“You and I need to daily discover something fresh about living the way Jesus would.”

Church for Disciples

Throughout Canada, Adventist leaders have been giving a lot of thought to how we focus on the mission of the church. Aligning with both our North American and world church strategies, committees and boards have attempted to zero in on things that matter most. Back in December’s Messenger, I mentioned the acronym REACH, and we looked at Revival and Transformation, denoted by the letter R.

Perhaps the second-greatest priority for the church is Education for Discipleship, represented by the E in REACH. Christ intended the church to be a place, or community, where we continually learn something new about being a disciple. In other words, this is where every one of us figures out what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus today. And that can take some effort because religious artists have not generally depicted disciples in 21st-century clothing.

Looking at this part of the church’s mission helps us realize how very important it is to both teach and model the way of Christ in our daily lives. We need to reinforce Bible study and service. We also need to discuss and model forgiveness and accountability among one another. This is where we can talk about time and money in the context of our decisions. Really, there are so many parts of who we are that will be transformed as we become more alert to Christ’s purpose in our lives.

We think not only about our personal growth but also about how we affect the growth of those around us. We don’t look out for ourselves as much as we consider the person next to us. That’s what Paul was talking about in Galatians 6 when he speaks of the care we need to exercise as we live with fellow believers.

Education for Discipleship is what we both need. You and I need to daily discover something fresh about living the way Jesus would. Imagine the difference you and I will make on our block or at our workplace as we live like Christ here and now.

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**July 2012**

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Cover photo is of Leona Brooks attending a retirement dinner held for her at Kingsway College in July of 1991.
Your Words

“"Our churches are so few and far between here in the Maritimes, and this is exactly what we need for our members to see and be encouraged by the work across Canada.””

RE: “Creation Health,” feature, April issue
I would like to offer my opinion on the latest Messenger that we received. I am highly disappointed, and upset with you Stan Jensen! Here I am at 10:51 a.m., just an hour away from lunch, when what should appear on my desk... but the latest Messenger. On the front cover I see what appears to be the most mouthwatering looking creations I have seen in a long time! Oh my word do those look delish! Then when I opened up the Messenger for the recipe... it is not to be found! EGADS!

Please tell me someone has the recipe for this divine open-faced sandwich? You’ve got me drooling for vegan!

— S. Griffin, VOAR Manager, Mount Pearl, Nfld.

For those of you who, like Sherry, were salivating in vain over our April 2012 front cover shot, here is the recipe for Mediterranean Vegetable Ragout Canapés by Chef Erbert Operana, Terrace Seventh-day Adventist Church:

Mediterranean Vegetable Ragout Canapés
- Dice an equal amount of zucchini, eggplant, red pepper, green pepper and onion into 1 cm pieces
- Sauté the vegetables in olive oil
- When softened add a spoonful of tomato paste and a little chopped basil, oregano, and thyme
- Simmer the mixture until the flavour is fully developed
- Cool the vegetable ragout
- Spread a little whipped butter (or vegan substitute) on croutons and top each with a spoonful of the vegetable ragout
- Garnish the canapés with caramelized onions

RE: “Adventist Visionary—A Tribute to the Life of Tony Kaytor,” cover story, February issue
I just received the new February Messenger in the mail the other day, and I just had time today to read it over. Great work to you and your team!

It is a breath of fresh air to see the new layout and direction for our church in Canada and to see how many members are enjoying the new focus.

Please continue in the direction that you are going. Our church, as at no other time in this earth’s history, needs to be spiritually invigorated, and if the February Messenger is any taste of what is to come, it is exactly the spiritual “shot in the arm” that we need in the church today! Thank you to you and your staff for this past Messenger and the ones to come. Our churches are so few and far between here in the Maritimes, and this is exactly what we need for our members to see and be encouraged by the work across Canada. Our small little churches in rural places sometimes feel very distant from all their brothers and sisters in Christ, and this new format will do much to inspire them.

God Bless you all as you serve God and His Church.

— P. Llewellyn, Director, Education Superintendent, Maritime Conference

We have just received the February Canadian Adventist Messenger containing the tribute to Tony Kaytor, submitted by Frank McMiller.

Tony Kaytor was an outstanding Christian leader, and the tribute was well deserved. When I was not long out of college, he was my conference president in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference. He was a strong and supportive leader, probably the most outstanding leader I served under during my years of service in several areas of the world field.

I enjoy the “Backward Glance” feature recently appearing in the Messenger.

— B. Herbert Stickle
For in 6 days...

RECENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BIBLICAL CREATION ACCOUNT.

Seventh-day Adventist theology accepts the Bible’s account of creation as a literal record of the way God brought our earth and its inhabitants into existence in a clear, progressive way while answering life’s fundamental questions about origins.

However, some today question the duration of the creation process and suggest that the traditional belief in a literal six-day creation week is not correct. Instead they posit that, based on paleontology (the study of fossils), this must have taken place over much longer periods.

Ellen G. White, even in her day, was up against this now widespread argument. She indicates that during the flood, humans, animals and trees were “buried and thus preserved as an evidence to later generations that the antediluvians perished by flood. God designed that the discovery of these things should establish faith in inspired history.” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 112).

Clearly, God encourages the search for and study of fossils and actually intends that their discovery should help anchor our personal trust in Genesis’ historical reliability.

Ellen White believed that Genesis 1:1–11 was divinely intended to be understood as both a historical and theological fact. “Inferences erroneously drawn from facts observed in nature, however, led to supposed conflict between science and revelation, and in the effort to restore harmony, interpretations of Scripture have been adopted that undermine and destroy the force of the Word of God…. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to accommodate the Bible to this supposed revelation of science, the days of creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands of years” (Education, p. 129).

However, the argument of long ages as opposed to six literal days of creation has no biblical support. The first day of creation is given specific descriptions of its duration, hence its clear definition, “The evening and the morning were the first day” (Gen. 1:5). Subsequent days were described the same way. To me, this is very clear and beyond debate. In fact, in a vision, Ellen White “was shown that the first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, was just like every other week” (The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 85).

The real issue here is a subtle attack by the devil on the trustworthiness of Scripture. If he can lead people to question Genesis, then he can destroy their faith in the rest of Scripture.

For example, if creation’s week is not literal, how do we understand the fourth commandment’s imperative, “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord”? Intriguingly, the justification of the command is given: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth” (Exod. 20:11).

If the creation account is doubtful, how truthful is Genesis’ history of sin, the value of marriage and the story of redemption (Gen. 3:15)?

My confidence in the trustworthiness of Scripture is affirmed in many more ways than I could state in this short article.

For instance, scientists indicate that the earth is tilted from an upright position at a 23-degree inclination. Because of this tilt, we have seasonal variations, which allow for a wide variety of crops, while moderating the high temperatures at the equator. Apparently, almost half of the earth’s surface would be uninhabitable were it not for the tilt of the earth. This is too precise to be a result of chance. God was obviously making a point.

Job, years ahead of his time, declared, “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 20:7).

Job’s was an advanced and accurate scientific statement. According to Dr. Grant Jeffery, “There was an interesting discovery by astronomers fairly recently, revealing that the area north of the axis of our earth toward the polar star is almost empty of stars as compared to other directions.” The Word of God is trustworthy.

The Bible is also quite profound in its scientific validity in reference to what we now call the water, or hydrological, cycle. “All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come. There they return again” (Eccl. 1:7).

I stand with the writer of Hebrews: “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (11:3, NKJV).

Mansfield Edwards is the president of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
How can I avoid the campmeeting blues?

A great question! Those of you who are not familiar with the campmeeting blues have likely never been to campmeeting. It is that feeling you begin to get when campmeeting is almost over and you’re about to pack up and go home. It means leaving behind friends for another year. It means no more youth tent, or youth pavilion, or whatever your local campmeeting calls it. It means a faint glimmer of heaven is over again.

It is a very real phenomenon that great highs are often followed by great lows. One week Jesus was hailed as king with loud hosannas. The next week the same crowd cried, “Crucify Him!” and He was. Remember Elijah? Remember Mount Carmel? It is this story that the expression “a mountain-top experience” comes from; you can read about it in 1 Kings 18. Elijah challenged King Ahab and his prophets of Baal to a contest. Each “team” built an altar. Each team called on their God or gods to set their sacrifice on fire. The prophets of Baal went first. They danced and sang and shouted, but nothing happened. Elijah, knowing they were calling on nothing, encouraged them to cry louder. Eventually, they got so desperate that they “slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed” (verse 28, NIV) to show the “gods” their deep sincerity. Nothing happened. When they had given up, Elijah calmly went over, flooded his altar with water, and, at the usual time for the evening sacrifice in the temple, he knelt and asked the one and only true God to show everyone that He was still the Mighty God who opened the Red Sea and brought manna down from heaven in the wilderness. Instantly, God answered, burning up the sacrifice, the water, the wood and the stones themselves! Elijah was so pumped after all this and more that he ran all the way down the mountain and back to the palace of Ahab. Talk about a “high”!

However, it didn’t last. Twenty-four hours later he was suicidal. Jezebel put a bounty on his head, and Elijah felt that despite all that had happened, nothing was going to really change in Israel. People were still going to worship false gods under the treasonous rule of Ahab and Jezebel, and he wanted to die.

You see, Elijah wanted the events and the feelings it created at Carmel to last and last. He wanted heaven on earth. His crash back to reality was more than he could bear.

You may be at campmeeting right now or making preparations to go. Whatever your circumstances, life will have highs, but on this side of heaven, they will not last. We are not home yet. Thank and praise God for the glimpses of heaven He grants us here. It increases our appetite for home. But remember, they won’t last, not yet. So make the most of them, and in between these special times, keep spending special time with your One True Friend. He will never leave. He will never forsake you.
CREATION CORNER FOR KIDS

PEARL

Pearls form when something goes wrong inside an oyster. If the inside layer of the shell is damaged or if a parasite gets into the oyster when its shells are open for feeding or breathing, a pearl will start to form. The oyster covers the dangerous intruder with mother of pearl, the same thing the inside of the shell is made from. A pearl grows very slowly—it can take five years for a pearl to grow to one millimetre in diameter. And they don’t always grow round. They can be unevenly shaped, which makes them less valuable.

The kinds of accidents that cause pearls to grow don’t happen very often in nature. Today pearls are farmed; people make them grow. But in ancient times, pearls were rare. Hundreds or maybe thousands of oysters had to be killed to find one good pearl. Large, round pearls were extremely expensive because they were very rare.

Do it!

You are so precious to Jesus that He did all that He could to set you free from Satan’s power and continues to work for your salvation. Read chapters 18 and 19 of the Gospel of John and count the ways that Jesus worked to save even those who hated Him. (Maybe you could do this with your parents on a Sabbath after church.)

Think about it.

Do you want to be part of the kingdom of heaven? Let Jesus become more important than anything else in your life, and the kingdom of heaven will be yours.

Tammie Burak and her family enjoy studying and learning from God’s creation. You can contact her at tammie.burak@gmail.com or follow her blog at www.creationcornerforkids.blogspot.ca.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45, 46, NKJV.
Higher Ground

CUC Degrees in Action

“CUC matured me personally and spiritually, but [the Pastoral Field Experience class] is where the rubber meets the road.”

—Lucian Poama, BA Religious Studies, Pre-Professional, with Counseling/Psychology Minor, 2010; Associate Pastor, Henderson Highway Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Participant in 1st CUC Pastoral Field Experience Class

It’s a long way from Romania to Winnipeg’s “mother church,” but Lucian (“Luci”) can see God’s direction all along the road, especially the link between his Pastoral Field Experience class and his Henderson Highway mentor, Pastor Petar Djakov.

“I didn’t know Petar ahead of time,” says Luci, but he knew that the Lord would lead, as he had in all things at CUC: to the ShareHim crusade in Panama; to a CUC/ADRA building trip in the Dominican Republic; to Sabbath School discussion group leadership; to leadership of CUC’s prison ministry, where Luci and his future wife, Eunice, shared God’s love with the inmates of Edmonton’s maximum-security prison.

During the six summer weeks that he spent doing all the things a pastor does, not only did Luci apply his CUC education practically by, for instance, giving Bible studies and preparing and preaching sermons, but his mentor also took him through a formal course on leadership. In that short but productive time, Luci so impressed the church that the youth made a formal request to the conference that Luci be hired for the 550-member Henderson Highway Church when he graduated.

“You get what you’re looking for,” says Luci as he reflects on his pastoral training at CUC and Henderson Highway. “If you look for spirituality, you will find it.”
Dr. Larry Herr Sees Release of Important Adventist Archeology Publication

Dr. Larry Herr isn’t just a teacher who inspires regular CUC students and religious studies majors in classes like The Minor Prophets. The Harvard-trained archeologist who has served the whole North American archeological community as vice president of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), screening its professional publications, and as president of ASOR’s Canadian branch, spends much of his non-teaching time responding to various professional requests, including the entry on “Periodization” in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Archeology in the Near East. Herr is prolific: in the past two years alone, he has presented six papers at professional conferences and recently welcomed the release by Andrews University Press of Volume 5 of the Tall al ‘Umayri findings, which he authored.

Andrews University Press is having a hard time keeping up with Herr—Volume 6 is already in the press cue—as the scholar/teacher works toward publication of all the dig’s findings, including the 800-plus page Volume 11. “Ours is by far the longest-lasting project in Jordan,” says Herr, who has been part of the Adventist archeology project since its inception in 1971. Herr was instrumental in the founding of the consortium of west coast Adventist colleges formed in 1987, which includes CUC. The consortium has earned deep professional respect and is excavating in Jordan this summer.

“Dr. Herr is an amazing teacher,” says general studies major Selene Dublanko (Vancouver, B.C.). Dublanko, who recently completed her first year of university at CUC, took Herr’s Archeology class because his Old Testament class had helped her “make sense of the Bible in a way it never had before.” Pastor Peter Ford (Hobbema, Alta., Church and Mamawi Atosketan Native School) agrees: Herr is one of the most outstanding teachers he has had.

“I’ve been fortunate to have had enthusiastic administrative support throughout, from presidents to VPs and division heads,” says Herr, acknowledging the team that has facilitated important contributions to the field of biblical archeology and includes CUC student research assistants. “I love detail; you do things well that you love. It’s a happy fit.”

Conferences Play Major Role in CUC’s Pastoral Field Experience Requirement

When Dr. Bruce Boyd, chair of CUC’s religious studies department, came to CUC, he found something that pleased him immensely: a strong course of study for students heading into ministry, and seasoned pastors with conference presidents willing to share their expertise. Boyd shared his vision for even closer ties between Canada’s Adventist university and church administration, and after many meetings and hard work at all levels, in the summer of 2009, the first Pastoral Field Experience course (RELP 470) was launched for pre-ministry students between their third and fourth years.

“We were doing a good job of preparing people for seminary, thinking that the seminary would prepare them for the field,” says Boyd, “but not everyone went to seminary.” Larry Hall, then ministerial secretary at the Alberta Conference and now CUC’s vice president for administration, whom Boyd credits as one of the trailblazers on the project, used his past experience with mentoring in the realm of science education as a starting point for the new class model.

As the SDACC and conference presidents helped develop the curriculum and program details, excitement built. Each conference selected a few of its most capable and experienced pastors for on-site training at CUC, and students were matched with mentors. The course continues to get high ratings from everyone involved.

“They have a very reachable spirit,” says Petar Djakov, a Man-Sask mentor who has attended two of the mentor training sessions held at CUC and mentored two students.

Now in its fourth year, a total of 27 students have completed the course. Reflecting on the process and the enhanced readiness of CUC graduates for the demands of pastoral work, Hall says, “The Lord led through the combination of minds and circumstances to create something good.”
Where Are They Now

*Messenger* catches up with former leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. This issue we talk with Lowell C. Cooper.

*Interview by Hermione Wilson, Messenger Staff Writer.*

**M:** You grew up on a farm in Irvine, Alberta. What was that like? What kind of childhood did you have?

**C:** It was a normal childhood for those growing up in a farming community. I have two brothers and two sisters. There were chores to do before and after school—feeding chickens, milking cows, carrying wood, coal and water. There was no rural electricity supply in the area until I was about nine years of age. When electricity came to our area—and to our home—we were awed by its magic. All of us kids wanted to have turns at switching the lights on and off.

**M:** How did you feel when your parents sold the farm and moved the family to Lacombe so you and your siblings could have a Christian education? Did you understand the importance of that decision at the time?

**C:** I didn’t know any other life than farm life. Nor did I comprehend the significance of my parents’ decision to sell the farm and move to a new location so that we could go to a church school. Later in life I began to realize the importance of that decision. I am ever grateful to my parents for their decision. I wonder if I would have the same level of faith and commitment for such a life-changing decision.

**M:** After earning your Master of Divinity from Andrews University’s theological seminary, what did you do?

**C:** Rae Lee and I returned to Alberta and began pastoral work in the Peace River district of Alberta. We were responsible for four churches and two church schools. The members in the Peace River district were exceedingly kind and helped to further the education of their pastor.

After four years in the Peace River District I was ordained to the gospel ministry and the Alberta Conference called me to serve as a department director at their office in Calgary. In the four years that we lived in Calgary I was responsible for several departments. I was asked to be the site coordinator for the first off-campus degree program for the School of Public Health to be conducted in Alberta and decided not only to be the coordinator but also to enroll in the Master of Public Health program that was planned. I completed the degree requirements just before we left Alberta.

**M:** After you left Canada in January 1978, where did you go?

**C:** Our children were aged four and five at the time. We left Canada in the middle of winter and arrived in Karachi, Pakistan in what I can only describe as miserable heat. We learned how to survive the climate and how to enjoy a culture so different from that which we had known. Two and a half years later we were called to the Southern Asia Division office in Pune, India. We lived 14 years in India and came to consider it our home. I was a department director in the division office and later served as Secretary for the division. In 1994 we were called to the General Conference and found it very hard to return to North America.

**M:** Where are you now?

**C:** We have been at the General Conference now for 18 years. I have served as a vice-president for 14 years. My current responsibilities vary widely. In addition to work with various commissions, committees and boards, I have extensive international assignments that keep me involved in leadership training and problem solving.

For the last three years my wife, Rae Lee, has served as the General Conference Office nurse. Our daughter, Jondell, is a pediatric nurse and our son, Todd, is an oral-maxillofacial surgeon and his wife is an emergency medicine physician. We are a wonderfully blessed family.
“When I’m not Here, I Want God’s Work to Continue!”

—Sarah Godding, 2010

When Sister Sarah spoke these words, she knew that it would not be long before her illness ended her life. Yet she did not say them with sadness. She refused to allow even terminal illness to dampen her cheerful spirit and her love for God and for His church.

Her commitment to God and His church was exemplary. She dedicated all her talents to serving God and to making life easier for everyone she met. While in her late 40s in Montreal, when her church did not have a musician, she took piano lessons until she was sufficiently proficient to accompany the congregation in worship. The wall in the entry hall of her home was a prayer wall, filled with the names of people for whom she constantly prayed.

Sarah loved people and not only devoted her life to helping them, but also compassionately ensured that they hear of Jesus and His love. She did not want her death to bring an end to her work, so she made provision in her will that the church would continue it for her.

Sara’s legacy will help someone experience God’s saving grace.

If you would like any assistance with your estate planning needs, please contact the Planned Giving & Trust Services Department: Tel. 905-571-1022; ext. 206 or email dputt@adventistontario.org.

Halsey Peat is communication director at the Ontario Conference of S.D.A.

Field Journalists for the Messenger!

Are you an aspiring writer who’s looking for a breakthrough?

Why not write for the Canadian Adventist Messenger?

You could have a chance to contribute to the mission of your church and be recognized for your work at the same time. As a Messenger field journalist you will be writing articles that will reach people all across Canada and beyond.

The position is strictly voluntary, but the possibilities are endless. Major Adventist publications around the world receive our magazine and are constantly on the lookout for new talent.

Let us help you make your dreams come true. Write an article on an event or ongoing project at your local church and send it to us at messenger@adventist.ca or by mail to 1148 King St. E. Oshawa, ON, L1K 2W1. Once we have reviewed all the writing samples we have received, we will select a few individuals to become field journalists for the Messenger. We look forward to your submissions!
Communicating with Seekers

God and I have an unusual agreement: whenever I am traveling, I ask God to use me to share my faith with those who are sitting next to me on the airplane. He has never failed me.

On a recent flight home, I found myself sitting next to a young couple, Jason and Debbie. They were dressed in formal attire. “You both look pretty fancy to be flying on a Southwest flight,” I remarked.

“Yeah, we are headed to my brother’s wedding. I didn’t want pack the suit and get it wrinkled, so I thought I would wear it on the airplane,” he explained. I pulled out some papers to read and shifted in my seat to get comfortable for a long flight. About 30 minutes later, Debbie leaned over to ask me, “I see you are reading some kind of research. Are you a scientist?”

I smiled and replied: “No, actually, I am a pastor. I am reading a new study about couples who cohabitate before they get married. The research I am reading explains the likelihood of whether couples will stay married.”

She was very intrigued. “What does it say? My boyfriend [she motions to the man in the suit sitting with us] and I are living together...what is our likelihood of staying together?”

“Well, that depends on a number of factors,” I said. They were hooked, and I could tell God was ready to use me to share His love with them. Thus began a three-hour conversation about relationships, God, the Sabbath and becoming faithful followers of Jesus. Here are some principles I live by when communicating with the unchurched:

They want to be invited to the table: Debbie felt unsure about her living situation with Jason. I could have easily started the conversation by telling her that she was living in sin. However, I sensed she needed to feel accepted first. Later she told me that her family, who had strong Catholic roots, did not condone her lifestyle. She needed to talk about her own spiritual journey before she made a lifestyle decision. Unfortunately, chasing seekers away by judging them and treating them too harshly is all too common. They need to be invited to the table, fed and cared for as we then allow the Holy Spirit to convict them of the necessary lifestyle changes.

Ellen G. White says, “If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 189). In other words, be nice! Treat people with dignity and love them unconditionally.

Feed them milk, not solids: It is easy to assume, for example, that because a person’s chronological age is 50, his or her spiritual age should somehow correspond with that. Remember what the apostle Paul said to the church in Corinth: “I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready” (1 Cor. 3:2, NIV). It is important to recognize the spiritual maturity of an individual. When you are presenting the gospel truth, be careful not to overload the seeker’s ability to digest spiritual food. Be careful not to rush them, but encourage them by gently guiding them in their spiritual journey.

After several hours of talking with Jason and Debbie on the airplane, they thanked me for taking the time to share a new side of Jesus with them. I handed them my business card and told them to call me anytime. Please keep praying for people who, like Jason and Debbie, are seeking to understand the great love Jesus has for them.

Rajkumar Dixit is a pastor who loves introducing Jesus to others. He is looking forward to meeting you at B.C. campmeeting at Camp Hope in July. You can find him on Twitter at @kumardixit.

1 Pseudonyms
HAZELTON is the northern-most municipality on the Trans-Canada Highway. It is a diverse community of European and First Nation peoples. With its vast forests, it became a place of opportunity for the expanding forest industry. Adventist interest began in the 1950s. A small group of Adventists met in homes, building their first church in 1957. Additional families relocated, looking for a place to raise children and receive an Adventist education. One family, the Bblayes, sold their house in Tooley and used the money to build the church school.

The school’s focus was to teach the church’s children the Adventist faith combined with the three Rs. All 11 Blabeys attended the school, as did many of their children and two great grandchildren. Leonard Blabeys recalls that his parents paid the school tuition, then budgeted on what was left. “If we had to go without jam on our toast, that’s what we did!” At its peak, the school had enough students to support three teachers. But things change. The logging industry went from boom to bust, and as unemployment grew, so did illiteracy, poverty, alcohol, drug abuse, and suicide rates.

The Hazelton church school experienced a steady decline in enrollment as children grew up to find jobs elsewhere. By 2008, it looked like God’s purpose for the school was over. The Conference allowed the school one more year, as a satellite of West Coast Adventist Academy.

When I became teaching principal in 2009, we had 9 students enrolled. The Gitsxan band had no desire to pay for students to attend an SDA school or to partner with us. They thought we wanted to force Adventism on them. Through prayer, however, a level of respect has developed between us. Last year, we hired a Language and Cultural instructor to assist us in meeting student needs.

Over the past three years, students have prayed for each other, families, the needs of the school, and their community. Many of our students have never met Jesus, so it is important that staff introduce Him in the simplest way possible, love. Our school is church to these families. Parents feel welcome. Students feel loved and accepted. They are held to high expectations and, more importantly, they enjoy school and are developing a relationship with Jesus.

The band now recognizes that we accept their children as they are and allow God’s Holy Spirit to change them into confident and skilled First Nation’s people. Praise God, we now have 13 students in grades K-6 with a growing waiting list. God has been leading the school to refocus its mission by reaching out to serve the community.

A chief recently shared, “I sent my granddaughter to this school because I wanted her to know about Christ, and … to be a leader for our people.” When her granddaughter entered our school, she was reading below grade level; she left our school with the skills to be successful in high school.

Another chief told me that the Great Spirit urged her to complete a deal with the school. She had fought the thought, believing that her people need only a Gitsxan education, but the voice got stronger. Today she is instrumental in First Nation’s funding, getting support for our struggling learners and lunches for the Gitsxan children. She continues to ask for our prayers.

The Gitsxan and Hagwilget bands see the difference that Adventist education can make. They are asking our school to do even more. We have 19 students enrolled for next year and will need resources and another teacher to meet this growing need.

Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations … and, lo, I am with you always …”

Adventists are concerned about our world. Our school system provides another means of reaching out. Christ, through our schools, continues to plead for children and their parents to choose Him. In Hazelton we understand well that only God can provide. We want to be instruments to lead others to Him. I am privileged to live and work in this community. “I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds our hand.”

Stewart Schwab, teaching principal, Hazelton SDA School in B.C.
Meet an Amazing Avalon Student

Danielle

In May 2011 I received a phone call from Steve Lacasse inquiring about his two daughters, Danielle and Stephanie. I invited Steve and his spouse, Trudy, to come to the school and visit. During their visit they were impressed with the school. At the time, I had left some math notes and problems on my classroom whiteboard. Steve, who is a biologist, was impressed with the level of difficulty and that my students were doing them in grade 6. Before they left, they inquired if Danielle and Stephanie could come for a trial day. Steve was also impressed with the tuition fee, as he thought it would have been much more expensive.

Danielle and Stephanie’s visit went well. They fit in with our students and were immediately accepted. The teachers gave a good report of their behaviour and demeanour.

When September came, Danielle was in my homeroom classroom, a grade 6/7 split. At first she was a little defensive due to her experiences at her previous school, but she soon completely relaxed when she discovered she was in a safe environment. I had no worries about Danielle’s academic abilities. She is a very intelligent young lady. In November Danielle won at the local Legion Remembrance Day Contest with her poem and went to the regionals. She is an exceptional student in all subjects and a voracious reader. When I inquired about her spiritual beliefs, Danielle said she had some, but she was open to listening and understanding what others believed. With a bright and inquiring mind, she became one of my top Bible students and was always one of the first to memorize her weekly Bible verse. In sports, Danielle is one of the school’s top athletes. Her playing abilities in volleyball went from zero to playing on our “C” team. Soccer was already an accomplished feat upon her arrival.

When I first met Steve and Trudy, Steve mentioned that he had connections with the regional science fair. I asked if he could keep us advised, and he did. We planned Avalon’s Science Fair to be completed before the regional science fair. Danielle spent most of her spring break doing her research underwater on eelgrass and recording the results. Our local Avalon judges were very impressed with her project, and she had the best project for the upper grade division. At the North Island Regional Science Fair, Danielle won runner-up for the whole competition and won a trip to Prince Edward Island and represented Avalon well. I asked her how it went, and she advised that she had learned much at the national level.

I have been blessed to have Danielle in my class. Danielle and her sister, Stephanie, have blossomed in our school. Currently, Danielle is studying with Pastor George Hilton and the rest of my grade 6/7 class in his baptismal class.

I feel that our schools must be a place of refuge from the harsher environment that often occurs in other schools, a place where gentler and kinder people thrive. Furthermore, Trudy and Steve have been high-achieving parents, supporting the school, its teachers and its values. I am glad that the Lord led the Lacasse family to God’s school.

Clifford Wood is the principal of Avalon Adventist Junior Academy.
“With a bright and inquiring mind, Danielle became one of my top Bible students and was always one of the first to memorize her weekly Bible verse.”
Long before Leona took the name Mrs. Brooks, when she married eight years ago at the age of 73, she was known as Miss Leona Alderson, a well-known and well-loved teacher and nutritionist, and later an author and a missionary. According to Leona herself, however, she has lived an “uneventful life.”

Leona’s life began on a farm in Bosanquet Township, Ont., on June 4, 1930. She was the first of Roy and Vivian Alderson’s three children, followed by her brother, Bruce, and sister, Mabel, 15 months and three years later, respectively. Her family raised livestock, planted crops and tapped trees for sap that they made into maple syrup and sold for eight dollars per gallon, a pittance by today’s standards.

A lover of school from the get-go, Leona attended a one-room school with 30 other children during grade school at S.S. No. 6 and then moved on to Forest High School for grades nine and 10 with just 12 other students. “I always enjoyed school … and I used to think it was great when my teachers would let me mark papers,” she says, laughing. When she took high school French, Leona nearly lost faith: “I told my mother, ‘I might as well quit!’” But her mother advised her to stick it out until Christmas, which she did, finding herself second in the class by then. Leona finished her secondary education at Oshawa Missionary College before going on to London Normal School for teachers’ college for one year after graduating from grade 13 in 1949.

Upon graduating from teachers’ college, Leona’s teaching legacy began. “I had ideas from the time I was little, before I even went to school, that I wanted to be a teacher. I never changed my mind.” It is unusual for such a young person to know what she wanted to become, but what’s even more unusual about Leona’s journey into her profession is, as she says, “I never applied for a job in my life.” She continues: “Even before I finished teachers’ college, they were camping on my doorstep. That doesn’t happen these days.”

Leona naturally aspired to teach at a church school, but by government requirement, she had to spend her first year teaching public school. Teachers were scarce at the time, but as always, the graduates with the most shining academic records were handpicked first by principals and administrators. Although the registrar at the London Normal School did not recommend Leona to an interested party, because of Leona’s desire to teach at church school and the beliefs behind this wish, Leona was interviewed anyway. “They applied for me!” she laughs. When asked the “religion question,” Leona recalls that she said: “I don’t believe in indoctrinating children in public schools … I would expect them to
be honest, to keep them from swearing, and things like that.” She then smiles and says, “They thought that was pretty good,” adding that she was hired right away, against the advice of the registrar.

Thus, her first year was spent at the McGilvory Township public school, a one-room schoolhouse in Hamilton with 30 students, seven in grade one, five in grade eight, and one in every other grade in between. Of that year, Leona says, “It was kind of traumatic”; her only grade-four student died of leukemia. At the end of the school year, a farewell party was held in her honour, and her students presented her with gifts: a vase and a set of 1847 Rogers Brothers teaspoons with the Remembrance pattern on them so that she would “remember them.” To this day the vase has a special place on display in Leona’s home, as do the cherished teaspoons.

After one year at McGilvory, Leona moved on to teach grades seven to nine at the Paris Seventh-day Adventist School in Paris, Ont. Before she went she was told that the students were “troublesome”, “It wasn’t the best year,” Leona admits. “If it had been my first year, it would have been my last.” After teaching for five years there, Leona returned to Hamilton to teach for one more year at McGilvory public school, only to return to the Paris Adventist School for another five years.

Leona’s next stop was Oshawa—Kingsway College—where she taught grades three and four for six years until Percy Manuel, then the president of Kingsway College, personally asked her to teach Home Economics at the high school. Leona protested at first, saying she didn’t know how to teach this subject, to which Manuel responded, “Well, you know how to cook, don’t you? and how to sew?”

“I had never taken Home Ec. in high school,” says Leona, “because I was in the academic stream and ... the ‘Mickey Mouse’ stuff was for other people. But that worked out well too.” Once again, Leona excelled at the post she’d been handpicked for. While at Kingsway, Leona earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in religion from Atlantic Union College, in 1967, and a Master of Science in Education in 1969. As always, she is modest about her accomplishment. “It was easy!” she demurs. “I figured if I wanted to stay in the teacher’s profession, I needed to get a Masters degree.” Leona remained at Kingsway for close to 30 years (1967–1991) before retiring.

Thus, Miss Alderson entered the final phase of her teaching career, and the one which has made her a familiar figure in her community; her cooking and nutrition classes. Her final years of teaching at Kingsway and her initial cooking schools
overlapped by three or four years; she began the cooking schools with a friend because they “wanted to do something for the community”, and because Leona wanted to remain active in her retirement. “I didn’t know what I’d do when I wasn’t teaching because that was what I’d done all my life. I would have been at loose ends if I had not had cooking schools.”

From the time she was very young, before she could even read, Leona loved to cook, so this was a natural progression for her. In the late 1980s, people from all over the Oshawa area benefited from the nutrition and cooking classes Leona presented with the assistance of her current and former students, who served as demonstrators. Leona was able to serve as a culinary missionary for her church while earning a modest income on the side and continuing to do what she loved, teaching.

The classes began as a once-a-week venture and were offered to both church members and the community at large. This original business plan soon blossomed into four nights per week at different locations, including other area churches, Adventist and non-Adventist alike. Leona taught at first from a vegetarian standpoint, which later shifted to veganism. “It’s just the healthier way to go. It makes me more interested when I think of what I used to eat—eggs and cheese,” she says, with a smile. “Being vegan,” she adds, “isn’t that complicated if you know what you’re doing.”

Eventually, cooking gave way to authorship and world travel. Each week Leona would prepare handouts of about 20 recipes each for her cooking class, and her students would ask, “When are you going to do a recipe book?” It happened enough times that Leona finally decided to seek out a publisher. Her proposal was finally accepted by TEACH Services Inc., who were “very aggressive” in helping Leona compile the recipe book. The book was first published in 1994 and is now available as a two-volume set. While no formal reviews of the book have been published, the online commentary and word-of-mouth reviews hold her book in high regard, particularly because each recipe gives a breakdown of the nutritional content per serving. Eventually her cookbooks became the “textbook” for her cooking course, and she charged students only “enough to cover the cost of the book.”

The acclaim Leona gained for her cookbooks and her reputation as a teacher led her to new places and people—Cuba and Bulgaria, specifically. Both trips, according to Leona, “just seemed to happen.” She simply responded to ads or was contacted personally within the Adventist online network. Both trips were about two weeks in length, and she had about 10 to 15 students in each set of class sessions. In Cuba she taught cooking and nutrition classes in a community centre with a translator; in Bulgaria she taught in an old building the Russians had built during the war that the Adventist church had purchased for its community. Speaking of both experiences, she reflects: “Half the time I don’t think [the students] understood what I was saying... They didn’t know much English. But they knew enough to ask good questions.” After these two ventures, Leona stopped teaching cooking and nutrition classes altogether. It was becoming too much of a physical burden to cart her materials to and from locations, and at 82 years of age she decided “it’s time for a break.”

Accompanying her on the aforementioned travels, as well as other, leisure-based ones, was Jim Brooks—the love of her life, whom she met and married as a blushing bride of 73 years. Despite all of her accomplishments it was this, her marriage, that was “the news that traveled the continent!” says Leona. Eight years ago on August 10, Leona walked down the aisle of College Park Church in Oshawa, Ont., to be married to Jim Brooks. Although her most stringent advice to all of her old students is “Don’t rush into marriage without knowing who it is you’re marrying,” Leona met and married Jim in just about six months’ time.

So where did they meet? “Would you believe? The Internet,” Leona says with a smile. “I belonged to Adventist Match.” She had noticed Jim’s profile on the online dating site and it struck her interest. He was a widower who had recently lost his wife of 55 years and they seemed a perfect match in every way, but Leona had one misgiving. “[His profile] said he was 5 ft. 6 in., and he’d shrunk since then. I was 5 ft. 8 in., and I thought he wouldn’t be interested. But I sent him an email anyway.” Jim’s friend noticed Leona’s message and urged Jim to respond.

The pair spoke on the phone twice a day every day for months before Jim came from his home, in Salt Lake City, to visit Leona in Oshawa. Shortly thereafter, he inquired of her if she’d be willing to move to Utah, to which she said she couldn’t; she needed to remain in Oshawa to support her ill sister. “All right then, I’ll move to Oshawa,” Jim replied, and the rest is history. “People might have thought that old guy was crazy. But I don’t think it’s crazy. We’re well matched to each other,” she muses fondly.

Fifty people were invited to the “historic” event, but over 100 people showed up for the wedding ceremony, at which Leona wore a dusty-rose, intricately embroidered skirt suit and looked lovely. “A lot of my old students showed up,” she recalls. The reception, held in the potluck hall at College Park Church, featured an old student and his wife’s original composition, humorously called “Leona Caught Her Jim on the Web.” The couple honeymooned in Honolulu, Hawaii and has since traveled many other places besides Bulgaria and Cuba, including England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Besides her new companion, Leona’s greatest joy in life is to see her students doing well spiritually and in life. And while she claims, “Oh, I’m not very wise,” her students beg to differ. They still look up to her as a teacher, mentor, visionary, and a leader. When asked how she feels about these labels, she responds, in the sentiment and attitude of a true missionary, “Well, I don’t clamour for it, but I’ll accept the responsibility handed to me.”

Leah Keys is a freelance writer who lives in Newcastle, Ontario.
Because of the sacrifice, someone’s life is better!

During her recent visit to Canada, Ann Stickle took time to speak frankly with me about the importance of international development and her experiences in Cambodia.

Ann Stickle is the ADRA Cambodia associate director, and daughter of Canadian missionaries. Born in Bangladesh and having travelled extensively with her family, she developed a love for people of many cultures. As a young girl in Bangladesh, she witnessed the tragic loss of life that impoverished regions experienced after cyclones, outbreaks of disease, or war ripped through small villages. Homes, livestock and resources were decimated.

Ann was forever changed, personally and spiritually, as a result of seeing these tragedies and witnessing how emergency aid and development could change the dismal aftermath of a disaster. After witnessing the kindness of Canadian donors and the ADRA team, who not only provided survivors with clean water, temporary shelter and food, but also then stayed and assisted in rebuilding the communities, Ann knew she would dedicate her life to working to improve the world, too.

Homeschooled as a child, Ann went on to study in North America at Walla Walla University, and later at Newbold College, UK. She completed her master’s degree in international development at Andrews University. Ann began her career with ADRA in 2000 after five years as an auditor and missionary in Russia.

“Working with ADRA has been so fulfilling! First, you make plans and work with the community, and when you see the vision fulfilled in the field and the impact of projects on the lives of the beneficiaries… there is no other experience like it.” As an ADRA auditor, Ann strengthened health projects by training staff and implementing processes to ensure successful audits.

On several of her assignments with ADRA International, Ann was sent to Cambodia. A year after working with the ADRA Cambodia office on an audit for their second-largest project, Ann was asked to return to become a member of the ADRA Cambodia team. She prepared to mark her 10th year in Cambodia and celebrating securing the largest funded project ADRA Cambodia has seen to date.

In Cambodia, less than one half percent of the population consider themselves Christian. The people have beliefs about making merit, which means they do good to earn merit to benefit them in their next life. In Cambodia, ADRA partners with Buddhist monks, who are also dedicated to helping the impoverished. As a result of this partnership, the monks are able to see the difference between doing something out of love versus doing something to make one’s own life better.

“We are bringing people who know nothing about God to a point that at least they know His name and… that God loves them,” says Ann. “God uses different ministries and different opportunities to reach people. ADRA is certainly one of those ministries. It isn’t about proselytizing but showing God’s love through meeting a person’s needs.”

In 2011 ADRA Canada and ADRA Cambodia partnered on a proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for funding on the Securing Mothers’ and Infants’ Lives with Equity (SMILE) project. The proposal won CIDA’s support and received nearly 2 million dollars in funding. The project will help more than 75,000 vulnerable women and children over the next three years. To read more about SMILE and other projects helping vulnerable mothers and infants, visit www.adra.ca.

Alicia Sawyer is communication coordinator for ADRA Canada.
Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Calgary Garden Road Seventh-day Adventist Church’s mortgage pay-off celebration. And what a celebration that was! One of the things Pastor Ishmael Ali said was that six years ago the church changed the mortgage over to the revolving fund, a loan service provided by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC).

He went on to explain that they had committed to keeping the same monthly payment as if they had kept the old loan but paid off the mortgage in six years rather than 12. This frees up six years of mortgage payments, and those funds can be put into ministry and outreach, two areas the Garden Road Church is known for.

With that information, I thought I would interview SDACC accountant Girly Quiambao about the SDACC revolving fund.
EDITOR: When did the revolving fund get started?

GIRLY: The Canadian Union office started the revolving fund in 1992. However, local conferences handled it prior to 1992.

EDITOR: Who can use this?

GIRLY: The revolving fund was established to help the financing of churches, schools and other Seventh-day Adventist institutions for their building projects, improvements, equipment and purchase of property.

EDITOR: Is it just members who provide funding for this? What other kinds of deposits are there?

GIRLY: Seventh-day Adventist Church members, churches, schools and other Adventist institutions can make deposits into the revolving fund. There is no other kind of deposit.

EDITOR: How many depositors are there currently? And what is the total amount on deposit?

GIRLY: As of May 31, 2012, there are 461 depositors with a total deposit of $22,652,339.

EDITOR: How many loans are out there right now?

GIRLY: There are 73 loans with a value of $18,361,495 as of May 31, 2012.

EDITOR: What is the rate of interest paid on deposits? When and how is interest paid?

GIRLY: Deposits into revolving fund earn 2 percent interest, which is currently the interest rate. When a deposit is made, interest will be calculated beginning the day the deposit is received. Interest rates both for deposits and loans are reviewed periodically by the SDACC board members and adjusted based on current market conditions.

Interest is computed monthly and compounded semi-annually. Depositors have the option of having the semi-annual June 30 and December 31 interest added to their account or paid out to them.

EDITOR: What interest rate do the churches and schools pay?

GIRLY: The current loan interest rate is 3.75 percent.

EDITOR: Are the deposits insured like those at the bank are?

GIRLY: Deposits in the revolving fund are not insured by any agency of the government. However, reserves have been placed in the fund by the local conferences in accordance with the General Conference policy, thus protecting depositors against any loss.

EDITOR: When people make a deposit, can those funds be used all across Canada, or are there restrictions?

GIRLY: Revolving fund deposits are credited to the conference to which the member or institution belongs. These funds then become available for loans to the churches and schools of those local conferences.

EDITOR: Do you ever turn down deposits?

GIRLY: We are very blessed and grateful to our members, institutions, churches and schools who think of sending their funds to the revolving fund in order to help, but there are some instances when we do turn down deposits. There are various reasons for this decision. As mentioned above, the deposits become available for loans to the churches and schools of the local conference. If the local conference has a large amount of available funds for loans that are not being used, then we do not accept new depositors or even a large amount from the existing depositors from that conference with large balances. Due to the economic situation, these excess funds are being invested at lower interest rates than what we are paying for the depositors. As a result, we kindly request those interested in making deposits to call the office before sending any funds.

EDITOR: How do people make these deposits?

GIRLY: Deposits to the revolving fund can be made by sending a cheque or money order. Cheques should be made payable to Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada—Revolving Fund, and mailed to 1148 King Street East, Oshawa, ON, L1H 1H8. Deposit agreement forms will be sent to the depositor indicating the amount of deposit, terms of deposit and rate of interest.

EDITOR: What are the terms of deposit?

GIRLY: All deposits can be returned at request, but we would ask for 30 days’ notice for amounts over $100,000. However, in case of an emergency, the deposit can be returned immediately upon receipt of a written request.

EDITOR: What are the advantages of revocable deposits?

GIRLY: These are the advantages of revocable deposits:

Revolving fund deposits can be withdrawn without penalty or any other fees.
Withdrawals can be made by written request and issued either by cheque or direct deposit into the depositor’s bank account on Thursdays.

The interest rate is applicable to all or any amount of the deposit.

If the revolving fund deposits are not specified in the last will and testament of the depositor, then beneficiaries don’t have to wait to go through probate or pay probate fees before they can access the funds.

Stan Jensen is the communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada and editor of the Canadian Adventist Messenger.
Reaching out with care is the motto of one of our Sabbath School groups as they come together every Sabbath to learn, share and care. Wishing to be proactive in their outreach, this class blesses someone every week with a fruit basket made with love and prayer. Each member of the class contributes one fruit item, and after class they carefully arrange the fruit in a straw basket. Once they have beautifully wrapped the basket and placed a bow on it, off it goes to the blessed recipient. Someone is chosen to be the recipient of that love basket that day. Participating in the love basket outreach has become the highlight of this group.

One recipient of a love basket said: “I ate seven different types of apples in two days, and for some reason, those apples were the best I’ve ever had, especially when I so happened to be feeling under the weather, they somehow picked me up, and now I have a sweet straw basket to look at as a constant reminder of how special I felt on that day when I received a love basket.”

As Christians we are called to reach out to the world and the people around us, and if we can only reach people at arm’s length, then that’s what Christ Himself would do. Volunteering some of your time to outreach activities can be very rewarding both for you and the people you help.

I hope this story encourages other churches to take on small mission projects.

Sharon Hobbs, Surrey Church Sabbath School leader
Family Grateful for Acts of Kindness

Teresa Sperger and her family were overcome with emotion late Monday afternoon, after a bus moved a couple of feet down the street and brought into view their revamped and renovated Aldergrove home.

They were the recipients of the ninth annual Acts of Kindness Extreme Home Repair.

Established in 2004, the AOK’s Extreme Home Repair project annually transforms the home of a local individual or family facing difficult circumstances related to their housing and resources.

For 10 days this month, culminating with the Victoria Day reveal, Aldergrove Adventist Church’s AOK team repaired and renovated the 2,200 sq. foot, two-storey Aldergrove house Teresa and her family have called home for the past 13 years.

It was an immeasurable boost for a family—which includes Cody, 23, Alicia, 20, and Kyle, 16—that suffered a crushing blow when Teresa’s youngest child, seven-year-old Christopher, lost his battle with cancer in 2007.

In 2003, Christopher was diagnosed with Stage IV high risk neuroblastoma, a cancerous tumour that develops from nerve tissue. Over the next four years, Teresa left her work so she could spend as much time as she could with her ailing son. Repairing the house dropped Teresa’s priority list.

The projects started to pile up: the kitchen needed a complete reno, the leaking roof needed an overhaul, and the broken-up driveway needed fixing, just to name a few of the repairs needed for the house.

Among the work completed by the handy AOK volunteers: new flooring was installed, the roof was repaired, and the exterior was refinished.

“I had to be off work, so the money was tight, and we weren’t able to do very much,” said Teresa, as she addressed the crowd Monday.

Her voice tight, and fighting back tears, Teresa added, “My dad has done so much for me, to keep a roof over our heads. When Christopher passed away in 2007 I really gave up. I let everything go. I had no money to replace things that needed to be done. Things were just let go because I just didn’t care.”

Along came the AOK service team of more than 150 volunteers and 90 contributing businesses.

Extreme Home Repair’s Lorne Brownmiller and team leader Pastor Mike Dauncey were happy to see another project completed successfully.

“Each and every year is extremely special to us,” Brownmiller said. “You sometimes take on these projects and you wonder if it’s the right one. There are a number of people that we go through in terms of nominations and each time we have been encouraged and extremely blessed to know that the family we have chosen needed it and we were able to step in, and the people answered the call.”

The hour or so prior to the family’s arrival was a frenzied time. Volunteers busily hung photos, dusted, and put the final touches on the home, before the family had its first look at the transformation.

Dauncey said seeing how thankful Teresa was, even before the renovations began, gave him the most gratification.

“She said, ‘You have given me a new beginning,’” he related. “It was very rewarding to hear that this is impacting her life and her family’s life in a huge way.”

Past recipients have paid it forward during the 2012 Extreme Home Repair. The entire Grochowski family, which benefited last year, Karen Weeks from 2010, and Joyce Myckatyn from 2009, have all lent their support to this year’s project.

Brownmiller called the Spergers a “great family that has come out of a dark place.”

“One of the most rewarding things with this, is seeing their countenance change as this approaches,” Brownmiller said. “And never mind that, how it will change afterwards, is incredible.”

Before the reveal, Teresa shared how the past 10 days have been difficult. The family has been staying in Walnut Grove during the home repair, and Teresa said, driving past the 264th Street exit on Highway One, instead of turning onto it to head to her home, “has been one of the hardest things for me, but I knew that some great things were happening.”

Teresa said the AOK team gave her renewed hope.

“It made me realize that there are good people out there, and that things can happen, and I don’t have to sell my house,” she said.

Troy Landreville, Langley Advance
Inauguration of the Heart Lake Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Ever since the Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church was formed in 1989 as an offshoot of the Toronto Portuguese Seventh-day Adventist Church, they have been longing for their own church building. For 22 years the church has been worshipping in rented facilities, whose accommodation and hospitality the community of believers has greatly appreciated. However, the church members have continually prayed for their own place of worship and have been working hard to raise funds and locate a possible site where a church might eventually be built.

Then, a few short months ago, God presented a beautiful building that was ready to be occupied, situated in the best possible location with the most picturesque surroundings. The church elders voted unanimously to set the wheels in motion and place an offer to purchase the property. The following Sabbath the entire church membership fell in love with the site and location.

The new church building was at last occupied on April 14, 2012. The official inauguration of the newly named Heart Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church was held on May 12, and was attended by the mayor of the City of Brampton, Susan Fennel, and Pastor Mansfield Edwards, president of the Ontario Conference. The inauguration was celebrated with a flag-raising ceremony, ribbon-cutting ceremony, three baptisms and much praise and thanksgiving to our Lord.

The mission of the church is to reach people for Christ, to proclaim the Saviour and to nurture and serve the community.

Jessica Terencio-Santos, Heart Lake Church music director
Drayton Valley Company organization

On April 26 the Drayton Valley Fellowship Group was organized into a company. It was an exciting day for those present to witness 20 individuals sign as charter members and many additional ones sign as friends. Some of the friends are members from other churches who will give support to the new company, and others are not yet members of the Adventist Church but are a part of the fellowship. Baptisms are planned in the near future.

Previous attempts have been made to establish an Adventist presence in Drayton Valley, Alta., dating back to 1973. However, the current initiative began in January 2009 as a fellowship of only a handful of people in the home of leaders Derald and Teresa Kissner.

Over the past three years, there have been many evidences of God’s guidance. Amazing Facts played an important role in leading people in the area to the Adventist faith and then to the fellowship group. Adventists moved to the area and added to the group. In the spring of 2010, Pastor John Gilbert held evangelistic meetings, resulting in more individuals joining the group, some through transfer and others through baptism.

In May 2010 this growing group found a new meeting place at the Pembina Consortium facility. The newly organized company is enthusiastic about representing Christ and sharing God’s last-day message in this beautiful area of Alberta. ■

Don Corkum, Church Planting and VOAR coordinator, Alberta Conference

Calgary Bethany French Company

O n Sabbath May 12 the Calgary Bethany French Company went from a group to a company. 35 individuals signed as charter members, with a number of friends signing their support to the group.

Conference leaders Ken Wiebe and Larry Hall led out in the organization service. Don Corkum, church-planting coordinator, presented the message, which was a charge to the new church to be Spirit-led, Christ-centred and mission-focused. Donald Pierre, a theology and education student at CUC, translated key parts of the service from French to English and also had the Sabbath School lesson. Troy McQueen, the new communications director of the conference, was present and captured the highlights of the day in pictures.

The Bethany French Company had its beginning in the Calgary Bridgeland Church. During 2009 a French Sabbath School class was formed. They first began meeting in the homes of members and later, as their numbers increased, they began meeting in the lower floor of the Bridgeland Church facility. At present their meeting place is in Calgary North East. The company organization took place at this location.

It is estimated that about 25,000 French-speaking people reside in Calgary. This company hopes to live out a strong witness for Christ to these people. This company has big dreams of what God will do through them to build a strong work to the glory of His name. ■

Don Corkum, Church Planting and VOAR coordinator, Alberta Conference
Edmonton South Sends Care Packs to Local Children’s Hospital

When I reached out to my fellow members at Edmonton South with an idea for an outreach to the Stollery Children’s Hospital called Kaylie’s Cope with Hope Pack, they embraced the project immediately, and donations came in quickly. An approximate total of $3,600 has come in since May 2011.

The emotions and stress parents experience when their child is first admitted to the hospital can be overwhelming. On June 28, 2009, we rushed into the Emergency at the Stollery Children’s Hospital with a feverish child, were admitted and did not leave for two weeks. Nothing could have prepared us for our daughter Kaylie’s diagnosis—Leukemia. When you are struck with news of a critically ill child, the last thing you want to think about is finding toothbrushes!

Kaylie’s Cope with Hope Pack is a response to our own experience of having to scramble to get together those items needed for an unexpected stay at the hospital. This care pack is a way of saying, You’re not alone, we’ve been here and there is hope.

Our goal is to help ease the stress and offer support to newly admitted children and their families as they begin to cope with the new reality of a critically sick child and needing to be by their side 24/7 in the hospital.

The youth of the Kingdom Seekers Pathfinder Club have been a great help. Bev and Mark Prangle and Carol Neptune did a fabulous job organizing the Pathfinders to complete 30 packs and 30 encouragement cards in one evening meeting in June and 30 packs in November and February. The club also donated pens, notebooks and activity books for the packs. A small group of ladies volunteered their time, talents and tools for a few hours in November to create beautifully decorated, handmade encouragement cards, which were signed by our church. The kindergarten, primary and junior classes are also doing their part in supporting this local mission project by collecting pennies, new stuffed toys and crayon packs.

By the end of May 2012, 120 Kaylie’s Cope with Hope Packs had been delivered to the Child Life Department at the Stollery Children’s Hospital, which are handed out to families with a critically ill child. The staff at the hospital have expressed their gratitude to all who have contributed to this project, saying that it “has helped brighten the days of many children and their families” during their stay at the hospital.

Each pack includes:

- travel-size shampoo/conditioner
- travel-size body wash
- travel-size body lotion
- comb
- toothpaste
- adult and children’s toothbrushes (two ea.)
- gum
- travel pack of Kleenex brand tissues (the tissues at the hospital are not made for tears)
- nut-free snacks such as Fruit to Go, Mr. Noodles cup
- small box of crayons
- small new comfort stuffed toy (gender neutral)
- pen and small notebook
- $10 hospital food restaurant certificate
- encouragement card from my family
- handmade encouragement card signed on behalf of our church

These packs reach families at an emotionally and physically demanding time. Although policies at the hospital do not currently allow us to include messages of a religious nature, being able to encourage others is a gift, and the opportunity that has been given to make a difference is tremendous. Sadly, 10 packs a month is not nearly meeting the number of children who are admitted with critical conditions. Please continue to keep this outreach in your prayers.

If you would like to support this project and are able to donate funds, thus furthering this outreach, please contact Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church at (780) 465-4426 or email s_boutcher@yahoo.ca. Donations are tax-deductible.

Praise God! Kaylie completed chemotherapy in September 2011. She is monitored through monthly bloodwork and is cancer-free.

Shirleen Boutcher,
Edmonton South Church

Young cancer survivor, Kaylie Boutcher, does her part to help.
The Winnipeg Lighthouse is organized into a Church

On the Sabbath of May 26, 2012, the Lighthouse of Hope congregation in Winnipeg, Man., officially became a church with 64 charter members. The Lighthouse was organized into a company on March 1, 2008, and at that time there were 23 members.

Our conference president, Ron Nelson, was on hand to officiate and offer the sermon, and executive secretary, Collin Akre, presented the official organizing document. Four new members joined the Lighthouse Church during the service: Jeri Stern and Solomon Aggoy by profession of faith; and Mike Marion and Valerie Owunna by baptism. The day also marked the ordination of the Lighthouse’s elders: Gashaw Alemneh, Bradley Taylor-Pirogov, Collins Kalaluka and Melody Ferrada. Christina Cho, Christelle Uhase, Cathy Kozier and Brian Kozier were ordained as deaconesses and deacon.

The Lighthouse was planted by 17 individuals on the Sabbath of December 23, 2006. It was sponsored by the Henderson Highway Church following an evangelical series named Revelation of Hope, which Pastor Jeff Potts conducted. Sixteen radical Christ-followers, along with Pastor Jeff, envisioned that the Fort Garry area of Winnipeg would have a church that engaged young adults. So they boldly set out to fulfill that vision with God’s help. Since then, the church has grown into a family of over 100 people who attend worship and/or one of the regular growth groups (many of whom have not yet become Adventists). Growth groups provide the opportunity for Bible study, prayer and fellowship together as the early Christians did in their homes. For the past five and a half years, the Lighthouse has made its home in the Winnipeg Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has been graciously accommodating.

The Lighthouse is a casual, contemporary church whose mission, as an Acts 2 church, is to be an authentic biblical community that transforms people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and whose vision is to raise up a new generation of Christ-followers who will change the world. We invite people to “come as they are” to church. If they want to come dressed in jeans, then so be it. Our target age group has always been 20- and 30-year-olds, but we welcome people of all ages to be a part of our fellowship and worship with us. We promote an environment where people can feel a sense of belonging before they believe. We regularly incorporate the next generation of our church’s members (i.e., the children) into our worship service to, for instance, present a skit or special music that they have worked on. In fact, there is a 10-year-old girl who adds her voice to our praise team every second week.

At the Lighthouse we also strive every year to host at least one evangelistic series, three to four praise and worship nights and a quarterly agape feast where attendees share in musical worship, fellowship and simple foods. Eventually, the service transitions into a foot washing and concludes with communion.

Once the Lighthouse reaches 150 members, we plan to begin birthing daughter congregations. Our hope is to plant a new church every year. As Pastor Jeff stated, “We want to fill the city of Winnipeg with vibrant, multiplying Seventh-day Adventist churches. By God’s grace, one day there will be more Adventist churches in Winnipeg than there are Tim Horton’s coffee shops. The Lighthouse story has only begun. The best is yet to come!”

Bradley Taylor-Pirogov, Winnipeg Lighthouse of Hope Church
New Executive Director Announced for ADRA Canada

The ADRA Canada board of directors announced James Astleford’s appointment as the organization’s new executive director, with immediate effect, at their June 12 meeting.

“I have been excited to be part of ADRA’s ministry for many years,” Astleford stated. “Relief and development agencies are growing increasingly professional and sophisticated, and world needs are pressing,” he commented. “In this new role, I will seek to lead ADRA in meeting these challenges. We must be a strong agency that continues to provide effective, loving service to those in poverty and distress around the world.”

Former executive director Ronald Kuhn resigned on March 31, 2012, in order to accept a position as the assistant director of the Institute of World Missions, a division of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference. Kuhn has served within ADRA’s worldwide network for 24 years, including in Sudan, Mozambique, Angola, Somalia, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Thailand and, most recently, here in Canada.

“With almost four years at the helm of ADRA Canada, the decision to leave for a new opportunity was one that took much consideration and prayer,” Kuhn stated in a recent news release. Kuhn says he will miss his ADRA colleagues, both here in Canada and around the world, but, he says, “I’m positive and I trust that the work will continue, because the work does not depend on me or one individual.”

Kuhn expressed his confidence that his successor will serve ADRA Canada well in his new position. “James is very loyal...not only to the institution, but to the mission of ADRA. He spent all his life working for ADRA in the frontlines. James hit the road running and is a very knowledgeable person of ADRA worldwide, its mission, and its offices. I worked with him for almost four years and he was always a very good colleague and very supportive. I have nothing but good things to say.”

James Astleford has served at a senior management level within the ADRA network for more than 20 years. His years of service have included appointments as executive director at the ADRA offices in South Sudan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Nepal, and assistant country director for ADRA India. Astleford holds an MSA degree in international development, an MA from Andrews University and a BA from Washington Adventist University.

“Through my many years with ADRA, I have seen how the lives of individuals and whole communities in many countries have improved as a result of ADRA projects,” reflected Astleford. “I am also very proud of, and thankful for, the contributions Canadians make through their support of ADRA Canada. Our supporters are our lifeline, and I appreciate their continued support and prayers as I take on this new role.”

Astleford will be balancing his new role along with his current role as the ADRA Canada emergency management director until a replacement is selected.

Alicia Sawyer, ADRA Canada Communication Coordinator

James Astleford poses with children from the rural commune of Bangui in Niger, where ADRA Canada funded a food distribution in cooperation with ADRA Niger and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
As Helen Keller once said, “I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”

Taking a Closer “Look” at NCB Canada

The above Helen Keller quote well represents the humble and hardworking individuals who attend to the varied organizational facets of National Camps for the Blind (NCB).

Charles Thomas has been an NCB Canada representative in Ontario since 2006. In the fall of 2009, Charles envisioned special monthly Sabbath meetings for the blind and visually impaired campers and friends. He began the tradition, which continues to this day, where NCB representatives, volunteers, and their blind friends meet on the last Saturday of every month to eat, play and worship together.

As a senior Ontario rep, Felipe Movilla (profiled in the December 2011 issue of the Canadian Adventist Messenger) has devoted 22 years to the work of NCB. He has been an inspiration to numerous blind campers throughout his years of dedicated service, and has led many to baptism at Camp Frenda. Felipe’s new job titles include district rep manager and ministry director.

Ken Wand, another Ontario rep, is a veteran of NCB Canada and has been a district rep for nearly three decades. He is an avid fundraiser and has led many businesses and individuals to sponsor and support the free services of NCB, including the lending library and the camping programs.

Another kind-minded and committed worker is Ralph Page. As the NCB office manager, Ralph is a valuable asset in the head office. He sorts through the mail, prepares mass mail-outs and all items need for camp, as well as handling the shipping, receiving and distribution of all packages.

Every organization needs a strong leader, and Ralph’s wife, Patricia Page, has been just that for the past 21 years. Pat has worn many hats within the organization: executive director, treasurer, public relations, and district rep manager. Pat has often been called “Mom” by many blind campers, who found in her a genuinely caring and loving heart.

In western Canada there are three district representatives, who take their missionary work to heart. Peter Khoo has been the British Columbia rep since 2001. His dedication to seeing blind individuals attend the camping programs on a yearly basis has led him to chauffeur many persons who lack either transportation or finances to go to camp. In Alberta, André Bolduc has been working for CRS charity since 1992. André commenced his work in New Brunswick and for many years was the only bilingual rep. New to the family is Earl Litke, the Man-Sask representative, who started in the fall of 2010 and has already left a footprint on this cause. Earl is committed to sharing the Good News with his NCB patrons by providing as many as possible with Bibles.

In the Maritimes, we find another purposeful and zealous area rep, who has recently taken on the role of public relations and marketing director. Daniel Richards was introduced to this charity in the summer of 1992 when he and I volunteered at the Blind Camp in Pugwash during part of our honeymoon. His love for the blind was immediate, his faithfulness to the organization, instant. Daniel has made lasting friendships with numerous blind patrons and his humorous disposition and witty remarks have appealed to many blind individuals who appreciate spending time with him outside of camp.

As a volunteer for NCB for the past 20 years, I found myself working in various capacities. Presently I am assisting in the restructuring and rebranding of this magnificent organization, with the fervent hope that all Canadian blind people, every Seventh-day Adventist member and our great Canadian nation will know what National Camps for the Blind is and offers.

Discover more about National Camps for the Blind by visiting our website, at www.ncbservices.ca.

Michelle Richards is associate director of National Camps for the Blind
Northeastern Ontario Campmeeting
August 31-September 2, 2012 at Camp Noronto, Monetville, Ontario

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Should I Fight?
Despite an historic stance of refusal to bear arms, today more Seventh-day Adventist young people have voluntarily joined the military than in any previous generation. Edited by Barry W. Bussey, Should I Fight? is a compilation of essays presented at a symposium called to discuss the Adventist Church’s position on conscientious objection. Only $19.95 • For more information, visit www.adventist.ca/legal

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Legal Notice
The Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
Notice is hereby given that the 50th Session of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lacombe, Alberta on September 23, 2012. The Regular business meeting will be called at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, September 23. There will be a meeting of the Organizing Committee at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 23.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider reports and financial statements, elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Conference for the ensuing quadrennial period, to consider any proposed changes in the Bylaws, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session.

The Bylaws provide for representatives from each duly organized church in the Alberta Conference as follows: one delegate per church without regard of membership, and one additional delegate for every fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

Ken Wiebe, President
Larry Hall, Vice President for Administration

Obituaries

Vegreville Albert SDA Church 50th anniversary celebration on Sabbath, August 18, 2012. All former pastors, members, families, and friends of the church are invited to join us to celebrate God’s leading over the past 50 years of the Vegreville church. Our services will incorporate the ministry of former pastors and our present conference president, Ken Wiebe. The schedule begins with Sabbath morning services; potluck lunch and fellowship; afternoon historical review and archival display; followed by a musical showcase of Praise to God; a light supper; and our Sabbath of celebration will close with an evening service challenging members to a renewed commitment as we invite God’s continued blessing and leading of our congregation in the years leading up to His glorious advent. We are blessed to be able to use the more commodious Pentecostal church, which is just next door, for our morning and afternoon services. We invite former members to kindly send us historical anecdotes and pictures (or bring them with you) to add to our historical review and archival display. Please email the anniversary committee chairperson at usrnruh@telus.net, or phone 780/652-3746 for details (motels, camping facilities, etc.) and to confirm your attendance.

Lucy (née Tout) Crosby was born Feb. 25, 1915, in London, Ont., and died April 21, 2012, in Windsor, Ont. Lucy served for many years as the Windsor Church treasurer and was involved in inmate visitation at the Windsor jail. She is predeceased by her husband, William, and her son Michael. Surviving: son William (Sharon Bolton) Crosby of Perryburg, Ohio; three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Marie (née Widen) Buhrer Fisher was born April 3, 1919, in Weldon, Sask., and died May 7, 2012, in Saint Clair, Mich. Marie worked as secretary to the CUC president and registrar from 1941–1943 and as postmaster of the CUC post office for many years. She is predeceased by her first husband, Reuben Buhrer, her second husband, Malcolm Fisher, and her stepbrother Melvin Folland. Surviving: sons, Lester (Joni) of Saint Clair, Ronald (Doris) of Breton, Ont., and James (Heather) of Cranbrook, B.C.; stepson, Dean (Jen) Fisher of Calif; daughter, Patricia Spangler of Berrien Springs, Mich.; stepdaughters, Dawn Waas of Creston, B.C., Marlene (Don) Lamming of Prince George, B.C., and Sharon King of Loma Linda, Calif.; stepbrother George (Avis) Folland of Kinistino, Sask.; stepson, Esther Shier of Prince Albert, Sask.; 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Pentti Kalevi Hook was born Feb. 18, 1928, in Vainikkala, Finland, and died May 17, 2012, in Millbrook, Ont. Pentti was a longtime employee of Branson Hospital. He served the church in Finland and Canada as a colporteur, deacon, elder and Sabbath School teacher. Personal witnessing and giving Bible studies was close to his heart. Pentti is predeceased by his wife, Anna, and his daughter Raja Hook. Surviving: daughters Pirko (Urpo) Maattanen of Peterborough, Ont., and Tarja (Bryan) Lee of Lacombe, Alta.; and two grandchildren.

Patricia (née Bailey) Kendall was born April 2, 1952, in Sydney Mines, N.S., and died May 14, 2012, in North Sydney, N.S. Patty had a great musical talent and loved to share it with her church family and with the seniors at the Northside Guest Home. She is predeceased by her brother James “Butch” Bailey. Surviving: husband, Austin; sons, Jason of Newfoundland and Michael (Kerry) of Mount Uniacke, N.S.; parents, James “Guy” and Jessie Bailey; brothers Lawrence (Yvonne) of North Sydney and Kevin of Sydney Mines; sisters, Elizabeth Swan of North Sydney, Elaine “Joy” Boutillier of North Sydney, and Debbie (Gary) Pyke of Dartmouth, N.S.; and one grandchild.

Kenneth Robert Parsons was born Jan. 16, 1947, in Saint John, N.B., and died March 19, 2012, in Oshawa, Ont. Ken was a faithful member of the New Life Church in Oshawa, where he held various offices up to the time of his death. He previously served in the Moncton Church in New Brunswick for many years. Ken is predeceased by his brother, Douglas. Surviving: wife, Bonnie (née Sands); stepsons, Gary Allen of Moncton, N.B., and Chris Rushton of Oshawa, Ont.; sister, Barbara (Albert Girard) Parsons of Pointe-du-Chene, N.B.

Advertisements

Union College is seeking tenure track faculty members to teach foundational level courses and clinical in BSN program. Prior teaching experience and minimum of MSN in Nursing required. Qualified candidates will possess a commitment to Adventist Christian values. Email cover letter and résumé/curriculum vitae to thristimso@ucollege.edu. (2/12)

Birthdays
Herbert Reimche of Kelowna, B.C., celebrated his 95th birthday on May 23, 2012. Herb’s family surprised him by meeting together the weekend before his birthday in Radium Hot Springs, B.C., and took him out for dinner on May 23. They also held an informal gathering at Rutland Church for him the weekend after his birthday so that church members could wish him well. “I think everyone should have a 95th birthday, as one gets a lot of attention,” Herb remarked. He is the father of four children and grandfather to seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Otto and Betty Herman will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on July 29, 2012, with family and friends, including sons Daryl of Dixonville, Alta., Randy of Cherywryd, B.C., Barry (Joanne) of Kelowna, B.C., and Merlin of Dixonville, and daughter Brenda (Tom) Reed of Olympia, Wash. Their original best man and maid of honor, Mel and Irene Hoover, as well as flower girl, Vickie Lorin Huntley, all plan to attend the celebration. The Hermans have five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and 21 nieces and nephews.

Annings

July 2012 31
Imagine using your successful accounting skills to create opportunities for those in poverty! ADRA Canada seeks a highly experienced Senior Accountant responsible for providing strategic advice and support on policy development, risk management, legal, tax, and financial matters, facilities management, planning, forecasting, advanced financial reporting, general ledger management and budgeting. Details at www.adra.ca. (7/12)

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Authors wanted. If you’ve written your life story, want to tell others of God’s love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published, call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844 for a free manuscript review. (7/12)

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this month we dug up an interesting piece from the February 22, 1927, issue of the Eastern Canadian Messenger, entitled “Happy Hours at O.M.C.” It describes two events, one that saw the male students of Oshawa Missionary College entertaining their female counterparts, and another where the girls returned the favour.

the boys entertain the girls

On the evening of February 3, the boys gave their annual reception in honor of the girls of O. M. C. While the wind roared outdoors, the students within the Dorm’ Chapel were enjoying themselves immensely.

Of course “Partners” was the order of the evening, and shouts of laughter echoed through the building as each boy came forward to the clothes-wringer and received an article of clothing by which he identified his partner.

After a song of welcome had been sung by all the boys, the reception went along with only a few minor mishaps. For instance, while Mr. Marsden was rendering a musical reading the lights went out. As soon as candles and lamps could be obtained the program was continued, and no one minded the dim light of the candles. In fact it made the room appear even more pleasant than was at first anticipated. However, the electricity came on again in a short while and we all felt much better.

Other items of the evening’s entertainment were:

A flute solo by Hudson Wood.

An Organ Grind with Gordon Dingman playing the organ and Vinet Curdy acting as the Grinder.

A shadowgraph of a terrible operation upon the anatomy of Max Curdy seemed for a while to take the spirits from most of the girls but they gradually recovered and laughed heartily, even when the Doctor saw Max’s leg off with a buck-saw.

the girls entertain the boys

The evening of February 13 witnessed a very interesting scene in our Dormitory Chapel—the girls’ reception to the boys. The chapel was prettily decorated in a red color scheme in honor of St. Valentine’s Day. The evening’s entertainment began promptly at 7:30 with the chairman’s address by Miss Campbell. A rather unique way of choosing partners was used. Each boy upon entering the chapel was given a small envelope containing some beans, while the girls, who remained outside in the hall, were each given the name of some flower. Miss Rupert, the auctioneer, then proceeded to auction off each flower to the highest bidder.

In the last scene in the program a large heart was placed on the stage, and one by one, the love songs of the nations were given by the “Sweetheart in the Song.” The nations represented were: English—Miss Simcock; Irish—Miss Best; Scotch—Miss Rupert; Japanese—Misses Hollister and Kelly; Indian—Miss Patton; Spanish—Miss Ford; Italian—Miss Landry; Colonial times—Miss Hannah; and Modern times—Miss Hanson.

Our enthusiasm was not lessened when refreshments, consisting of sandwiches, cake and cocoa were served. Toasts were given in honor of President Holm, the Faculty, the Boys, and Cupid. After enjoying a few minutes of pleasant chatting, our evening’s entertainment was completed by singing our National Anthem.
Come & Share in The Adventist Mission...to every nation, tribe, language & people Revelation 14:6

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