



Alberta
**Adventist
News**

MARCH 2015

PASSIONATE PRESERVERS OF
HISTORY

**Four New
Church Plants
in Edmonton**

God Understands the Language of Our Hearts

February 15 is National Flag Day of Canada. The day commemorates the 50th anniversary when the Maple Leaf or l'Unifolie was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill.

Prior to 1965 many flags were unofficially used by Canadians and in 1964 Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson formed a committee to resolve the issue. Over 3000 designs were presented, the final vote favoring George F. G. Stanley's proposal. In his four-page memorandum, Stanley wrote, "The new flag of Canada should be instantly recognizable, and simple enough so that school children could draw it."

Not all Canadians favored the current Maple Leaf. Members from the Royal Canadian Legion strongly voiced in favour of the Red Ensign, the flag they fought under during two World Wars. Nevertheless in considering other designs, the maple leaf emblem received serious attention. A new Canadian citizen indicated Pearson's flag suggestion with three maple leaves is 'not quite right,' as one leaf represents the British, one the French and the other the other nationalities. "... in Canada we have over fifty nationalities," he said, "and the three leaves seem to separate them ... My first choice is the one with the single leaf. One leaf means all the Canadians live in one country." Another favored "the three red white and blue stripes (an original suggestion) representing the three races that inhabited Canada before and after the Confederation namely; the red Indian, French and English speaking people who have fought side by side... and who deserve a multitude of praise ... for building Canada what it is today, a Nation second to none in world affairs. It is my fondest hope that there is a distinctive Canadian flag chosen to ... boost unity a thousand fold ..."

Ultimately the design chosen did include the maple leaf along with Canada's two official national colours, red and white. The red and white reference France and England respectively,

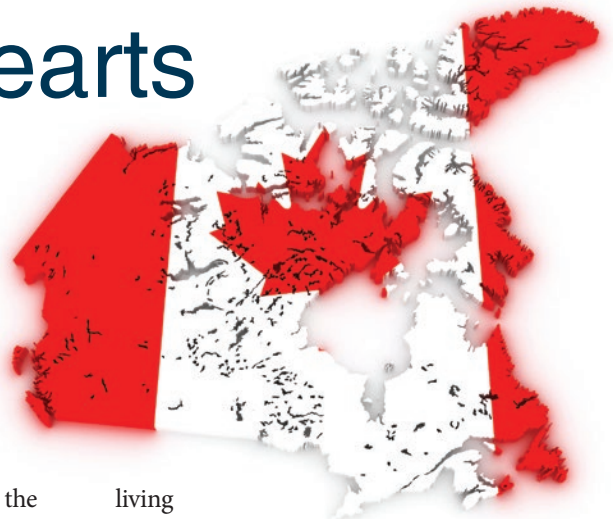
displaying British, Irish, Scottish and French symbols, while the maple leaf represented the new nation. Maple leaf trees and its sap had special meaning to the native peoples of Canada, who used it as food prior to the arrival of the Europeans. In addition the maple leaf represented the homeland to soldiers during both world wars. Although the design specifies a leaf with 11 points, the number carries no special significance.

Whenever a flag is raised it's more than a piece of cloth with a design. It symbolizes the values of the country and the privileges its citizens enjoy. The Maple Leaf/ l'Unifolie represents equality. Pierre Trudeau remarked, "Canada could now be defined as a society where all people are equal and where they share some fundamental values..." It represents freedom of language (and speech) and mobility. French Canadians, for years at the centre of unity debates have the right to travel throughout Canada and receive government and educational services in their own language. It represents the right to life, the right to property, and the right to counsel.

When traveling abroad, I appreciate the courtesies other countries extend, and the richness they provide, but as a Canadian, it's always good to return "home." I feel a sense of safety under the Canadian flag.

The Scriptures also reference "flags." The KJV and NKJV use the term "standards," and Strong's Concordance interprets it as "flag" or "ensign." The tribes of Israel camped by their standards, the "emblems of their father's houses" (Numbers 1 and 2). God, through Isaiah and Jeremiah, appealed for Israel to rally under His standard (flag) representing faithfulness (Is. 49:22), promises (Is. 62:10), loyalty (Jer. 50:2), and courage (Jer. 51:12, 27).

Interestingly the same privileges granted Canadian citizens living under the Canadian flag, are granted to Christians



living under Christ's banner. Under His standard is freedom of language. Though not privy to God's literal language, yet we can speak and He understands the language of our hearts. The Spirit takes our inadequate groaning and presents it perfectly before our Father (Romans 8:26). Under His standard we are all equal (Galatians 3:28), have abundant life - now and for eternity (John 10:10, 28). We will enjoy property (Matthew 5:5), and have access to counsel (1 John 2:1, 2).

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we are more than outward citizens. We ARE Christ's standard. The Holy Spirit changes us into His likeness, reflecting His values. Now the question is, "Is your Christ-like life instantly recognizable, and clear enough so even school children can copy? Are you flying His true colours?"



Ken Wiebe
President
Alberta Conference

Highlights

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Alberta Conference
Communication Department

5816 Highway 2A
Lacombe, AB
T4L 2G5

Phone (403) 342-5044
Fax (403) 775-4482
Email: info@albertaadventist.ca
Twitter: albertasdaconf
Facebook: ABAdventist
Website: www.albertaadventist.ca

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Administration

Ken Wiebe President
Larry Hall Secretary/VP for
Administration
Keith Richter Treasurer/VP for Finance

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event and caption for photo,
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Archiving and Loving It!

Preserving history is important for our church, schools, and families.
Being able to look back and see how God has led is a blessing.



Four New Church Plants in Edmonton

One great result of
Edmonton Impact 2015 is the
development of new work.



Prayer Pit Stop

Every Tuesday and Thurs-
day participants call the
Prayer Pit Stop.

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Cybersecurity: Look Both Ways

Internet crimes are rapidly on the rise with an increase of about 20 percent more reported cases last year.

An online news source states, "Internet crime is evolving in ways we couldn't have imagined just five years ago."

It is estimated that approximately 2.5 million Canadians and 12 million Americans are victims of identity theft each year.

Consumer Reports states, "Your chances of becoming a victim of cybercrime are about 1 in 4."

The internet is like a door that swings both ways allowing information of all kinds in and out. It allows us to send and receive information that keeps us in touch with family and friends. It also allows us to form new relationships with people, to search for information on a topic, purchase an item online, and share ideas.

It is also because of this in and out flow of information that there are many dangers to be encountered around the hidden corners of cyberspace. This is why it is becoming more and more important to make yourself aware of the risks of being online and how to keep yourself, as well as those you love, safe from danger.

Five years ago, while I was pastoring in Kelowna, BC, I had the privilege of teaching computers to the Grade Six and Seven class at Okanagan Adventist Academy. Since most students routinely use the internet for research, online games, or social media, I decided to ask the class to type ten internet safety tips they felt were the most important when online.

I want to share with you a brief summary of what they came up with. These are general online security tips and safe practices that if followed should help minimize your online risks.

Know who you're dealing with

It is extremely important to know who and what you're dealing with when online because there are many cybercriminals taking advantage of the



Internet and the people who use it. Be aware of fraudulent "phishers" in email or social networking sites where attempts are made to collect your personal information. The email may request account details for "urgent security reasons." The message may also point to a "spoofed" website that resembles a real site.

The RCMP website states, "Technology, mainly the Internet, facilitates more elaborate schemes, such as skimming, phishing, and hacking as criminals gather profiles of potential victims. Computer spywares and viruses, designed to help thieves acquire personal information, are an emerging trend."

Protect your identity

Use a different secure password for each online account you access that are long and complex including numbers and symbols. Never use single words or anything personally connected to you such as your dog's name or your birthday.

Always remember, never share your passwords with anyone and pay close attention to keeping them secure from lurking eyes at school or work.

Ryan Purita a security consultant says, "Computers have passwords, and passwords are the keys to the kingdom. With this access they (intruders) could do anything you could and if motivated, even more."

Secure your computer against attack

Just like the locks on your home provide

protection from potential danger on the outside, anti-virus and anti-spyware software protect your computer from potential danger while online. It is also important to use a firewall that helps to hide your computer from attacks.

If you have children who use the internet, you might want to consider using age-appropriate filtering and monitoring software.

Be aware of what you share

You would never go to the busiest street in Toronto wearing a t-shirt that had all your personal information written on it. So be cautious about how much personal information you provide online where the whole world can see. When using social networking sites, use the privacy settings and think twice before posting pictures. Once they hit the web, they can never be taken away.

Education is Key

(Learn to look both ways)

Stay informed about current online dangers. Make it a practice to communicate with your children about internet safety. Learn what to do if something goes wrong. Find more information about cybersecurity at www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca.



Troy McQueen
Communications & IT Director
Alberta Conference

What's it Mean to You?

“They accommodate you to the point that it is so overwhelming—that you want to come back.”

Juliet Escolano, New Member
Edmonton Filipino SDA Church



When Juliet Escolano moved to Edmonton from Vancouver in 2014, she had no idea where she would attend church. Recently introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through evangelistic meetings, Juliet wanted to attend the Edmonton Filipino Adventist Church—a long bus ride from the home she and her husband had just moved into. One Sabbath morning she decided to go anyway—and walked into a Relational Approach congregation.

It was a decision she doesn't regret for a moment.

Upon arrival, Juliet was immediately embraced with attention. She was offered something to drink and introduced to people. After the service, she was offered a ride home. “They were so welcoming; I never felt like that in any other church,” she says.

Members continued to give her rides as well as invite her to Sabbath dinners, birthdays and other events. She quickly developed close friendships and got involved in two Bible study groups. On December 27, 2014 Juliet was baptized.

At the Filipino Church, personal interaction is key. Sabbath School emphasizes communication and relationships over the traditional lecture-style format—the Relational Approach Sabbath School that the Alberta Conference Sabbath School director has presented in recent workshops.

“It's an atmosphere of friendship,” head Pastor Ron Yabut, says, “a continuous approach where people are welcomed into a community.” Programs and special events are important, he notes, but they also come to a conclusion. Relationships, on the other hand, grow and develop over a longer period of time. The congregation's interactive Sabbath School format helps new members feel included as all participants hear other perspectives as they interpret the Bible together.

Many members and visitors are recent immigrants; the church partners with agencies in the city to help people integrate. The church acts as a hub to connect the congregation to immigration programs and other public services in the city. The approach recognizes that local churches have a unique role to play: While evangelistic meetings can introduce people to the gospel of Christ, the congregation can put the gospel into practice and nurture souls over time.

A few months ago Juliet moved to a new home just so she could be closer to her newly-adopted church family. She no longer has to worry about taking three buses to church. But more importantly, she has a spiritual family and a place of belonging. — *Glen Graham*

**The Conference Sabbath School Department,
Funded by Tithe, Strengthening Home Churches**



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH
Alberta Conference

Edmonton Adventurer Clubs Come Together For Joint Induction

On Sabbath afternoon the church foyer of the Sherwood Park Church was buzzing with lots of busy bees, it was adventurer induction. The Edmonton North club, under the leadership of Vuyo Tshuma was in attendance, although they had already conducted induction in the later part of last year, more surprisingly several more Adventurers joined this year adding to their 40 member club. “Since we were scheduled to have our induction, the idea was for the North Club to join us as we experience this powerful ceremony for our children,” said Lauri-Ann Ljungberg (club leader for Sherwood Park Church and the Alberta Conference Area Coordinator for Northern Alberta).

As the induction ceremony took place, the new Executive Coordinator for Adventurers, Lulu Mazula officially opened the induction ceremony by lighting a candle and explaining the significance of the spirit of Christ being in the Adventurer ministry. “As I enter this new role, my desire is to visit as many churches and inductions as I can...this ministry is such a powerful experience for families in our churches, we need to encourage all families to take part in this family ministry” exclaimed Lulu.

Also in attendance was the assistant youth director of the Alberta Conference, David Benjamin who spoke on the importance of the Alter and its significance in the Adventurer ministry. “I love attending inductions, hearing all the excitement and seeing the smiles on the children’s faces” he said.

After some brief words of encouragement to the parents and the church, Pastor Rod Davis blessed the congregation with a powerful prayer of dedication for the Adventurers and their families.

Just as the ceremony was closing a cake was brought out, covered with white frosting and an edible design of the Adventurer logo.

It was a great ceremony that concluded with rest, relaxation and refreshments in the lower fellowship hall. As the Adventurers enjoyed their friends, food and especially the cake, I smiled to myself thinking, “There is a reason why God said...be like a child.”

—Submitted by Lyle Notice



Lyle Notice (left) at Sherwood Park Church with Adventurers.



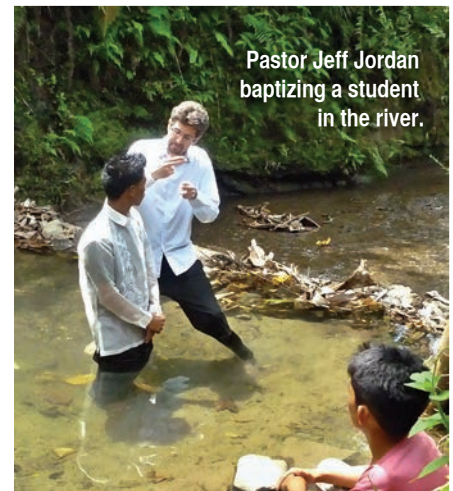
Pastor Rod Davis speaking during Adventurer program.



Lauri-Ann Ljungberg (club leader for Sherwood Park Church and the Alberta Conference Area Coordinator for Northern Alberta).



Students and faculty with a few extra visitors.



Pastor Jeff Jordan baptizing a student in the river.

A Tremendous Mission Challenge

It is wonderful when different Adventist agencies can combine efforts to further our Adventist mission!

On Feb. 11, I got back from a trip to the Philippines to check on the work for the deaf being done there by Gospel Outreach and A Better World. I not only work with the Alberta Conference Deaf Department, but also with the Gospel Outreach Deaf Ministry department and in two deaf projects with A Better World.

About five years ago I had been to Manila and met with a group there who were interested in starting a more formal ministry to Deaf. Our first plans did not turn out, but one of the group, Sarah Famisaran, volunteered to start a Gospel Outreach ministry to Deaf in the southern Island of Mindanao where her husband was leading out in the SULADS student missionary movement connected with Mountain View College.

Not long after, a young lady from the original group, Lychel Gabuco, felt a decided call to become a Gospel Outreach Lay Bible worker for the Deaf. In preparation she went to a training session with the "Thousand Missionary Movement." When she started working in the greater Manila area, there were only four baptized Seventh-day Adventist Deaf. Today there are 35 baptized deaf, nine hearing volunteers, and they have started work for Deaf in 13 Adventist churches in the Manila area. On Sabbath, they may have as many as 150 deaf and helpers meeting between the different

churches. Lychel's deaf sister, Cheard has now also become a full time worker, and both their parents are devoting much time and effort in furthering the ministry. Their father is a retired pastor!

On the southern Island of Mindanao, Sarah has been doing a wonderful work. It was slow at first, but now there is a second Lay Bible worker (in Cagayan de Oro), whose name is Sunny. Sarah's husband Daryl, has also joined full time in the deaf school that they have started. Last year, the school situated out in a mountainous area, had seven students. Today they are bursting their capacity at 24 students, and more keep coming.

Most of the students who come have never been able to go to school, have no sign language, but "home signs," and can neither read, write nor do any math. Since all but three do not come from Adventist homes, in the past these students had little future here in this world, and virtually no knowledge of the Bible. While I was there with Pastor Jeff Jordan (only regular deaf pastor in the USA) and Dr. Larry Evans, Deaf Liaison for the General Conference, there were a total of 13 baptisms of deaf students - four had already been baptized.

A Better World has been working with us to send funds for the construction of this school for the Deaf - a total of over \$32,000. However, there is an urgent need for a new dormitory, a small hydroelectric system and a vehicle or two for transporting the students to visit area churches on Sabbath.

It has been a joy to see how our different Adventist agencies can work together for the saving of souls! This project is one of the most needy and productive that I have ever seen in my travels overseas in visiting deaf work around the world! It has been said that Jesus cannot return until the Deaf also get an opportunity to hear the gospel message. If you feel a call to help, please contact us at the Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department.

Pastor and Mrs. John Blake,
Alberta Conference Deaf
Ministry Department
PO Box 308, Clive, AB
T0C 0Y0
(403) 784-3798
Email: blake@deafhope.org
Website: www.deafhope.org



Pastor John Blake
 Deaf Ministry Department
 Alberta Conference

Christmas for a Single Mom and Her Five Children

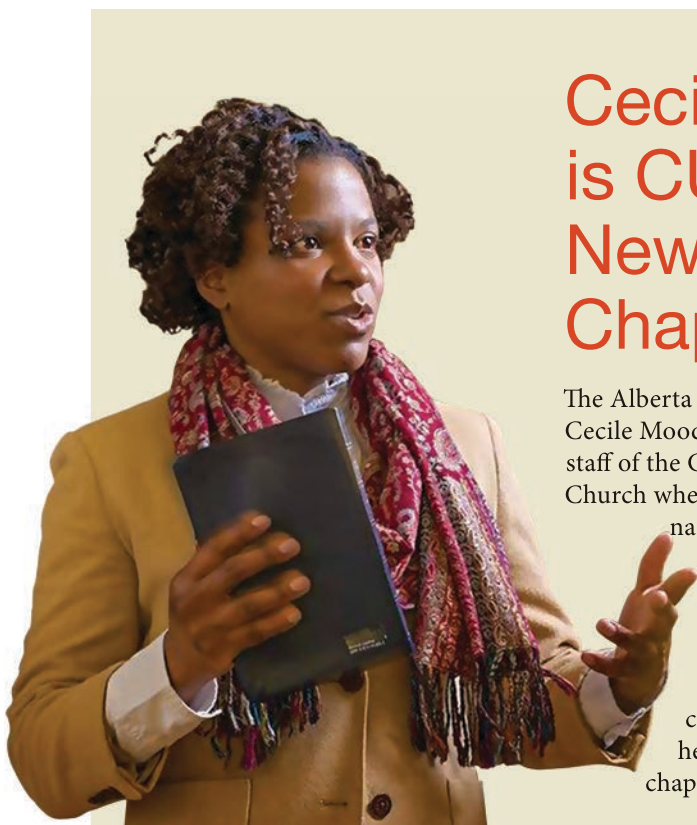
Six single adults in the Alberta Conference experienced unforgettable joy as they watched a single mom and her five children excitedly open the many gifts they presented to them. The Blackfalds Company shared the name of a single mother from the community to the Adventist Single Adult and S.H.I.N.E. Ministries group for them to present that family with a very special Christmas. The Ministry followed up and made arrangements to bring supper and gifts to the family on Monday, December 22, 2014. The mother and children ages 13, 11, 6 and 3-year old twins were excited to answer the door and helped to unload all the items. Supper was served followed by the excitement of kids opening gifts. It truly was a very special event both for the

single adults and for the family that received this special Christmas blessing. Remember the words of the Lord

Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35
—Submitted by Darlene Reimche



Getting ready to deliver gifts and food to a single mom with five kids.



Cecile Moody is CUC's New Assistant Chaplain

The Alberta Conference has invited Cecile Moody to join the pastoral staff of the College Heights Adventist Church where she will work as Canadian University College's assistant chaplain. Moody began her ministry at CUC early January. "I am very excited about welcoming Cecile to the Chaplaincy team here at CUC," said lead chaplain Adam Deibert. "She

brings many strengths and talents to the table, and I look forward to working with her in continuing to strengthen the spiritual life of our campus community."

Cecile graduated cum laude from McGill University in 1998 with a major in psychology. Subsequently, she earned a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Social Work, also from McGill University. She completed her Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in August, 2014.

Ms. Moody, who is fluent in both French and English, has worked as a camp counsellor, research assistant, Bible worker, and evangelist. She enjoys walking, running, water aerobics, spinning, travelling, music, worship, writing, reading and speaking.

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Civility of Discourse Between Christians: A Memorandum of Understanding

In her recent book, *Belonging – The Paradox of Citizenship*, the twenty-sixth Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, makes the following statement: “...the essence of a citizen’s participation is the ability to engage in a conversation with others, and with those we elect to represent us, in order to understand their position and respond respectfully,... If we are to be involved in healthy self-governance as citizens, we must listen, but we also must know that we are listened to. The same rules that apply to any civilized discourse must be exercised in the democratic conversation among citizens.” p. 84, 85

Unfortunately, most of us have been exposed to conversations among believers in Christ that have not demonstrated the standard of conversation suggested by Adrienne Clarkson above. Personally I have observed unChrist-like conversation that shows disrespect to others in some of our meetings and other more casual discussions on theological matters for example. The recent use of social media in particular has made it even easier for someone to show contempt, disrespect and harshness to a fellow believer who may disagree with his/her views in online chat forms. At times I’ve felt the Holy Spirit counselling me to tone it down as they say. The apostle Paul gives us this advice, “the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle to all, apt to teach, patient...” 2 Timothy 2:24

The *Civility of Discourse Between Christians: A memorandum of Understanding* is a document originated at the NAD to give us guidelines of what respectful, Christ-like dialogue should look like. With our fallen human nature its circulation on the eve of Christ’s return is timely and a useful reminder of how we should converse with others.

The Alberta Conference Board of Directors recently took action to accept the *Civility of Discourse Between Christians:*



as an official document to guide us in our conversations with each other and we invite you to join us in doing so. Please feel free to duplicate these guidelines and prayerfully commit to implementing them in your conversations with others –especially those who disagree with you – whether it is at a board meeting, online chat form or casual conversation.

May the Divine power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts give us victory in this matter. After all, the tongue Paul tells us, “can no man tame: it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” James 3:8
—Larry Hall,
Secretary / VP for Administration
Alberta Conference

Civility of Discourse Between Christians: A Memorandum of Understanding

Scripture records examples of saints who engaged in honest and sometime intense disagreement (Acts 11 & 15:39). Healthy organizations value criticism from within and without for valuable insights that may come no other way. A multitude of counselors can offer safety from blind spots, tunnel vision, “group-think,” and other distortions.

The nature of discourse, however, is as important as its content. Communication between Christians, according to scripture, edifies and elevates (Ephesians 4:29) rather than demeans and depreciates (James 3). The Bible

prescribes pathways for resolving differences (Proverbs 18:13; Matthew 18:15; Colossians 4:6).

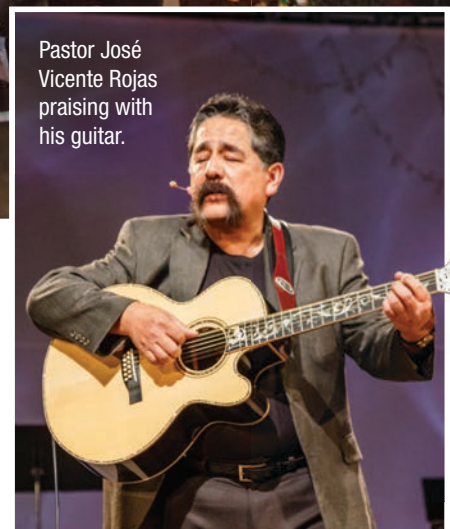
The following guidelines can serve as a basis for respectful, Christ-like dialogue between Christians whether or not they are able to achieve consensus on any given issue.

1. We resolve to encourage expressions of disagreement that are honest and open based upon a sincere desire to arrive at truth as expressed in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy;
2. We will attempt to first communicate with those with whom we disagree and listen non-judgmentally to their positions so that we can represent those positions accurately before critiquing them;
3. We resolve to avoid use of sarcasm, cartoons, anecdotes, parody or any other form of insinuation to diminish the reputation or personhood of others;
4. We will refrain from sponsoring or countenancing online or offline dialogue that vilifies and depreciates the good name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in general or the reputations of its individual members in particular.

We therefore resolve to avoid participating in, or being party, to all forms of unhealthy and demeaning discourse. Our aim is to govern our communication according to high standards of Christian conduct stated in this MOU (or its equivalent that we’ve agreed upon) so that God may be glorified in all we say and do.

*Note: People at odds over an issue who aspire to be Christians may use the MOU above (or something similar) as a mutually agreed upon basis for Christ-like discourse.

Some members of the four new church plants gathered at the front of the church sanctuary during the Impact 2015 convocation weekend for a prayer of dedication.



Pastor José Vicente Rojas praising with his guitar.

Photo by Jonathan Shinn.

Four New Church Plants in Edmonton

Edmonton Impact 2015 is being experienced. As people gathered for a city-wide convocation weekend January 16-18 at a large rented church facility, excitement permeated the 2000 attendees.

The year of the major outreach initiatives in the provincial capital has now arrived. Results are already being celebrated.

A team of Bible Workers shared some of their experiences at the convocation, in working with the hundreds of Bible study interests that have been generated. Small groups are being developed throughout the city but especially

in the areas where the new church plants are being established. Many baptisms have already taken place.

One great result of Edmonton Impact 2015 is the development of new work. The objective to start two new churches has already happened this year and in addition, two other recently established church plants make this a wonderful time for expanding God's work in the Edmonton area.

On Sabbath morning, at the beginning of the worship service, the four new church plants were presented for a dedication prayer. These plants are: Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton

Ghanaian; Edmonton Southwest (Abundant Life) and Edmonton Southeast (Christ the Way).

Members from the four new church plants (Not all could be present) gathered at the front of the church sanctuary for a prayer of dedication. Leading the dedication service were Ken and Vera Wiebe, Larry and Janet Hall and Don and Phyllis Corkum. Since the evangelistic meetings with both John Bradshaw and José Rojas will be in the south part of the city of Edmonton, it was felt that having new churches in this area would give newly baptized members the best



Members of the Edmonton Ghanaian Fellowship group with Pastor Ron Yabut and Pastor Don Corkum on February 14, 2015.



Ribbon cutting service at the Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant with Keith Richter (left) and Darrell Beaudoin (right).



Some members of the new "Christ the Way" church plant gather for prayer at the January Impact 2015 convocation.



Pastor John Murley and Pastor John Wesley discuss with the Sunday morning organization (January 18) meeting how various parts of the evangelistic program will work this year. They personally will not only be involved in evangelism but leading out in the establishment of two new churches.



Photo by Jonathan Shim.

Some members of the Fort Saskatchewan group gather with Lise Beaudoin (forth adult from left) to participate in the dedication prayer at the January convention.



Song service at the new Abundant Life church in southwest Edmonton.



Photo by Jonathan Shim.

Song service during the Impact 2015 convocation weekend that took place in Edmonton, January 16-18, 2015.

chance to be effectively discipled.

Leadership is vital to the success of new church plants, so pastors have stepped up to provide leadership. Darrell and Lise Beaudoin responded to an invitation to leave an established district in Lethbridge to help start a work in Fort Saskatchewan. Today, there is a growing congregation in this city of 20,000 where we had no witness previously.

Pastors of the two largest churches in Edmonton (South and Central), have committed 3/4 of their time for the first year to help get churches started in south east and south west Edmonton. At

the time of this writing both churches are doing well and are beginning their witness in south Edmonton. It is hoped that many others will join these churches who are baptized during the evangelistic meetings.

The Edmonton Ghanaian group is also growing and developing during the time of Edmonton Impact 2015. This has been mostly a lay led church plant but now the Edmonton Filipino church serves as their parent church and their pastor, Ron Yabut, helps give support for this new initiative.

Edmonton Impact 2015 is catching the spirit of Jesus when He asked us

to go into all the world and give the witness of the gospel. We are not only asked to add converts, but develop disciples. The development of disciples is best accomplished in churches. Christ knew that the more localized our churches are to the people we are seeking to reach, the more success we will have in the discipling process.

Let's pray that as we prepare for Christ's return the spirit of expanding the witness of Christ to everyone everywhere will continue.

—Submitted by Don Corkum
Church Planting Coordinator,
Alberta Conference

350 Youth

Attend Rally at Foothills Camp

Youth gathered at Foothills Camp from all across Alberta for the annual Alberta Conference Teen Youth Rally.

The theme for this year's youth rally was entitled, "Chosen." The idea behind the theme was, too many times youth feel rejected by peers, rejected by society, and sometimes even rejected by their church community, so in coming together this year, youth would leave feeling encouraged knowing that God loves them and has chosen them for a specific purpose.

Guest speaker, Pastor Sanchez (from the Man/Sask Conference) engaged, encouraged, and challenged his listeners through powerful stories and stimulating illustrations. Through his seamless and simple messages, Sanchez lifted up Christ. "I share my personal story wherever I go. There is power in sharing your story. Stories have a way of touching people in a way that impacts their life forever," said Sanchez.

On Saturday night, Sanchez shared from the inner depths of his own heart. He spoke about his personal struggles from childhood that included bullying, depression and suicide. His authenticity and candidness opened doors for conversation on topics that are often overlooked.

"This is a time where youth from all over the Conference can come together to get closer to God and one another... we see this as an opportunity for our youth to meet each other, socialize and share in a time of worship," said Kevin Kiers, Alberta Conference Youth Director.

On Sabbath afternoon, three



Youth gathered for Rally at Foothills Camp.



Guest speaker, Pastor Sanchez.



Leading out in Worship.

different activities were available for the youth to participate in. Down stairs in the lodge Pastors Robbie and Oscar from Edmonton helped to organize Bible games and social activities. Pastor Natufe from Calgary opened the scriptures with an interactive Bible study, asking hard questions like, "is it easier for a person to be lost or easier for a person to be saved?" He concluded his study by saying, "For a person to be lost that means they are fighting against the most powerful force in the whole entire universe...the power of God's love."

As I reflect over the weekend, I'm

reminded of the text found in the Book of Jeremiah, "Before you were formed in the womb I knew you..." We all have the tendency to sometimes feel unloved, unwanted, unaccepted, and underappreciated... it is more than evident that when no one else wants us, when we are not picked, forgotten and looked over...God chooses us...not only once, but all the time, every day!

I am so thankful that the gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of love, community and inclusivity. When God is truly present in the mix...no one is ever left out. The reality is God chooses us but WE need to choose Him, and choose to be more like Him.

Women's Health Retreat

The Women's Health Retreat entitled, "Created in His Image" and "Reflecting Jesus Daily" took place at the Red Deer Sheraton Hotel, November 7-9, 2014 with approximately 90 ladies of all ages in attendance.

What a blessing the weekend was with guest speakers Daniele Starenkyj, Ginny Allen, and workshop presenters Carolyn Richardson, Mandy Hoffmann-Leibel and Darlene Blaney.

Daniele Starenkyj had a unique series of topics over the weekend encouraging women to live happy, healthy and holy lives while addressing specific women health issues such as hormone balancing, menopause, and much more.

Ginny Allen shared numerous personal experiences that were a source of encouragement for many.



(Left to right): Carolyn Richardson (workshop presenter), Irene from Edmonton, Darlene Blaney (workshop speaker and organizer of event), Joyce from Edmonton.

Excellent workshops were presented throughout the weekend. Mandy Hoffmann-Leibel, a registered massage therapist and specialist taught a "hands on" massage class while sharing many therapeutic benefits to it. Saturday evening, Mandy helped each lady create their own personal natural scented bath salts to go home with and enjoy!

As a Registered Nurse/ Facilitator – specializing in women's health, Carolyn Richardson awed the audience with her lecture on Sabbath morning en-

titled, "Spiritual Dementia" giving each lady some serious "food for thought."

Darlene Blaney, Volunteer Health Director for the Alberta Conference and Nutritionist by career, presented workshops dealing with women's spiritual and physical health issues.

Once again God blessed this wonderful event. A special thank you to each lady who attended and to all those who played a role in helping to put this event together.
—Submitted by Darlene Blaney

WAITING ON THE LORD

2015 WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT
THE SHERATON HOTEL - RED DEER, AB - MARCH 27-29, 2015

Since ancient times
no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen
any God besides You,
who acts on behalf
of those who wait for him.
ISAIAH 64:4



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Adrienne Townsend is the first US Navy Seventh-day Adventist female Chaplain. Called to non-traditional ministry, she has blessed many with her dynamic and life changing seminars.

YOUNG ADULT SPEAKER

Shiphrah Fepulea'i currently serves as a Young Adult Pastor in Loma Linda, California. Her passionate presentations on the love of Jesus will lead you to fall in love with Jesus all over again.



MINISTERIAL SPOUSE SPEAKER

Donna Jackson currently serves the North American Division as Ministerial Spouses Leader and NAD Field Assistant in NAD Ministerial. She was formerly the Women's Ministries Liaison Coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Mary Gordon, Edith Kiggundu, Carolyn Richardson, Leila Seale & more!

*Registration begins at 4:15pm Friday March 27th
*Visit our website for the full schedule
*Registration is open until March 19, 2015
*To register, visit our website or call 1.800.325.3535
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On a Sabbath afternoon walk.

Singles Winter Retreat

The Centre of My Heart Adventist Single Adult Ministries and S.H.I.N.E. (Single Young Adults Helping Impact, Nurture and Encourage) Winter Retreat at Foothills Camp, February 13-15, 2015 was a time when those attending truly reflected on the condition of their heart. Pastors Bill Spangler and Lawel Natufe encouraged those attending to have Jesus at the centre of their hearts at all times and prepare for His very soon return.

Weekend activities included Sabbath School with a Relational Approach, guest speaker presentations, a Sabbath afternoon hike to the cabin in the woods, afternoon hayrides, volleyball, an evening of fun activities and warm Christian fellowship among friends. Sunday morning many attending returned home carrying their new furry friends and looking forward to the next ASAM and S.H.I.N.E. events.

—Submitted by Darlene Reimche



ASAM meetings in the Lodge Auditorium



Sabbath afternoon hike to the cabin in the woods.



The Centre of My Heart theme decorations.



S.H.I.N.E. Ministries meetings held in the Lodge.

25th Ryley Winter Festival

This year's Annual Ryley Winter Festival, supported by the Ryley Adventist Church, was held January 30-February 1, 2015. Pastor Brian Hawes shared a spiritual message on Friday evening and Pastor Seth Bussey spoke Sabbath morning followed by his father, Pastor Barry Bussey, who spoke in the afternoon.

Saturday evening attention was shifted to the Mundare Ice Arena for three games of hockey involving six teams. Beginning early Sunday morning another six games were played. A big thank you to Tofield Minor Hockey's head referee, Larry Suchy and his colleague, Kevin Moose, who did a fabulous job of referring 14 hours of hockey.

The six teams involved in this year's event were: The Mustangs, captained by Steve Kozmeniuk; Ryley Renegades, captained by Jake Hofer; Trevor's Roadrunners, captained

by Trevor McAfee; Canadian University College Moosemen, coached by Dan Lalonde and captained by AJ Murley; The Alberta Sea Dogs, captained by Kevin Booth; and the host team, The Hwy 14 Crusaders, captained by Gordon Hussell.

The Ryley Winter Festival has developed its own 'brand' of hockey where skill, speed and agility on skates are enjoyed by all. Since all the teams played with exceptional sportsmanship and "Christ like" attributes, it was difficult to make a decision as to who should receive the Pastor Roy Jamieson Sportsmanship trophy. Congratulations to THE RYLEY RENEGADES, who were awarded the trophy for the 2nd year in a row.

Next year's Ryley Winter Festival is planned for January 29-31, 2016.

—Submitted by Kent Grinde



Brian Hawes



Official puck drop.

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How to Live the Good Life

Evangelism is the good life. Don't believe me? Nobody will reach the end of their life and say, "I wish I'd spent more time playing video games."

Nobody will reach the end of their life and say, "I wish I'd seen more Pinterest boards;" or "I wish I'd had more soy pumpkin spice decaf lattes;" or "I wish I'd played more fantasy football." Nobody will reach the end of their life and say, "I wish I'd cared more about myself and less about others."

Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'

In the course moment-to-moment decision-making, human beings are poor judges of which choices will result in sustainable, long-term happiness. So it makes sense that the words of Jesus shatter our intuitions about what makes for a good life.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it'" (Matthew 16:24-25).

The cross is where Jesus most clearly demonstrated God's self-sacrificing love for humanity. According to Jesus, the extent to which we love others is the extent to which we are willing to sacrifice ourselves for them and thus gain the good life. Conversely, the extent to which we try to protect ourselves from any sacrifice is the extent to

which we avoid the self-denial of love and thus miss out on the good life.

At the end of life, people either look back with satisfaction at a life of service or they look back and wish they had been less involved in themselves and invested more in other people. Unfortunately, the former seems less common than the latter.

"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:37-38).

When Jesus invites us to join in service to other people his first call is not to work but to pray for a spiritual commission to do this work. The same principle is behind Jesus' command to the disciples to wait in Jerusalem and receive the promise of the Father before starting their evangelistic mission (Luke 24:29).

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:33).

The Father has promised to give the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33) to empower us for evangelism, but we have abused this promise because we want the good life without self-sacrifice. We make our evangelistic plan; ask God to send the Holy Spirit to bless our plan; execute our plan; watch the few baptized souls leave through the back door; and wonder why evangelism doesn't work any more.

The unconverted heart treats the Holy Spirit like a good luck charm, when the work of the Holy Spirit is character transformation (Titus 3:5). We must confess and repent this sin or our lack of evangelistic success will continue to belie our true spiritual condition.

We have desired the fruit of evangelism apart from the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We have tried to manipulate people into joining our church while not being willing to sacrifice any service on their behalf. We have tried to teach them the truths of

Scripture out of puffed-up knowledge and have not shared the Bread of Life with humble love because it was not in our hearts. Worst of all, we have decided that the work of evangelism was for others to do, because we have grown busy in the pursuit of happiness and could not be bothered to involve ourselves in the lives of others.

At its core, evangelism is not about plans and programs—though those are critically important; Jesus made evangelistic plans (Luke 10:3-11, Acts 1:8). It is not about tips and techniques, methods and means—though we are to study the "science of soul saving" (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 398). Evangelism is about allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts so that we are able to love as Jesus loved.

When the Holy Spirit gives us the self-sacrificing love of Jesus (Romans 5:5), three things happen in evangelism. First, we are motivated to share this wonderful experience of love with others because we know first-hand it is good news they need to hear. Second, those with whom we share are so impressed by our self-sacrificing interest in their well being that they want to hear this good news. And finally, we live the good life, enjoying the satisfaction of knowing God loves us and that we are making a difference in the lives of others.



David Hamstra
Pastor
Fort McMurray Church



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
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Charles & Leona Burman

CUC Changes Status and Official Name to Burman University

On December 15, 2014 the CUC Board of Trustees approved changing its name from Canadian University College to Burman University.

The university is named after Charles A. and Leona Burman the husband and wife team who founded the institution in 1907. Charles A. Burman served as the first and third President (Principal) of the school that would be known as CUC. Leona Burman taught English, science, language, geography, physiology, and acted as school nurse. Both Charles and Leona devoted their entire lives to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“It was because of their selfless dedication and sacrifice that the first school on this hilltop was established,” said CUC President Mark Haynal. “In every season of their ministry both of these individuals exemplified the mission of our school. They thought with discernment, believed

with insight and commitment, and acted with confidence, compassion and competence.”

On July 2, 2014 the Alberta government granted CUC permission to change the institutions status and name from “university college” to “university.”

“Referring to ourselves simply as a university will more clearly reflect our degree-granting status and enable our students to pursue graduate school and employment without having to repeatedly explain what a ‘university college’ is,” says Haynal. “Because ‘university college’ means markedly different things in different regions, potential students and administrators of post-secondary institutions across Canada and around the world have always been uncertain and often confused by our name.”

The name “Burman University” was chosen after an intensive process of

focus groups held in three regions of Canada. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and citizens of Lacombe joined the process, suggesting more than a hundred possible names.

CUC will continue as Canadian University College for the remainder of the 2014-2015 academic calendar year. Full implementation of the new name will take place May 1, 2015. The name change process will be fully complete after petition for amendments through a private bill moves through the Alberta legislature.

—Jr (Sergie) Ferrer
Director of Communications
Canadian University College



BURMAN UNIVERSITY
ESTABLISHED 1907



Children Story at Sylvan Lake Church.



Song service at Sylvan Lake Church.

recalled that the prepared children's story involved candles as an illustration, and thought of ways to stay warm as they waited for God to provide! Being a team of young people whose group name is based on an attitude of fearlessness and determination, they were worthy representatives of the kind of undaunted faith that develops at PAA.

In fact, there are many dauntless people within the PAA community. Principal Angie Bishop reorganized her Sabbath duties to drive students back to campus from the church when the battery would no longer hold power and Dean Kevin Clarke later took charge of replacing the fuse and making the bus road-worthy once again. Glen and Wendy Holly, PAA alumnus and parents to a Grade 10 dorm student, escorted the bus from Sylvan Lake back to Lacombe. Their commitment went as far as to share their own engine battery with the bus, which is a whole new approach to "giving the coat off one's back." The Sylvan Lake congregation itself warmly welcomed PAA's students and made the visit memorable because of their encouragement. Most of all, PAA students not serving on the team recognize that not even a lack of transportation will interrupt God's work.

These young people truly do have a spirit of boldness and our school is growing stronger as our collective faith is challenged and affirmed. PAA is a wonderful place for students to learn and grow, but the nurturing environment is only made possible through the unwavering care and prayers of the school's community. —Submitted by PAA Communications

Undaunted

On February 7, 2015 a team of student worship leaders, called "Dauntless," travelled down the highway to Sylvan Lake Adventist Church to share in the Sabbath service. Unfortunately, they didn't get too far. Just south of the Blackfalds exit on the QE2, PAA's 18-passenger bus lost power climbing a hill and rolled to a safe roadside stop.

After a quick prayer of safety for those on board, the group began strategizing. Thankfully, Pastor Ted Deer, PAA's Chaplain, was on board and being both a man of God and action, he undertook a quick dismantling of the dashboard to start exploring which fuse might

be at fault. Meanwhile, Katelyn Ruiz, PAA's Drama and Dauntless instructor, began communicating with those anticipating the students' arrival.

The astounding perspective on this experience is not that PAA's Chaplain quickly resolved the bus' engine trouble or that the program went on as scheduled despite mechanical obstacles, but that the group of students on board shared in such a formative faith-building experience, revealing themselves to be both Dauntless in name and in action. Problem-solving initiatives set in as students immediately began brainstorming ways to mobilize the ministry. They

Coralwood Adventist Academy

“If you build the church first, you may not get a school for a long time and possibly you may never get a school. But, if you build the school first, you will get a school and a church.” These were the wise and passionate words of Archie Bruce, faithful supporter of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education (circa 1956). His advice was heeded by what is now known as Edmonton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Coralwood Adventist Academy has also been known as Edmonton Church School and Edmonton Adventist Academy (circa 1965). It appears that the name Coralwood Adventist Academy (CAA) was adopted shortly thereafter. Classes began in September of 1957 at its present location. Services were held in the new church on the first Sabbath in December of that same year. It is believed that a manse near the school was also built during this time.

Early memories that shaped numerous lives include: Bible classes, prayer bands, Missionary Volunteer Meetings, baptism classes, sports, music (Coralwood Singers, Band), Smoking Sam (presentations by the students were made in many public schools and for “Five-Day Stop Smoking Plans” throughout Edmonton), skating.

Let’s explore some current dreams and aspirations. Renovations and portables have been part of the ongoing process. With a vision to make CAA a K-12 academy, an expansion of four classrooms began in



Teacher, Mr. Steve Yaceyko in 1957 with CAA students.



Floor hockey with CAA students.

2012. Plans are in progress to add three more classrooms, washrooms, and a chapel by the beginning of 2017. Currently 184 students are enrolled. Staff has increased to 27 (including administration, teacher assistants, custodial and 14 teachers).

Adventist schools exist to train our youth in Bible truth. Baptism classes continue to be in place to formalize individual commitments to God. Today CAA has a student governing body, a Leadership class, an

annual mission trip (alternating overseas with local), a CAA student pastor, and a full-time chaplain. Sports teams, gymnastics teams, and an intramural program are being explored. Some innovative spiritual growth ideas include: Prayer Room experience, Acts Underground Worship, Move58 community service, spiritual retreats (one for staff and one for Senior High students), Agape Feast Vespers, service credit hours for Grade 9 and 12 students, world causes sponsored by Junior and Senior High classes. No doubt by this time, more ideas have emerged.

Academic excellence is also paramount. Intentional effort is directed to provide 21st Century education that prepares students for optimum development. None of this can be achieved without prayer, and church and family support. The CAA staff is dedicated to being the best they can be through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In a letter to the parents, principal, Teresa Ferreira noted that Coralwood Adventist Academy “will thrive beyond any principal, any School Board, any student, beyond any parent, because God deems it so.” It is impossible to review how God has led in the past and not believe this to be true. Coralwood Adventist Academy remains committed to learning, growing and living to serve. www.coralwood.org and Facebook (key in Coralwood Adventist Academy and ‘like’ the page) can provide updated information.

—Submitted by Linda Steinke

CAA Historical Details

Several sources and people contributed to the historical details that follow. Thank you to Teresa Ferreira, Clarence Grosso, Steve Yaceyko, Glen Brown, and LeeAnn Koperski. Information was also gleaned from the Canadian Adventist Messenger archives and Edmonton Central Church historical records.

1912

Property is donated by Ernest Schafer at 9714-85 Avenue. A church school is started in the church basement. Mabel Halberg is the first teacher, serving for two years. The school closed circa 1918.

1914

Mr. Ruben Fitzpatrick starts a church school in the Woodbend district (an area which is now part of west Edmonton) in a log building. A student report card on file, dated June 17, 1914 names “Edmonton Church School.” Mabel Halberg is the teacher with 25 students in Grades K-5.

1932

A third church school is started in the basement of the church located at 109 Avenue and 96 Street.



1942-1956

A one room church school is built on the present site of Edmonton Central Church (102 Avenue and 111 Street). Clarence Grosso recalls seeing the school being hauled away on the back of a truck after being sold for \$500.

1957

A two room school is built at the current CAA location (135 Street and 122 Avenue). Classes were held for 43 students in Grades 1-8 in one classroom. Teacher, Mr. Steve Yaceyko, recalls that a skating rink was built that first year... a tradition that was carried through to circa 1990.

1966

A gymnasium, one classroom (now a total of five), a principal's office, kitchen, and cloak room were added for \$70,000. “The classroom is being used for the teaching of commercial subjects such as typing and shorthand.” (CUM, Jan. 1, 1967, p. 12, 13)

1997

A two-storey addition (seven classrooms and washrooms) was completed.





Five Children and Five Pennies

Investing With God as a Partner

In 1905, five children were given five pennies by their Sabbath School teacher. They used these pennies either to buy and plant seeds and sell the produce or to raise and sell chickens. Those five pennies grew to \$11.52. This was one of the first investment projects.

What is the Sabbath School Investment Program? It's not a 'get-rich-quick' scheme. It's a plan to invest our human resources of money, materials, time and talents in a faith venture with God, praying and expecting that He will add divine power and blessing to ensure an increase for the benefit of His worldwide gospel work.

Investment projects are as varied as one's imagination. The Sabbath School Director for the Alberta Conference just submitted labels from Worthington, Loma Linda and Morningstar Farms foods which were collected by church members across the province in 2014 for a total of \$458.35 for Investment. We can all save these labels. Other Investment projects might include:

- Selling baked goods, used books, plants or holding a yard sale.
- Setting aside a percentage of paychecks or gifts, change found or from one's wallet.
- Donate the savings from not purchasing treats, or from gas saved by walking.
- Services offered can be great projects for all ages such as washing cars, walking dogs, catering, teaching, yard work, babysitting.
- Often there are exceptional things to be grateful for, such as miles of safe travel, a special birthday or anniversary, or weight loss.
- Use your imagination! If you need help with ideas, contact your Sabbath School Superintendent (materials supplied by Conference Sabbath School director).

How do you start? Carefully and prayerfully choose a plan. Invite God's participation as your business partner. You will be embarking on a miracle journey! Who knows how many First Nations men, women and children will thank you in heaven for helping making it possible for them to have a Christian education.

—Jenny Nickel, Conference Administrative Assistant

NAD SELECTS ALBERTA MISSION AS 2015 INVESTMENT PROJECT

This year, the North American Division designated Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), Canada's only mission school, as one of two Canadian projects to receive a portion of the 2015 Investment Offering.

The annual Investment Offering, started in 1905 (see sidebar), includes money from around the world generated by personal projects undertaken during the year. It is a major factor in funding new mission work globally. Every year, a portion of these funds are designated for North America. The Church in Canada is a recipient once every five years.

In October, after visiting Mamawi Atosketan Native School, the NAD granted MANS the church's "senior academy" status, making it the Alberta Conference's third senior academy, along with Chinook Winds Academy in Calgary and Coralwood Academy in Edmonton. One of the NAD's recommendations was that a new building be constructed at MANS for the high school. Students, parents and teachers are requesting the new building as well.

Presently, over 170 students are being educated at MANS in a facility meant for 120.

Ask your Sabbath School superintendent about Investment Offering materials recently forwarded by Darlene Reimche, Conference Sabbath School Department Director, for more information about getting an Investment venture going.

—Lynn McDowell, Director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy



Here's Proof That Adventist Education Offers an Advantage

News commentary: The CognitiveGenesis study and my own research show that Adventist schools are producing young people who outrank their peers in North America.

By Deloris Trujillo, Adventist educator for 27 years

After working as an educator for nearly three decades and completing a doctorate in Adventist education, I can declare with confidence that Adventist schools provide students with a distinctive advantage.

I have the research to back it up.

The CognitiveGenesis project, a four-year study of 50,000 children in Adventist schools across North America, demonstrates that Adventist education is effective in helping students academically.

The study also found that students who go through the Adventist school system score higher academically in all subject areas than the national average. In addition, it indicated that the longer students attend an Adventist school, the higher they can achieve academically.

These are significant findings that should be considered by anyone with a stake in Adventist education, especially now that the Seventh-day Adventist Church's oldest boarding school, Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio, faces closure if it can't raise \$3 million by March. Mount Vernon Academy isn't the only boarding academy facing problems, and General Conference treasurer Robert E. Lemon, writing in the *Adventist Review* on Jan. 16, called on Adventist leadership to embrace 21st-century realities by consolidating the schools.

Lemon's proposal ignited a lively discussion on social media about the future of boarding academies and the viability of Adventist education in general. Several parents and former students offered harsh critiques of Adventist schools, calling teachers "mean" and the education "subpar."

Adventist schools may not be perfect, and my research indicates that even the best Adventist schools could improve if they more closely followed a blueprint offered by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White: to base education on four basic components: physical, mental, spiritual, and social factors.

But despite our shortcomings and unrealized potential, Adventist schools are producing young people who are heads and shoulders above their peers in North America.

Adventist education is close to my heart. Although I retired in December, I worked as an elementary and high school teacher, principal, and superintendent in California, Texas, and Hawaii for 27 years. I analyzed the groundbreaking CognitiveGenesis study at La Sierra University for my doctoral work there.

But Adventist education goes beyond me. My husband, the vice president of the Pacific Union Conference, taught for many years, and my son, a lawyer, serves as chair of an Adventist school board. My two grandchildren are getting an Adventist education.



A period actor dressed as a teacher in the first Adventist school, part of the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. Credit: AHM

So I have a significant interest in knowing how our schools perform in comparison with other schools.

Examining the Adventist Model

No consensus exists for what makes an effective school. Even well-recognized educational experts are constantly asking and debating what matters most and what works best.

But perhaps the Adventist educational system could provide answers to the rest of the world if we shared the simple holistic educational model that we have used since the first school was established nearly 150 years ago. The one-room schoolhouse, which opened in 1872 in Battle Creek, Michigan, has expanded into a global school system that is considered one of the largest centrally organized parochial systems in the world.

The holistic educational model is based on physical, mental, spiritual, and social factors, which Ellen White refers to as "powers." White, in her well-known quote on the topic, wrote in the book *Education*, page 13, "True education ... has to do with the whole being. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers." In other statements, White referred many times to the moral powers, which perhaps would be described as "social development" today.

It could be that this holistic model holds the key as to what should be valued and deemed important to educators whether or not it is deemed "Adventist." For years, Adventist educators assumed that this model could explain the academic success of many students. But now we have the research to support it—the CognitiveGenesis study.

Here's how the study was carried out: For four years, beginning in fall 2006, all students in the Adventist educational system in the North American Division (United States, Canada, and Bermuda) were given a well-recognized national standardized achievement test (ITBS and ITED) that was coupled with a cognitive abilities test (CogAT). In addition, the total population of just over 50,000 students in grades 3 to 9 and 11 in about 800 Adventist schools was also given a survey with educationally related variables. Surveys were also provided to their administrators, teachers, and parents. The 134 questions on these surveys provided more than 7,000 variables that continue to be analyzed.

My Own Findings

For my doctoral dissertation, I examined the CognitiveGenesis data to determine if a link could be found between students' academic success and the holistic model based on the physical, mental, spiritual, and social factors. I'll skip a lengthy explanation of the

procedure that I used in my research to say simply that a link exists. I managed to group CognitiveGenesis variables into one of the three components: mental, spiritual, and moral factors. The physical factor could not be measured adequately and did not emerge as one of the components.

Physical well-being, however, is important to Adventist education, and our schools certainly have health-related classes and activities. So its absence in the CognitiveGenesis study piqued my curiosity and stirred strong interest from fellow educators.

Looking for answers, I conducted a meta-analysis of the term “physical power” primarily from the book, *Education*, with a few gleanings from a second White book, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*. I was surprised to find that we may have not fully comprehended the value of physical power. It may be much more than health classes, P.E., sports, and even campus industries.

Adventist researchers are now looking into conducting a PhysicalGenesis study on students at Adventist schools.

Meanwhile, my research also found a strong correlation between the mental factor and a variable that I designated in CognitiveGenesis as the “parental educational level.” While this finding needs more research, it appears to indicate that Adventist education creates adults who are more holistic in their approach to life and who transmit this value to their children. If true, we may need to work more deliberately with parents to help them understand the importance of harmoniously developing the physical, mental, spiritual, and social factors. Such a step could lead to even higher achievement levels for children in Adventist schools, and it might provide an opportunity to strengthen families, schools, and even churches.

I wonder whether we have only started to understand how to properly educate our children.

Today, some Adventist schools may have financial issues. We may be disappointed with a few teachers. But there is no dispute that the Adventist education system is built on a holistic model that is clearly being blessed by God as it graduates young people who academically outrank their peers.

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Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada



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Higher Ground Christian School

It may come as a surprise to some that Higher Ground Christian School actually had its beginnings in 1947 (according to archived Canadian Union Messenger records). Elder Blair was instrumental in encouraging the membership to begin the Medicine Hat Church School in the basement of the church. "The church rolled up its sleeves financially speaking and in three weeks' time raised over \$1,000 for putting in shape a very neat and adequate room and also supplying funds necessary for the teacher's salary." We also do not know for how long this school remained active, but there are notes showing that it was still open in March, 1949.

The school re-opened in 1977, once again in the basement of the church with Mrs. Dola Farag and eight students. Resulting from a very generous donation of 13.6 acres of land by businessman and Mayor Harry Veiner, the Medicine Hat church had a place upon which to build a school. It is interesting to note that Mr. Veiner was Jewish and Dr. Wadie Farag (pastor) was Egyptian. Multiculturalism has been a significant part of HGCS from some of the earliest years.

Classes began in a new debt-free school building in 1978-79 with 12 stu-



Gym addition, 1981.

dents. At the ribbon cutting ceremony, the chairman of the Medicine Hat Ministerial Association stated, "Frankly, we are a bit jealous. We want to do the same and cannot, and we wonder how you Adventists, with a small constituency can do it. We congratulate you and wish we could do the same." (Canadian Adventist Messenger, Feb. 7, 1980, p. 10)

Under the leadership of Pastor Dennis Braun and many volunteers, a larger gymnasium, kitchen, and washrooms were added in 1981. After a contest in the 1990s, the name was changed from Veinerville Christian Academy to Higher Ground Christian School. It is a fitting name, as the school sits on a hill quietly overlooking the city from the east.

Enrollment peaked at 45 during the 2005-2006 school year when a

number of newcomers to Canada were enrolled with the encouragement of Pastor Victor and Elsa Schulz. Two buses were purchased and classroom renovations were made.

Currently, two classrooms are home to ten students and two teachers.

Due to the generous support of the Medicine Hat church members, tuition for all students is free.

A library, gymnasium, kitchen, computer lab, office, supply room, and two classrooms provide the setting for Christ-centered education which encourages a life-long friendship with Jesus.

A special thank you to Wayne Smith, Rob Parker, Edith Fitch, Dola Farag, and Dennis Braun for providing pictures and background historical information.

*As I compiled information for this article, I was poignantly reminded about the importance of keeping and maintaining detailed and accurate records for our schools and churches. There comes a time when we cannot remember, but having the ability to reference archived records is a valuable asset. You may contact the Alberta Conference for details about how to archive digitally.

—Submitted by Linda Steinke



The mayors of Medicine Hat and Redcliffe look on as Harry Veiner, the donor of the land, cuts the ribbon held by J.W. Wilson and E. Hillock. (source: Messenger: "Miracle School", 1978, Dec. 7, p.10)

Higher Ground Christian School Today.



This Is No Longer Your Home

On June 3, 2014 armed men stormed into Marina's home in eastern Ukraine. They were separatists and they told her that the house no longer belonged to her family. They told her to leave immediately. Marina and her husband were not killed because they had children.

Frightened and disbelieving, they gathered a few belongings and left Luhansk province. They were able to spend a few weeks with relatives, but then moved to the outskirts of Kiev.

Marina's family is not alone. As of February 9, 2015 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that there are officially over one million people who have been displaced from their homes because of the fighting in eastern Ukraine. The true number is believed to be higher as many people who have fled found refuge with friends and family members and have not registered with the government.

Marina was trained as a teacher of Ukrainian and Russian language and culture, but she was working as a kindergarten teacher. Her husband was trained as a Russian sailor, but could not find work in his field, so he became a private security guard. They lived a



Dilapidated summer resort, home for the family.

very normal life. They had everything they needed and their family was happy.

They wanted a proper place to raise their daughter and two sons, and in 2012 they secured a mortgage and bought a house. They had no way of knowing that in less than three years, they would lose everything that they had worked so hard for in one day.

Now home is the two tiny rooms that they rent from a dilapidated summer resort. The floors are uneven, the ceilings are water damaged, the wallpaper is peeling, and the heat is uncertain, however, they are together. Marina is thankful. She knows that her family is doing well compared to those who are left in the east.

Marina's mother, father, and father-in-law, are still in the conflict area. She worries about them constantly. The

government has ceased making pension payments in their region and she doesn't know if they are able to get food. She cannot send any money to help as no banks are transferring funds to the affected cities.

Her husband has been trying to get a job, but many employers do not want to hire people from the east as they blame them for the crisis. They turn a deaf ear when Edward tells them he has three children to take care of.

When Marina's family fled, it was summer. They believed that they would be able to go home within a few weeks, and found themselves ill prepared when winter arrived.

With the help of a grant from the Canadian government's International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) department, and the support of our generous donors, ADRA Canada has been helping families, including Marina's, to cope with these difficult circumstances. ADRA provided them with food and a cash voucher. With the voucher Marina was able to purchase shoes, winter clothing, a four month's supply of diapers, and other needed items.

Marina and her family long to go home, however, they know that it may never be possible. Their future is uncertain, but they are grateful for the assistance that we have been able to provide, help which Marina says is more than she expected. Thank you for supporting ADRA Canada's mission to provide assistance to people in need.



Marina with her children.



Sharmilla Reid
Donor Relations Director
ADRA Canada

ARCHIVING AND LOVING IT!

By Linda Steinke

Passionate, persevering, persistent all perfectly describe the “Fitch sisters”

Other adjectives would be: attentive to detail, dedicated, and hearts for service...all necessary ingredients for archivists.

Preserving history is important for our church, schools, and families. Being able to look back and see how God has led is a blessing. Our lives often come in the way of recording and preserving those details.

Edith Fitch taught in our Alberta Seventh-day Adventist schools for 30 years. After four years of retirement, she felt she needed more purpose in life. In 1997 she volunteered to gather, organize, and preserve history for Canadian University College (Burman University). This gave her ten years to collect and record CUC's history for the centennial book in 2007, although that was not her goal at the time. While visiting with Edith and her sister Alice Wombold,

I quickly learned that archiving is a continuous work in progress.

Imagine looking for a needed document . . . fingering through mountains of paper . . . not knowing where to even begin looking. Most times the process is just not possible, so unless someone in the immediate vicinity can recall the information, it cannot be retrieved. Over the years, archiving at CUC has evolved so that now key word searches can be done quickly to provide the required information.

Edith laughs gently as she reflects upon the early days in 1997. There were no computers being used for archiving. Information from letters and periodicals was hand-written and alphabetized on 3000 index cards, and some cards became misplaced and askew. In 2002 Edith acquired a computer to re-enter the information in a database. In 2005

Maj-Britt Rusk joined her and over the next six years approximately 31,000 entries was filed in the database, making the location of information accessible within a matter of seconds. One then could find the hard copy stored in a binder and read the information wanted.

In 2011 another step was taken in

the archiving process and that was to scan original documents so that a key word could be entered for searching and one could read from the scanned pages rather than the hard copy.

After the death of her husband, Alice needed something to fill her days. She would often peer over Edith's shoulder as she worked. “Do you think I could learn?” she queried. “Of course!” was the answer, so in 2012 Alice set her fingers to the keyboard and began scanning records under the guidance of Edith. Currently Alice is scanning student records for the registrar of Canadian University College (Burman University).

Since the fire at the Red Deer location of the Alberta Conference in 2011, records were gathered and stored, and have been inaccessible for retrieving information. Even prior to the fire, information was not easily accessible. Which box? Which year? Which folder? “So, when Edith said, ‘Let me digitize your archives for you,’ it was like an angel flew in to rescue us,” said Larry Hall, Executive Secretary and Vice President for Administration.

Systematically, the process began. Alice digitized all the Conference Directories beginning in 1954. Edith has been digitizing all conference minutes and annual sessions. Records go back as far as 1903 when “Alberta” was part of the Northwest Territories and a “mission” of the Northern Union Conference of the United States. After becoming a Canadian province in 1905, Alberta became a conference in 1906 and became part of the Canadian Union Conference in 1907.





Edith Fitch and Alice Wombold.

Early hand-written minutes for the first ten years had to be typed. Piece by piece, page by page, the records have been scanned and filed year by year up to 1991. After 2000, the minutes are on the computer so will not need to be scanned but will need to be processed through Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software to make the document searchable. “We can now do a word search, somewhat similar to a Google search,” says Edith.

The General Conference and the SDACC each require archiving to be done for the local conference, churches and schools. Due to unavailable expertise and time, the process is slow. At this point CUC/BU and the Alberta Conference are taking advantage of the volunteer services of Edith and Alice to digitize their documents. Once the digitizing is complete and up-to-date, the maintaining process should be manageable.

Here’s an example to demonstrate the value of what has been done to date. Dale Visger, a former CUC employee, wanted to know who the Week of Prayer speaker was in 1944. The speaker had impacted Dale’s life and he wanted to use the man’s name in a presentation that he was giving. He phoned Edith for help. In a matter of seconds, by searching “week of

prayer” in a 1944 digitized copy of the Aurora, Edith found the speaker’s name to be Thurber from the Pacific Press. It was just what Dale needed. Without this tool, the information would have been difficult if not impossible to find.

The Alberta Conference is just beginning the process of digitizing information. Once complete, a policy and guidelines will be put in place so that information can be available to the Alberta constituency in an expedient and respectful manner.

Edith beams as she says, “I don’t know what I would do if I didn’t do this. Hardanger (Norwegian embroidery), but who wants it? Truly our Alberta Conference has found a treasure trove in Edith and Alice.

Others that have been involved in archiving were: Willis Clark and Norma Vatcher. Those currently involved are Nancy Foreman, Carol Nicks and Adoree Hatton who are working on other aspects of archiving.

Everyone is invited...

to the College Heights SDA Church

Join us to hear:

Pastor Dan Jackson, President
North American Division of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church

He will be speaking

At the Divine Worship Service, 10:50 a.m.
In the afternoon, 3:30 p.m. (topics of interest)

You are also invited to a **Gospel Music Concert**
7:00 p.m. | Free admission | An offering will be taken

SABBATH
MAY 2
2015



Prison Ministries Program Changing Lives

The Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church is a short 30 minute drive north of the Bowden Institution, Innisfail. Bowden Institution is a medium and minimum-security facility for over 500 male offenders and the ministry of choice for Daniel Mbewa since December 2013.

Initially, Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church member Robert Richardson coordinated a program called “Malachi Dads,” based on the parenting principle of Malachi 4:6. After serving in a leadership capacity for several years, he wanted to turn over control of the program to a strong Christian young man, and Daniel was the natural choice.

Daniel, who currently works as a Land Information Systems Coordinator for the City of Red Deer, volunteers his time every Thursday to meet with interested individuals from the facility. The programs are made up of reading books like *Experiencing God*, *Inside Out Dad*, *Growing Strong in God’s Family*, *Lead Like Jesus*, *The Pursuit of God*, *Letters from Dad*, and more. They then discuss what they have learned and how they can implement the lessons on godly leadership into their lives and family relationships. Daniel shares that some of the most impactful discussions lead to devoted prayer, bible memorization, testimonies, and the fathers in the group taking time to write letters to their families.

The goal of this program is to help support these men in becoming the spiritual leaders God intended them to be. At the very least, these men are committed to doing any-



Daniel Mbewa on trip in Kenya.

Being part of this ministry is a life changing experience, as we impact fathers who will impact their children, in turn their children’s children and generations to come.

thing they can to steer their children away from the life that brought them to Bowden Institution.

So far, participating men have successfully communicated with family members who had previously been out of contact, and many have introduced their family to God. Daniel says, “When

the family members see the change in their Dad, Uncle, Brother, Nephew, or Cousin, that is an inspiration to them.”

Just as God will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, He is also turning the hearts of Central Alberta volunteers toward those seeking familial bonds while incarcerated. There is non-denominational support from the institution’s Chaplain, Rev. William “Bud” Sargent, as well as that of Alex Larson, Director of Malachi Dads Ministry Canada, and six other fathers from the Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church congregation.

Daniel shares, “It’s a true blessing every week to see the men and interact with them, sharing that time and enjoying each other’s company, discussing how to be godly fathers. Being part of this

ministry is a life changing experience, as we impact fathers who will impact their children, in turn their children’s children and generations to come.”

The branch of Prison Ministries focusing on family unity and strengthening fathers is a great opportunity for anyone seeking to serve like Jesus (Matthew 25:36). Options for involvement include a commitment of approximately 3-4 hours a month, funding to purchase the books used in study, and most importantly, prayers for the men in prison, their families, and also for God’s guidance and wisdom to be bestowed upon the volunteers. As Daniel affirms, “Time spent in God’s ministry is never wasted time.”

—Submitted by the Red Deer Adventist Church

Bags of Love Ministry Helping Children See Jesus

It was close to midnight when a young police officer was involved with the removal of a tiny, dirty little two year old girl. Not only was this traumatic for the little girl, but also distressing for the officer. She clung tenaciously to the officer and did not want to be put down or handed over to social workers when arriving at a Child Services office. A social worker provided the child with her very own “Bag of Love,” and began opening it to encourage her to look at the toys and teddies. She was convinced to take a look inside and reach for the soft warm quilt. She pulled it out and over her shoulders; then toddled off to a couch where she crawled up, put her thumb in her mouth and drifted off to sleep. She was comforted and the officer left with a small bit of peace of mind. Each “Bag of Love” holds a story. It is sad that children have to be removed from their homes, but “while we wait for Jesus to come, we will work! The blessings keep coming back to us!” says Jewel Goertzen Lien of Ryley. It’s My Very Own Bag of Love (IMVO) ministry began in the United States in 2005 (www.IMVO.org). The venture has blossomed and taken wing throughout North America. A Bag of Love contains a blanket/quilt, teddy bear, toiletries, toys, and books and is provided to children in crisis, children who must be removed from their homes—often with only the clothes on their backs.

Jewel is passionate about the IMVO ministry and constantly in awe as she sees God at work in east-central Alberta and other areas. When children are in crisis, their world has been ripped apart. A Bag of Love provides them a sense of security and hope. It’s their very own and stays with the child throughout turbulent times in their life.

“We started small in 2009,” says Jewel, “and now we are almost overwhelmed with community involvement.” After several presentations to social workers, they jumped on board.



Veronica Dribnenki (left) from Boyle/Ellscott chapter. The young girl (right) is actively involved in helping to fill the bags. IMVO is a ministry that can include a wide range of ages.

“Before I ask God, our needs are met!” The IMVO torch was passed to Veronica Dribnenki in the Boyle/Ellscott district. “It’s a great way to rub shoulders with people who love to serve others, and to engage others to learn to love serving others,” says Veronica. “I’m convinced that we need to invite the community to work with us to serve others, and then introduce them to Jesus. We’re living in an age of skepticism. People need to see Jesus in action!” A Bag of Love is one way to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities. Both the Ryley and Boyle groups utilized an ADRA grant to begin their chapter, but within a short time no longer needed the grant because of the large amount of eager community individuals and groups that wished to work together. “Community involvement is a requirement in order to receive the grant, but now the community is joining together to meet the needs of children in crisis in our area.” Retail stores, service agencies, churches, schools, and community groups have become involved in providing and filling Bags of Love for children. One church in the area is active in raising generous dollars to keep the circle of love growing. It’s almost impossible to stop talking about the positive affect IMVO has in a community. More chapters are being sought to begin working in Alberta.

“We will help you!” says Jewel. “We will get you started with quilts, guidance, and lots of encouragement. This is a low risk but high impact project. Items for the bags and monetary donations keep flooding in. For every quilt we send out four come in.” For more informa-

tion, join “Bags of Love East Central Alberta” Facebook page; call Jewel Goertzen Lien (780-663-2153); or email Jewel at me_jewel@hotmail.com.

—Submitted by
Linda Steinke



Donna masterfully sews quilts for IMVO. She was a key person in getting the IMVO into the community (Ryley—East Central Alberta Chapter).



Jewel Goertzen Lien (left) is the organizer and contact person for the Ryley chapter. Nancy Clubb (right) is just one of the many others involved in this amazing ministry.

Ponoka Church Hosts Healthy Choices Seminar

On October 24-26, the Ponoka Adventist Church hosted a Healthy Choices cooking seminar presented by Darlene Blaney.

There were approximately 25 people in attendance on Friday and 40 in attendance on Saturday evening. The church has plans to host a Newstart seminar in the near future and to start a recipe sharing club.



Darlene Blaney presenting at the Ponoka Healthy Choices seminar.



Kadence (middle) with Sabbath School teachers Dorothy McGrath (left) and Jonna Caderma (right).



Pastor Pohle baptizing Curtis Cormier, October 18, 2014.



Pastor Pohle baptizing Kadence Boscher, November 8, 2014.

Young People Make a Decision to Follow Jesus in Lloydminster

Members of the Lloydminster Church rejoiced over the baptism of two young people. Curtis age 15 and Kadence age 8 told the congregation that they desired baptism because they wanted to belong to Jesus and to be ready for His coming.

Curtis Cormier was baptized on October 18, 2014. Curtis' parents, Rose and Joe Cormier, are happy that he has decided to follow Jesus. Kadence Boscher was baptized on November 8, 2014; this was one day before her 9th birthday. Her Mother's family from Alberta and Saskatchewan came to

celebrate this special day with her.

Family members attending her baptism were: parents Lindsay and Richard Boscher; great-grandmother – Pat Findlayson; grandparents – Ron & Pattie Hetland; Auntie Rona & Uncle Ricardo Reibeiro, cousins Sofia & Isaac; Uncle Drew & Auntie Kayla Hetland, cousins Luke & Coark.

Baptisms were conducted by Pastor Robert Pohle of the Lloydminster Church.

—Submitted by Pastor Robert Pohle, Lloydminster Church

Baptisms in Smoky Lake and Lac La Biche

Smoky Lake and Lac La Biche were blessed to have Evangelist Darrin Bartell of Amazing Facts present a Bible series in each region. As a result, five individuals committed/recommitted their lives to Christ through baptism. "Evangelism is not only a time of reaping but of revival as well" said Pastor Toby Wong. "We believe that evangelism is a continual process of nurturing newly baptised members as well as a daily reaffirmation for the seasoned members of the worldwide church."

—Submitted by Pastor Toby Wong, Smoky Lake and Lac La Biche Churches



(Left to right): Janna Trenchuk, Mary Fox, Renee Skoreyko, Jonathan Skoreyko, Nikita Ennest, and Pastor Toby Wong.



Darlene Blaney presenting in Clive.

Clive Conducts Healthy Choices Wellness Workshop

On Sunday, January 18, Darlene Blaney presented the first of two Healthy Choices Wellness Workshops in the village of Clive. She informed the 30 individuals present that diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease can be prevented – and even reversed in some cases. Fourteen of the attendees were community guests. Darlene answered many questions from the audience during her presentations, during the recipe demonstrations, and after the meeting. The attendees enjoyed the samples of Darlene's nutritious and delicious recipes, and look forward to her next workshop in March.

—Submitted by Esther Yaceyko

Volunteers Provide Food and Shelter in Red Deer

Matthew 25:40 says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." It is with this in mind that the Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Centre (CAACSC) is always on the lookout for ways to reach out to the community in downtown Red Deer. During the Christmas season, the volunteers went out of their way to share some holiday cheer by putting on a special Christmas meal for the patrons in which over ten turkeys were served. Volunteers also gave away 110 gifts including hygiene items, socks, and various goodies. The Christmas celebration brought joy and smiles to both the guests and the servers.

Stepping up to meet a tangible need in the City of Red Deer, the CAACSC has partnered with Safe Harbour, to serve as a warming centre during the winter months. The warming centre is staffed by Safe Harbour employees, and the doors are open for patrons every day of the week between 8 am and 5 pm, with an average of 50 - 60 guests in the building at any given time. This service has become a welcome relief to many throughout this exceptionally cold winter. This new partnership has increased the Centre's reach but has also resulted in some increased wear and tear on the building. The outside doors of the facility are in the process of being replaced, and the bathrooms will require renovations sometime this year.

The CAACSC regularly serves meals every Thursday and Saturday (all year), and hosts a brunch on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of every month from October-April. A typical meal involves a group of volunteers preparing all food contributions for the meal, serving the meal, and interacting with the patrons through conversation and music. There is an average attendance of 80-100 guests to every meal. The Centre is supported by volunteers who come from various central Alberta churches, including, Bentley/Rimbey, Sylvan Lake, Stettler, Lacombe Community, College Heights, Ponoka, and Red Deer.

The CAACSC would like to thank all of those who have supported the ministry through their time and finances, with special mention to the churches and various private donations who give on a monthly basis. Without these contributions, the Centre would not be able to meet the needs of the community. The yearly expenses of the Centre are about \$45,000, and with reduced grant money this year, it is predicted there will be an income of \$30,000, resulting in a \$15,000 shortfall in 2015. The need for an Adventist presence in providing these services continues to increase and so we ask that you keep the Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Centre in your prayers, and we praise God for your continued support.

—Submitted by Pastor Moises Ruiz, Red Deer Church



Red Deer warming centre receives an average attendance of 80-100 guests for every meal.



Christmas gift bags.



Orlin Uzunov (left) and Bob Martin (right) pose with some of the equipment used in producing the radio programs in Bulgarian and English.



Members of the Radio Bible Light team (left-right): Ivan and Trista Dechev and their son, Kaloyan; Shannon Perras; Orlin Uzunov and Bob Martin.

Internet Radio in Calgary Broadcasting in Bulgarian and English 24/7

Dreams are powerful. They unleash energy, creativity and perseverance that would otherwise not happen. Bob Martin had a dream while in Bulgaria over a decade ago. He wanted to start an Internet radio station to reach the Bulgarian people with the message of Jesus Christ. His dream was not possible in his home country.

In 2005, Bob and his family moved to Canada to the City of Calgary. There were the challenges of establishing life in a new location. However, Bob did not forget the dream. In 2008 he began “Radio Svetlina” meaning Radio Light in English. Knowing that millions of Bulgarians have emigrated all over the world and often feel lonely in their new surroundings, Bob wanted to let them know they were not alone. He wanted to create a “Bible friend,” a program where those without a church family could feel included. The broadcast was and continues to be transmitted from the basement of his house. The radio program started with two hours of programming weekly, and then increased to six hours. Friday is prime time for the station and the six hours included two sermons, a Bible study, and a discussion of Christian values and practises. This discussion is interactive with the listening audience. Today the radio station broadcasts 24/7 with materials provided from many sources in the Bulgarian community. However, Friday is when the live broadcast occurs. There is also an opportunity to view the live broadcast through the video streaming.

“Radio Svetlina” is dependent on a team of people to make the station work. There is a local team to help with the operations, but there are pastors in Canada, USA, and Bulgaria that provide messages and studies for the Bulgarian people. Statistics show that on average there are 750-1000 listeners each week. From its start in 2008 until now, the radio has been heard in 113 countries by over 105,000 people. This includes remote locations and predominately Muslim countries in the Middle

East. Some are places that Bob didn’t even realize existed! There have been at least ten baptisms as a result of the work of “Radio Svetlina.” Everyone who is a part of the team is a willing volunteer, passionate to share the love of Jesus and the teachings of the Bible.

Several months ago God led the team of “Radio Svetlina” to consider starting a new station in English. Its name is “Radio Bible Light.” The programming has a strong emphasis on Biblical teaching and their practical applications. While the radio station will remain Adventist owned and operated, there is a goal to reach other Christians and also people with no Christian background. Since starting in February of 2014, the program has already reached over 2,700 people located in 79 different countries.

The English programming is currently one hour each week on Friday between 6 and 7 pm MST. The hour is composed of one half hour of presentation followed by questions and answers. Listeners/viewers can present questions through Skype, email or phone. The host presents the question to the speaker and he provides an answer. At the end of the broadcast the guest speaker has a closing prayer.

The speakers for “Radio Bible Light” have included Randy Barber, Felix Richter, Andrew Butler, Lara Melaschenko, Honey Todd, James Mbewa, Don Corkum and many others. There is also a need for additional presenters for this weekly one hour English program. Technology allows the speaker to join in from a remote location if they are unable to come to the studio. God continues to bless the program regardless of distance.

The current team is: Bob Martin, coordinator; Todor Levterov, producer; Andrew Butler, manager; Trista Dechev, editor; Ivan Dechev, communications; Hristina Martin, musical editor; Shannon Perras, host; Kristan Vassilev, host; Orlin Uzunov, technical director.

—Submitted by Don Corkum

Church Planting Coordinator, Alberta Conference

Fort McMurray Church Celebrates Four Baptisms and Two Weddings

The Fort McMurray Adventist Church recently celebrated four baptisms and two weddings.

Bernard and Angeline Chinguwo had started their family (Nathan, age 4, and Natalie, age 2) and moved to Fort McMurray when they decided to start attending church again. Though Angie had a Pentecostal background, they chose the Adventist Church as Benny had been previously baptized. They completed Bible studies and pre-marriage preparation with their pastor, and received counsel on marriage from experienced Zimbabwean couples in the church. They were re-baptized on December 6 and married on the 9th. Angie is active in the prayer group, and Benny is helping to organize a group for young married men to learn how to be better husbands.

When Kevin Duku arrived in Fort

McMurray, he had been studying with Adventists in Calgary. He continued his studies off and on with another young couple in the church, but Sabbath work issues prevented him from attending regularly. When he got engaged to Abigail, an Adventist childhood friend, he became more serious about his faith. He finished his studies with the pastor and stopped working on Sabbath. Kevin was baptized on November 29, and Kevin and Abigail were married on January 11.

Bev Blish began attending the church in 2012 after being invited to



Bev Blish shares her testimony before her baptism (January 10, 2015).

join the leadership of a health outreach ministry operated by the church. Initially suspicious of churches, she only came for the leadership meetings, and soon after for the preceding vegetarian potluck, then started catching the end of the sermon, and ultimately became a regular at church service and prayer group. Bev's heart was touched by the love she felt from the church members, and soon she was reading her Bible (which had made her depressed before) and studying with the pastor and head elder. At her baptism on January 10, Bev shared how she had learned through a recovery program to rely on God, but now she has learned to love and trust Him as her personal savior and friend.

—Submitted by Pastor David Hamstra, Fort McMurray Church

Prayer Pit Stop in Fort Saskatchewan



Much Prayer = Much Power!

With that thought ever in mind, Pastor Darrell Beaudoin (church planting in Fort Saskatchewan) decided to begin and grow a "Prayer Pit Stop." Each Tuesday and/or Thursday at 6 p.m. participants simply call the supplied phone number and enter the pin to join the call; there is also an option to receive a text message alert on your cell phone or email reminder a few minutes before each Prayer Pit Stop begins.

The 15-minute time begins with a short devotional, followed by prayer. Prayer requests may be spoken; one can participate with prayer, or one can simply listen and be blessed. Participants also have the opportunity to hang up at any time.

Those who join in may be anywhere at all—a mall, a vehicle, at home. "It's amazing to watch the Lord at work!" said Beaudoin.

God is at work in Fort Saskatchewan.



Little prayer = Little power!

Almost every Sabbath someone new from the community shows up at church looking for a church family to love them. "We're so blessed to be able to meet that need," Beaudoin said. During the last week of January, a lady responded to a newspaper ad they had posted. She requested someone to study



No prayer = No power!

the Bible with her. Lise Beaudoin visited her home, introducing herself as a Seventh-day Adventist. The lady was thrilled to meet Lise and showed up for church the next Sabbath.

Walking out the door after the service, she said enthusiastically, "I'll see you on Thursday for Bible study, and next Sabbath I'm bringing my husband to church."

Last Sabbath, one young adult lady (a relative of one of the church members) came to church for the first time. After the service she said, "I want to start attending your church and would like to be baptized." Lise will begin Bible studies with her and her mother in the very near future.

They have recently started a 10-week Depression Recovery program and are eagerly anticipating what God has in plan for the future.

—Submitted by Linda Steinke



Three Baby Dedications at Leduc Church

On Sabbath, January 3, three sets of parents brought their children to be dedicated to the Lord in the Leduc Seventh-day Adventist church:

Franklyn & Alvia Wright brought Aliana Veneita-Joi. They were supported by their grandmothers and other family members. The Wrights believe Aliana is a gift from God, and wanted



Franklyn & Alvia Wright with Aliana Veneita-Joi.

to have her dedicated with the pledge to grow her in the fear of the Lord.

Damian & Kirsha Murray brought twin boys, Logan and Morgan. The proud grandparents (Errol and Rose Campbell) and other family members were present. The Murrays are Seventh-day Adventist believers who wanted to have their sons presented to the Lord with the promise



Damian & Kirsha Murray with twin boys, Logan and Morgan.

to raise them as sons of the kingdom.

Andre and Erin Easy brought twin boys, Jason and Jackson. They are members of the community. Andre made contact with the Leduc Church through Rose Campbell with whom he works. When the pastor met with them, they were eager to attend the Leduc Church for the first time and to have their babies dedicated to the Lord.



Andre and Erin Easy with twin boys, Jason and Jackson.

Happily married for 72 years

It's not everyday you come across a couple that can say they've been happily married for 72 years. But as 94-year-old Don Gadd offers his wife Edna, 89, another spoonful of lemon meringue pie, it's apparent that their togetherness is unparalleled. With Edna now living in the long-term care facility at the hospital in Lacombe, Don made sure their 72nd anniversary was as memorable as all the ones before. Still a perfect fit, Don showed up wearing the suit (his air force uniform) he wore on their wedding day back in 1943, and brought along with him some flowers and their very first wedding photo they had taken so many years back. The hospital staff set up a private table adorned with a lace cloth and porcelain cups and plates, and Don and Edna took their lunch together. Now living alone in Lacombe, Don comes to visit Edna at the hospital everyday. "I love her more than I ever did," Don said looking at Edna with affection. "When I think of all the things that she did for me and our kids

over the years, it's just amazing." Don met Edna originally in Saskatchewan, where their families lived on farms seven miles apart. Attracted to her intelligence and multitude of talents, Don said the first thing he did when he came home on leave from the war was marry Edna. "I liked everything about her," Don said. "She was a pretty girl, and very intelligent. When she was just 12-years-old she was already driving tractors, trucks and all the rest of it. She was very talented at everything she did." The couple farmed in Saskatchewan and B.C. for years before eventually moving to Lacombe so their son could go to school at Canadian University College (CUC). With four children, 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren, Don said he couldn't have asked for a better life with a better woman.



Don and Edna Gadd. Note: Don is wearing the same suit (his air force uniform) he wore on their wedding day back in 1943.



"She's been with me so long that proves she has a lot of patience," Don said with a laugh. "We believe that marriage is till death do us part, and we've done our best to do that. But she's made it very easy — we've been very blessed and very fortunate." —by Anna Brooks, *Lacombe Globe*
*Reprint with permission from the *Lacombe Globe*.

Shalom Learning Centre in Canada: A Messianic Focus for Alberta

Central Alberta is often seen as predominantly rural, though there is a striking diversity of demographics represented. In 1911, records show there were 1207 Jewish people settled in the smaller communities of Alberta, and nearly a century later (2004), that number increased to over 3.2 million. Though the majority of this population resides in larger cities, non-Orthodox Jews are scattered throughout the province. While smaller cities, like Red Deer, do not have active synagogues, the Alberta Conference, with the support of an NAD initiative, is taking steps to welcome those with whom we share the Sabbath.

The Shalom Learning Centre in Canada (NAD), coordinated by Pastor Olaf Clausen, who serves as Jewish Ministries Liaison for the SDACC, is actively seeking inroads between Adventism and traditional Jewish thought. In August 2014, Pastor Olaf moved from the Camrose/Riley District (where he established the Beth Tehillah Vetikva Messianic Adventist congregation), to Red Deer, and is eager to share his passion for Jewish Ministries with all of Alberta.

More than 50 people participated in the first Adventist Jewish Ministries training weekend hosted in Central Alberta, November 28-30, 2014. The weekend included an educational introduction to Jewish doctrines and practices presented by Dr. Alexander Bolotnikov, as well as a time of fellowship and celebration of Torah study and the Sabbath.

With the goal of promoting a sense of worship within Adventist faith, Dr. Bolotnikov and The Shalom Learning Centre feel this can best be accomplished with an in-depth understanding of the way Jesus worshipped throughout His earthly ministry and a value placed on the traditions that pre-date Christianity. By providing information on Jewish beliefs, the goal is to celebrate the obvious consistencies and similarities of Sabbath observance and adherence to healthful eating practices.

The commission to “go into all the world” begins with an invitation to those from all the world who have become neighbours here in Alberta. The Shalom Learning Centre in Canada is excited to continue training people to carry the gospel to People of the Book with the hope that their already authentic faith can grow to accept Jesus.



Pastor Olaf and Rhonda Clausen (left) demonstrate the spousal Sabbath blessing.



Wilfred and Ida Kenzle celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary.

80th Wedding Anniversary

On the evening of February 7, 2015, Wilfred and Ida Kenzle celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary with 50 family members, and on February 8 a second celebration convened with family and friends at the Villa Marie in Red Deer. They were married on February 7, 1935 in a quiet wedding in Sylvan Lake. Wilf will be 102 on July 7 and Ida 100 on October 14.

Wilf farmed in the Sylvan Lake area for many years before entering the building trade. He built houses in Red Deer and Vernon, BC. The family moved back to Red Deer in 1989 after he fully retired.

Letters of congratulations were received from Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Other letters of congratulations were received from the Governor General of Canada, David Johnson; from Alberta: Premier Jim Prentice, Lieutenant Governor Donald S. Ethell, Mary Jablonski MLA for North Red Deer, the interim leader of the opposition, Heather Forsyth, and the Mayor of Red Deer, Tara Veer.

The couple had seven children. Five sons, Lawrence (Beverley); Calvin (Alice); Clifford (Diane) both deceased; Ralph (Shirley); Ivan (Bernadine); and two daughters, Diana (Clayton Goodman) and Rosemarie (James Long deceased). They have 14 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

God has richly blessed the Kenzle family. Usually every day, after each meal, Wilf wheels Ida up and down the long hallway to keep the strength in his legs. Their doctor occasionally comes to visit them, but doesn't stop for medical reasons.

In an uncertain world, where will you find answers?

REVELATION TODAY

Saturday | April 11 | 4 and 7pm

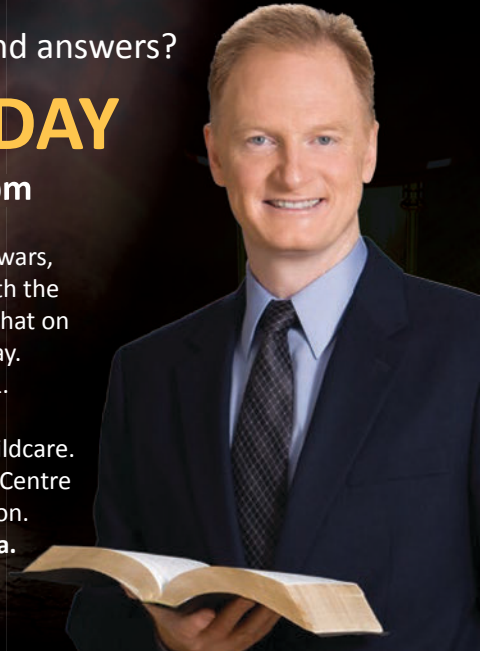
Today's world is full of uncertainty. News of wars, terrorists, and disasters is commonplace. With the increasing instability, it's natural to wonder, what on earth is next? Join me for Revelation Today.

Reserve your FREE seat at 800-253-3001.

This FREE event has FREE parking and FREE childcare. You'll find us at the Ellerslie Road Community Centre located at 11520 Ellerslie Road in Edmonton.

For more details, visit RevelationToday.ca.

Don't Miss Revelation Today!



On Jan. 1, 2011, Pastor John Bradshaw became the fourth speaker/director of the international It Is Written ministry.

John's experience makes him uniquely suited for the role of speaker/director. His broadcasting career began in his home country of New Zealand, where he worked as a disc jockey on a number of the nation's top radio stations. He left this job in 1990—propelled by a desire to find Bible-based truth and a deeper Christian experience.



Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. ADRA is working on the front lines and with the displaced families to provide food, clothing, counselling for post traumatic stress disorder, and other needed assistance.

Help us bring hope to the families who have lost almost everything else. Please call or visit www.adra.ca/Ukraine and donate to our efforts today.

20 Robert St W.
Newcastle, ON L1B 1C6
www.adra.ca
1-888-274-2372



Announcements

In memory



Hilda Viola Jasman (May 5, 1928-Oct. 24, 2014) was born in Three Hills, AB, the oldest daughter of Albert and Minnie Jasman. After graduating from CUC, she attended Portland Adventist Hospital, where she earned a nursing degree. After serving for five years as a staff nurse at Rest Haven, she worked for three years at the Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Calgary before returning to Rest Haven for another two years. Hilda loved to travel, working at Branson Hospital in Toronto, Sydney Sanitarium in Australia before finishing her nursing career at Branson in 1989.

Hilda was a faithful member of the College Heights Church, and is survived by her sisters Florence Guinet; Sandra (Jack) Gallop; nieces Judy (Jared) Nabess; Georgie (Skip) McAulay; Tami (Bernd) Becker; Susan (Greg) Bowen; Kimberly (Mike) Lewis, Edmonton, AB; Caleb (Jennifer) Becker, Roblin, Manitoba; and Robin (Jeff) Stewart, Ladysmith, BC.

WETASKIWIN CHURCH MISSING MEMBERS

Pamela Kelly
Darlene Holt
Pamela Kelly

If you have a CURRENT PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS for any of these names, please contact Pastor Larry Weidell by email at lweidell@albertaadventist.ca.

Scripture Song Contest:

CUC invites you to join in on their 3rd Annual Celebration of Scripture Songs contest. This year the contest is open to anyone associated in any way with Canadian University College or Park View Academy and any member of any Adventist church in the Alberta Conference. There are 13 memory verses chosen from the 4th quarter's Adult Lesson

Quarterly. The plan is to make the prize-winning songs available to all Adventists to help them learn the memory verses for that quarter. All entries must be received at the CUC President's Office by 5 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2015. Please include the names of all who helped write the song. For more information, full contest rules and scripture texts, please view the available pdf <http://albertaadventist.ca.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/events/3rd-Annual-Scripture-Song-Contest.pdf>.

Annual SAGE Alberta

Convention: April 30-May 3, 2015 is a date that those 50 years of age and over will want to take note of. It is the annual SAGE Alberta Convention held at the College Heights Church in Lacombe. The event will begin

on Thursday with an evening devotion. Friday's group tour will be followed by a banquet at the Lacombe Memorial Centre where guest, Elder Dan Jackson, President of the NAD, will give his first presentation. On Sabbath, Elder Jackson will speak for the church service and an afternoon general session. Sabbath will end with the annual gospel concert where an offering will be taken to support SAGE projects. This year there will not be a registration fee though packets will be given to those who register. The only costs will include the Friday tour, the banquet, the Sunday morning brunch and any other meals eaten at the College cafeteria. For more information, please contact Darlene Reimche at dreimche@albertaadventist.ca or phone (403) 342-5044, ext. 206.

RIMBEY CHURCH MISSING MEMBERS

Joe Fell
Shawn Ross
Karoline McGarva
Laura Pye
Neil Pye
Susan Pye
Robert Ramsey
Kim Rhine
Richard Rhine
Monty Schultz
Tina Werner
Gordon Mattis

If you have a CURRENT PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS for any of these names, please contact Hennie Nickoriuk at (403) 843-6504 or by e-mail at hnickoriuk@ccewireless.ca.

Krysowaty Remainder Trust Provides Life-Changing Education Technology

Mary Krysowaty was a teacher. For more than 30 years, she helped kids discover the joy of learning in the classroom. She's still doing that today.

Though Mary passed away on December 2, 2012, the iPad Teaching Library and group license made possible by her Remainder Trust is touching Adventist students today throughout Alberta—and in ways Mary could not have imagined. Mary is helping bright kids like Jaise Northam connect with the world and attain educational goals not otherwise possible (see “What’s it Mean to You?” on opposite page).



Elizabeth Tym and Mary Krysowaty.

“O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood . . . Now that I am old and gray, . . . let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me.”

Psalm 71:17,18

“Wherever the donation came from, it was an awesome thing!”

*—Rob Parker, Principal and teacher with 5 new iPads
Higher Ground Christian School,
Medicine Hat*

Two Gift Approach

Mary used two Planned Giving tools to create gifts to the Conference: a Remainder Trust, and a Will. In her Remainder Trust, she designated the funds remaining when she passed away for education or evangelism.

“This is both education and evangelism!” said Elizabeth Tym, Mary’s niece and executor/Personal Representative, when I presented the Conference’s plan to create the iPad Teaching Library, giving teachers and students access to 1.2 million educational apps.

The Right Focus

A long-time supporter of Adventist education, Elizabeth understood how important it is for Adventist schools to serve students with special needs as well as enhance the learning resources available to all students. “It’s important to get our young people thinking right and focused on Jesus,” she said.

“I just wanted to pass along my gratitude to the donors,” wrote Lara Melashenko, principal of Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, Calgary after she attended the workshop for Alberta SDA principals. “Thanks to such generous donations, alongside the innovative and determined leadership of Janet (Griffith, Education Superintendent) and Janet (Hall, Associate Education Superintendent), I believe we are steadily improving the quality of education in our province!” —LM

The Alberta Conference uses all gifts for the area specified by the Donor. By creating a Remainder Trust with the Conference during her life, Mary was able to give to many projects and organizations by simply telling the Director of Planned Giving where to donate and how much.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Mary could no longer make these decisions in her last years, her niece Elizabeth Tym, who was the attorney named in Mary’s Power of Attorney, knew her aunt’s giving patterns and desires well. Elizabeth was able to continue making gifts on Mary’s behalf until she died. The funds remaining in the trust automatically became a gift to the Conference. Mary’s other assets were governed by her will.

Alberta Conference
Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Putting God First and Last



Lynn McDowell, LLB & Certified Specialist in Planned Giving
Director of Planned Giving | Philanthropy
Alberta Conference

What's it Mean to You?

“Getting an iPad is one of the most influential things that happened in my life.”

Jaise Northam, Grade 10
Aspergers student
Coralwood Academy



Jaise Northam isn't your typical teenager. When he's not in school or doing his homework, he composes music, works on his now 450 page novel, or ponders the mysteries of the universe, like black holes. Like many individuals with Aspergers, Jaise is incredibly gifted in some areas even as he faces challenges in others.

Face to face communication is particularly demanding. Reading another person's face is like decoding a foreign language, explains his mother, Michelle Northam. Another challenge is handwriting. "It will take me twice as long to write a sentence as it will the 'Neuro-typical' person," Jaise says, "and at the end, the writing will look really bad anyways. Because I have fine-motor control issues, writing is difficult."

When Jaise received an iPad two years ago, a new world opened. Suddenly he had a way to communicate more fluently, take class notes, do homework, and organize his day. By the end of the week, Jaise had about 20 friends from school on his new Facebook account.

"I made new friends and became closer with old ones," Jaise remembers. "The frustration I once had with trying to connect with people wasn't as strong anymore."

Michelle recalls the difference the tablet made in her son's life: "He would come to me and say, 'I've never talked to this person and now they want to talk with me.' He just kept saying, 'I can talk to people at school now!'"

"My grades shot up," Jaise remembers, "not only because I was communicating my answers more clearly, but the quality of my work increased because I wasn't so concerned about making it look good on paper."

Jaise's experience shows what technology can do for learning disabled students, but the 1.2 million iPad apps designed for education cover a spectrum of learning styles. Thanks to a Planned Gift to the Alberta Conference made by Mary Krysowaty for education (see facing page), the Conference is able to help its schools throughout Alberta to purchase iPads. Coralwood has purchased several.

For Jaise, the iPad was life changing—a way to connect with the world and show what he can do: "I will always be thankful for what it does."—*Glen Graham*

Planned Giving, Changing Lives

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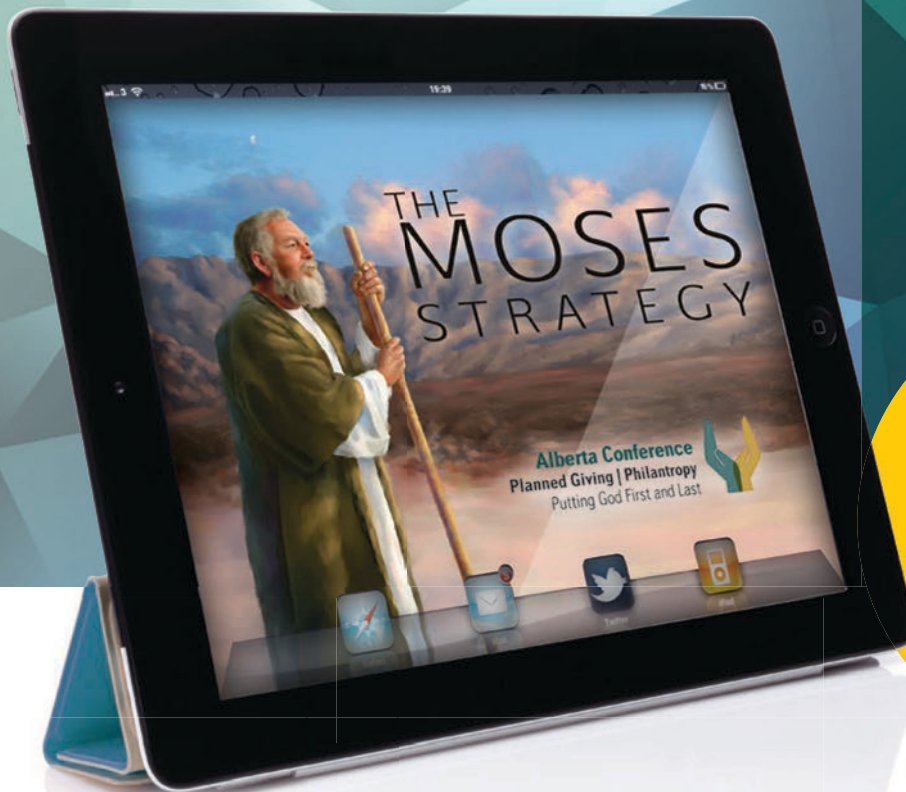


 SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH
Alberta Conference

Ever wonder what happens to Planned Gifts in Alberta?

Find out at Camp Meeting 2015 Moses Strategy Celebration

If you've made a **Planned Gift*** to the Alberta Conference or are thinking about it, please come celebrate with the growing number of people who have.



S U N D A Y

AUGUST

2

2015

2:30 – 4:00 PM

LOWER LODGE

Special Features:

- Play with and learn about the Education Department's new Kryswaty iPad Teaching Library
- 2nd Annual Nicodemus Award & reception

Enter to Win an iPad!

Register in advance or at the door for a chance to win a new iPad** donated by Advanced Systems.

*Gifts made through Wills, Charitable Gift Annuities, Remainder Trusts, Life Interests in a Home or land, RRSP/RRIF, Insurance, or Stocks/Marketable Securities qualify as Planned Gifts.

**Must be present to win.

RSVPs by July 15 appreciated:

(403) 342-5044 x 226 or
lmc dowell@albertaadventist.ca

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