to the Christian message, people seem to relate more easily to messages about healthy eating and clean living. In the March 22, 1967, issue of the Canadian Union Messenger, an article reported that the Kendalwood church in Oshawa, Ont., had held a Community Programme for Better Living.

One of the highlights of the meetings was the feature, “The Doctor Speaks Out!”! Doctors W. Beaton, Joan Coggin, A. E. King, W. Kutzner, K. S. Madgwick, and C. A. Morgan gave valued practical talks that should not be forgotten for a long time. They spoke on such subjects as: Weight Control, Diabetes, Social Diseases, Is Vegetarianism a Fad?, What’s All This Talk About Cigarettes?, How To Keep the Heart Healthy, Cancer Detection, and LSD.

Another attraction during the meetings was a food demonstration. After Dr. Morgan’s talk on vegetarianism the audience was invited to come back two nights later to see and taste vegetarian foods which could replace the eating of flesh foods. Great interest was shown in this demonstration, which was conducted in the downstairs assembly room of the church.

The same issue featured an article on the Five-day Plan to Stop Smoking! Program held by Pastor E. Morosoli and Dr. Guy Marcoux in Quebec City on March 5, 1967.

This note followed the article:
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