



canadian adventist

Messenger

july 2017

A Conversation
with Burman University's
Newly-Elected President,
Loren Agrey

Plus

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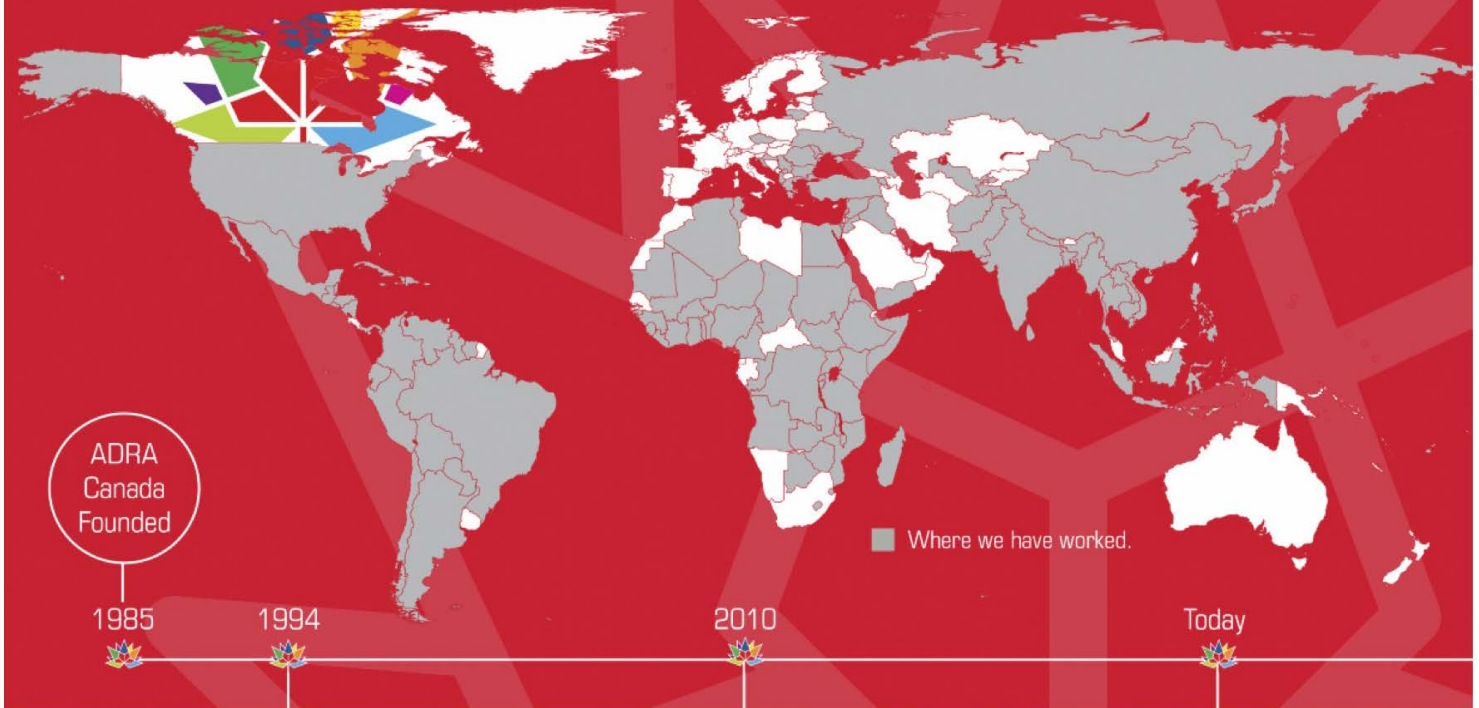
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YOU HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD WITH US!

For Canada's 150th celebration, we are looking back at how your support has helped us change lives around the world.



In Mongolia many people were suffering health issues because of the dampness and cold of their homes. ADRA Canada responded by building locally sourced straw bale houses. These homes provided warmth and health.



Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, ADRA Canada responded immediately, providing safe water, shelter, food, and other much needed items. This is an example of one of the hundreds of disasters we have responded to.



Child and maternal mortality rates are extremely high in Asia and Africa. ADRA Canada has been working to improve the health of the most vulnerable through improved access to healthcare, nutrition, and training.

For more stories, follow us on Facebook.

CANADA 150



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Messenger

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heart to heart

“Behold, how good and
pleasant it is when brothers
dwell in unity!”

—Psalm 133:1, ESV

Community

I love the church. It isn't at all perfect. Sometimes parts of it are frustrating. That's because the church is people. Folks like you or I are still growing in character and learning how to live a life of faith. And because we are individuals changing at our own speed as God influences us, times of disagreement or misunderstanding are likely.

Today's text recalls the importance of harmony with those whose faith we share. In the days of the Old Testament, the faithful throughout Judah came to Jerusalem three times a year. Psalm 133 was sung as they travelled to these important gatherings. These words were a reminder of the importance of getting along with others in the faith.

Sometimes we forget that in general, we are not responsible for the behaviour of those in the pew next to us. But it is also good to hear what Paul says in the New Testament: "Encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thess. 5:11, ESV). Those are marvellous, empowering words, aren't they?

Too often we recall the hurt or inefficiency we've experienced from someone else. God, our designer, tells us to keep it positive. Can you imagine the positive effect that would have in your family, your church, your conference?

If you can see where improvement is needed in your worship community, why not compliment those who you sense are "getting it right"? All of us work best when we know that people see the good in us. A child who is complimented on what he or she is doing will generally try harder to do what makes others happy. It is usually the same for those of us who are no longer children as well.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil. 4:8, ESV).

Let's make our church a community where both truth and harmony are known, shall we? ■

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



What's it Mean to You?

*"I believe
in this school."*

Levi Nepoose
MANS Parent
Professional dancer &
MANS Ground Breaking
Pow Wow organizer

Levi in regalia he made.
Photo by Crux Phiri.

The air was electric at MANS' High School Ground Breaking last May. It was charged in part by the dynamic presence of Northern Cree, the award-winning First Nations traditional music group, and by Levi Nepoose, the man who'd organized their performance. An imposing 6'4" in full regalia, Levi commanded the proceedings as wide-eyed students joined their musical heroes in the drumming circle—an experience they will never forget.

Famous in his own right as a competitive traditional dancer, Levi spoke with conviction as the camera rolled. "We don't live for today," he said, "we live for tomorrow. In my home, that's how I teach my kids."

It's the hope that's kept Levi and his community alive, and the reason Levi brought his children to MANS.

"I'm so grateful for what this school has done for my children," Levi says with passion when the camera is turned off. "I don't have a lot, but this pow wow—this is something I can give."

Levi's fervent hopes for his children have been tested, but MANS gave him reason to believe.

This spring, his second daughter will be part of MANS' third graduating high school class.

"Believing in this school and where they're at, where they're going," reflects Levi, "I wouldn't be here, and [my children] wouldn't be here if I didn't believe in this school."

A father's heart is revealed—a lesson of perseverance and of faith in the teachings his family found at MANS. Though everything else passes away, this remains to sustain us: faith, hope and (the greatest of these) our charity toward each other.

—By Lynn McDowell

Experience the ground breaking and Pow Wow finale and hear Levi's testimony in the video "Mamawi: A Ground-Breaking-Experience" at www.mans1.ca.

Contribute to the campaign to build MANS' high school at www.mans1.ca or make cheques payable to the Bridge Campaign, C/O Alberta Conference, 5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5.



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**
RR 2, Ponoka, AB T4J 1R2

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

WHAT'S INSIDE

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A Sowing Ministry

THE ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY

(ADRA) is the official humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There are ADRA offices in over 130 countries. Each year we work with more than 20 million people to help them overcome poverty and recover after disasters.

In some places, ADRA is the only Adventist presence, and many of our supporters wonder why we don't take advantage of our reach by evangelizing.

There are several reasons:

1. When the church established our predecessor organization (Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service, or SAWS), it did so on the understanding that the relief agency would address the humanitarian needs of those in poverty and distress, while the church would remain focused on evangelism.
2. Many of the people we work with have previously been exploited in one way or another. Many would refuse our assistance if it meant they needed to also accept our evangelistic outreaches.
3. When faced with the decision of feeding their children or pretending a conversion, many people will choose the pretend conversion. By detaching our help from a real or perceived pressure to convert, we avoid placing them in an awkward and uncomfortable position.
4. In many parts of the world, evangelism is not welcome. People who are seen associating with Christians may face ostracism, intimidation, harm, or even death. These consequences for actions seen as threatening to the group or culture may also be inflicted on their families. We do not want our assistance to mean that harm will come to those we are trying to help.
5. In certain countries, ADRA is allowed to operate, while

other humanitarian organizations who do evangelize are banned. Not evangelizing allows us to reach people in those countries who need our help.

6. Jesus did not require people to promise to follow Him before giving them help. He helped them, and through his love and the workings of the Holy Spirit, they were drawn to Him.

ADRA is a sowing ministry. Many people first learn of Adventists through our work. After contact with us, some do come to a knowledge and decision of faith in Christ. For example, our Development Programs director at ADRA Canada, Analynn Bruce, became an Adventist while working for ADRA. There are many other instances of people attending churches and being baptized because they saw God's love for them through our ministry.

We like to say that ADRA is "the gospel in working boots." Our work fills the needs of many by providing food, clean water, support after disasters, and much more.

As Adventists, we do sometimes feel conflicted about the framework in which we must operate, but we recognize that we can reach more people as an agency because of that framework. And we place our faith in God and His Holy Spirit to grow the seeds that this agency sows in love and compassion.

We have heard the Christian adage, "Preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words."

While we do not evangelize, we are showing the unconditional love of Christ to millions worldwide every year. Those who felt invisible in their suffering are shown that God's love reaches even them, through merciful acts of kindness. Thank you for your support of this ministry ■

Sharmilla Reid is the supporter relations director at ADRA Canada.



Mary, a Beautiful Christian

"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." —Gal. 3:29, NKJV

How do you view Christians of other churches? Are they inside or outside the family of God? Are they part of Christ's church or part of Babylon? Are they hostile to the remnant or not yet part of the remnant? Paul said, "If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29). The preceding verse states we are all one in Christ regardless of our nationality, status, or gender. This group is commonly thought of as Christ's invisible church; all professing Christians would fall into this camp. The remnant teaching and church is part of the invisible church but focusing on the end-time group with its unique three angels' messages.

A few weeks ago my wife, Celest, and I saw a member of Christ's invisible church in action and were greatly

blessed. Mary, a grounds worker at Maxwell Academy in Kenya, where our son Leroy is pastor and Bible teacher, became friends with my wife, Celest. Mary related a story about having recently noticed a teenage girl, Milka, and her brother Jackson (both Grade 8 students) in the marketplace wearing patched clothes. Mary had asked the girl to take her to her mom. She felt for the young teenagers, who might be self-conscious or embarrassed about looking shabby in front of friends, and she desired to buy both of them new school uniforms. Speaking to their mom, Mary was given permission to buy new uniforms for the girl and her brother, costing her the better part of a week's wage.

Celest asked Mary to take her to see the family, and what she saw was a family with dignity living in unbelievable circumstances. It appeared the family were squatters near a housing development with little of this world's goods, no electricity, struggling to survive, and sending their children to public school. On visiting the family, Celest decided to obtain a solar electric lamp so the family could have light during the night and so the children would have some light to study by.

Celest bonded with the beautiful Christian, Mary, a member of the Anglican Church, as she saw her loving other people as Christ's loved people. Mary's heart is full of Jesus' love. Mary is on her spiritual journey and reflective on the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is part of Christ's invisible church, and, if she remains faithful in her journey with Jesus, will become part of His remnant church. ■

Ken Corkum is the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Milka wearing her new uniform and seated between Mary on her right and Celest Corkum on her left.

teen talk

Q: Should an openly gay person be able to speak up front or participate in any way up front at the church?

A: I don't see why not! Being gay is not a sin. It just means that a person is sexually attracted to people of one's own sex. Some are open about it; some prefer not to share it with the public at large.

The worship participants you see up front are selected by the local pastor, elders, and/or a worship committee. They select people who are in love with Jesus and who enjoy leading others to Him. They are not perfect, by any means, and they struggle with sin, as well.

Sometimes the worship participants find themselves between a rock and a hard place, when they shift from struggling with sin to willingly giving in. It's a challenge to lead others to Jesus when you're consciously going in the opposite direction! Oftentimes they ask to step down, and in other occasions they are asked to take a break. For example, one can go from genuinely struggling with recreational weed consumption to becoming a drug dealer. It makes a difference, right? Or an unmarried person (whether homosexual or heterosexual) could potentially struggle with waiting until marriage* to be sexually intimate and becomes sexually active.

At the end of the day, whether we worship or lead worship, we need to have David's attitude: "Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—then guide me on the road to eternal life" (Psalm 139:23, *The Message*). ■

*Our church believes in marriage between a man and a woman.



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



Scarlet Macaw

The largest of all parrots and probably the most colourful, the scarlet macaw may be the first bird that pops into your mind when someone says the word “parrot.” With scarlet red feathers from head to tail and just enough blue and yellow for striking contrast, the scarlet macaw is just glorious. It’s obvious that a great Artist designed this magnificent bird.

While flamingoes and other birds get their bright colours from colour pigments, or chemicals, in the foods they eat, parrots are different. Scientists have discovered that the chemicals that make the brilliant colours of parrots’ feathers are found only in parrots and nowhere else on earth. But how did those chemicals form? And why are things in nature beautiful, anyway? Why does beauty exist?

Think about it.

There is no evolutionary explanation for the beauty of the scarlet macaw. I believe the scarlet macaw and all the beauty that we see in nature is solely for the glory of God. The Reformers taught that the ultimate reason for all things is the glory of God (*solī Deo gloria*). His work in you through the Holy Spirit, His loving patience with you, His gift of salvation to you, and His offer to make you over in His image (sanctification) is all for God’s glory.

Do it!

Next time you are faced with the ugliness of sin in your life, humbly cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He works to make you more like God. Remember, it is all for God’s glory, which you will have a share in someday soon (see Rom. 8:17).



Burman Faculty and Staff Retirements



Jerrold and Cecelia Ritchey



Left to right: Paul Ramalingam, Carolyn Doss, Debra Bakland, and June Fiorito.

MANY OF OUR FACULTY AND STAFF have served our campus for 20, 30, or 40 years. With many years of service under their belt, some of them are looking to begin the chapter of retirement. At the beginning of our 2017/2018 academic year, we will be missing a few familiar faces amongst our faculty and staff: Debra Bakland, Carolyn Doss, June Fiorito, Paul Ramalingam, Cecelia Ritchey, and Jerrold Ritchey. These six individuals have collectively served Burman University for 120 years.

Debra Bakland has served as an associate professor in the Department of Music since 2007. She taught piano pedagogy, music history, theory, form, and analysis. She has built a strong piano program that is appreciated and respected throughout Central Alberta. In addition to her teaching, she coordinated 60 Evensong programs that consist of music majors and faculty performing beautiful art music with a spoken word by various faculty or staff.

Carolyn Doss retires as an associate professor in the School of Education after serving Burman University since 1989. Serving as chair from 1999 to 2008, she led the School of Education through two significant accreditation processes. Under her leadership, Burman University's School of Education transitioned from a partnership program to its current provincially accredited status.

June Fiorito has served as professor in the School of Education at Burman University for 25 years. Her influence extends beyond the School of Education. Our annual Canada-wide offering was an idea that she had presented to the administration of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

Paul Ramalingam joined the Department of Biology as a professor in 1980. In addition to teaching classes, Dr. Ramalingam was the first of Burman's science professors to receive government funds for research that led to publication. His focus on research also led him to establish Burman's first research and publication committee that allocated seed funds to other professors hoping to do research.

Cecelia Ritchey retires as the administrative assistant for Student Financial Services after serving Burman University for nearly 12 years. Cecelia was recently awarded the President's Award for Christian Mentorship. Through her work, she has consistently offered hospitality, encouragement, counsel, instruction, accountability, compassion, Bible studies, prayer, and nurture to the students she encountered.

Jerrold Ritchey served Burman University for 11 years as the vice-president for advancement. Under his leadership, the Office of Advancement has raised a significant amount of funds for various projects on campus. Since Sept. 1, 2007, his office has raised over 1.5 million dollars with the Committee of 100, the Campus Family Circle, and the Canada-wide annual offering.

As we say goodbye to each one of them, we would like to also say thank you. We thank them for their efforts to make this campus a better place. Their efforts have impacted the lives of students for decades. Their impact will continue to be felt throughout this campus for years to come. We are grateful that they chose Burman University as the place where they used their talents and shared their experience. ■

Kryzia Abacan is the communications coordinator for Burman University.



My friend James knows about the storms of life, but all previous storms paled in comparison to losing his wife, Janice. The harsh reality of her death was hard for James to grasp. They had been one. Before she passed, she had him promise her that he would fulfill his lifelong dream of buying a boat to explore the nooks and crannies of the beautiful British Columbia coastline.

Wounded but willing, James bought himself 60 feet of ocean-ready craft with a flying bridge to steer the boat from up top. It had twin diesels and a full ensemble of electronics, complete with a stereo system so he could listen to his and Janice's favourite Gaither tunes.

Of course it bothered him not to have shared this dream with the love of his life, but he made sure to share it with so many others. James had been a teacher and loved children. I fondly remember warm summer days with excited Pathfinder troops littering the decks as we pulled out of the local harbor for a sun-soaked afternoon cruise.

James loved seeing the smiles on their faces and those of his friends.

James is a generous man. He gives of his talents, time, and money to the very best of his abilities. He has a true gift of befriending people, especially the hard-to-love and those who have struggles. I have seen him help young families buy their first home and assist troubled, young people to gain back their self-confidence and become healthy citizens again.

He was an energetic, busy person most of his life. But then, in his late 50s, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's.

Recently, while we were sharing lunch at our favorite Thai spot, James confided in me that his ability to make decisions was waning. Making investment decisions and rationalizing requests from friends for money was getting beyond his reach, and he feared making a tragic decision. He asked me if I could help him simplify his financial affairs.

This was a tough decision for James. He struggled with tasks that had previously been easy for him to handle, and I was

glad he'd asked for help.

A meeting was set up with a trust advisor who works with our team to discuss a plan for James. Everything James was looking for could be done through a Living Trust. His assets would be put into the trust, and I could discretionarily manage the investments of the trust and his property. His personal taxes would be taken care of, as well as the paying of his monthly bills, and eventually, the trust company would act as executor of his estate.

There was no guarantee his relatives were going to be in good health to be executors when the time came, and a lawyer may not be there to fulfill the job either. The trust company, in James's case, made the most sense.

My good friend James has weathered the storms of this life with strength, dignity, and a great sense of humor. A Living Trust would simplify his life and give him peace of mind. ■

Rick Wiegel is an investment advisor in Victoria, B.C.

where are they now

Where Are They Now

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

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



Alva Blabey

Messenger: Tell me where you were born and about your childhood family.

Alva Blabey: My parents, Alan and Dorothy Williams, had three children. Donald, the youngest has passed away. Evan Martin Williams, middle child, resides in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

M: What schools did you attend, and what degrees did you earn?

A: From my earliest recollections, education was always part of the plan. It was an essential, something expected, highly valued, not just a faint hope. I attended a one-room school in the district of Shellbrook, Sask. Because I was the oldest child, my need for the next level of education, Grade 9, precipitated the family move to Rutland, B.C., where I attended Okanagan Adventist Academy. In 1952 I graduated with university standing. The school year of 1953/54, I enrolled at then Canadian Union College, and Ray Devnich came into my life. I earned a B.Sc. degree in 1957 from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., majoring in business administration. Later, I earned a M.Ed. degree from Walla Walla College in 1974. I also achieved a rating of certified professional secretary in 1975.

M: Where did you and Ray, your first husband, serve?

A: Ray and I married in 1956 in Rutland, B.C., and the following year returned to the BC conference as teachers at Okanagan Academy for two years. We went on to CUC for two years, where I taught college-level secretarial science and business classes, and Ray studied theology. We moved to Moscow, Id., where Ray was principal and taught elementary school. Our three girls were born

there before Ray took a year to finish a degree in religion at Loma Linda University, La Sierra campus. There, I was employed as head cashier of a staff of five.

In 1968 we returned to Canada, beginning pastoral work in Vegreville, Alta. Our son, Desmond, was born there. Two years later Ray was diagnosed having malignant melanoma and was treated with surgery. We transferred to Red Deer district and the following year moved to pastor in Regina, Sask. Following two more surgeries, 18 months apart, Ray passed away two days before his 39th birthday, Jan. 21, 1973.

M: *Losing your husband as a young man left you with four young children. How did you cope with this difficult loss and the responsibilities that were thrust upon you?*

A: Our oldest child, Darla, had just turned 11 years old the month before her dad's death. The youngest, Desmond, had reached four years a month earlier. The children had seen their father go to surgery three times; he always returned to the pulpit. There is no way to know of their dilemma or to measure the emptiness in their lives. Ray, as declared by my father, "was the bravest man I ever knew," left me full of courage and strength. He suggested that I would find raising the family easier if I would remarry—that idea was the farthest from my mind, but as in all situations, I paid attention. I can remember assuring him that I would go forward in the same faith and assurance as we had lived in the past.

Our married life totalled 17 and a half years. In the next few months, the girls finished the school year in Regina church school, and we moved to Walla Walla College, where I enrolled in the M.Ed. program specializing in business education. Ruth Blabey was a college freshman that year. I had known her as a preschooler years before at CUC, when her mother, Merle, and I had been on staff together. Little did any of us know that Ray and Merle would lose their lives to cancer within three months of each other, or that Stan would find me, and we would marry in 1974.

M: *In what areas and in what capacity did you serve following your marriage to Stan Blabey?*

A: Completing a new level of education, entering into a new marriage, and moving across the country to Kingsway College might aptly be called jumping into the deep end of the pool. Although I did not have a job at Kingsway before the move, it took only a couple months before they were looking for a business education teacher for two classes. In the next six years employment became full time, including head of the department. Upon Stan's retirement, and return to his home in Chilliwack, B.C., in 1980, I changed schools to Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Aldergrove, which was offering a full business education program. In 1983 Malcolm Graham, president of CUC, invited me to establish a multifield professional

training for secretaries on the college level. A two-year program of five work areas was developed for a capacity of 20 students per year. Opportunity was offered leading to the rating of Certified Professional Secretary. After six years of Stan and I taking turns at commuting between Chilliwack and CUC, I retired in June 1989. That lasted for one year! Fraser Valley Adventist Academy needed a business education teacher. I officially retired in 2002. The last two years at FVAA, I served as business manager of the school.

M: *What did you enjoy most about your years of service, and why?*

A: There's a saying, "If you do what you always did, you'll get what you always got!" Being granted freedom to generate and explore possibilities, always within what I considered reasonable parameters, brought out the best in me. I was fortunate to have good staying power and could work long hours on less rest than most counterparts. This allowed me the freedom to be innovative in my teaching and to generate course content, with practical applications, that provided enriched learning. This opportunity, and working personally with students, helping them overcome their learning challenges brought me the greatest satisfaction, joy, and fulfillment. Observing the abundant happiness at graduation and receiving expressions of gratitude made it all worthwhile.

M: *Tell me about your family.*

A: My awesome family call me Mom! We have become one, because for years Stan and I would say "the older girls" to know which group we were referring to. Maureen (Burt) Schaber; Joy (Bryan) Bowie; Beth (Al) Reimche; and Ruth (Robert) Sutton, deceased. Darla Devnich; Della (Jason) Paradis; Denise (Scott) Graham, deceased; Desmond (Carolyn Kilba) Devnich; and, together, eight grandchildren.

M: *Where are you now and what things do you enjoy doing in your retirement?*

A: My primary residence for the past 10 years is a third-floor condo in White Rock, B.C., looking toward the ocean and with a view of Mt. Baker, Wash. For the past five years, I have owned property in a 55+ gated community in Apache Junction, Ariz., 50 miles east of Phoenix. I have made two trips to Europe in recent years. Service remains the *raison d'être* of my life. I have learned widows appreciate an understanding word, and many are delighted and encouraged to know somebody cares. In the classroom each day, I prayed to sense my students' needs. Now I pray the Lord to show me the way forward and the sensitivity to act upon the conviction. To keep my brain stimulated, I am practicing old piano skills and studying Spanish. ■

Young children's book author learns the ABCs of philanthropy



Emily Allen reads her alphabet book to Mrs. Hind's kindergarten class at Saskatoon Christian School.



Emily Allen shows off a freshly printed copy of her book in June 2016.

She's a nine-year-old girl with a passion for Lego, animals, dance—and raising money from her first book. Emily Allen of Saskatoon, Sask., is fundraising for A Better World Canada (ABW) after completing her first children's book, *The Big Ark Alphabet Book*. Based on the biblical story of Noah's ark, this book is appropriate for early readers aged four to six.

Emily began writing her book in Grade 2 after reading a similar alphabet book and thinking she could create a much better one. Her mother, Maralee, is also a children's author. With the support of her mother as well as her father, Darcy, a dentist and professor at the University of Saskatchewan, she went to work on creating rhymes and drawing illustrations. One line says, "P is for porcupine who saw the big sign" with a picture of a little porcupine walking along and a great, big sign that says "Ark that-a-way" with an arrow.

The book took a little less than a year to complete. Then Emily began thinking how she'd like to donate some of the proceeds.

Emily's first book sells for \$4, with half of the proceeds going to A Better World Canada. As of late April, she had collected more than \$60. She has mainly sold to family; friends at Saskatoon Christian School, where she attends Grade 3; as well as at Mount Royal Seventh-day Adventist Church, where the family attends. Some have donated more than the book price. While giving the children's message at church one day, Maralee told the youngsters that they could do something positive about something they find bothersome.

"If you see something that bugs you, that could be God opening a door for you to make it better," Maralee told them. "Emily has not only made a better book but is also using this to actually help people right across the ocean."

Twenty-five books were initially printed. She is now on her second printing of 50 books and has sold nearly all of them.

Emily's parents are proud of her for completing something big and for choosing to donate. She has a "very giving heart," said Darcy.

When asked where her desire to be generous comes from, Emily says, simply, "God."

The money is being forwarded on to Keith Leavitt, project manager for education at A Better World, who plans to use it for school supplies on his next trip to East Africa.

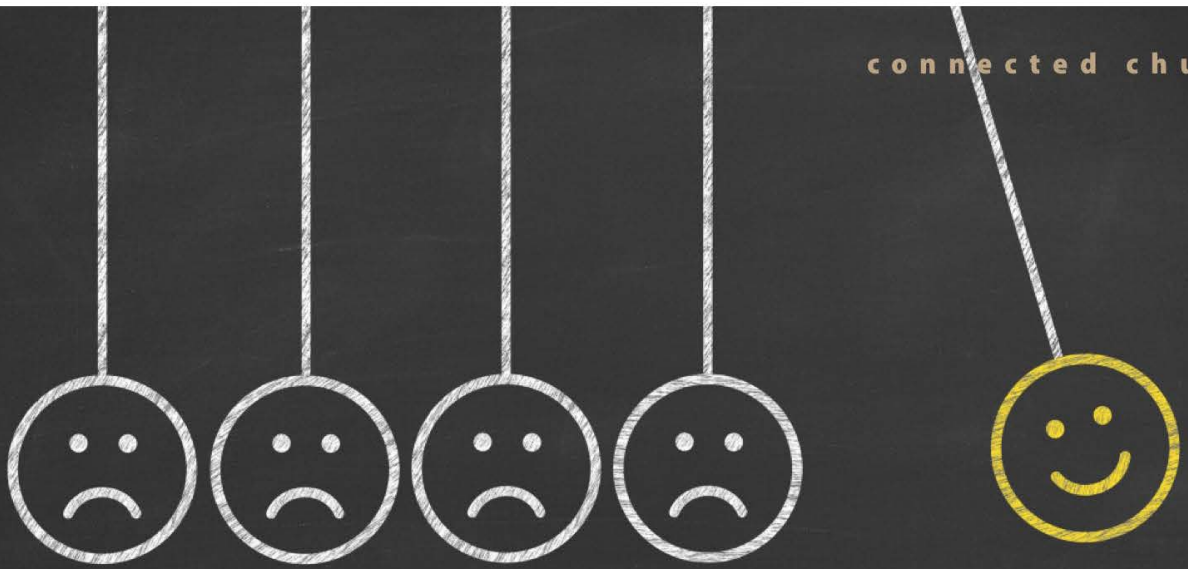
Leavitt was Maralee's favourite professor when she attended Canadian University College at Lacombe, now called Burman University.

"Whenever I see a picture of him with a story (in the *Messenger*), I get interested in it," said Maralee, who graduated with a bachelor of education degree from CUC.

Emily encourages other Canadian youth to fundraise for A Better World Canada. "Do what you like doing If you like to bake, bake some cookies. If you like to write, write a story," she said.

For more information on Emily Allen's book, go online at www.maraleecallen.ca. ■

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



Communicating With Difficult People

A few years ago, I was receiving approximately one to two emails a week from Sam*. He was an angry church member. He was angry at me; in fact, he was angry at everything about me. On most Sabbath mornings, he would stay out of my way and avoid me directly. However, during the week, he wrote long, rambling epistles about everything I had done and said that he disagreed with. Sam's letters were mean spirited and often written without compassion or Christian grace. After receiving his correspondence for a few months, I began to also feel anger toward him. There were times when I began to question my own call to ministry and wanted to avoid Sabbath morning.

How do you deal with difficult people in the church? I call these people "EGR" (Extra Grace Required). Too often, church leaders allow rude behaviour and unchristian remarks to fester way too long. This kind of negative tone can turn into a spiritual disease, infecting many more in the congregation. Here

are a few strategies I have employed when dealing with EGR people.

First, limit the amount of email interaction about a certain topic. After someone has written their letter outlining their grievance, I normally answer their complaint in a brief one-paragraph response. I then ask them if we can meet in person to talk further about the problem they have. I have found that EGR people prefer to vent behind a computer, because it allows greater anonymity, than face-to-face conversations.

Second, I try to remind myself that everybody has a story. It is natural to feel defensive and hurt by another person's rebuke. However, I have discovered that their anger usually stems from something deeper. They may have been hurt by someone in their past, or they have a grievance with the church for something that happened many years ago. Having a conversation in person can allow you to display grace and compassion upon this individual.

Finally, don't assume that a person's chronological age is reflective of their

spiritual age. The apostle Paul told the church in Corinth, "I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger" (1 Cor. 3:2, NLT). Even though some people are older, they are not necessarily more mature spiritually. Once you know whom you are dealing with, you will find it easier to know how to relate to them.

After a few months of receiving Sam's mean-spirited letters, I asked to meet him one morning. I was very honest with him and told him that my feelings were hurt and that his letters had caused me to have negative feelings toward him. I reminded him of a verse found in 1 Peter: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Pet. 4:8, NIV). If we could build a stronger relationship on Christian love, perhaps he would see less of my faults. That is exactly what we did over the next several years, and the letters stopped coming. ■

Kumar Dixit is the WGTS 91.9 chaplain. You can receive his weekly devotional at OneMinuteDevotional.com.

* Not his real name.



One of the water boreholes that ADRA manages. Also notice the solar-powered light that ADRA installed. Since the installation of the solar light, reports of rape and sexual assault have declined.

Thank You, Canada

It has been a year since the resurgence of violence and indiscriminate killing of civilians in South Sudan that has created a humanitarian crisis in Uganda, the Pearl of Africa.

Here are some quick facts:

- More than one million children have now fled South Sudan.¹
- Uganda took in more refugees per day in late 2016 than many wealthy European countries did in the entire year.²
- The Bidibidi settlement in Northern Uganda, which was established less than six months ago, now hosts almost 272,000 South Sudanese refugees and is considered the world's largest refugee settlement.³

Since September 2016, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has been able to deliver support services in Bidibidi (see February 2017 *Messenger*).

Some highlights of ADRA's work over the past seven months:

- Trained 30 South Sudanese refugee volunteers to educate over 20,000 refugees in hygiene and sanitation
- Supported the construction of over 400 latrines and bathing shelters
- Provided dignity kits (containing sanitary pads, undergarments, soap, water bucket) to 7,400 women and girls
- Launched an environmental campaign called Plant a Tree in Your Plot. Over 200 households have planted a mango tree on their small plot of land
- Installed seven solar-powered street-

lights placed in strategic locations in the settlement where ADRA was assigned

With the ADRA Network Project and funding coming to an end, ADRA Uganda was concerned because some critical issues (e.g., water and sanitation, child protection, education, sexual and gender-based violence, livelihood, health) still needed further attention. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the daily average of new arrivals is still peaking at 2,051 refugees per day!

ADRA Canada (with the help of Global Affairs Canada/International Humanitarian Assistance) and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, has responded to the crisis and has given ADRA Uganda the ability to continue and expand the ADRA Network Project.

Anita Odondi, emergency program director for ADRA Canada, states, "The generosity of Canadians is heartwarming. Their efforts to help the South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are saving many lives."

ADRA Canada's project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of at least 46,000 people through the implementation of key interventions, including the installation of solar-powered water wells and hand pumps, constructing water harvesting systems for schools and health centres, constructing latrines and bathing shelters with priority

for persons with special needs, training more volunteers to assist with refugees, installing solar streetlights, and providing solar lamps for households.

James Astleford, executive director for ADRA Canada, shared with ADRA Uganda staff that it is because of the generosity and trust of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada that ADRA Canada was able to obtain funding from the Canadian government for the crisis. "ADRA Canada supporters have, for over 30 years, generously donated funds to make a difference for others in their times of need. This has been recognized by the Canadian government, which has channelled millions of dollars through ADRA Canada for relief responses."

Sharmilla Reid, support relations director for ADRA Canada, adds, "Seventh-day Adventist Canadians have been very generous in past emergencies. ... Whenever there is a need, they have always been ready to answer."

Thank you, Canada and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, for your support. Your help is saving thousands of South Sudanese lives seeking refuge Uganda. ■

Charles Ed II Aguilar is the Country Director for ADRA Uganda from British Columbia.

¹ UNHCR, "More Than One Million Children Have Fled Escalating Violence in South Sudan," UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency, May 8, 2017, www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/5/590c7cb64/million-children-fled-escalating-violence-south-sudan.html

² Gopolang Makou and Julie Bourdin, "Did Uganda Receive More Refugees Daily in 2016 Than Many European Nations Did the Whole Year?" Africa Check: Sorting Fact From Fiction, <https://africacheck.org/reports/uganda-receive-refugees-daily-2016-many-european-nations-whole-year>

³ *The Guardian*, www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/apr/03/uganda-at-breaking-point-bidi-bidi-becomes-worlds-largest-refugee-camp-south-sudan.



Evidence

"Where God is, things happen."

Do you ever long for evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence in your midst? I know you must.

When I was a young girl, our family was called to church-plant in a "dark county" in Newfoundland. All that happened during that experience could fill a book, but after we left, one of our friends told us that they loved looking at our trailer at night and seeing the supernatural glow surrounding it. We were stunned and amazed! Really?! How could we be worthy of such a thing? Of course, it wasn't about us; it was about God manifesting His presence in order to draw those who saw it, to Him.

How many times I've longed for a repeat of that experience—a supernatural revealing to others that God is there.

During our Prayer Ministry Team weekend in April, we were having a quiet time for personal meditation and prayer. As I was standing in the window of one of our top corner rooms in the hotel thinking about all the people driving past and their great need to know God's presence was there, I remembered having read this:

*"Where God is, things happen. Where He is not, things do not happen. If things are not happening, He is not there."*¹

I thought of Acts 2. When the Holy Spirit was poured out, His presence was recognized by the people outside of that room. They came to see what was going on! I remembered our experience in Newfoundland, too, and I prayed that God would do something now to give evidence to these people that He was here, with us.

Our day ended rather late, and by 11:30 most of us were in our beds. One of our team members, Nicole Thorsteinson, was finishing up her night-time routine and noticed we were almost out of bathroom tissue, so she called the front desk to have more sent up.

Much quicker than expected, the knock came and the tissue was delivered. As the hotel worker was handing over the roll, he said, "Could I ask you a question?"

"Sure!" Nicole replied.

"Are you part of a prayer group that is here this weekend?"

"Yes, we are!"

"I knew it! The rest wouldn't believe me, but I knew it!" he exclaimed.

"Could I ask you to pray for someone? My son's fiancée, Lynn, was just diagnosed with cancer. She's a single mom with three kids, and she's scheduled for surgery next month."

We assured him that we would definitely pray for her. He left, and we started praying for Lynn, this man, and his whole family!

While there may not have been any glow, shaking, or tongues of fire, God gave evidence that He was there manifesting His presence to those who would otherwise never know it.

"Where God is, things happen." ■

Erna McCann lives in the Maritimes and is a member of the Maritime Conference Prayer Ministries Team, along with Diane McGiverty, Wilma O'Dell, Jane McClair, Nicole Thorsteinson, Claudine Belhomme, Leta Dukeshire, Jascinth Butterfield, and Wanda Gosselin.

¹ Bill Lehman, *The Holy Spirit*, p. 53.



barry's blog

"In the midst of world turmoil,
we are not to despair—we
know Who holds the future."

Rumours of War

If there is anything we can learn from history, it is that we do not learn from history. Perhaps it would be more fair to say we forget history. Never is this more the case than when it comes to war. While we have skirmishes with the scattered terrorist bombing or shooting that was inspired by events in the Middle East, North America has been spared the ravages of war since the Second World War. Of course, Canadian and American soldiers have participated in wars elsewhere but not on our own soil. We hear of our soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, but we don't understand their horrible suffering, because we did not experience what they did. A soldier's closest family members understand the effects of the trauma but not the trauma itself.

For most of us, the closest we come to experiencing war today is vicariously through the latest Hollywood movie; or listening to the stories from our refugee neighbours lucky enough to have "won the lottery" to live here. No, the reality is, we, as a prosperous, materialistic, secular society, have no collective under-

standing of war and what that means. We are blissfully ignorant of violence that rips civilizations apart and obliterates families.

I have no interest in raising irrational fear or concern. It is not my default position. I am not a prophet, nor a son of one, but undoubtedly, the relatively peaceful life of North America can change within minutes, given recent developments. I am not talking about days, weeks, or months but minutes. We live in an age wherein at any given moment life as we know it can change as the result of international disputes—the North Korean crisis is but one.

As a young boy I remember our collective paranoia of the "What if?" What if the Soviet Union and the USA were to enter a third world war? Missiles would travel over the North Pole within minutes, criss-crossing each other on their respective missions of devastation. At that time, an acquaintance of mine who served as a student missionary in South Africa told me that South Africans were afraid to visit Canada because if war broke

out among the superpowers, Canada, being geographically located between them, would be destroyed in the nuclear holocaust. Meanwhile South Africa was in the midst of a bitter racial struggle with violence reported on the newscast on an almost daily occurrence. Perspective is everything. The movie *The Day After* was aired on TV in November 1983, and we were all petrified that the depicted scenes would become reality. It was a sombre cloud that overshadowed us.

Today we have moved on from such paranoia. The Berlin Wall fell. The Soviet Union is no more. Communism has retreated. Our concerns now are with theo-terrorists who claim divine authority to blow people up. However, in the background of all the terrorist news is the rapid buildup of military might among the nations—China, Russia, North Korea, Iran—with the United States demanding that NATO countries increase their military spending. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said that total world military expenditure rose to \$1.686 trillion in 2016.¹ That is an incredible amount of money. The resources being spent in this area are unconscionable. We are collectively caught in a vortex, and we are spiralling down. The political opinion is that more, not less money, will be spent on the military in the coming years. For what purpose?

Off and on, the mainstream media reports on the buildup of military assets in and around the Korean peninsula, the Lithuania–Russia border, the South China Sea, the Red Sea. These are just the most egregious examples of the potential hotspots. All are capable of dragging the world into another massive conflagration of war.

The technologies of war are increasing in lethal potency. Everything from robotic soldiers (who have no conscience, designed to be the most efficient fighting machines possible) to the increased accuracy and explosive power of intercontinental ballistic missiles—all are being “perfected” while we continue on as if everything will be the same as it was yesterday. Again, history suggests that what appears innocuous may in fact be something greater. Consider the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his duchess, who were murdered by Serbian nationalists on June 28, 1914. That one event led to a chain of actions that still hound us today. Back then communication was by telegraph and regular mail. Today it is at lightning speed. From the assassination on June 28 to the mobilization of the

world’s armies it took over a month. Should there be a World War III, it would be mere minutes from the time of an attack to the time of bombs exploding. If, heaven forbid, such an event happens in our lives, provided we have lives, will be forever altered. Such is the capability of our \$1.686 trillion expenditure.

As Christians we are mindful of the words of Jesus, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:6–8, NKJV). However, there is the promise, “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matt. 24:22, NKJV).

In the midst of world turmoil, we are not to despair—we know Who holds the future. My simple point of raising this issue is this: Given the very high stakes of living in this age, it behooves us to prepare our hearts on a daily basis so that no matter what happens, we are spiritually prepared. We are true to our calling to love God and fellow humankind with all our hearts and minds and our strength.

The First World War resulted in over 17 million deaths and another 20 million wounded. That does not include the millions upon millions more who suffered from the loss of those who died and suffered from those who returned from the war as very troubled souls. That was over a four-year period.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that events on the Korean Peninsula could change the world within minutes. We may not be able to change anything there, but we can ensure we are spiritually prepared deep within to rely upon the Lord as your Saviour for whatever comes. We pray for peace. “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27, NKJV). ■

Barry W. Bussey is director of Legal Affairs at Canadian Council of Christian Charities. His opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of his employer. He blogs at lawandreligion.org.

¹ The United States alone had a military budget of \$611 billion. See the article “\$1.7 Trillion Spent on Military Worldwide,” *Warfare Today*, May 2, 2017, www.warfare.today/2017/05/02/world-military-spending-increases



Almost vegan

We often hear that we should incorporate more dark-green leafy vegetables into our diet, but that can sometimes be a challenge. This recipe is one of the ways we like to incorporate greens into our meals. This is our take on an African recipe I ate all the time growing up.

For this recipe, we use tougher greens like kohlrabi greens or collard greens. You can use softer greens, like chard or spinach, and if you do, keep in mind that these take less time to cook. We eat this with *sadza* (an African cornmeal-like food), served over rice, or with naan bread. ■

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

Fried Greens

INGREDIENTS:

1 Tbsp (15 ml) coconut oil
1 large onion, diced
1 bunch of greens
2 cloves garlic
1 medium tomato, diced
1 cup (250 ml) chicken style broth
dash of Tabasco
½ tsp (2.5 ml) curry powder
black pepper, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Remove the ribs and stems from the greens and roughly chop them.
- In a saucepan, brown onion in oil.
- Add garlic and greens.
- When the greens have wilted, add the tomato, broth, and seasonings.
- Cover, and simmer until greens are tender (but not mushy), around 30 to 40 minutes.
- Taste and adjust seasoning.

VOAR—a comfort seven days a week.

We love hearing from our listening family to find out how the Lord is blessing each one. A letter we at Voice of Adventist Radio (VOAR) received from here in the province came from John and Elaine of Grand Bank.

John wrote:

"We are so thankful for VOAR's programming, and we want to send you greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord. We tune in to VOAR on Bell Satellite channel 950. Our favourite time to tune in is when we are preparing for bed, around 10:30 p.m., although we listen in 'off and on' throughout the day. We attend the Pentecostal church in town.

I wanted to ask about the service VOAR airs live from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, honouring the Peace Officers in our province. When will this be happening this year? It touches my heart to be able to hear this program. I don't think we do enough to honour

our fallen heroes. Thank you for making this available to the public, especially for those of us who cannot attend because of distance.

We've been praying for VOAR, and we were happy to support your Sharathon with a small donation. Thank you for all you do for each one of us. One of these days we plan on dropping in to meet the staff. God bless again and thank you for being a comfort seven days a week."

To share your VOAR testimony with the staff, email voar@voar.org. We know God has an eternal plan in place for each of us, one of hope and promise. Pray that VOAR will continue to comfort and influence our listeners, stirring their hearts and directing their minds to Christ. ■

Sherry Griffin is the station manager for VOAR.



ON THE
ROAD WITH

Becky

If God asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?

AT THE LACOMBE COMMUNITY, SYLVAN LAKE, RED DEER, AND AIRDRIE CHURCHES IN ALBERTA.

Carolyn: Because He loves me.

Mandy Dubyna: Because I am a good person. I care for others.

Pope Gondwe: Because He sent Jesus to pay for my sin, and He says he who has the Son has life, and so it would be useless to leave me behind.

Jean Roca: Because Jesus died for all my sins.

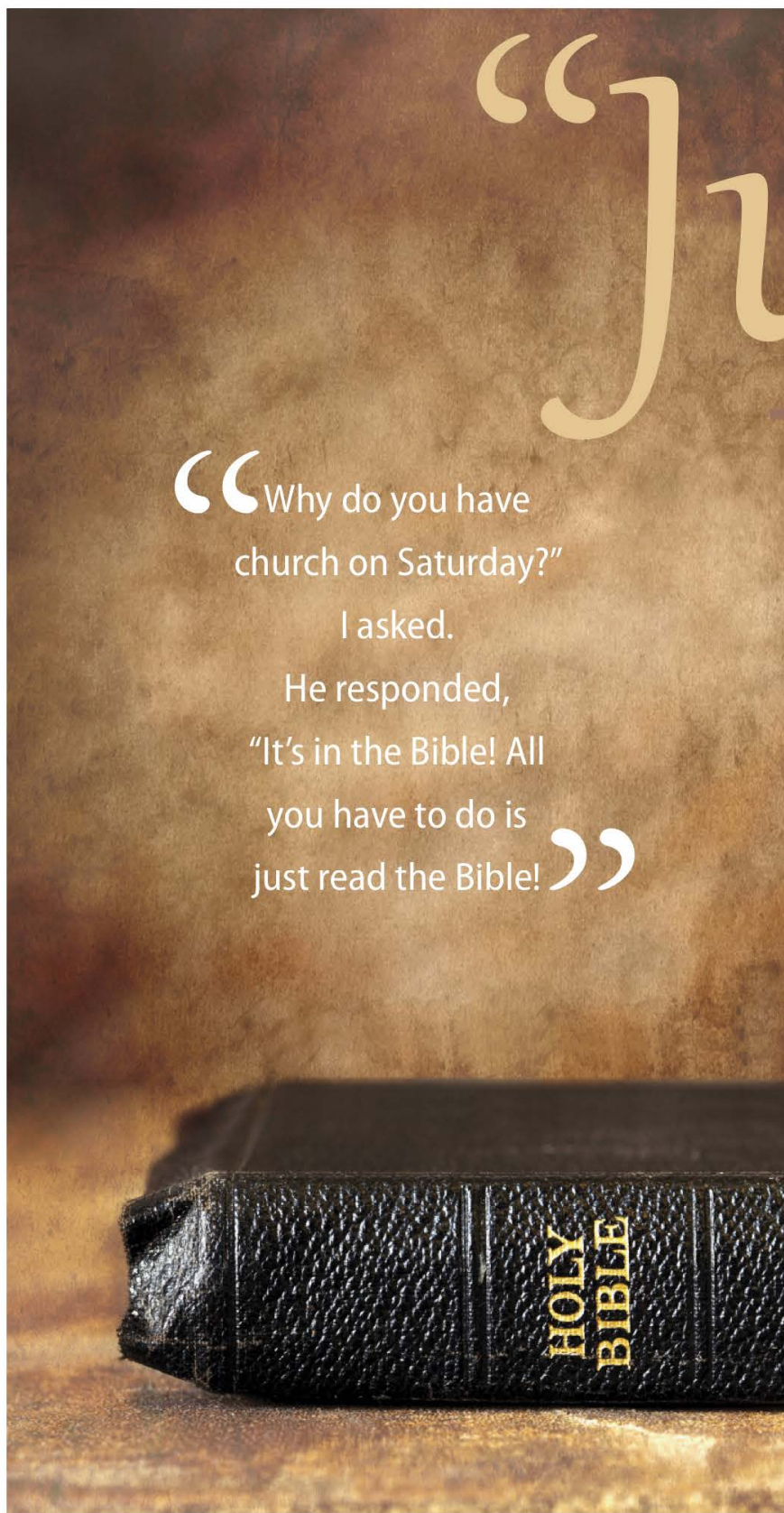
“Just Rea

“Why do you have church on Saturday?”
I asked.
He responded,
“It’s in the Bible! All you have to do is just read the Bible!”

The lay Bible worker from the Lethbridge church, Hilda; two First Nations friends, Gloria and Mike; and I had just visited with a First Nations family and delivered a donated loveseat to them. After the visit, as we drove through the reserve community, we noticed a flashing “open” sign on the front of an abandoned church building. We were curious that a church would be open on Friday evening. So we agreed among ourselves to stop and investigate, just to satisfy our curiosity. There were three other cars in front of the old church as we drove up. We parked and went in the old church.

As we entered, we were met by a few friendly people, and we shyly admitted that we wanted to see what they were doing in the old church. They told us that we were welcome to check it out. So, we did. On the left was a whole section that displayed used clothing and furniture items for sale. We meandered through the aisles of clothing, trying to understand again why we were there. In a room at the far back of the small old church was an area set up with several washers and dryers as well as a large table used for folding clothes.

A kind gentleman, Wilson, asked what we were looking for, and immediately



my mind went into promotion mode. I showed him promotional flyers about the *Native New Health* and the *Native New Day* DVD series as well as our Native Hope Radio station. He was interested in all three and called a friend to come over to see the flyers I had given him.

"So, you are in ministry too?" he asked.

"Yes, I responded."

"Please join us for church tomorrow," he invited.

"Where do you have church?" I asked.

"In here," he answered as he led us back to the big room

Yes, we did come back on Sabbath afternoon and worshipped with them. Hilda, the lay Bible worker from Lethbridge Adventist Church, was also the community service director, so we took some baby clothes to supplement their supplies. We also took a large donated TV and stand. As we arrived on Sabbath afternoon with our donations to their worship service, they greeted us warmly. We indeed enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie with these fellow believers in the Creator of the true Sabbath.

In these last days, God is still calling people to join His team of workers.

Revelation 18:4 says, "Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues," and some are responding.

Yes, this is an amazing story of God's leading to

How do we share these treasures with all nations, kindred, tongues, and people when there is such a deplorable history between us? The text in 2 Kings 7:9 tells us the lepers acknowledged their moral responsibility, approached the gate, and enlightened the porters. The porters approached the king. The king was suspicious (no big surprise here), but since there was such desperation in the land, the king was compelled to investigate, and yes, a feast and life were found for his people!

The lepers acted with love, caution, and the fear of God as they approached the gate, and so should we. What opens the gate is love, compassion, nurture, and support. This is the fine flour that we need before we even think of approaching our First Nations brothers and sisters, or anyone else for that matter. Yes, we starve for these qualities; that's what makes us lepers. The Good News is we can find all the fine flour and barley we need, which

of the building. And on the opposite from the used clothing centre was a place with some wooden benches arranged in a semicircle.

"Yes, we have church here; 2 p.m. tomorrow, please join us for worship," he reiterated.

"Did you say tomorrow, Saturday?" I quizzed.

"Yes." He answered.

"Why do you have church on Saturday?" I inquired again.

"Because," he answered my incredulous question, "that's what the Bible says. The fourth commandment says that 'the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.'"

After I consulted with the other three on our ministry team, I responded, "Sure, we'll come and join you for worship tomorrow. We are Sabbath keepers too. We are worshipping tomorrow morning at the Lethbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. Then we will come as soon as possible after our fellowship meal. Yes, we keep the seventh-day Sabbath too."

There was an immediate bond as we gazed at each other in amazement of how the Creator had brought us together.

Wow, praise the Lord; we had found more First Nation Sabbath keepers.

d the Bible"

"just read the Bible." Today we need compassionate, Christ-centred families to help encourage First Nations people to reading the Book of Heaven. I would like to see more Seventh-day Adventists who are willing to go as volunteer workers to plant and nurture churches with First Nations who are willing to worship the Lord of the Sabbath.

God is moving on the hearts of the First Nations Peoples with or without us. We are all lepers, in need of Christ, but we have such a storehouse of fine flour and barley in the Word and in Ellen G. White's writings that we need to share. At some point we, too, had stumbled upon this storehouse when we were starving for the Bread of life.

is what enables us to share and care. They are found at the mighty throne of grace, beyond the veil, at the feet of Jesus. There is an abundance of the merits of His spilled blood for the forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation of us all. As lepers, we lift our voices and cry out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" As they went forth to show themselves to the priest, they were cleansed! When we see our healing take place, let us loudly glorify God as in Luke 17:15 and take up our work. ■

Edward Dunn is Native Ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. Hilda Brown is a member and lay Bible worker from Lethbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Q & A

BY STAN JENSEN

I have, with interest, followed Loren and Shelley Agrey via Facebook, ever since they relocated from Canadian University College (now Burman University) to serve as the President and First Lady of our university in Thailand and then to Kettering College in Ohio. Everyone I have spoken to was thrilled when Loren accepted the position of president at Burman University. Come along with me now as I converse with Loren on his return to the hilltop.



Loren Agrey in his office at Asia-Pacific International University, where he served as President for five years.

EDITOR: *First, welcome back to Canada! Where have you been since you left our Canadian Adventist university?*

LOREN AGREY: Thank you for the kind words of welcome. We are delighted to be coming home. In 2010, we received a call to serve in Thailand, where I served as president of Asia-Pacific International University (AIU) (formerly Mission College) and Shelley taught English. At the end of our five-year term, we accepted a call to Kettering College (KC) in Ohio, which also has been a great place to work. I served as the academic dean and benefited from working for this network, which receives national awards for excellence in many areas.

EDITOR: *Were there any Canadian foods that you particularly missed while living in Thailand?*

LOREN: The one dish that we missed the most and were very intentional in finding the ingredients for was the traditional Adventist meal of haystacks. While some of the ingredients were scarce, we would visit the stores in Bangkok dedicated to catering to the foreign palate so we could find the ingredients, albeit at a much higher price than in North America. We enjoyed sharing this dish with others, but it seemed it was most enjoyed by the foreign visitors rather than the locals—unless it was served with rice, of course.

EDITOR: *What unexpected adjustments did you have to make to your lifestyle?*

LOREN: Probably the biggest barrier to fully engaging with the culture was not fully understanding the language. Thai is based on an ancient Sanskrit script, with 57 letters in the alphabet, 19 vowels, and five tones. I considered myself worse than illiterate because I not only didn't know how to read and write but also could not speak or listen well either. Shelley did much better than I did in learning how to speak and listen and could navigate the markets quite well.

EDITOR: *Tell us a bit about your family, children, and grandchildren.*

LOREN: Shelley and I met at CUC high school (pre-PAA¹ days) and have been sweethearts ever since. Shelley is a nurse. We have four children, all who are alumni of PAA and/or Burman University. Our oldest, Jen, is married to Matt Brucks, and they have two girls, Elise (4) and Eliana (2). They live in Terrace, B.C., where Matt is an ophthalmologist and Jen, who is trained as a speech and language pathologist, is keeping busy at home with the girls. Our second daughter, Auralei, lives in Blackfalds,

Alta., with her husband, Ryan Otto, and son, Ashton (6). She works at the Ponoka General hospital as a unit clerk, and Ryan operates a trucking business. Our son Ryan is an architect in Calgary working for Stantec. Our other son, Regan, lives in Geneva, Switzerland, with his wife, Raquel. He works for an NGO, Medair, which provides relief to many of the most dangerous places in the world such as South Sudan and Syria.

EDITOR: *Did you grow up in an Adventist home? Which Adventist schools did you attend?*

LOREN: Yes, I attended North Okanagan Junior Academy until Pleasant Valley Academy was built in my hometown of Vernon, B.C. I then attended CUC for both high school and college. Shelley attended CUC high school and college.

EDITOR: *I first met you in Saskatoon. Was that your first teaching experience? Where else have you served in Canada?*

LOREN: This was my first teaching experience after I had completed my B.Ed. degree from CUC. I had taught one year before I had graduated as a taskforce position in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference at a small school in Macrorie, Sask. Shelley and I were married at Christmastime that year. From Saskatoon, we moved to Calgary where I taught for five years and completed my master's degree. We came back to "the hilltop," where I taught at PAA for six years and then we were called to Deer Lake SDA School in Burnaby, B.C., where I served as principal. After four years I returned to school to complete my PhD, and then we were called back to Burman (CUC) to serve as Vice-President for Academic Administration.

EDITOR: *What were you most excited about at the prospect of returning to the hilltop?*

LOREN: I loved being a student and a faculty member on the hilltop. It is exciting to return to our alma mater, where we can make a difference in the next generation of students as they determine what degree to pursue as well as how to make service a life calling no matter their occupation.

EDITOR: *Do you forecast any major changes in how we provide Adventist education around the world?*

LOREN: As with life in general, technology is making a major impact on the world of higher education, and Adventist education is no exception. What will be the dominant or even preferred pedagogical practices in the

¹ Parkview Adventist Academy



A family photo, circa 2003. Loren and Shelley Agrey (centre back and centre front) with their children (L to R.) Auralei, Jen, Regan, and Ryan.

next decade have yet to be determined, but my guess is that it will involve technology. Just as the retail world has had to adjust to online shopping, we will have to anticipate and engage in the new forms of education. This should not affect the Adventist ethos that we will be intentional in keeping front and centre, but it will change the way we deliver education.

EDITOR: *Ten years down the road, what would you like to reflect on and see accomplished while President?*

LOREN: In a decade, I hope that we can look back and see how the Lord has continued to bless Burman. We hope that there will be growth in enrolment so that any Adventist student who wants an Adventist education will think of Burman first. I have been pleasantly surprised that in many emerging developed nations the Adventist campuses are very beautiful and well appointed. I believe we can do the same in our context. I hope that the alumni will continue to view Burman as an integral part of their personal and professional development and that the ties will become even stronger. Also, community relations are very important and we want to strengthen them as well. These are some of the goals I have, all the while continuing to provide excellence in Adventist higher education.

EDITOR: *What can church members do to help our university?*

LOREN: First, I would ask for each member's prayers for the university so that we will be able to accomplish our mission in helping students think with discernment, believe with insight, and to act with confidence, compassion, and competence. These prayers are vital as we engage in the exciting prospect of educating young people who want to help advance the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its mission. Secondly, these prayers may be accompanied by supporting the university through the sharing of one's time, talent, or treasure, whichever is the most meaningful to the donor. And thirdly, a word of encouragement to any prospective student to attend Burman would be most appreciated. We know that our strongest recruiters are those people who believe in Adventist education and can provide counsel to those who are deciding where to attend university.

EDITOR: *What would you say to the children of a low-income or single-parent family who want to go to our universities but lack the funding?*

LOREN: One of my father's favorite sayings, when the going was a bit rough or the end goal was not in sight, was "where there is a will, there is a way." For a student

or family who face financial challenges, start by taking it to the Lord in prayer. I say this because this is exactly the type of student I was. I lacked funding, but I can also say that the Lord was good and He made a way. Was it easy? No, but He ensured that the little I could provide was multiplied to meet the need.

There are a variety of options open to university students through loans, scholarships, and bursaries. Also, within our churches and conferences, a variety of summer work options are available to young people who would like to attend. These may include working at summer camps or selling books. Of course, summer work opportunities in the local community where the student lives can help as well. I don't know what would work for each individual student, but I know I can say that the Lord is faithful, and He saw me through my years as a student at Burman, and I believe He still performs those same miracles today with those who are intentional in receiving an Adventist higher education.

EDITOR: *How can church members help these children, or are there no requests for help?*

LOREN: There are always requests for help, and all members across Canada can make a big difference. Those individual church members who do not have children of their own attending an Adventist school or university can be a big help to those students who may need it. Even a few dollars per month coming from these dedicated members across Canada makes a difference in the life of a student. I have seen so many students helped in this way and who then go on and, once they begin their lifework, help others in a paying-it-forward fashion. God has given us so much. To share some of what we have received from Him can make a big difference. Many small gifts can together make a big difference.

EDITOR: *Other than Ellen White and the Bible, who are your favourite authors?*

LOREN: Having taught history most of my teaching career, I like the Canadian historians Pierre Burton and Farley Mowat. I also enjoy good humour, so Dave Barry and Patrick McManus come to mind. For leadership insights, I have appreciated John Maxwell's and Jim Collins's works. In the spiritual realm, I am energized by authors who reveal the grace of Christ in an appealing way, such as Ty Gibson, Stu Tyner, Philip Yancey, and Max Lucado. There are many others I enjoy reading, but space might run out before I finish the list.

EDITOR: *Lastly, do you have a favourite inspirational quote you could share with our readers in Canada?*

LOREN: Two of my favourite quotes come from Scripture. In the Old Testament the psalmist declares that "He saved me because He delights in me" (see Psalm 18:19). Knowing that God not only loves us but actually delights in each one of His children is a very comforting thought. And from the New Testament, I like where Paul quotes Jesus when He says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9, NKJV). Here He tells me that even though I do not have all the answers and solutions on how to help Burman achieve its mission; I know Someone who does. And I believe that with Him in command, the future of the university looks bright. ■

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



Loren Agrey with his wife, Shelley, the day he received his PhD.



When Love Runs Deeper Than Blood

"...that was a powerful experience."

Honey, it's for you!" That was the strange and unexpected response I received from a smiling woman when I came to her door and knocked. Her words, spoken after I had introduced myself, were puzzling. Still, I stood there and waited. A few moments later, a man in his 70s with a big smile on his face came to the door.

"Hi, my name is Simon," I said to him. "I am a student with Canada Youth Challenge, and I have something special for you." I put the book *Habits That Heal* in his hand and explained what it was about.

When I finished, he said, "Simon, I appreciate what you are doing, but I can't afford to buy any of these books. I have cancer, and I have to pay \$800 every month just for my cancer pills."

At these words my heart went out to the man and, forgetting about the books, I said, "OK. Let's just talk."

The man began to open up to me, sharing his experiences and his fight with the cancer that was ravaging his body. He said that if he stood too long on his feet, blood would start to come out of his nose and mouth. I was puzzled. Before me was a man who smiled brightly and seemed so cheerful, so happy. Yet cancer was a very serious illness. How could he be so cheerful, so casual, if he had cancer? Was he really telling the truth?

As we talked, I shared my own testimony with him. I told him how I had once been against the Adventist faith and how God had used a horrific back injury and an incredible healing to lead me to Him. At a time when I had no solutions and nowhere to turn, I finally turned to God, and He changed my life.

Suddenly, in the middle of our conversation, I noticed a stream of blood running down the man's nose. Alarmed, I said, "Sir, you have to go inside and lie down and relax; it's not good for you to stand here—you're bleeding!" All doubt about his cancer was erased as I saw the very thing he had described to me. But the man didn't want to go.

"No, no," he said, "I want to stay with you. I want to talk to you." In that moment we both began to cry. Reaching for each other, we hugged and cried; then we prayed together. After the prayer he said, "I just want to get better so I can take care of my wife."

I stood looking at that man wondering, *God, what can I do? How can I help this man?* Reaching into my bag, I took out the book *History and Hope (The Great Controversy)* and gave it to him. I said, "Sir, you know what? Read this book ... and please, be faithful, because God is doing so much for those who love Him."

I left the man there at the door, holding the book, and he looked out at me for some time as I continued from door to door. As I walked, I thought, *I don't know if he was an angel for me, or if I was an angel for him, because that was a powerful experience.* The man seemed like someone who was looking for something, expecting something. Maybe, in our brief encounter, he found what he had been waiting for. ■

Simon-Petru Cocosila shared his story with Lifestyle Canada, a charity organized to better fulfill the mandates of the literature ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Canada.



Sacrificing for Adventist Education

My husband, Tim Deer from Canora, Sask., is a fourth-generation Adventist. He, along with his three siblings, attended Yorkton Adventist Academy (50 km away) and graduated from Parkview Adventist Academy in Lacombe, Alta. (850 km away). When Tim and I were married in 2007, we moved to the family farm in Canora. As everyone knows, farming is not just a job but a way of life; you put down roots and commit to live where you farm. We had our three sons in 2008, 2009, and 2011. As soon as we were expecting our first child, we began discussing how we wanted our children to get an Adventist education. Unfortunately, Yorkton had closed their church school in the early 1990s, and the closest Adventist school to Canora is in Regina, Sask.—250 kilometres away, or three hours from door to door.

Tim and I homeschooled our boys for the first three years and continued to pray for the Lord's guidance and direction on what we should do for schooling. We knew that home educating our boys was not something we wanted to do long-term. Tim had always suggested that we should just buy a house in Regina so our boys could go to school at Curtis Horne Christian School (CHCS). Tim is the realist in our marriage—this crazy idea sounded more like something I would come up with. I had lived in Regina for 12 years prior to getting married, and my sister Debbie Ashworth and I had been baptized together at the Hill Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church in Regina in 1999. We had hoped a new Adventist school would open in Yorkton. But with no other interest, no financing, and no building, it was not a realistic idea.

In spring 2016 Tim and I made the prayerful decision that we would uproot our family and split our time between our farm in Canora and a home in Regina. In September 2016, Levi

(Grade 3) and Charlie (Grade 1) began school at Curtis Horne Christian School in Regina. Our youngest son, Dustin, will begin Kindergarten at CHCS this September 2017. An additional blessing is that Dustin has been attending Lakeview Christian Preschool, operated by my sister Debbie at her home-based Christian preschool—located a minute from CHCS!

Through the grace of God, this transition has been a smooth one. Our farm boys have adjusted so well and are loving their new school experience. My husband, Tim, spends most of his time in Canora to continue working on the farm, and the boys and I travel back to Canora for the weekends, holidays, and for the summer vacation.

Adventist education means so much to us, which is evident by this major life change that we have made. It is not ideal for our boys to spend so much time away from their dad or from the wonderful life we have on the farm. But is it worth it? Every second! Our boys' salvation is our priority. Some may argue that you can just guide them spiritually at home and they will be fine in any school setting; perhaps that is true—but it is not a chance we are willing to take. Having like-minded teachers and other spiritual influences speak into the lives of our boys only confirms to them that the beliefs they have been taught at home aren't just our own.

Tim and I have felt God's leading, and His mercy and grace in every decision that we have made on our journey to have our boys receive an Adventist education. Nothing in this life is more important to us than equipping our boys with all of the spiritual tools they need to grow to know God, to love Him, and to serve Him all the days of their lives. ■

Tim and Sheila Deer, with their boys, are a farming family from Canora, Sask.

If you are interested in an Adventist Christian education at Kingsway College, contact the enrolment office at admissions@kingswaycollege.on.ca.

Looking Back

A*NOTHER CLASS IS OVER.* High school. Some say it is the best four years of your life, while others may argue the opposite. But to be honest, it is what you make it. That is how it is with everything in life. All of it—every single detail, experience or event—it's all a matter of perspective. I spent the last three years at Kingsway College, and I could not be happier with who I have become.

My family had recently moved from Chicago, Ill. in 2014 because my father had received a job offer to be the pastor of the Luso-Brazilian Adventist Church in Toronto. I was not quite sure what to expect when I arrived at Kingsway College, and unfortunately, I decided to just try to get past this phase of my life as quickly as possible without enjoying what I could—and that was a mistake.

Although the circumstances were not favourable, in the sense that my loving parents would drive me around 45 minutes to and from school every day, I could have made it better. I could have gone to that banquet, even though I had no one to go with, or maybe to that hockey tournament simply to cheer my classmates on. The little things are often what make the biggest difference down the road.

That is what I implore every prospective or even current student to take advantage of in their high school years. Participate in that play, sing in choir, and learn new aerials moves—in short, do whatever you can to spend time with your peers. After just about four years I can confidently affirm that what defines your high school years are the people you meet and your experience with and around them. Just think about it: Are you going to remember that stressful English pop quiz or that tough chemistry final exam? Most likely not. How about that person you got stuck with in a group for accounting? They might have not become your best friend, but I am sure that simple “hello” brightened up one of your days, because it sure brightened up one of mine.



Andrews Ferreira

One of my most trying experiences took place just last semester. I unexpectedly fell into depression, which progressively worsened as months went by. I remember it being so bad that I would take four hours to do a simple 10-question assignment because I simply could not think straight. I kept fighting and the constant support—the little things—that my classmates would do to show me that they cared about me. However, the little things, whether they knew it or not, helped me to keep fighting.

I know many students get stuck in the mindset that it is all temporary and that none of it matters in the long run. They think: *After all, what are cube roots going to do for me in life?* But what many have yet to realize is that a significant chunk of what school is all about is for individuals to learn how to create and foster relationships, one of the few things that last into the latter years of one's life. The little things are what make life beautiful.

This principle of doing your best applies to all people alike. I encourage you to enjoy and take advantage of whatever lies ahead of you as much as possible, for you will emerge a better person for it. As Solomon put it in Ecclesiastes 9:11, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (NKJV). ■

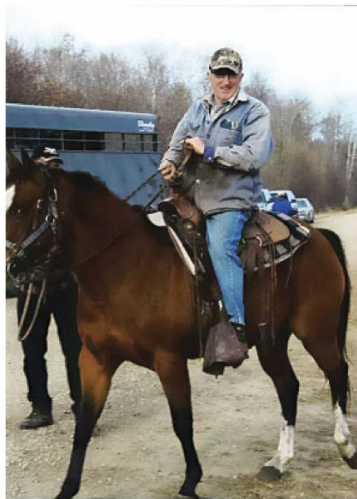
Andrews Ferreira is a Grade 12 student at Kingsway College.

Leon's Third Industrial Arts Centre

Leon Ingraham's career as an educator spanned 29 years. Even as principal of the 430-student Ridgevalley School in the Grand Prairie area of Northern Alberta—or perhaps *because* he was the principal—Leon stayed active in the classroom. Leon, who had a reputation as a “born teacher and administrator,” majored in chemistry and minored in industrial arts, taught a range of subjects, and earned a master's degree. His classroom passion, however, was industrial arts and equipping young people with practical skills for the future.

“He was a visionary,” says Evelyn, his wife of nearly 54 years, “more than we gave him credit for.” The farm boy from Ponoka grew up close to the present location of Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS). Through his own experience in “the School of Hard Knocks,” Leon recognized that the following two are the most important things he could do as a principal and educator: (1) believe in and encourage kids, and (2) complement their book learning with practical skills that build confidence and lead to jobs. Industrial arts (IA) helped him do both.

Though Leon's life was cut short in a car accident, his life and legacy are making a huge impact. During his career as an educator, Leon established two highly successful IA programs, and now his family is helping in a big way to establish a third one at MANS through a founding gift to the Leon Ingraham Industrial Arts Centre.



Leon Ingraham earned a Master of Education Administration degree at the University of Alberta in 1983. In retirement, he continued to farm and use his IA skills, helping his sons build their houses, remodelling Chip's office, and keeping up his own farm buildings; horse riding helped him stay fit. Leon and Evelyn's family—Chip (Jodie Gray), Ryan (Tia Penner), and Scott; and Curtis (Robin Nass), Frances (Jeff Brady), Arthur, and Evania (Chris Chavez)—cherish Leon's memory and dynamic example.

A Heart for First Nations Youth

As an industrial arts teacher and principal, Leon encountered First Nations students from the reserve just a few miles from the Ingraham family's farm. “He had a soft spot for Native people,” says Evelyn. He mentored many, encouraging them to stay in school. He picked up hitchhikers on their way to and from the reserve. He supported their industry by buying fish from them and hired “old timers” to help clear the family's land, which he and Evelyn farmed for 51 years.

A Passion Becomes a Legacy

“We didn't think very long about it,” explains Evelyn. “We knew it would be a good thing.” The family knew that Leon had a passion for IA and the difference it could make in young lives, and the extra encouragement he went out of his way to deliver to many First Nations students. They decided to make a founding-level contribution to MANS's new IA Centre, which will be named in Leon's memory.

What an encouraging story to be able to tell MANS students: There was a young boy named Leon who grew up *right here*, a gentle fighter who took some hard knocks, who persevered through school, and found his calling in the tools that his family now place in your hands.

It's a visionary's legacy that will touch generations. ■

Lynn McDowell is campaign manager of The Bridge Campaign to build the high school at MANS.



The Ingraham family at Leon and Evelyn's 50th anniversary. Chip (*far left*), now a dentist in Grand Prairie, and Curtis (*far right*), an award-winning civil engineer living in Upland, Calif., worked with their dad in the family farm shop from a young age, learning skills they still apply daily.



Learn more about Mamawi Atosketan Native School and our students at MANS1.ca.

You can also find out more about how The Bridge Campaign is changing the future of education among youth.



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Parkview Profiles

by Katelyn Ruiz

"At PAA I feel that I have a bit more freedom to be myself and grow more than I have anywhere else."

Brighanna Leskosek is as unique an individual as her name would suggest, and Parkview Adventist Academy (PAA) has become the place where she has grown into more of the character God created her to be. With her 2017 graduation, Brighanna (pronounced "Bree-Anna") will be the third generation of Leskosek women to complete secondary schooling on the Lacombe campus. Her mother, Alycia, and grandmother, Lois, would tell stories of their adventures, and from their accounts, Brighanna thought of PAA as "the best Adventist school I had heard about."

Southside Christian School in Red Deer, Alta., is where Brighanna began her schooling, and for quite a few years, she was the only student in her grade. "This made me a little afraid of coming to PAA," she says, "because it was the first time I had ever changed schools and I wasn't sure there would be anyone I knew." PAA students come from every corner of Canada, and often internationally as well, so the shared hesitancy of starting a new chapter surrounded by strangers is common enough, but as Brighanna says, "it didn't last long!" On the second day of Grade 10 Social Studies, an ice-breaker exercise introduced her to Kashia Cook, a now lifelong friend from Port Hardy, B.C. Brighanna shares, "We've had so much fun together, and fitting in so quickly helped me realize that PAA was where I wanted to be."

As a school, PAA is very focused on building community and involving all students in the fun. In her three years as a student here, Brighanna has played a special role in these events. She admits, "I've always had major school spirit, and it really shows during things like Spirit Week and Banquet, when I go all out. People get excited to participate with me, and if they're looking for best costume, they are never disappointed!"

While Brighanna's time at PAA is characterized by her enthusiasm and her smile, she is also someone who fought to discover her place in God's plan. At PAA she found mentors in her teachers and built relationships that changed her spiritual direction. "I've had my share of problems at school," Brighanna says. "I struggled to fit in, tried to find out where I belonged,



Brighanna Leskosek

and I was never one to speak a lot. Actually, for years, people thought I didn't really talk because I preferred to stay silent. I was always really shy, hiding off on my own, but in coming to school here, I figured out what really matters! My teachers have really helped me to see that I don't have to be perfect for God to accept me. I don't have to completely change my life for Him to love me. I still don't really fit in very well, but I know that God loves me for the individual He made me to be. Between talks with Ms. Grovet, who has helped me in everything from schoolwork to my spiritual relationship with God, and my fine-arts classes, I've learned to speak up for myself a bit more and be ready for the challenges that come. At PAA I feel that I have a bit more freedom to be myself and grow more than I have anywhere else."

Brighanna's experience is that of many students: surrounded by caring Christian mentors in an inclusive learning environment illuminates purpose and potential. She says, "until coming to PAA, I never really felt like I belonged. This place opened my eyes and my heart." The hearts of our young people are precious to Jesus, and there is no better place than our Adventist schools for them to grow in a knowledge of Him. ■

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



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Ontario

Ontario Conference Hires a First Nations Pastor for Northern Ontario



Randy Elliott

The Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists recently hired its first First Nations pastor in over 20 years.

Pastor Randy Elliott has been appointed as pastor of the thriving Adventist congregation in Sioux Lookout, in northern Ontario.

Elliott, who was born in Ladysmith, B.C., and lived his early years on Stimenus Reserve, is well equipped to serve in First Nations communities. Trained as a drug-, abuse- and trauma counsellor, he has worked with for nine years in mental health. However, it was not until his mother invited him and his girlfriend, Cheryl, to a prophecy seminar that his life took on new meaning and service.

"We fell in love with the Lord," he said. "We were married and baptized." He served his local church as an elder for over nine years before being called into pastoral ministry to serve the Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw Adventist Church in Port Hardy, B.C. With his wife, Cheryl, working beside him, he spent seven years working with his fellow First Nations people.

Elliott is happy for the new opportunity to work in Ontario. He describes it as "our desire is to continue to work with our Native people here in Sioux Lookout."

His arrival in Sioux Lookout was welcomed by the First Nations residents. He was gladly received, and he has already started building on the strong relationships forged between members of the congregation there and the Native people.

Elliott's arrival in Ontario has also

been warmly received by the Ontario Conference. "We are very happy that Pastor Elliott and his wife, Cheryl, have joined us," said Mansfield Edwards, president of the conference. "We are committed to working with the First Nations people of Ontario. Our Six Nations Church is the oldest Adventist church in Ontario, and we now have the church in Sioux Lookout along with a growing presence in Moosonee. However, we firmly believe that many Native people will be among God's people. I solicit the prayers of every church member for the Native people of Ontario and Canada as we reach out to them with the Christ-centred message of hope and wholeness." ■

—Halsey Peat,
communication director,
Ontario Conference

British Columbia

Belize Mission Trip

On a drizzling, rainy Sunday afternoon on March 12, a group of us anxiously left Vancouver International Airport for an experience of a lifetime in Santa Elena, Belize. We were welcomed by the warm Belize breeze the following day at around noon. After hearing that the last mission group that had come to Belize from our school had waited eight hours to be picked up from the airport, we were thankful to be boarding a yellow bus with a large, plain white stripe around it, and we promptly fell asleep.

Despite our exhausted faces and droopy eyes on the first day, we were excited and ready to start construction when we woke up the following morning. We had a great first day of construction and poured the footing of the two-room school building we would build the foundation, floor, and walls for. Our team was warned beforehand of how this would be one of the hardest days to get through, since we would be pouring concrete, but we completed the footing with grateful hearts, quivering arms, and smiles on everyone's dusty faces. The Billy White Adventist school is currently using the community centre and gets kicked out any time the community wants to use it, so by September, with the help of more mission teams to follow, they will have one new building of their new school to start with.

After work each day, we did a Vacation Bible School for the Billy White students and neighbours in the area. During the second week, we did VBS at the mission building where we stayed. At each VBS, we entertained the school and village children with an action and laughter-filled program, which included a song service, Bible story skits, object lessons, and several new Canadian games that the kids quickly learned to love. We were so thrilled to have around 175 kids greet us



The faith FM joy bus (Gretchinchilla) and all the VBS kids.

each day with genuine smiles and tight bear hugs every afternoon, no matter how messy our hair and faces would look after construction. They would come running up to us wanting to hold our sweaty hands and link their tiny arms with our cement-covered ones; it was simply astonishing how much love and joy filled their hearts. They taught us that appearance isn't necessarily that important—a warm hug and a smile are what count.

Our first and second week continued on in the same busy pattern with the addition of our radio broadcasts that were aired all across Belize and many of the neighbouring countries. We also started the painting of the mural on the mission building walls. It was nerve-racking at first being on the radio, talking about our own experiences and knowledge on topics such as our faith, joy in Christ, the Second Coming, dating and marriage, and our identity, but by the end, we were enjoying our talks on the radio. We basically had an hour-long Bible study every time we talked on the radio, and it was a huge blessing in our walk with Christ. An interesting fact about the Faith FM radio program is that it is the second-most popular radio channel in Belize. It is run and maintained by the Borland family and has been entirely run on donations for the past 18 years, airing

no ads. We actually spent one very cold and windy night at their Pine Ridge Mountain Repeater Station, which is on the second-highest mountain in Belize. After stargazing and playing a few games, such as "riddum," we attempted to sleep in the cold mountain air. In the morning we primed and painted the building. We were thankful for our mountain top experience.

All of this wouldn't be possible without the hard work and planning of our mission trip coordinator, who is also an FVAA alumni, Dennis Borland. As a matter of fact, his entire family, the Borlands, played a huge role in our stay there and are all involved in the process of coordinating mission teams. However, Dennis left the biggest impression on us since we spent the most time with him. From the moment we met him to the moment we left, Dennis showed us, through his actions and words, the life of an Adventist who truly wants to serve God. The faith he and his family have for our Lord seems unbreakable, and the humility and willingness they have to serve God is genuine. Because of Dennis's thoughtful, inspiring talks and generous giving nature, I know he will forever hold a spot in each of our hearts.

Dennis has worked with many mission groups for many years now, and over the

last couple of years has continually asked groups to paint the Faith FM radio station bus. No one was ever up for the challenge, and so it was our great honour to paint it for him to thank him for all he had done for us. Our mission trip came to a close

on Sunday, March 26, and instead of sadly leaving on a plain yellow bus with a solid white stripe around it, we proudly boarded the memory-filled, newly painted bus, which we named Gretchenchilla. We left Belize with not only Gretchenchilla freshly

painted new, but with a fresh, new heart and love for Christ that would change our lives forever. ■

—Jeimyl Rullamas,
Danielle Santomin,
and Sarah Mowat

Let's Move Kelowna



Debbie and Chris Holland

A revival is taking place in the sunny Okanagan, Kelowna, B.C. We are living in unprecedented times, and as Bible prophecies are being fulfilled at a rapid rate, there is an urgent need to provide hope for a world in distress. With this critical message in mind, Chris Holland, from *It is Written Canada*, came to the Okanagan on Feb. 4, 2017, and launched the campaign. The goal—to give the public an informed choice for eternity, through trained Okanagan Seventh-day Adventist members. There were around 250 Seventh-day Adventist members in attendance at the Okanagan Adventist Academy and two seminars held, to promote a few different approaches to teaching the Word.

Thunder in the Holy Land—A small-group Bible study for friends and neighbours based on a DVD series, and training for those willing to give studies in their homes.

Discover Bible School—In-depth training for those who want to become Bible Study instructors. Included in this training are tools on how to give a Bible Study and on how to reach the general public.

Chris Holland returned May 4–7, 2017, to expand on the Let's Move Kelowna Campaign, with a training session entitled Light Your World for God. There were approximately 45 attendees at the sessions with Chris and Debbie Holland. One such attendee was Muriel Huguenin, a retired school teacher and principal who worked at the Coralwood Adventist Academy, in Edmonton, Alta., for 30 years. During which time Huguenin said, “I loved leading students along their Christian walk and discussing spiritual topics with them.” She retired in the Okanagan in 2011 and is an active member in the Westbank Seventh-day Adventist Church. Her passion for teaching and reaching children with biblical truths has carried over into her retirement, and she wishes to do the

same with people of all ages and belief systems now. Huguenin said, “I feel led by the Lord to search for people in my community who have a hunger for Bible truths.”

Muriel Huguenin, along with the other attendees, received toolboxes for the Bible study ministry. These plastic boxes contained hanging file folders including two of each of the 30, Bible study lessons entitled “Search for Certainty.” There was also a book by Mark Finley called *Studying Together*. It gives extra Bible texts on each topic, which allows for a Bible marking ahead of time. Another section of the book includes how to approach persons from other religious faiths.

There was an eight-session seminar that covered topics such as:

- 1) Revival must take place within ourselves first before we can evangelize others.
- 2) Power of the Holy Spirit and intercessory prayer
- 3) Prayer Ministry crucial to Bible study success, before, during, and after the study takes place
- 4) Mass mail-out of Bible study enrolment cards to be sent out before summer
- 5) Learning or reviewing how to prepare for and have an effective plan for a Bible study
- 6) Follow-up plan—don't just drop people afterwards
- 7) Interest File—keeping up to date with the former students of the Bible study

The attendees will become trained Bible study instructors and, with toolboxes in hand, will be able to go forth to God's glory to seek and assist His lost sheep.

Along with this exciting Bible Study Instructor training, there's even more fabulous instruction to come! There is a health ministry training June 8–11. Hopefully as a result, even more attendees will then hold health expos and cooking classes. This training is free of charge.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4, KJV).

These “on fire for God” trainees will be equipped to help people to live by the Word of God, and they will as well be better at nourishing their bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit. ■

—Doreen Zyderveld-Hagel,
Communication Secretary, Westbank
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Phil Hudema Appointed New Education Superintendent



Phil Hudema

We are happy to announce that on April 24, 2017, the BC Conference Board of Directors (BOD) voted to invite Phil Hudema to serve as the new Education Superintendent for B.C. Conference, as recommended by their K–12 board. Phil requested some time to think and pray about this call together with his family before informing us that the Hudemas would accept the call and move to B.C. in July 2017. He will replace Lloyd Robinson, who officially retired on April 1, 2017.

Phil is a Canadian graduate from CUC (now Burman University) and has earned his Master of Arts in Educational

Leadership at La Sierra University. Phil has served our organization for over 30 years as school principal, teacher, athletic director, and gymnastic coach, before moving to the Montana Conference as their Education Superintendent for the last four years. He is a skilled, dynamic, relational, and spiritual person. We are confident that he will assist our schools in B.C. to grow, by God's grace. We are looking forward to working together with Phil and kindly request your prayers for him and his family as they make this transition to British Columbia! ■

Alberta

Ministering to the Community



For eight years now, the Sherwood Park Seventh-day Adventist Church has played an active role in the annual Sherwood Park Trade Show, and church member Jaroslav Sevcik finds great joy and excitement in it each year. What started off as a small project has expanded to include a variety of free books and resources to the community, including *The Great Controversy*, *The Ministry of Healing*, and *The Ten Commandments Twice Removed*, as well as a variety of children's books and Bibles. This year the event took place on April 7–9, and many church members donated their time at the booth to talk to community members and offer free books and resources. ■

>> SDACC REVOLVING FUND REPORT: As of April 30, 2017, there were 428 depositors with a total deposit of \$30,448,316. There were 88 loans with a value of \$26,676,556.


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



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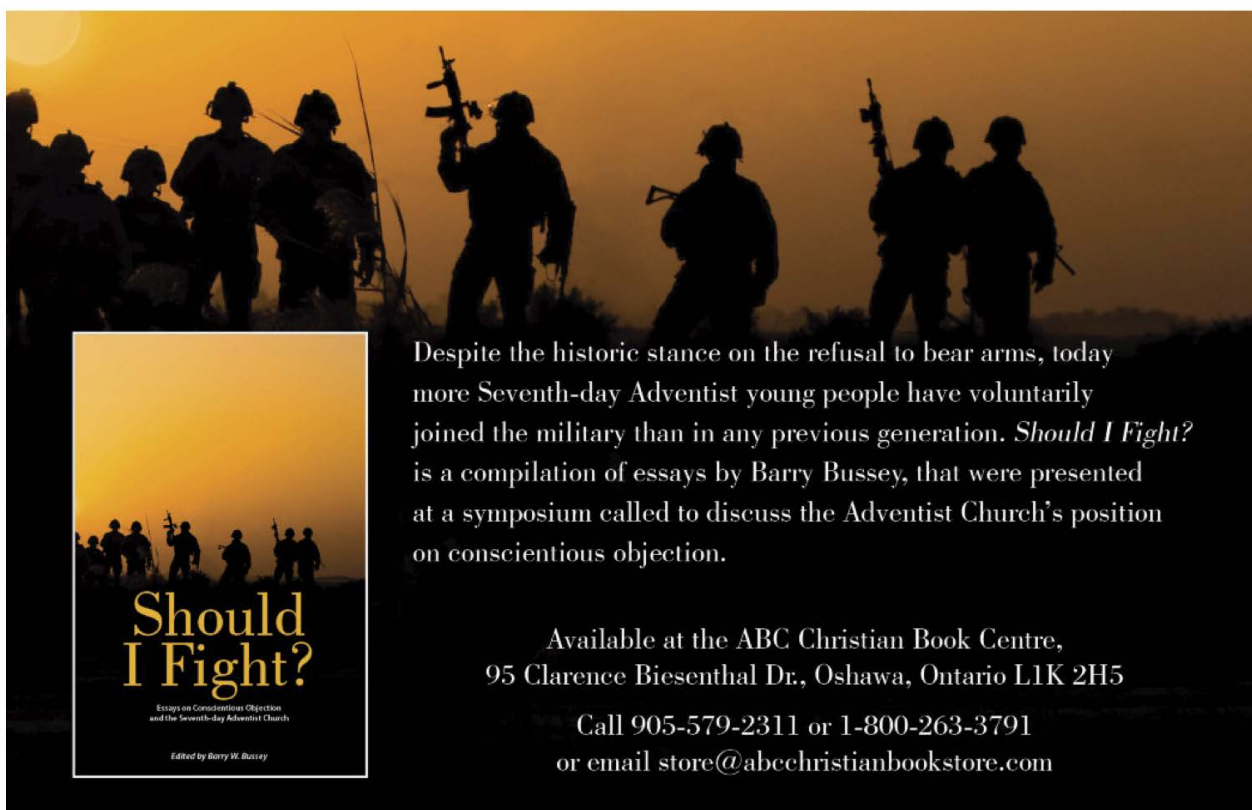
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Despite the historic stance on the refusal to bear arms, today more Seventh-day Adventist young people have voluntarily joined the military than in any previous generation. *Should I Fight?* is a compilation of essays by Barry Bussey, that were presented at a symposium called to discuss the Adventist Church's position on conscientious objection.

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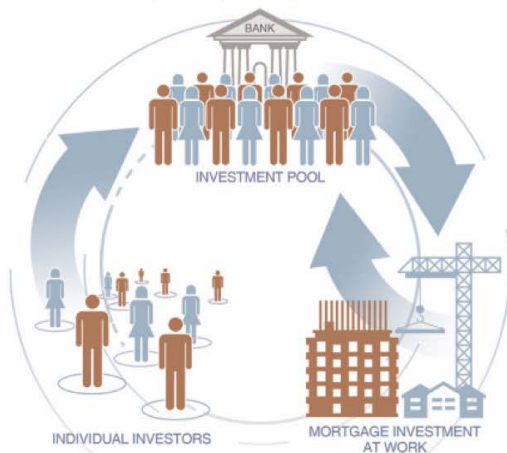
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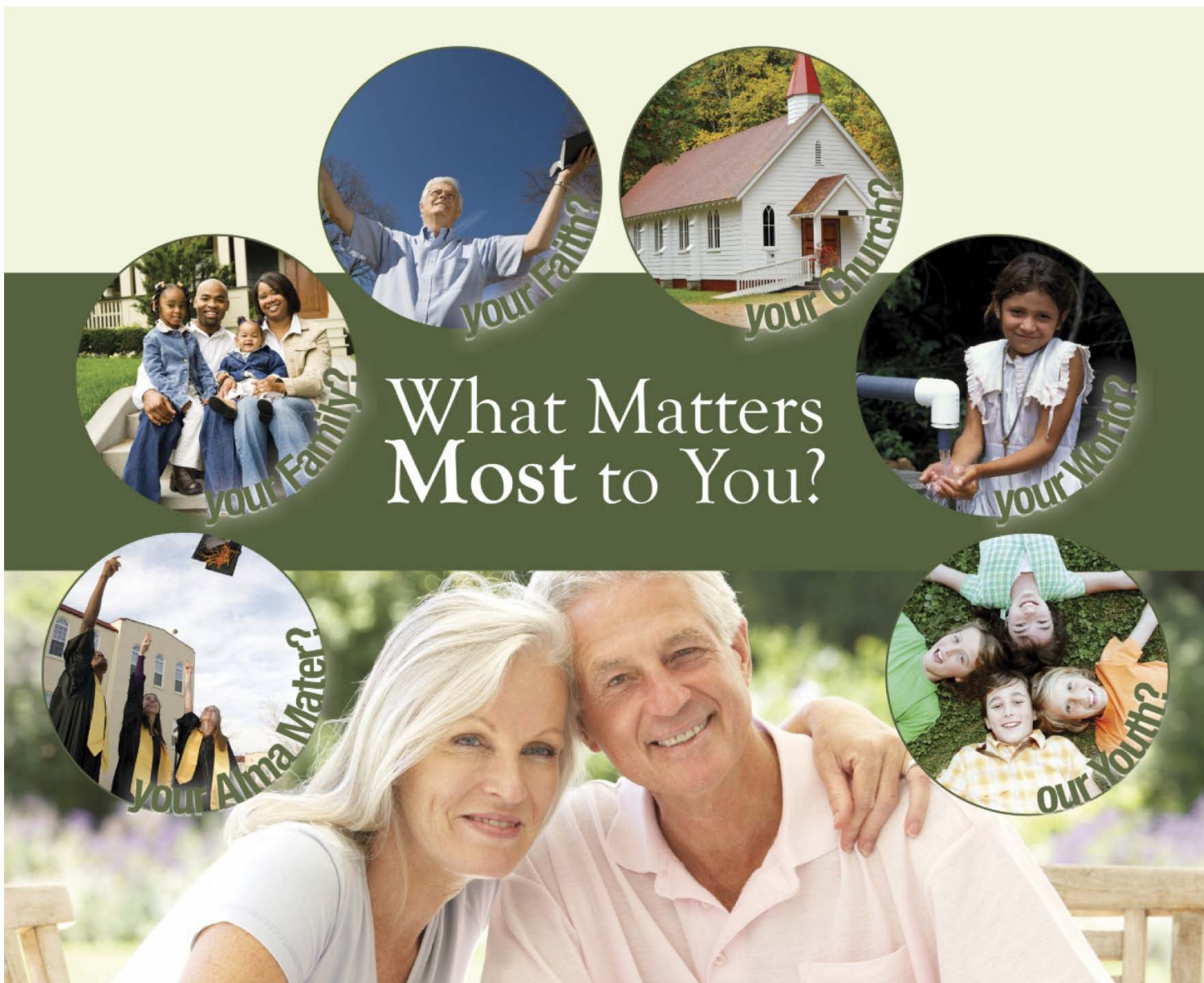
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■ Announcements

PROCESS:

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

■ Announcements

The 100th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Swan River Valley of Manitoba will be celebrated on the weekend of Aug. 11–13, 2017. This includes the country church in the Floradale District of Minnetonka, the home church at the Thomas Atkinson residence in Swan River and the Swan River church. If you are a former member, have roots in this church family, or have attended in any of these locations, please contact Roy Jamieson for further information at Box 477, Minnetonka, MB, R0L 1G0; phone 204/525-2642, or email at goalkeep@xplornet.ca.

Volunteers needed! Agape Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking for RNs to assist with blood-pressure screening on Sundays at our Flea Market booth in Pickering, Ont. If you would like to be part of this outreach effort, please contact Allison at 416/209-3744 to confirm your availability: 10–12 p.m. or 2–4 p.m.

■ Births

Emma Renee Peters was born on Oct. 3, 2016, to Ryan and Michelle (née Budai) Peters.

■ Anniversaries

George and Rose (née Yuros) Holdal of Calgary, Alta., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on



February 10, 2017. The Holdals have six children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

John and Ruth (née Soley) Kneller of Hamilton, Ont., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 30, 2016, with their family and friends. The Knellers have three daughters, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Cleve and Eileen Sandy of Oshawa, Ont., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 1, 2017, with a



celebration with over 100 celebrants from Trinidad, the USA, and the Philippines. Cleve and Eileen have two children, Cleve (Maridette) Sandy and Colin (Carla) Sandy; and three grandchildren.

■ Birthdays



Julia Estey of Fredericton, N.B., celebrated her 100th birthday on April 20, 2017, with over 275 family members and friends. Julia has 10 children, 23 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

■ Obituaries

Earl Lehman was born on April 17, 1941, in Rosthern, Sask., and died on Feb. 17, 2017, in Shellbrook, Sask. He was a member of the Debden Adventist Church and then the Shellbrook church. Earl is predeceased by his parents, Herbert and Yvonne Lehman. Surviving: brothers, Grant (Jean) Lehman of Shell Lake, Sask., and Ronald (Marie) Lehman of St. Albert, Alta.; sisters, Carol (Dennis) Foulston of Tugaskie, Sask., and Judith (Abe) Unrau of Parkside, Sask.

James Henry "Wally" Lynch was born on Sept. 25, 1934, in Montserrat, West Indies, and died on Feb. 12, 2017, in Maple Ridge, B.C. Wally served as a loving and caring deacon for many years. He is predeceased by his parents; brother, Abraham of Montserrat. Surviving: wife, Florence Lynch; daughter, Sharon (Randy) Jensen; son, Ian (Sue) Lynch; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ivor Benjamin Reece was born on Dec. 11, 1927, in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, and died on Aug. 17, 2016, in Middleton, N.S. Ivor moved to Canada in 1950 after serving in the British Army during World War Two. He became a member of the Halifax Seventh-day Adventist Church and later the Middleton Seventh-day Adventist Church church. During these years, he held many church offices but was best known for his singing talent. Ivor is predeceased by his parents; sister, Patricia. Surviving: wife, Mildred "Millie" Atwood; sons, Wayne (LeeAnne) Reece of Cambridge, Ont., Kevin (Sara) Reece of Calgary, Alta., Robert Reece of Cambridge; daughters, Wendy (Blake) Wile of Yellowknife, N.T., and Wanda (Ivan) Crabbe of Grande Prairie, Alta.; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

John Reynolds was born on Oct. 4, 1918, in Melfort, Sask., and died on March 30, 2017, in Kelowna, B.C. He worked as a custodian/maintenance man at Okanagan Adventist Academy. John is predeceased by his wife, Phyllis Reynolds. Surviving: son, Larry (Shirley) Reynolds of Kelowna; daughter, Louise (David) Price of Wheatley, Ont.; four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Floyd Smith was born on June 28, 1916, in Eastend, Sask., and died on

March 14, 2017, in Port Hardy, B.C. He believed strongly in Christian education and sent his children, as well as helped many others, to attend Adventist schools. He also supported the building of numerous church schools, churches, and clinics worldwide. Floyd is predeceased by his first wife, Alberta (née Visger) Smith; second wife, Birdie (née Rusk) Smith; daughter, Lori Lambert; parents, Frank and Alice (née Needles) Smith; brothers, Charles Smith and John Smith; sisters, Annie Legare, Ruby Mullins, Goldie Quaroni, Myrtle Smith, Mary Crombie, Opal Redekopp, Pearl Kilgour, Ruth Kennedy. Surviving: son, Melvin (Linda) Smith of Point Arena, Calif.; daughters, Carol (Bill) Burbridge of Battle Ground, Wash., Wilma (Bruce) Rafuse of Port Hardy, Elaine (Robert) Daffurn of Port Hardy, Vera Willis of Seattle, Wash.; brother, George (Charlotte) Smith of Hazelton, B.C.; 15 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

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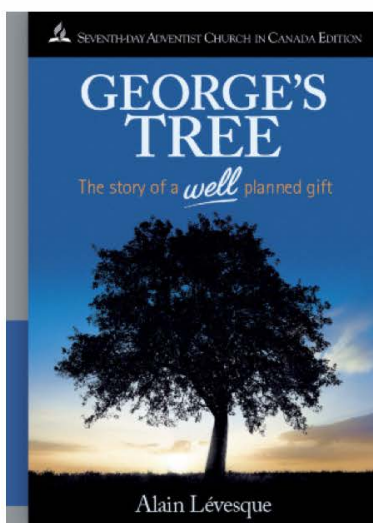
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from the editor

be part of the increase

EVEN THOUGH I WAS NOT BORN WITH CONNECTION TO THE ADVENTIST CHURCH,

I have been a card-carrying member for several decades now. And so, it is refreshing to meet people who have had a “fresh” encounter with Christ. It is exciting to hear the stories of their journey to Christ, and even more amazing to hear how God uses different events and people to draw them closer to Him.

I like how the apostle Paul stated it in 1 Corinthians 3:6: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (NLT). We cannot all be Pauls or Apollos, or any of the other great heroes of faith who have gone before us, but we can all do something to spread the gospel and fulfill the mission we have all been called to do.

I have heard amazing stories over the years, and they usually contain that one defining moment when someone connects with God. These moments often come from comments or encouragements from friends who most likely had no idea what kind of impression it would have on the hearer.

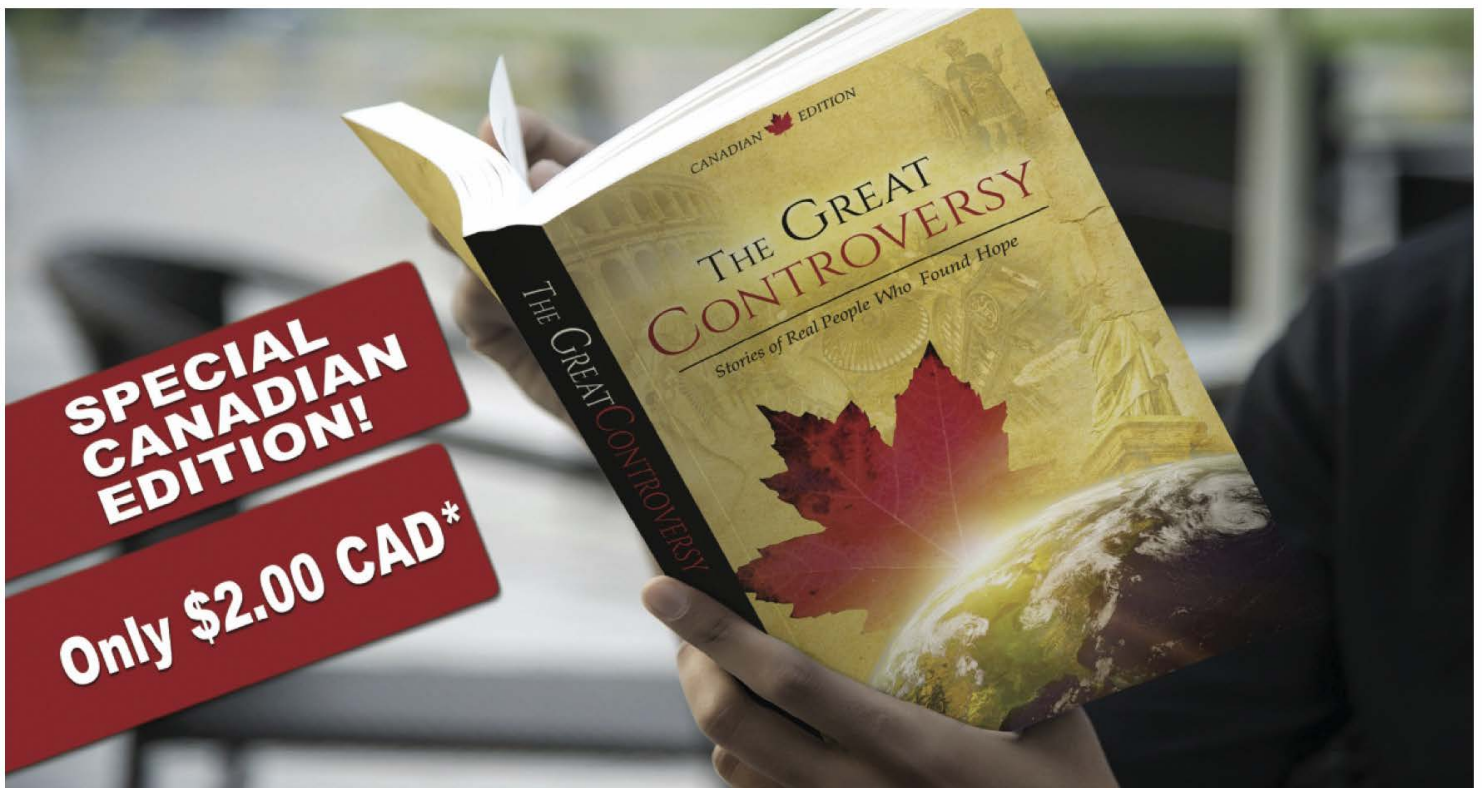
It doesn’t take much to be an encouragement to others. James 1:22 says, “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” This is an important lesson for us all to learn. History shows us that God has used donkeys to deliver a message. If the gospel can be delivered by a donkey, just imagine what willing human beings can do.

A dear friend of mine is publishing a book that he is dedicating to “God in heaven, his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” This was especially touching for me to read, as he has come a long way over a long time to reach this point in his journey with Christ. I have no idea exactly what impact my friendship has had on him over the years, but I look forward to that day in heaven when we can both find out together.

A retired pastor once said that if he had to do it over again, he would want to ask who mingled with new people over the past week. So here is my challenge to you: Mingle. Make friends. Be an encouragement. Share your testimony. You never know what word will make the difference in someone’s life. Let’s all be part of the increase. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan'.

Stan Jensen, editor
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