



Alberta
**Adventist
News**

NOVEMBER 2016

**THE SHAPING
OF A
PRESIDENT**

For I am not ashamed of the
gospel of Christ, for it is the
power of God to salvation for
everyone who believes...

Romans 1:16

Hello Again - Hello

I am always amazed at how God chooses to lead in a person's life. It is hard to believe that it is over 30 years ago that I began my ministry in Alberta. Almyra and I were privileged to be assigned to the Edmonton Central Church as an Associate Pastor. The members were both kind and welcoming.

After our return from Andrews University, we were assigned to Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House district of churches, and later to Medicine Hat and Brooks district. Both of these assignments were such a great blessing to us. The members were kind and helpful as we worked together to

further God's kingdom.

After 15 years away from Alberta, God has brought us full circle back to the province where we began. We are looking forward to this new responsibility and building on the great work done by those who have gone before.

Thank you for the trust and confidence placed in me to assume this role and with your prayers and support we will work together for the furtherance of God's work in Alberta.



Almyra and Gary Hodder

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Highlights

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Submit your best Alberta Conference
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Please email submissions to
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include information about the
event and caption for photo,
date photo was taken,
photographer name and
contact information.



Cover photo and other images contributed.

Submission Guidelines
www.albertaadventist.ca/aan
Please email submissions to
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Constituents Elect New Administration

Conference delegates elected Gary Hodder as
president and Wayne Williams as VP for Admin.



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Going Hungry to End Hunger

The Ration Meal Challenge
invites participants to eat like
a refugee for one day.



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CAAA Holds 37th Family Retreat

The Caribbean Association of
Adventists in Alberta (CAAA)
held their 37th annual family
retreat at Foothills Camp.

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I Have Returned

Laying in a field of snow and looking up into the sky, talking to God. Talking to my best friend. This was me at 8 or 9 years of age. My best friend in the entire universe was the One who created me. I had been raised my entire life, as long as I can remember, in a Seventh-day Adventist home. I went to youth camp every summer. My family and I went to camp meeting every year. My entire being was centered around God and I was taught daily to be a good person, to love and honour God and to follow His ten commandments. I could not imagine life any other way. But that was about to change.

When I turned 13 years of age I left my Seventh-day Adventist home and went to live with my birth family. There was no longer daily worship. No longer daily prayer. No giving thanks for the food. Television and music filled my life and became the normal. I struggled to retain the path I had been taught as a child.

At first, I connected with the pastor from the local Seventh-day Adventist church and he picked me and my little sister up each Sabbath and took us to church. I remember he was very kind. I don't remember when but I could most likely tell you why I stopped going to church. I stopped following God and His plan for my life. I stopped obeying His commandments. The devil was all around me and was in everything I did, watched and listened to. Worldly things became normal and acceptable, and I no longer considered them bad.

It didn't take much longer than a year before I had completely walked away from God. I did not forget Him but I left Him. I walked into a life filled with drugs, alcohol and crime. I associated with people who did not believe in God. Although I did, I never felt at home. I knew I was better than what I was doing. I had been raised better, and this was not the life meant for me. But



Jamie reconciling with Jesus at her Baptism, performed by Pastor John Murley.

once things became habits they became hard to leave. Pain and anger filled my life and drugs and alcohol became my escape. At my worst and at the bottom, I never stopped praying. I begged and pleaded with God for forgiveness and to show me a way out, back to freedom from the things that now controlled and choked and suffocated the life from my very being. And He did.

He never left. I kicked, crawled and pulled myself out through the strength God gave me and when I finally landed, I stood. I begin to change things slowly in my life. I was a "good" person, I was spiritual. It wasn't until I was at work one day and I was listening to sermons online that I really begin to open my eyes. I would listen to all types of preachers but I was always drawn back to the Seventh-day Adventist sermons. I realized that I was not strong or powerful. I was nothing. I was a sinner, and I was being tricked. The devil was everywhere and in everything that I had told myself was ok to listen to and to watch. No, being spiritual wasn't

enough, God had bigger expectations of me and I begin to study. I began to wake up and realize that what I did and my actions DO matter. I am accountable for my behaviour, my actions and being a decent human being and a spiritual person isn't enough.

I finally saw that I am nothing without Him and His love and His mercy and grace. I have never been more grateful in my life to have the opportunity to come back to the family I once knew, the teachings I once left and to be able to start again. I am a child of God and I believe with every inch of my being that He placed me as a 2-year-old child into a Seventh-day Adventist home for a reason. I am thankful every day that I am alive and that I have been given another opportunity to follow God and to fulfil the plan that He has for me. I feel incredibly blessed and excited to follow Him and to love Him and be loved by Him for all of eternity.

*Jamie
A loved child of God*

What's it Mean to You?

“I know what happens when we choose children, sacrifice for, and educate them.”

Larry Wilkins, Honorary Chair of the Bridge Campaign

Owner & CEO External
Affairs Medical Spas
St. Albert & Edmonton



It seems as though my involvement with Mamawi Atosketan was simply inevitable. When I was one-year old and my brother a little older, the court awarded us in a custody battle to my paternal grandmother. Nan was Mohawk, born on the Tyendanaga Reserve, living in Toronto and married to my Poppa, an Ojibway Indian. She sacrificed a full pension to stay home and mother us. Together, they taught me about love, family and sacrifice, but mostly about love. She chose us.

I spent my teenage years going to school and flying back and forth to the Arctic to work in construction. My father saw that I was lost and told me he would send me to any university in the world if I would go. Beach Boys were cool back then so I chose California, and he chose Pacific Union College, an Adventist university.

The Canadian dollar was at an all-time low. My dad had to move into a tiny little rental to keep up with tuition. Knowing his sacrifice so that I could be the first in my clan to attend a school of higher learning, I worked hard and graduated near the top of my class. I was so impressed with the Adventist School System that when my son was of age, I sent him to a Canadian Adventist university. He is at the moment flying across Canada, interviewing for a residency in emergency medicine.

My life has taught me a few rules that I have written in stone:

- Love the children—all children—even when doing so requires sacrifice.
- We give everything we can to our kids, but sometimes it's not all good; sometimes they need additional help. For me and my son, the Adventist School system was that help.
- From those to whom much is given, much is expected.

I have extremely high expectations for the children of MANS. I believe in them. I know them. I know what happens when we choose children, sacrifice for, and educate them. I know who they will become. They will lead the next generation and teach them their own life lessons. Gratitude will guide their lives.

Hear Larry's inspiring Alberta Camp Meeting 2016 talk at vimeo.com/albertaadventist



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

WWW.MANS1.CA (403) 342-5044 X 233

Going Hungry to End Hunger

October ushers in a time of thankful reflection as we gather around tables laden with mouth-watering dishes with family and friends.

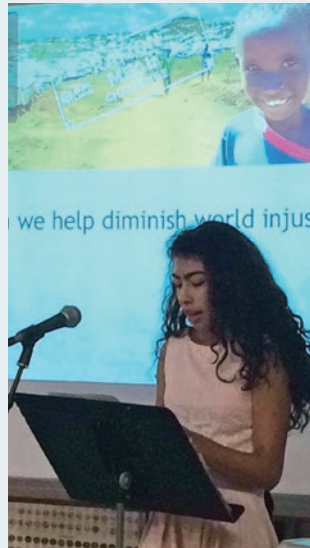
For the Edmonton South and Sherwood Park churches, October also means hunger. For two years running, both churches have participated in ADRA Canada's Ration Meal Challenge, choosing to go hungry to help end hunger in the world.

The Ration Meal Challenge invites participants to eat like a refugee for one day. They can eat the BP-5 compact food bars that ADRA hands out in refugee camps, or alternatively they can eat simple meals of rice and beans. As the participants eat their rations for a day, they join with ADRA in ending hunger by asking for sponsors to donate to ADRA's hunger projects.

Pastor Rodney Davis of the Sherwood Park church saw it as a meaningful way to engage his church members in the needs around the world and ADRA's role in meeting those needs. This year, the 32 participants launched the challenge on Friday night by eating one of the BP-5 ration bars and attending an ADRA vespers. For Sabbath breakfast, they munched on their second ration bar. Potluck after church found the participants gathered around tables and slowly savouring their third ration bar. With stomachs all but growling, they attended two afternoon ADRA presentations that dove into ADRA's current work. Finally, as a reward for their efforts, at 4 p.m. they broke the fast together with steaming bowls of soup, buns, and seed crackers.

"My wife and I decided to calculate what we would have spent for our family to eat out for three meals, and donate that amount to the challenge," said Pastor Davis. He encouraged his church members to do the same in support of those who don't know where their next meal will come from.

Rosa Galdamez, the ADRA Ambassador for the Edmonton



Presentation by the youth about ADRA's work around the world.



A few participants of ADRA Canada's Ration Meal Challenge.

South Church, has organized this challenge for her church for the last two years. "When I first learned about the Ration Meal Challenge, I saw it as an opportunity to raise awareness among our youth in particular and our church at large about the urgent needs in the world and ADRA's work in helping those in need. I encouraged everyone to support this ministry and to be proud to call ADRA their own!"

After setting a date for the church-wide Ration Meal Challenge, Rosa launched a month-long awareness campaign to educate church members regarding the need, to inspire interest in the challenge, and to touch hearts to give. On the day of the challenge, 50 participants gathered in the fellowship hall after church to share a simple meal of rice and beans. The youth presented on ADRA and its work, delved deeper into the experience of refugees in the world, and found creative ways to bring that experience home. Through the presentations and guided group discussions, the participants brainstormed practical ways they could reach out more in their church, in

their community, and in the world.

"I think this challenge is a great way to lead by example in a humble way. It's a simple gesture of solidarity for so many that are in need. I think the church members appreciate the opportunity to pause and simply acknowledge our blessings, to come together to pray and engage in a dialogue on how we can help those in need," said Rosa.

Over the last two years, the two churches have raised a combined amount of over \$13,000. As each of those dollars is matched by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partner with ADRA Canada in fighting world hunger, that amount is actually over \$26,000!

Thank you, Sherwood Park and Edmonton South and all those who participate in the Ration Meal Challenge! You are truly contributing to the fight against hunger!

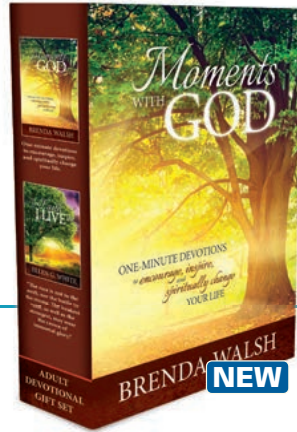
If you would like your church to join the fight against hunger by getting involved with the Ration Meal Challenge, please visit www.adra.ca/rationmeal.
—Heather Grbic, Church Relations Coordinator, ADRA Canada

Devotional Inspiration for 2017

BOXED SET:

This attractive, boxed set makes a beautiful gift for those special people on your list. The boxed set includes both adult devotionals for 2017, *Moments with God* and *The Faith I Live By*.

Boxed Set
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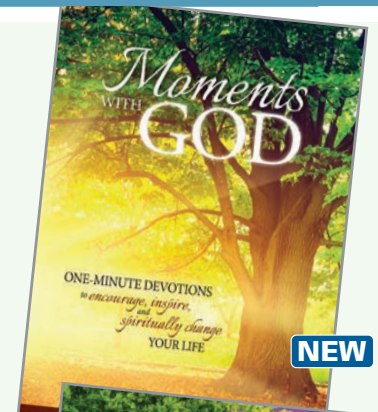
For more details and pricing, please contact the Alberta ABC by email at abclacombe@albertaadventist.ca or phone (403) 782-4416.

ADULT: Moments With God

Brenda Walsh

Moments With God overflows with encouragement and inspiration. On each page, you will find a message of hope and love that will lift your heart toward Heaven.

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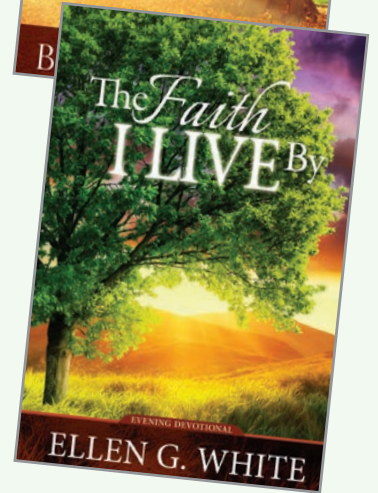
NEW

EVENING: The Faith I Live By

Ellen G. White

An inspiring and instructive devotional that covers the principal doctrines of the Christian faith, all of which are centered on the work of redemption through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

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NEW

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GC WM/Carolyn Sutton, editor

Read through the devotional stories of hundreds of women and you will find yourself captivated anew by the God who says, "I love you more!"

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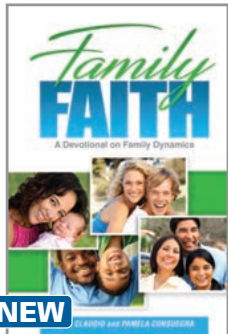
FAMILY:

Family Faith

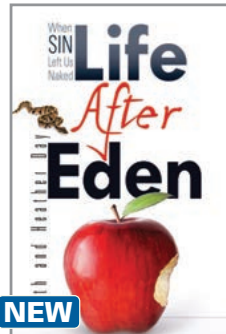
Claudio and Pamela Consuegra

A devotional that provides instruction and encouragement from God's Word for every family who seeks to honor God through the example of their home.

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NEW



NEW

YOUNG ADULT:

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Seth and Heather Day

In *Life After Eden*, the young adult devotional for 2017, the authors explore the challenges of living in a sinful world and the hope of a soon-coming Savior.

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Steve Case

TEEN: Time Out

Steve Case

Time Out is full of concrete, doable suggestions for making God real, and new ways for looking at spiritual life.

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JUNIOR/EARLITEEN:

Passport to Adventure

Rich Aguilera

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NEW



PRIMARY:

Heroes In Training

Vicki Redden

You'll read about heroes from Bible times to modern times. By the time you're finished, you'll know just what it takes to be God's special agent.

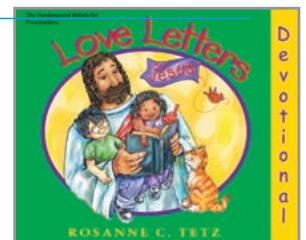
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PRESCHOOL: Love Letters From Jesus

RoseAnne Tetz

Each short reading is crafted for maximum impact using simple object lessons. By engaging the imagination, the seed of truth is planted deep, where it can snuggle down into the heart.

Hardcover
978-0-8280-1516-5



Who's Gospel Do You Have?

Romans 1:14-16 says,

"I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."



Did you know that Paul uses the word "Gospel" 60 times in the book of Romans? The word 'gospel' means "good news." The Romans first used the word "gospel" to proclaim that Caesar was Lord. After a battle was won outside the empire a messenger would be sent from town to town proclaiming the gospel (good news) that "Caesar was Lord." It was imperative that each town received this good news because it meant there would be no wars inside of the empire and this brought a sense of safety & security for all residents. Once the messenger would announce the gospel and move on to the next town, the hearers of the news would be obligated to spread the message throughout the local town. It was unthinkable to 'sit' on the gospel. I recently listened to a sermon on Paul's gospel indebtedness. I would like to share an excerpt from this sermon:

"If you've been given something so great as the gospel, you owe the gospel to somebody else. You've been given the gospel to share—with your family, friends, colleagues, strangers. You are a debtor to them because you have already received the gospel—and God has asked you to share it. If you've been given the gospel and you've been an alcoholic and you know an alcoholic—then you've

got their gospel. If you've been given the gospel and you've been a drug addict and you know another drug addict, then you've got their gospel. If you've been given the gospel and you've been in the bondage of depression, and you know someone who is bound in depression—then you've got their gospel. If you've been given the gospel and you've been in the bondage of perfectionism and you know a perfectionist that is drowning in unhappiness—then you've got their gospel. If you've been given the gospel and you've been in the bondage of low self-esteem and you know a friend who has low self-esteem—then you've got their gospel. If you've been given the gospel and you've been in the bondage of pornography and you know a friend who has a pornography addiction—then you've got their gospel. If you've been given the gospel and you've been in the bondage of media addiction and you know a friend who is addicted to media—then you've got their good news. If you've been given the gospel and your home was messed up or you have been abused or have been struggling with anger and bitterness over past experiences—and you know someone who's home is messed up or has been abused or has been struggling with anger and bitterness—then you've got their gospel and you're

indebted to them. It's not enough to just know the truth—we have to share it."

As Seventh-day Adventists we have received the good news. This good news brings the assurance of eternal life, personal victory, peace, security, and belonging. Like Paul, we can trust our encounter with Jesus—and trust that He is in charge. We can trust that if we are loyal and true to His command to go and make disciples, He will bring salvation to all those who believe. Like Paul, we do not need to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ - for this good news brings life. Whose gospel do you have? Give it away this week!



Lara Melashenko
Principal
Chinook Winds Adventist Academy

Lifetime Achievement Award given to Mildred 'Millie' Snow

By Kalisha Mendonsa/Lacombe Express

Lacombe is lucky to have many kind and caring people residing here, with one woman in particular recently recognized for her years of dedication, kindness and community mindedness.

This past weekend, Mildred 'Millie' Snow was officially awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 Business and Community Awards Gala.

Humble and shy, Snow smiled gently as she accepted her award as she quietly thanked the crowd and those who nominated her for this event.

"At first, I tried to get out of it," Snow said with a quiet laugh. "I thought maybe they'd made some kind of mistake, but after a while I kind of adjusted to it."

Snow said she couldn't believe she was chosen because she doesn't feel as if she's done anything out of the ordinary.

She said her actions are simply driven by doing what she enjoys, helping others and being part of the community.

Snow has lived in Lacombe for over 40 years and has taken on several roles in the community due to her desire to help others. She has been the general manager of the food bank since 2005 and director of a local thrift store since 2004.

Since her work began at the food bank, she has helped to manage the growing needs of Lacombe and area, working tirelessly to ensure those around her have what they need to survive but also to be happy.

She cares deeply for her community and feels a strong sense of commitment to helping others, fostered through many years of working with soup kitchens and local organizations.

"I started out serving soup out of a thermos outside of what was the Rancher's Inn in Red Deer. We had a table and a thermos with soup in it and that was it," she recalled.

"From there, I went on to Edmonton and helped start a soup kitchen there and then started one in Calgary. I also travelled



HONoured

Mildred 'Millie' Snow was officially awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 Business and Community Awards Gala. She has been a lifelong volunteer through various aspects of the Lacombe Community.
Kalisha Mendonsa/Lacombe Express

to Moscow and with a team to Latvia to work with soup kitchens in those places as well, which was very interesting to me."

She said these experiences helped her come to realize the needs in Alberta, but also to see how fortunate Canadians are to have the help and services they need.

"I didn't realize how fortunate we are here, and how fortunate I was. It really made me realize how blessed we are to have what we have," Snow said about her travels.

"In Latvia, they would cook a great big huge cauldron of porridge or soup, with people lined up down the street with whatever they could carry food in. Some had bowls, some had pails, some had buckets - anything they had to bring some of this food home.

"That experience was very valuable to me."

Snow has remained in Lacombe over the years because she enjoys the people around her. She says she is happy to work in a com-

munity that is so kind, giving and caring and that she has always cared a great deal about the way people live in this City. "It's really about the people, first of all," she began.

"I'm sure there are people like this everywhere, but it seems people in Lacombe are very generous and caring people. There is a really big need to help out right now, even if people don't notice it," she said, adding her thanks to all those who are doing their part to help out the community.

She said some of the things she is proud of include the impression she is able to make on people, and that it fills her with pride when people are able to say, "Thank you" to those who helped them through a rough time.

"I'm proud of when people come back to you and let you know you've made a difference when you don't think you've done anything out of the ordinary.

"I've had people say I've helped them when this or that was going on and it's very nice," she said quietly.

"I had a young fellow come into the food bank a little while ago and he said he used to work there about five or six years ago. He was putting in community hours for some program. He said, 'I learned a lot here. I learned how to respect other people but also how to respect myself. That just made me feel so good. I know he's come back to the food bank needing some help, but he's been out on his own and doing well for himself. The attitude that he has now made a difference and was very good to see.'"

Snow continues to work hard in the community from helping customers navigate the food bank, to managing the thrift store above the food bank, all while trying to find time for herself and her husband.

She said it's important to become involved in the community and to be dedicated to family.

"We are our brother's keeper, whether we like it or not. You need to be there for people." —*Reprint by permission from Kalisha Mendonsa/Lacombe Express kmendonsa@lacombeexpress.com.*

News

Alberta Conference Constituents Elect a New President and Secretary/VP for Administration

Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Conference delegates gathered on October 2 at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alberta to conduct their quadrennial constituency session. Along with numerous reports received and bylaws changes, Alberta Conference delegates elected Gary Hodder as president, Wayne Williams as secretary/vice president for administration and re-elected Keith Richter as treasurer.

God is in the people-changing business.

—Dan Jackson

Hodder (currently executive secretary for the Ontario Conference) replaces Ken Wiebe, whose retirement became effective at the end of the session and Williams (currently a pastor in the Ontario Conference) replaces Larry Hall whose retirement also became effective at the end of the session. Richter has been with the Alberta Conference since 2006, serving as treasurer since 2011.

Dan Jackson, North American Division president, started the day off by sharing a powerful message about Jonah. “God is in the people-changing business,” stated Jackson.

Delegates approved the following two major bylaws changes:

- Voted to implement a quinquennial (every 5 years) session in alignment with other Canadian conferences and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC).
- Voted that departmental directors and associate directors be evaluated by EXCOM within a year after each regular quinquennial session.

Ken Wiebe gave some encouraging closing remarks before SDACC executive secretary, Daniel Stojanovic, dismissed the delegates with prayer.

The day’s proceedings were posted live to Alberta Conference social media feeds such as Facebook and Twitter. Further comments or questions about the session can be directed to Keith Richter, treasurer.



Clockwise:
Gary and Almyra Hodder;
Wayne and Cheryl Williams;
Keith and Lorraine Richter.





Kenya Adventist Camp Meeting for the Deaf.

Ministering to the Deaf

The Alberta Camp Meeting is a good place to explain to hearing people the unique needs of Deaf and the most appropriate ways to reach their community. The world of the Deaf is different from that of the Hearing! When deaf people are cut off from their surroundings by a serious handicap in communication, it slowly pushes them to form their own culture, clubs and churches where they can enjoy using their own system of communication: Sign Language.

Our Camp Meeting Deaf Ministry booth display gives a relaxed opportunity to share what materials are available in either easy reading print or sign language DVD's. Each visitor to the booth, who completed a simple quiz, was given the opportunity to win a Canon Digital camera - a thank you for at least thinking about ministry to the Deaf!

This summer we presented a PowerPoint report in the main auditorium, and for a third year conducted an 'Introductory Sign Language' class. Pastor John Blake taught an Introduction to Deaf Ministry while Ron Whitford, a professional interpreter from Calgary, taught Sign Language.

On the last Sabbath, Fern Russell, another professional interpreter, through an interview, shared her story of how, in the spring of 2015, she interpreted John Bradshaw's meetings, became convicted by the truths she was interpreting and joined the Red Willow Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Albert.

In September, Blake was asked to attend the NAD Deaf Ministry Coordinators Meeting in Dallas, TX. Dr. Larry Evans, the Special Needs Assistant to General Conference President, Elder Ted Wilson, and Debra Brill, Special Needs Director for the North American Division, provided leadership as various deaf leaders gave presentations or led discussions. The coordinators shared their methods of success and identified their challenges.

Blake not only serves the Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department, but also directs the Deaf Department of Gospel Outreach [GO]. In October, he attended the GO Regional Directors meeting in College Place, WA as well recorded another "Adventures in Missions" TV program as seen on 3ABN, HOPE and LLBN satellite networks. Gospel Outreach is

currently sponsoring about 45 workers for the Deaf in ten countries.

In August, Blake was in Kenya working with Dr. Evans in presentations at the East Central Africa Division's "Special Needs" advisory meetings. From August 14-20 they attended the Kenya Camp Meeting for the Deaf at Kisumu, the 2nd largest Camp Meeting for Deaf ever held by the Adventist Church, averaging between 350 and 400 Deaf, interpreters, Conference leaders/pastors and other Special Needs persons. The presentations were all signed and a number of presenters were deaf themselves. One interesting feature was the special parade going down the main street, led with a banner explaining the deaf Camp Meeting. There was a baptism of 80 deaf persons in addition to seven blind and other handicapped persons.

Blake has received official requests for a 'first GO worker' for three new countries: Burundi, the DR of Congo and Nigeria. The Deaf Ministry is growing throughout the world, but the greatest need is for members to learn Sign Language and make a special effort to reach out to Alberta's own Deaf.

Pastor and Mrs. John Blake,
Alberta Conference Deaf
Ministry Department
PO Box 308, Clive, AB
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Email: blake@deafhope.org
Website: www.deafhope.org



Pastor John Blake
 Volunteer Deaf Ministry Coordinator,
 Alberta Conference

Alberta Conference Office Staff

Photo Taken September 2016



Front Row (LtoR): Debbie Schwarz, Larry Hall, Ken Wiebe, Keith Richter, Penny Marcinyk
Second Row (LtoR): Janet Griffith, Vicky Ford, Solomon Agdon, Becky Masson, Janet Hall, Mildred Weiss, Sandra Deer, Corene Glover, Llew Werner
Third Row (LtoR): Warren Kay, Stephanie Ferguson, Lyle Notice, George Ali, Lynn McDowell, Nwamiko Madden, Kevin Kiers, Jenny Nickel, Troy McQueen
Back Row Left: David Benjamin, Scott Nischuk

Offering a Helping Hand at the Alberta Wildfire Donation Centre, Edmonton

Photos by Darrell Beaudoin

On September 6, pastors from the Greater Edmonton Ministerial Association (GEMA) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church came to the Alberta Wildfire Donation Centre. The pastors held their monthly meeting in the Donation Centre's office area in the morning, then proceeded to volunteer their time and efforts in the afternoon. The GEMA group will be volunteering time on a monthly basis until the end of the project. To learn more about how you can volunteer at the Alberta Wildfire Donation Centre, operated by ADRA Canada, please visit www.albertawildfiredonationcentre.com



New Alberta Conference Executive Committee - Photo Taken October 2016

Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Conference delegates gathered on October 2 at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lacombe, Alberta to conduct their constituency session. During these meetings, delegates voted the following individuals (shown in the picture to the right) as members of the Alberta Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) for the next five years.

Front Row (LtoR): Keith Richter, Wayne Williams, Gary Hodder

Second Row (LtoR): Sheldon Trenchuk, Lara Melashenko, Massiel Davila-Ferrer, Melanie Semchuk, Deborah Silva, Rayette Hetland, Vicky Ford, Middin Galve-Sumiller

Back Row (LtoR): Richard Means, Benjamin Arias, Norman Ewing, Griffin Webster, Curtis Letniak, Japheth Ndhlovu, Miguel Brown, Terri Proud.



Mission of Mercy

Imagine you were one of the fortunate ones. Your family was able to leave poverty and physical hardships behind and move to Canada where opportunities abound. Would you forget your heritage? Would you forget the hardships of the people in the land of your birth? Not Mercy Boamah Dankwah who hails from Ghana and presently attends the Morning Star Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mercy, with the enthusiastic support of her husband Ebenezer Appiah Dankwah, single-handedly purchased, at 2nd hand stores, 800 kg of good used clothing, collecting them in garbage bags and storing them in her home. In addition, she purchased 200 kg of shoes and children's toys. Mercy then, with some help from fellow church members, had it all bailed, put onto pallets, and shipped the 1000 km from her home in High Level to Calgary where she arranged for it to be put into a container headed for Ghana.

When folks compliment Mercy on a job well done her only reply is, "All to the glory of God!"

Mercy was well named and lives up to her name.

—Submitted by Lorna Joch



Tearing Down Walls at the Alberta Conference Teen/Youth Rally

Question: What do you get when you combine over 450 youth from across Alberta and a renowned, powerful, Spirit filled speaker from Australia?

Answer: You get an Alberta Conference Teen/Youth Rally with Pastor Eddie Hypolite.

Pastor Eddie, grew up on the rough streets of London where he literally fought his way through life. Unfortunately, fighting caught up with him and he determined street life was not where God wanted him. He gave his life to Christ, became a pastor and has been preaching the gospel ever since.

In time Pastor Eddie became the youth director in London and initiated several unique youth programs.

One of them, Food for The Brain, would invite troubled street youth weekly to a safe place for a warm meal and positive spiritual discussion. Another program, How to be a Player, involved a week-long team-building experience to teach youth leadership skills.

As the young people listened with rapt attention, Pastor Eddie stressed the importance of God's power to change lives. "When people write you off, remember God has a bigger pen," he emphasized.

He shared his own experience of how far away he was from God, and how people had written him off. He was in and out of jail, running the streets of London, failing in school and no one expected him to graduate.

He shut people out, even those who loved and cared for him the most. But by God's grace all that changed and the walls others had erected in Eddie's mind were broken down.

According to Pastor Eddie it's also important to break down walls in the community and connect with others. During his alter call he invited youth to surrender their lives to Jesus and connect with their Heavenly Father. It was a moving experience to see the young people surge to the front of the auditorium in an act of dedication as their walls of guilt, shame, resentment, hurt and hate were broken down and given to Jesus.

Thank you Pastor Eddie to help tear down our impassive walls in Alberta!

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

—Pastor Eddie Hypolite



Pastor Eddie Hypolite speaking at the Alberta Conference Teen/Youth Rally.

Modern Day Disciples



What would it have been like to sit by the Sea of Galilee and hear the greatest Rabbi to ever teach/share his revolutionary truths to a captivated crowd of onlookers? Or can you imagine following your Rabbi into a home where someone had just died, then in astonishment watch as He speaks life back into a lifeless body? What if you could've been there looking over His shoulder from a safe distance, hearing the commanding words of your Rabbi as a rabid, demon possessed youth is entirely cleansed and healed? What in the world would it have been like, to have actually been a disciple?

Flash forward from two thousand years to today where you're rushing off to work or school, picking up breakfast at the drive thru and you then remember to do somewhat of a "dashboard devotional." Pulled over in the parking lot, you get out a Bible to try taking in your physical and spiritual food at the same time. Scanning the pages, you're reminded of the fact that Jesus calls us to be disciples today and with everything going on pause to think: compared with how much time the original twelve disciples spent with Jesus, how can we be modern day disciples with so little spare time and no physical Jesus to follow?

Although He was so much more, Jesus actually fit in with the established tradition of Rabbi's and disciples, a rich tradition that in a modified form extends

down to us today. But just how much was understood by the Jewish word Talmid, or disciple, is in many ways totally lost in our modern culture!

Quite often Hebrew parents would affirm their child's desire to be a disciple by saying "May you be covered in the dust of your Rabbi!" This image richly illustrates not only the physical closeness of the disciples to their Rabbi, but also the intensity of commitment that his disciples followed him with. But since Jesus isn't here on earth today, how can we be "covered" in the dust of His feet? How can we continue that rich tradition of learning as did the early disciples?

The early disciples had to face this same question when Jesus knew it was time for Him to depart from this world and so He makes the epic announcement saying: "Lo, I am with you always. Even unto the end of the world."—Matthew 28:20. Our Rabbi knew that life in 2016 wouldn't be as conducive to having all of that time to physically following around a Rabbi and so He does the better thing and says: "...the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."—John 14:26. Instead of us seeking to follow one earthly individual, the Holy Spirit has been sent to work with and in all believers to be empowered in living the life of a disciple.

Instead of us seeking to physically follow Him, the Holy Spirit is conveniently sent to spiritually meet with us!

So if today our Rabbi desires to speak to you through me and to me through you, when can this be accomplished? Well unless you plan on interrupting the sermon, there is no better place to hear from our Rabbi in the person of His disciples, than the Sabbath School class setting. This is where modern day discipleship takes place! This is where we can come back and share stories of blessing from the week like the seventy in Luke 10:17! This is where we can ask those spiritual questions that come from the deepest parts of our beings, so we can find answers like the young ruler in Matthew 19! This is where we can open the Word with confidence and expect our teacher to unveil future events with as much clarity as was needed in Matthew 24! Sabbath School is where we can pray for the miraculous intervention of God in the lives of those we see and care about during the week! In light of these facts, can our perspective and appreciation of Sabbath School remain the same? As we realize Sabbath School is a place where our voice is heard and the place where church is made relevant, then could it be that we will experience and the world will observe modern day discipleship?—Submitted by Nwamiko Madden, Alberta Conference Sabbath School director



ABC Book Fair

“Thank you David Toews and thank you ABC!”

Laura Melashenko
Principal, Chinook
Winds Adventist Academy

Chinook Winds Adventist Academy (CWA) principal Lara Melashenko is passionate about inspiring her students to read. For years, Lara played a major part in organizing a book fair. “In the past,” she reflects, “we have utilized the Scholastics Book Club for our fair, as their resources are current, accessible and our students love the variety of books and toys!”

However, being an Adventist school, parents and staff routinely approached Lara with concerns about the fair’s non-Christian content and wondered if it would be possible to run a Christian book fair. Needless to say, Lara thought an all-Christian book fair was a great idea, so when ABC Christian Store Manager David Toews suggested that

the ABC could come to the school to run a book fair, she was overjoyed and jumped at the offer.



“We booked a two-day Book Club Fair at the same time as our Constituency Meeting

and we enjoyed an exciting time of increased focus in reading high quality, current, beautifully-displayed Christian resources” says Lara.

“And not only was the ABC generous in donating their time to set-up and take-down an extensive amount of resources,” she says, beaming, “they also generously donated a food item to be sold at our Constituency Meeting to help raise funds for our kitchen!”

“We are excited to have the ABC return to our school this upcoming year to provide our students with Christ-centered literacy resources! Thank you David Toews and thank you ABC!”



Store front photos and frozen food display.

ABC Christian Store

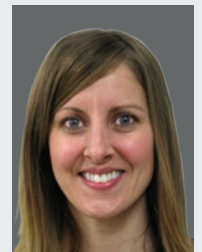
In 2014 the Pacific Press Publishing Association opted out of the retail business and invited the Alberta Conference to purchase and operate the Adventist Book Centre. After much deliberation the Conference Executive Committee agreed to purchase the ABC for one half of the inventory purchase value. The ABC continues to operate from the 6000 square foot rental facility at the Burman University mall.



Laurie Stickle
ABC Assistant
Manager/Accountant



Ken McPherson
ABC Bookmobile
Manager



Rachel McQueen
ABC Sales/Marketing
Coordinator

Although several changes have been implemented, the ABC continues to operate the bookmobile which serves Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In addition to Bibles, Spirit of Prophecy and other Christian-based reading/DVD material and gifts, non-meat alternative foods are also available.

The ABC employs three full-time and five part-time staff members. Net sales are about \$1.4 million per year, which is about the break-even point.

While upgrades have made the store more physically appealing (new flooring, displays, check-out counter,

etc.), the main emphasis is customer focused service. Obviously, Adventist customers are appreciated, but more aggressive marketing is attracting local community customers as well.



David Toews
ABC Manager

Church Planting Highlights

Alberta SEEDS Conference

The Alberta SEEDS Conference was a success. Alberta SEEDS is held annually in the Alberta Conference to inspire and support the development of new work. The speakers are selected by NADEI, North American Evangelism Institute, and local planning is provided by the conference church planting department.

SEEDS was developed in the North American Division as a church planting conference about twenty years ago. Today, instead of one conference, it is conducted in many parts of the world to inspire church planting.

At the SEEDS weekend in Calgary, September 23-24 2016, more than 80 people expressed their interest in being a part of a church plant with many expressing their willingness to be leaders. Church planting is the prime way God's kingdom is expanded and although it is not always easy to leave our comfort zone, it is rewarding to know that in expanding His kingdom we are bringing joy to the heart of Christ.



Above is a picture of the new church with guests and friends. Guests included representatives from NAGSDA (North American Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventists).

Calgary Ghanaian Company Organized into a Church

It was a high Sabbath for members of the Adventist Ghanaian Community in Calgary to be organized into a church on May 28, 2016. Over 50 people joined as charter members. The day was filled with inspiring worship, great music and the organization service lead by conference administration, Ken Wiebe and Larry Hall. Don Corkum, conference church planting coordinator was also a part of the day's celebration.

◀ **2016 SEEDS organizers and presenters.** Front row (L to R): Tom Evans, Associate Director of the North American Evangelism Institute; Reed Richardi, house church specialist from Virginia; Buster Swoopes Jr, pastor and church planter from Houston, Texas; Richie Halversen, pastor and church planter from Mississippi. Back row (L to R): Felix Richter, associate pastor, Calgary Central; Don Corkum, Alberta Conference Church Planting Coordinator and Ghena Girdlineau, senior pastor of Calgary Central.

Retirement Message From Ken Wiebe

It has been a privilege for Vera and I to serve the Alberta Conference for the past six years. The people of Alberta are most gracious and have become like family to us. Now the time has come for us to close our leadership role in this Conference and enter upon a new phase called “retirement.” This may sound like a “do nothing” time, but we are still committed to serving the Lord in whatever capacity He designs for us.

We want to thank the members of the Alberta Conference for their faithfulness to God and His work. It is our belief that most Seventh-day Adventists truly love God and want to do their part ministering according to the gifts entrusted to them. It is our opinion that these members desire to see the work finished so we can “go home” when Jesus comes.

The pastors, Bible workers and educators have given faithful service and it has been a delight to work together as a team serving the same Master and for the same purpose. I commend these leaders for their devotion and Vera and I will be upholding you in prayer.

During the past six years a close bond developed between us at the office, the ABC, and camp staff. You have proven to be loyal and reliable. We have seen your dedication to the Lord and to the people you serve, providing our Conference field with support and resources to accomplish the work God has called them to do. I appreciated our Executive committees (both of them) and also the Sherwood Care and Burman University boards I was privileged to serve.

The interaction Vera and I have enjoyed with this Conference is a memory we will carry as long as we live. You have enriched our lives and blessed us beyond what we deserve. Yet all the good things we have experienced comes

As Vera and I say good-bye to serving this Conference in the official leadership role, we encourage you to embrace and support our new leadership team.

—Ken Wiebe

only through our Lord and Saviour. Our focus should not be on ourselves but only on Jesus, to serve Him and bring honour to Him. We are His children; we long to “go home,” but even more, the Trinity longs to bring us “home.” Evidently, before that happens, there is work to be done. We, as the Adventist Church organization, exist to assist our Lord in completing that task.

As the Apostle Paul concluded his letter to the Galatians, he admonished the members “... if you follow the Spirit, you will harvest eternal life. Don’t get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don’t give up. We should help people whenever we can...” (Galatians 6: 7-10 CEV).

We may be looking forward to “going home.” That is good and it will be a day of rejoicing. But through God-given strength we are here to minister to others. That is our responsibility, and as we do, it

will give us joy here and now too.

As Vera and I say good-bye to serving this Conference in the official leadership role, we encourage you to embrace and support our new leadership team. Perhaps under their leadership the work will finish and Jesus will come. Now

“The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord make His face to shine upon you,

And be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His

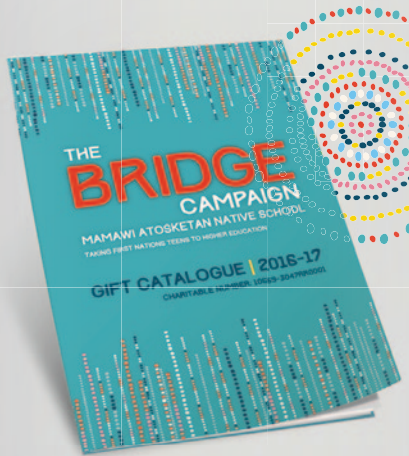
countenance upon you

And give you peace.”

Sincerely,

Ken and Vera Wiebe





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**TO FUND HIGHER
EDUCATION AND HELP
BUILD THE MAMAWI
ATOSKETAN NATIVE
SCHOOL (MANS)
HIGH SCHOOL!**

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Choose a gift that speaks to you and help transform the lives of MANS students and future generations. The Gift Catalogue is available in two convenient formats: online at www.mans1.ca or in hardcopy at the Alberta Conference Office.



Calgary VBS Chooses MANS as Mission Project

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Children can be leaders at any age. For students at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), each day is a chance to shine in their community as they pursue education. This summer, Calgary Vacation Bible School (VBS) children also had the chance to shine by taking the initiative to raise donations for MANS school.

This summer, VBS organizers wanted to show children how they could be of service in their own communities. So they choose a mission project close to home—our very own Mission School in Maskawacis, Alberta - Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS).

Every day, staff narrated a MANS student’s story using photos and film to help bring the children closer to the mission project. Sharing pictures and videos of MANS students proved to be a powerful way to connect children to the Mission School. “When you see who you are helping and what your contribution will do it makes a world of difference,” longtime

organizer Donnelly Dube reflected.

Each day the children’s reaction grew more ecstatic. Children cheered after each story was shared and would clap with excitement whenever they talked about MANS. “Knowing they can serve God in this special way to help other children created a glow in the room,” says Sarah Outh, Children’s Ministries Director.

The children’s response was spectacular. In just one week, \$817 was raised for MANS school through the combined efforts of children, their families, and the congregation. Their generosity will help expand opportunities for education in Maskawacis.

Just as Matthew 5:16 reminds us to let our light shine before others, the Calgary VBS children’s initiative and good works are shining brightly. Reminding us all how we can be leaders in our own communities.

For more information on MANS, please visit www.mans1.ca or follow our stories at www.albertaadventist.ca. You can learn more about The Bridge Campaign to Higher Education at www.mans1.ca/article/35/campaign-detail —Submitted by Alison Bottomley

News from College Heights Christian School

The 2016-17 school year started with 302 feet entering our hallways. Those feet belong to our 151 students who were excited to meet their teachers and classmates. We have already seen those same feet go on field trips and outings that reflect what our school stands for: Caring. Christian. Community.

A well-developed Outward Pursuits program was held again this September. The Grade 7 and Grade 8 classes were able to take a canoeing trip with other schools from the Alberta Conference, to Twin Lakes. Then, the next week, 13 students from Grades 7-9 traveled to Lillian Lake to backpack in the area of the upper and lower parts of Galatea Lakes. Even though the weather was cold or raining at times, students had wonderful experiences

and made many memories as their feet walked through God's landscape.

The Grade 4 class went out for an afternoon of walking and gleaning potatoes again this year. It was a great experience for those involved, and this was well-reflected in Jade D's journal entry: "My class went picking potatoes at a farm called Tansea Farms. We picked 751.4 pounds of potatoes. We gave half to the Lacombe Food Bank and half to Maskawacis Church. It was really hot outside. It felt really good to know the potatoes were going to the food bank. It feels good to help. It was hard, but fun. Our whole class filled 12 sacks of potatoes. I love school here. CHCS helps people who need help."

—Submitted by Charissa Hawes, Grade 4 Teacher



CHCS Week of Prayer

October 3-6 was the Fall Week of Prayer for CHCS. Grades were divided into three groups, with each group having a praise time to start, then guest speaker Pastor Greg Baldeo, shared a talk centred around "Stop, Think, before you Proceed," using both Bible examples and daily applications. Many students commented on their appreciation and enjoyment from the Week of Prayer. It was also exciting to see so many students participating and leading out in the praise time. On the last day, an invitation was given for any who desired Bible studies and baptism. God led 30 students to respond! Special thanks to Principal Ganson and the teachers for arranging a schedule allowing studies to happen during the day. Please continue to pray and support our young people's growing relationship with Jesus!—Submitted by Chaplain Ted Deer

News from Chinook Winds Adventist Academy (CWAA)

CWAA Senior High Campout

This year our senior high campout was located at Johnson's Canyon in Banff National Park. For 2 nights and 3 days 44 Grade 10-12 students and 8 sponsors enjoyed time getting to know each other, playing together, hiking together - and most of all enjoying time worshipping God together. Our evening worships were led by several high school students, who inspired us to seriously seek God through prayer. The highlight of our camping trip was on the last night, when two students (Grade 11 & 12) shared powerful testimonies of God's intervention in their lives at a point of crisis. Following the student testimonies, the leaders were given the opportunity to come to the centre of the camp-fire circle and ask for prayer. For nearly one hour students/staff came forward with genuine, heart-felt needs, confessions, requests, and praises. We praise God for our student leadership this year at CWAA and for the work of the Holy Spirit in shaping our atmosphere of worship during our campout!



CWAA Terry Fox Run

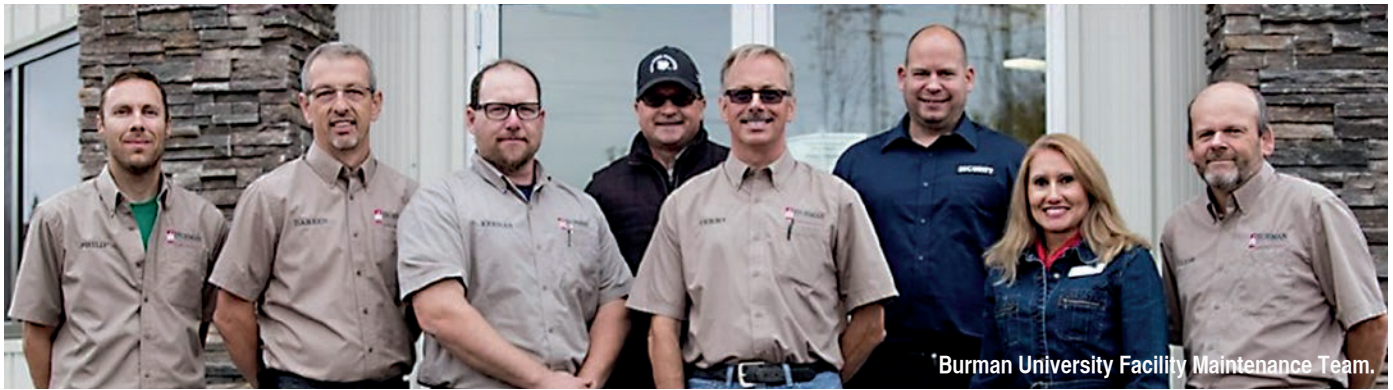
The 2016 CWAA Terry Fox Run took place at CWAA on Thursday, September 29. The sunshine, blue skies and vibrant fall colours made for a beautiful day for the run. Many parents took part in the event along with students and staff. Before the actual run started, Doreen Cliff, parent of two CWAA students shared an inspiring speech on behalf of a previous CWAA Teacher, Holly, who has been struggling with cancer for five years. The fundraising goal for this event was \$2,500 and we are thrilled to report that we met our goal. Praise God for the generosity of the supporters and the willingness of students and parents to work to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

CWAA Hosts a Pastor-Teacher Team Lunch

On Friday, September 16 our Calgary pastors were invited to come to CWAA to enjoy a haystack lunch with our teachers. While the pastors & teachers ate they shared their experiences as co-ministers of the Gospel and got to know each other better! After our meal the pastors and teachers were invited to break up into teams and enter a "desert cook-off" with a variety of interesting

& delicious ingredients! The team that took first place included pastors Don, Ghana, Brent, and Cindy Mayo and Melissa Brown. Their desert was an attractive, divinely delicious strawberry & chocolate cake! We praise God for our ministry partnership with the Calgary pastors! *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalms 133:1*





Burman Excited About New Maintenance Building



Grand opening of a new Facility Maintenance Building at Burman University.

As is his custom, Registrar Larry Murrin shared current enrolment statistics during Opening Convocation on Tuesday, September 13. There are 456 students at Burman University this year.

Brand New Students = 138
Returning Students = 318
Males = 198
Females = 258
From: AB (193), BC (74), MB/SK (19), ON (75), QC (15), Maritimes (16), NF/ Labrador (2), USA (39) and other international students (23).

Class Challenge is one of the most exciting Saturday night activities of the school year! The first of these events this year was held on September 17, and was emceed by Ron Schafer and Kristy Grovet.

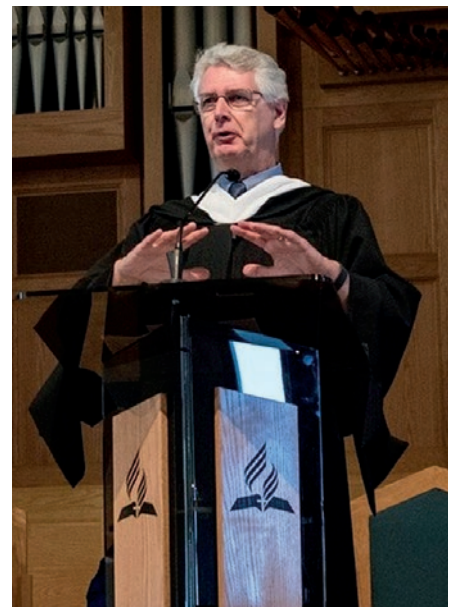
Class groups compete against

each other in a wacky assortment of relay races and activities, from balloon-popping challenges to “chariot races” to a fashion show where all outfits were made out of toilet paper.

The first Herr Lecture was held on Sunday, September 18, at 7:30 pm in the Administration Building Chapel and featured Katy Hutchison who spoke about the need for restorative justice. She relayed the story of her husband’s murder and her own remarkable quest to reconcile with the man who killed him.

Katy shared deeply personal and insightful reflections on the nature of restorative justice. The 2010 movie *Bond of Silence* was inspired by her powerful story.

On September 23, with the Board Trustees in town, Burman University celebrated the grand opening of a new Facility Maintenance Building. Lacombe Mayor Steve Christie, MLA Ron Orr, and Lacombe County Reeve Paula Law joined for the ceremony. The \$2.4 million structure was designed and



Burman University Registrar Larry Murrin sharing at this year’s Opening Convocation.

built— on time and under budget—by Camdon Construction. The Facility Maintenance Team (pictured below) consists of Darren Bishop (Director), Keila Streicher, Philip Swierszcz, Fred Schultz, Terry O’Neill, Keenan Hosking, Ron Reimche, and Clyde Hannebury.

More than 200 students, faculty, and staff, spent Wednesday afternoon (September 28) engaged in a wide variety of service projects in Lacombe. Students washed windows, hung Christmas lights, sang to shut-ins, groomed trails, and did a host of other things. The Serve Lacombe event’s lead coordinator was Alexandra Moly.

—Excerpts from the President’s Facebook Page

PAA Leads Student Leaders

For high school students, few things are as vital as remembering the requisite facts and formulas for a subject test, and yet success in PAA's classroom is seen as a by-product of the emphasis placed on one increasingly important quality: initiative.

This is the year of student leadership at PAA, and it began when returning students started talking about what they would like to see change for the next school year. Campus ministries leaders, who had each played an active role in coordinating Chapel and Sabbath School programs, wanted to include more people and let them know that their God-given talents could be used in some way. The misconception that only accomplished musicians or speakers were welcome in worship is one of the things these students sought to combat when they dreamed up the school's theme for 2016-2017: "Shift the Atmosphere."

Early in the fall, this principle was put to the test as new students were eagerly recruited up for some small role in giving back to God. The first chapel program of the year offered a dedication prayer for the entire student body, who stood to represent their commitment to being an agent of change for good on our campus.

One Grade 12 student, who joined PAA as an extremely shy young man in 10th grade, took it upon himself to remove the limits of what was an acceptable offering before God by grabbing the nearest music-making implement—a kazoo—and joined in with the praise band for one of the Wednesday chapels! Shortly after, he and a friend produced a short infomercial about all the different quirky skills that qualify as talent and that can be used at PAA, and more students are getting involved as a result. These young people are volunteering, and wanting to turn routine programs into something more meaningful. They are certainly changing the way the campus approaches worship, and shifting the atmosphere toward

something better and more like heaven.

Pastor Ted, PAA's Chaplain of three years now, fully encourages this initiative and has started hosting break-out worship training workshops on Fridays for students who are hoping to find or grow a new talent. Partnering with some local worship-leaders, he has included more than 30 students in this ripple-effect of praise. In addition to music and speaking appointments, PAA students are telling stories through original dramas and spoken-word, finding avenues to share their experience in a meaningful and uplifting way.

Taking advantage of their unlimited stores of passion and creativity, these young men and women are embracing the value of time and resources provided by PAA. This year, the calendar is set to include "Community Learning Days," which fall just about every two weeks. On these Fridays, attendance is taken but no classes are held. Every teacher is available to help students understand the challenges of life and curriculum, and it is up to each student to set their own learning goals for that day. So far, students have used the time to seek out extra help to cover problem areas of the core content, collaborate with other students, and learn about the needs of the world around them through workshops provided by the Human Rights Club.

The initiative involved in Community Learning Days is translating to both an

increasing understanding of concepts and improved scores on in-class assessment in addition to fostering relationships between students and staff. Recently, PAA's Student Association hosted a school-spirit week with fun activities like dressing up as an athlete or finding a twin. The close, genuine connections between teachers and their students were evident in the way each group teased a smile out of the other, and in the special effort made to include all as part of the PAA family.

Students who successfully graduate, but miss out on the life-lessons of initiative in learning and building relationships finish high school with only half an education, but PAA's students are demonstrating just how well they understand that correlation. Please continue to pray for our students and their families as we journey through 2016-2017.

—Submitted by Katelyn Ruiz,
PAA Communications





Evangelistic Opportunities in the Philippines

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a missionary? As a youngster I recall the excitement of a returned missionary coming to speak at our church. I would sit on the edge of my seat straining to hear every word of each story.

That was then, but today we have the opportunity to travel and personally be involved in the mission field. For example, God has prepared the Mangyans, a first nations people group in the mountains of Mindoro, Philippines, to hear and accept Jesus. There are stories of angel encounters with village leaders, telling them someone would come to their villages offering them new life filled with hope.

Hope is a foreign concept to the Mangyan people. They barely survive, living in such isolation that many Filipinos are unaware of their existence. They receive no governmental aid or medical services and exist merely by hunting and gathering roots found in the mountains. They

suffer from malnutrition, parasitic, and skin infections. Many have no clothes and certainly no footwear unless donated by people like us!

The Ponoka Seventh-day Adventist Church has developed an agency agreement* with Pastor Jorge Punghulan who for years has been working with these remote people. With the aid of support groups from Canada and the US, he is able to establish small churches and schools.

Now Pastor Jorge needs your help. He is requesting four evangelistic teams (4-6 participants per team) to come in the months of March and April when the weather provides predictable pleasant temperatures. Evangelism to these primitive, pantheistic people is very basic, feeding them the “milk of the word,” and stories of Jesus and His love. They thrill with the hope of Jesus coming, of heaven and life eternal without suffering. Pray that God will open the door for you to be

financially supporting, or even actively participating in this mission work.

There is need for a nurse and health practitioner to volunteer for a 3-6 month mission term. A new medical centre has been built and dedicated to provide for medical teams and lowlanders to minister to the Mangyans and lowlanders alike.

You can become part of this work by going on-line and making your donation to the Ponoka church, tagged, “Philippine Mission.” Pastor Brian Hawes has been involved with this work for several years. He would be happy to provide more info upon request. His contact info is (587) 377-3044 or bhawes@shawcable.com

** An agency means that donations for evangelism, or building projects in the Philippines can be submitted through the Ponoka Adventist Church. All donations will be receipted as a charitable donation.—Submitted by Brian Hawes*





Healthy Choices seminar held in Fort Saskatchewan.

“Healthy Choices” Creates Healthy Disciples

On September 18, the Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant coordinated their 4th Healthy Choices Workshop and 4th Depression Anxiety & Addiction Recovery seminar for their community. Healthy Choices is a three hour presentation and cooking demonstration led by Darlene Blaney - Alberta Conference Health Ministries Volunteer Coordinator. In total approximately 100 persons have benefitted from these programs.

The Depression Anxiety & Addiction Recovery seminars are instrumental in producing Bible study interests. A new member is being trained as a Bible worker and others are being integrated into various church service and administrative duties such as treasurer and depression program facilitators. Another is leading out in a Hymn-sing at a senior's centre.

“Our services have a weekly

attendance of approximately thirty,” said Pastor Beaudoin. “We praise God for each one! Baptisms are on the horizon, resulting from the current 15 Bible studies being conducted by Lise and myself. We also have a strong group of individuals who attend our gym nights.”

While some Alberta congregations long for a permanent church home, the Fort Saskatchewan group are praising God for an opportunity that has come their way. The Pentecostal church that is currently being rented is being offered for purchase for the appraised value. The small group is currently looking for donors to make this purchase a reality. “Buying property to build a church would start in the millions,” says Beaudoin. “This could be our opportunity to plant our church presence firmly in Fort Saskatchewan.”

—Submitted by Linda Steinke

Youth Highlight Drug-free Lifestyle

“Real Time Faith” brought focus to youth who gathered on October 28—29 in Leduc with guest speaker Nwamiko Madden, Alberta Conference Sabbath School director. After lunch, the Silver Jets Pathfinders, the Adventurers, and other attendees participated in a Drug Awareness Walk. The enthusiastic group walked three blocks promoting a drug-free, healthy lifestyle. Vespers and gym night followed.



Drummers from West Edmonton Seventh-day Adventist Church

Skateboarding as Urban Ministry

You never know how God is going to use you! You never know where God will place you to reach someone for His purpose.

When I moved from Ottawa to Lacombe in June of 2012 as Associate Youth Director and Community Services Director, I knew God was doing something new and different but had no idea what. Near the end of August driving back from a speaking engagement in BC, I stopped in Banff and the Rude Boys skate and snowboard shop caught my attention. I decided to investigate.

My eyes were drawn to a skateboard with graffiti. It reminded me of my teenage years in Toronto in the 90's when I would sketch graffiti and ride a skateboard. Since it was nearing my birthday I decided to purchase a present for myself - the skateboard. With excitement I hopped on to see if I still had it in me. As I wobbled and rolled down the street back to my car, I felt God impressing me to get back into skateboarding.

Two years later, after many scrapes, scars, falls and embarrassing tumbles I regained my balance. Not only that, I gained a sense of community at the local skate park in Lacombe. It was there by Providence that I meet 15 year-old Jack Mundy. I asked if he wanted to challenge me in a game of S.K.A.T.E.*, which he accepted, and proceeded to beat me. We became friends and would often meet up to skate and talk about street fashion. As our friendship grew I invited Jack to the Alberta Conference



Lyle Notice (right) and Jack Mundy at the Alberta Conference Teen/Youth Rally.



Teen/Youth Rally this year. Although he had never been to church before, he agreed, and came to experience his first church youth event ever.

During the weekend I called him on stage in front of 400 youth and shared how we met. Then I proceeded to give Jack his very first Bible. After the rally, Jack expressed how he was inspired by the speaker and how the Bible spoke to him in a powerful way.

I still hang out with Jack and mentor him. I believe God wanted me to reach out to urban youth at the skate park and this has become my urban ministry. God often works in interesting new ways and I believe He wants to do a new thing

through all of us, but we must be willing to follow His prompting.

**S.K.A.T.E. rules are basic. One player sets a trick by doing a particular skateboarding trick of his/her choice. If the trick is not landed, another player attempts to set a trick. Once a trick has been set (landed), the other player must respond by doing the same trick in the first try. If successful the game continues; if missed, he/she gets a letter, starting with S, and so on, until all five tricks are missed spelling SKATE, and the game is over. No trick may be set more than once by the same person and a skater depending on their last letter may receive two attempts at that trick*

—Lyle Notice, Associate Youth/
Community Service Director
Alberta Conference





Third Annual Russian Camp Meeting

Russian-speaking Adventists from western Canada met at picturesque Foothills Camp for their 3rd annual camp meeting on September 16-18. This year's meetings were supported from the Alberta Conference, Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Association of Russian-speaking Adventists in Western Canada unites a community of believers that share origins, culture, migration experiences, language, and a common identity from former Soviet Union republics. Campers were also blessed with warm temperatures and sunshine in which to walk and enjoy friendships—old and new.

“Prepare to meet thy God” from Amos

4:12 was this year's theme for the 100 adults and 60 children who took a break from their daily commitments to worship and fellowship together.

Throughout the weekend campers exchanged news, encouraged one another, praised God, and enjoyed ethnic food together.

On Friday evening, Marina Terzi from Saskatoon related experiences from the life of her parents to illustrate how God delights in our prayers. She emphasized the importance of expecting great miracles in our daily lives.

Guest speaker and former Russian pastor, Michael Oleynik from Sacramento, CA, is retired and conducting evangelism for the Orangevale Sev-

enth-day Adventist church. He is also president of Truly Transforming Truth Ministry. His presentation themes invited all to renew their relationship with Christ. Engaging activities and healthy snacks were provided for the children.

A moving baptism ceremony under the cover of the night sky in the Little Red Deer River was a highlight of the weekend: (Olena Lob, Aleksandr Shapovalov, and Christina Shapovalov). Campers lingered to enjoy a campfire, sing, watch a photo presentation, and listen to stories from Pastor Oleynik. His parting sermon, entitled “Behold, I Am Coming Quickly,” encouraged all to be counted faithful. —Submitted by Linda Steinke



Youth Conduct Vegetarian Cooking Classes in Yellowknife

A Healthy Lifestyle Cooking Class was held at the Yellowknife Church on Sunday, September 25. Approximately 25 people from the church and community attended. The presenters were Tristha Cruz and Johannah Falcunitin, two youth from the church.— *Submitted by Jonathan Geraci*

Burman University Students Conduct VBS in Yellowknife

During the week of July 4-8, the Native Ministries Team from Burman University came to Yellowknife to conduct a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program and introduced many children to Jesus.

“We need to hold each other’s hands and pray before our meal,” said 6 year old Jared.

The rest of the family obliged.

While most of us wouldn’t think twice about this practice, in Jared’s home this was unique. Jared then went on to pray for the family before they started breakfast.

“Our family wasn’t in a habit of pray-

ing before our meals, but since Jared came home from VBS things have started to change,” said Jared’s mom.

Then she shared that when she was a kid she would sneak away from her family’s home on Saturday morning to attend the nearby Adventist church. Though currently not connected with a church, she still realizes the importance of God in her life. She and her two children came to church

after VBS and said they would be back next week. Her family are Dene, a local indigenous group of people.

At the end of VBS several children signed up for Pathfinders.



Children having fun at VBS in Yellowknife.

Red Deer Church Celebrates “Kids First”

One of the many high points in Red Deer’s year-long emphasis on children has been the presentations of master teacher and creation expert, Ben Roy. Visiting from Chattanooga, TN, this Southern scientist-performer shared messages of God’s love and ingenious creation to 87+ children and their families. The Red Deer church hosted his presentations as part of a Children’s Evangelism initiative from October 21-29, 2016.

The engaging evenings were filled with live science experiments and great information about our physical universe and caring Creator. The meetings concluded with a celebration of baptism on the final Sabbath where many young people expressed their desire to choose Jesus. In putting Him first in their lives, the young participants reminded the Red Deer church family that putting kids first matters! To enjoy Ben Roy’s presentations, go to www.goscience.org and continue to pray for children’s evangelism in Alberta.— *Submitted by Katelyn Ruiz*



Ben Roy speaking at the Red Deer Church.

CAAAA Holds 37th Family Retreat

The Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta (CAAA) is a non-profit organization aimed at fostering cultural and educational enrichment, exposing children of Caribbean parentage and all other Canadians to Caribbean culture, and promoting a high level of Spirituality among youth and adults in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist church. CAAA held their 37th annual family retreat at Foothills Camp, September 2-5, 2016.

The theme for the weekend was “Plugged in.” Pastor Michael B. Kelly II, from California, was the guest speaker. Born into a Christian home, Pastor Kelly developed a relationship with God from childhood. This father of two is a dynamic, sought after speaker who has the gift of engaging both young and old, bringing messages that are relevant for the time in which we live. Approximately 500 individuals attended the Sabbath services, which required the use of the main auditorium for the first time.

Each year we address issues that impact daily living. Mental Health plagues our society and is a topic filled with stigma and shame. This year we conducted workshops addressing Mental Health issues through age appropriate break-out sessions for adults, youth, teens and children. The sessions were led by our pastoral team and other professional members of CAAA. We also held a financial workshop based on the book “*The Heart of Obedience; 10 Biblical Financial Principles to Change Your Life*” facilitated by the local author. There was a registered Massage Therapist on site who provided massages at a discounted rate. The weekend also featured sports activities and games for all ages.



Pathfinders at CAAA Family Retreat.

Pastor Michael B. Kelly II speaking at CAAA's Family Retreat, Foothills Camp.

Ample time was allocated over the weekend for individuals to spend time in nature and/or connect with old friends and make new ones. CAAA uses a holistic approach to nurture individuals physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Attendance at CAAA camp meeting is open to all, so we look forward to seeing you in 2017.

—Submitted by Sharon Long, CAAA President



Calgary Central Church holds 2nd Annual Community Stampede Haystack Dinner

If you've been an Adventist for long enough, you know all about "Haystacks" and probably even have your own opinion on how to assemble this unique take on taco salad. Since haystacks and the Calgary Stampede just seem to go together naturally, Calgary Central Church, for the past 2 years, has used this easy to make meal to reach out to their community during Stampede week. Although the meal is quick to put together, there is a lot of planning and preparation involved when you are inviting all your

neighbours. Thankfully, there were many volunteers who were happy to help wherever necessary.

What a turn out. Last year the church was able to serve approximately 80 community people and this year they came close to doubling that number and served 135. Including church members, they served a total of 195 people. During supper, guests were treated to live violin music by Rachel Miranda. Plans are already in place for next year's Haystack feast.

—Submitted by Joanne Burns



Train up a Church in the Way It Should Grow

When growing an infant church, there are several key ingredients that will ensure a healthy, supportive environment to nurture new ministries.

- 1) **Opportunity to Succeed**
- 2) **Opportunity to Fail**
- 3) **Encouragement to try both**

In Red Deer, the sponsored Epic Church plant has been abundantly supplied with all three, and as a result, the fellowship community is thriving more than ten months into



the project to offer a contextualized Seventh-day Adventist message to post-modern thinkers in Central Alberta.

Each Sabbath, somewhere between 50 and 80 worshippers gather in a renovated mechanic's garage with only 67 actual seats. There is always a lively atmosphere of praise, a personal epic - a story - of God's goodness, a provoking scriptural teaching, and a filling meal with time to visit and meet the many new guests who attend.

In the short time Epic church has been meeting, the growing core group has defined a working strategy to allow for everyone to give something of their spiritual gifts. The incredible financial and spiritual support from the Red Deer mother church combined with a teeming interest in mentorship involving Burman University theology students ensures that Epic church can continue to offer an inclusive worship experience in Red Deer with the goal of every person finding their place in God's story.

So far, the group has become visible by reaching into their community to run a booth for the Woody's RV World Red Deer Marathon, partnering with the City to clean-up public spaces, volunteering to distribute Safety Workbooks and batteries for the Red Deer Fire Department, helping support the Central Alberta Community Services Centre, as well as enjoying nature through a variety of camping and canoe outings.

With a dynamic approach to outreach and a specific focus on inclusive worship, Epic leaders are looking forward to empowering more young Adventists to take ownership of their church as they approach their one-year anniversary in 2017.

—Submitted by Katelyn Ruiz

Tomato Vegetable Soup

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 med onion, chopped small
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 6 cups water
- 1 Tbsp. crushed basil
- 1/2 cup Blaney's chicken-like seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. dried parsley flakes
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1/4 cup pearl barley
- 2 medium potatoes, diced small
- 2 medium carrots, shredded
- 2 celery stalks, diced small
- 2 cups tomato puree

In a large soup pot, saute onion and garlic in olive oil until translucent.

Add remaining ingredients. Simmer until vegetables are tender.

Serve hot on a cold day!



Pumpkin Bread

- 2 cups mashed and cooked pumpkin
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. Ener-G egg replacer powder dissolved in 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup unbleached all purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated pure cane sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder (alum free)
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp. sea salt
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Heat oven to 350 degrees F.



Mix pumpkin, raisins, oil, and egg replacement together in a mixing bowl.

Mix in whole-wheat flour, all-purpose flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, allspice, and nutmeg.

Divide between two small loaf pans or place into one large loaf pan, coated with non-stick oil spray.

Bake 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean.

Transfer to a wire rack, and cool to room temperature before removing from pans.



Darlene Blaney, PhD, NCP, CFT

(doctor (PhD) in nutrition, Nutritional Consulting Practitioner - operates her own nutrition practice and health store, Certified Fitness Trainer)

- Owner/director of "Total Health School of Nutrition" offering a diploma in Nutritional Consulting www.totalhealthschoolofnutrition.com
- Author of four cookbooks including the "CHIP - Optimal Diet" cookbook and "The Ultimate Lemon Cleanse" book.
- Health Lecturer/Cooking School instructor for 20 years.
- Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Conference Volunteer Health Ministry Director for 20 years.
- Married to her husband Ron and has 4 sons Nathan, Reuben, Joseph and Josiah.



The Shaping of a

“When I was growing up there was very little money,” recalled Ken Wiebe. “My parents had bought a farm in Manitoba and although my dad was hard working, the land was not fertile and yielded little. Consequently, money was scarce and although we never went hungry, fruit was rationed to one orange per day. I loved fruit and longed for more. As I expressed my wish, my mother placed her orange on my plate. ‘Have this she said? ‘Don’t you like oranges?’ I queried. ‘Not today’ she responded.”

“I owe so much to my mother,” stated our now retired president as he wiped a tear. “She was mild tempered, soft spoken, spiritually sound, and always put others needs ahead of her own. That was her legacy. When company came for dinner, she rarely sat down to eat—she was too busy serving.”

“She’s the one who taught me Bible stories,” Wiebe continued. “I remember as a little boy kneeling on the chair at the kitchen table watching Mom mix bread dough. While doing so, she told the stories of Joseph and the coat of many colours, Daniel in the lion’s den, and the birth of Jesus. This memory has never left me. I can’t stress enough the long-lasting influence a mother has over her toddlers. Missed opportunities at that age are hard to regain.

“My own mother’s spirituality can be traced back to her mother. Although raised as a Mennonite in a Mennonite community, my grandmother joined the Adventist Church in her teens. In her early 20’s, she married a Mennonite husband who insisted she relinquish her Adventist faith. To keep peace Grandmother stopped attending the Adventist Church and was dis-fellowshipped, yet whenever

“I loved being a pastor in local congregations. One gets close to people. They become family. You share their joys and sorrows and they yours.”

possible secretly gathered her children on Friday evenings for worship. She would play the pump organ, sing and share what she had learned as Bible truth during her teen years. Consequently, four of her daughters, as they left home one by one, sought out and joined the Adventist Church—my mother being one of them. The influence of a godly mother cannot be over-estimated!”

Ken was 11 years old when he was baptized. His mother, like her mother, married a Mennonite man, but who was congenial toward his wife’s faith—in fact, he attended services and was baptized at the same time as Ken.

It was at this tender age that the Holy Spirit began to prepare Wiebe for pastoral ministry. Almost imperceptibly he felt intrigued with the Scriptures and fascinated with the life and work of the pastors that served his little home church in Brandon, Manitoba. With no church school within any conceivable

distance, Wiebe attended public schools until grade 11. Those years, however, were not without spiritual training. The membership in the Brandon church was scattered over a radius of 100 kilometers. It never rose much above 60 members and during his growing up years never owned its own church building. But the members ALWAYS involved its young people (there were about 12-15 of young people about the same age) in meaningful church positions. Ken was assistant Sabbath School Secretary, or Missionary Volunteer (MV) leader, or MV secretary or librarian. The young people took their jobs seriously and were always encouraged by the members. Most of those young people are still in the church today, several of them in denominational employment. When Ken was 15, the pastor sensing his interest in pastoral ministry, took him on Bible studies and his style became Ken’s model to this day.

“I might say,” Wiebe commented, “the influence of a congregation taking a genuine interest in its young people cannot be overestimated!”

Wiebe attended CUC for Grade 12 and continued on through college, pursuing a degree in Theology. While in college, he noticed a special someone, Vera Werner, who also attended college but lived in the community. Vera was both talented and industrious. She played the piano, the organ, the saxophone, the clarinet, worked in the furniture factory sewing room, served as secretary to the theology department but, as he said, “I was attracted especially to her infectious laugh and good nature.” Wiebe likes to tell his little secret on how he could legitimately get Vera to hold his arm tightly (holding hands between couples was frowned upon in those days). Although the maintenance

President



Ken and Vera Wiebe standing by a painting the Alberta Conference gave them for retirement.

department did well in clearing walkways of snow and ice, occasionally there were stubborn patches. While walking to programs on date nights and navigating through precarious slippery sections it was acceptable for the girl to slip her arm through the fellows arm for support. Ken noticed at such times Vera would hold tighter than ever. “I liked that,” Ken said, “so I looked for all the slippery sections as I could find.”

Ken and Vera dated two years and married August, 1968. Following graduation, the Wiebe’s headed for Andrews University where Ken graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. They have been blessed with two sons...and now four grandchildren.

Pastor Wiebe and Vera have worked 44 years in denominational service throughout Canada: Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba-Saskatchewan, and Alberta as pastor and administrator. Speaking about his wife’s involvement in ministry he said, “Vera has not only been my support in ministry,

but my partner in ministry as well.”

Most recently, Wiebe served six years as president of the Alberta Conference. Each aspect of his ministry including serving as pastor, has been filled with blessings. “I loved being a pastor in local congregations. One gets close to people. They become family. You share their joys and sorrows and they yours.” Wiebe says that as pastor of a local church or district there is also a greater potential to conduct home Bible studies and lead people to accept Jesus as Saviour. Watching the Adventist family grow numerically and spiritually is the great joy of every pastor.

“Yet my heart also beats with administration,” notes Wiebe. “It provided freedom to plan on a bigger scale. I loved working with the Executive Committee. I appreciated their collective wisdom and always felt secure in following their direction. In all my years as president I never perceived it was a ‘me against them situation.’ Rather the opposite. We were on the same team. The same was true of the officer team.

My personal management style is to be a collaborator, an enabler, a team-builder. Although we have an overarching vision and mission, I wanted my directors, pastors, educators, and volunteers to develop their own plans and strategies. My role is to facilitate and encourage—to be their cheerleader. And I love to celebrate their successes!”

Those who worked alongside Wiebe accredited him as a caring, wise, and of humble spirit...a man of patience, principle, and integrity. Wiebe firmly believed that family came first. He listened well and spoke with thoughtful wisdom. “He will be missed” was echoed clearly.

“Work has taken dominance in my life,” said Wiebe. “Retirement for me will include lots of family time...time with my wife, time with my boys, and time with my grand-children.”

The Adventist church organization will always be in Wiebe’s heart. “I am going out the door, but it won’t be locked,” he says. “I want to see the church grow—numerically and spiritually. We need to keep encouraging one another and be engaged in the community. We need to let our neighbours know that we care and that God is real. We are His ambassadors and we must act and speak accordingly.”

As Wiebe passes the “presidential torch” forward to incoming president, Gary Hodder, some of the on-going challenges will continue: providing a way for Alberta congregations that don’t have a church home to get one, continuing to grow and support the Mamawi Atosketan Native high school and industrial arts program, develop and strategize the Foothills Camp master plan, and in general meet the needs of all Alberta congregations and schools.

While Wiebe spends increased time walking in nature during retirement, he will go forth “being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 NIV

Ponoka Church Baptisms

On June 25, 2016, Shanen Walsh, and Marissa and Hovie Clark were baptized and accepted into the Ponoka Church family membership. Earlier this spring Kade Tetz was also baptized and Cody Heimann was baptized this summer in BC. We welcome our new members and pray for God's richest blessings upon them!



Shanen Walsh and Marissa and Hovie Clark with Pastor David Beaudoin, Ponoka Church.



Kade Tetz baptized by Pastor David Beaudoin in Ponoka Church.

Heaven Came Down Wrapped in Swaddling Cloths, Lying in a Manger



*Acrylic painting on canvas by Pastor Gardner Bermudez
Inspired by the hymn: "Heaven came down and filled my soul" by John W. Peterson.*

It portrays God with a mission, descending from heaven to become flesh, dying on the cross and going back victoriously; however, He will come again but this time, as a King.

Micah carried out his prophetic ministry in the critical period of the latter half of the 8th century BC. In Micah 5:2 we read: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times."

Why the swaddling cloths and a manger became the sign? Baby Jesus' poverty became a sign because no child in Bethlehem would be laying in a manger, half clothed. This sign was given to avoid discouragement on the shepherds that would be looking for the Baby King. In Luke 2:12, we read, "This will be a sign to you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

"The heavenly messenger had quieted their fears. He had told them how to find Jesus. With tender regard for their human weakness, he had given them time to become accustomed to the divine radiance. Then the joy and glory could no longer be hidden..." (*Desire of Ages*; EW, pages 48, 49)

Announcements

Mabel and Henry Spenst 60th wedding anniversary

On September 23, Mabel and Henry Spenst of Lacombe, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a come and go celebration at their residence. Friends and family came from near and far for the occasion. They were married in 1956 at College Heights and went back to Debbin, Saskatchewan to farm for the next few years. They moved to Lacombe in 1963. Henry once again began farming and later they owned a dairy farm for sometime. Mabel grew a huge garden while living in the country. They were both active in the College Heights Church; Henry as a deacon and Mabel as Sabbath School secretary and head deaconess for many years. For the past 16 years they have been living in Lacombe. They have two children: Brian (Debbie) and Donna. They have four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Vision and leadership

Recognition for their vision and leadership was given to the past Principals of Mamawi Atosketan Native School at The Pillars Reception on November 10, 2016. Honored were Paul and Grace Dara (pictured), Linda Calderbank, Linda Nowalkowski, Bob Spratt, Juanita Neal, and Julie Hodder. Ian Hartley, who was board chair for many years as well as chair of the MANS Project which built our original school, was also honoured.



Leanne Marie Grinde, BSc, DDS

Congratulations, Leanne, on one of your greatest achievements in life, the successful completion of Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Alberta. You have proved your amazing perseverance and dedication. Now you are facing a new chapter in your life and our thoughts and best wishes go with you. May you find real happiness and satisfaction in your new profession.

United in Holy Matrimony

On September 10, Kurtis LeBlanc and Maria Divinagracia were united in marriage at the Lloydminster Church.



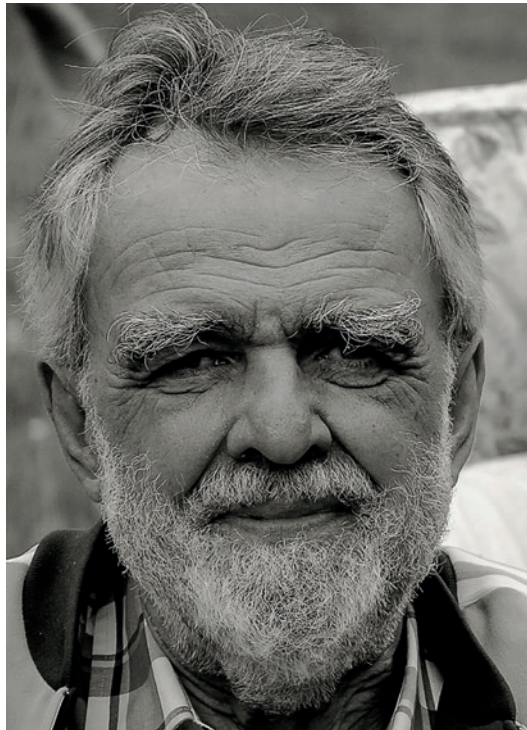
Announcements

Remembering David Richard Lunney Astleford

David Richard Lunney Astleford died in Bassingham, Lincolnshire, UK on September 13, 2016, in his words: “after a lifetime of service as a Literature Evangelist.” Very early in life, while living in Curaçao, the Netherlands Antilles, with his missionary parents, a Literature Evangelist named Rafael Fleitas came to stay with them in Mundo Nobo very briefly. One of the first things this colporteur told young David was “you colporteur.”

He could not say much more as he did not know either Dutch or English. That was before David started primary school in Em-mastad in the early 30s. He did not know what “colporteur” meant (a person who travels to sell or publicize Bibles and religious tracts) but it was not long after this that he went out selling small Dutch books to the neighbours. During primary school days both in Curaçao and British Honduras (now Belize) he continued selling. When he was in secondary school he continued his studies while on the “Scholarship Plan,” especially in Western Canada.

David studied at Oshawa Missionary College (now Kingsway College, Canada) and Canadian Junior College (now Burman University, Canada) as well as Newbold College in the UK and Atlantic Union College in the USA. He did graduate study at the London School of Foreign Trade



(UK) and Andrews University (USA).

He spent 43 years in church employment altogether — over 33 in overseas mission service. The latter was in East Africa, Southern Asia, Far East, and Western Pacific. All his life he took Adventist books to people, endeavouring to “persuade them to want and to buy what they need.” The overseas mission service was at “Union” and “Division” level in the Adventist Church — recruiting, training and working with LEs (literature evangelists). He said it was a great

life. David’s father was an LE before becoming a missionary and Pastor, and his grandfather was an LE also, starting shortly after the very first Adventist LE George King.

David retired from Pakistan in 1993, and spent most of his retirement years near the smell of printer ink at Stanborough Press in Grantham, waiting (as he used to say) “for his next call!”

In 1953 David married Della May Schueler in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Four children came to their home:

- **James**, Executive Director for ADRA Canada,
- **Pamela**, a nursing professional in Australia,
- **John**, a chemical engineer with an international practice,
- **Peter**, a London, UK solicitor with an international practice.

(One might be right in beginning to suspect an international theme in all this!)

David repeatedly avowed that he was very conscious that he owed a huge debt to his wife who supported him in his overseas mission service.

He is mourned by his wife of 63 years, his 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Mourners include family, friends and colleagues around the world.
— Submitted by James Astleford

In memory

Roland Martin Booth
1918 - 2016

Roland was born at Ryley, Alberta, February 13, 1918 to Sewell and Florence Booth. On July 3, 1943 he married Margaret Manderson, a neighbour girl. They rented a farm close by and embarked on his life career of being a successful farmer and raising a family. After ten years he moved his family to the farm he purchased from the Davick family. All his farming was in the Ryley area. He was involved with many community organizations which included being on the boards of the A.I Association, the community pasture, the rural telephone company; a member of the Odd Fellows; the Thule Ball team, several sports clubs, and in his later years an active member of the Ryley Sunshine Club as well as a lifelong member of the Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church. Roland passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on the evening of July 31, 2016. Roland was predeceased by his wife Margaret, son Douglas, parents Sewell and Florence, sister Mildred and brother Martin. He is survived by sisters Beulah Oslund, Leona Stumbo, Marion Martindale and brother Loftus; eight children Vera, Gordon, Lorne, John, Jeanne, Bruce, Grace and Kevin; twenty five grandchildren, and forty six great-grandchildren.

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This travel opportunity is open to
SAGERs, (those 50+) as well as
their family members, friends, and
neighbours. All are welcome!



What are They Seeing in MANS

Half of the \$4 million raised to date comes from outside the Alberta Conference and its members. A first encounter with Adventism is making an big impression where you might not expect it.

If you have kids in one of Canada's 67 Adventist schools, you probably know that something different happens when you have Adventist teachers working in a healthy Adventist environment. But what do others see?

As manager of the Bridge Campaign, I quickly realized that Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) was something special and important—something that you didn't have to be Adventist to appreciate. And so we went looking for partners to join us in our quest to create the tool that MANS' dedicated teachers need to radically change the lives of kids on what's reputed to be the toughest reserve in Canada: a high school building.

What we found were people who care as much as we do—maybe more in some cases—about the future of the beautiful, talented children of Maskwacis. These highly-successful, compassionate people come from places and organizations I didn't know existed; some of them come from Maskwacis itself.

I'm humbled by what they see, for it's the power of God working through people who put their hand to the plough and don't look back.

First Encounters: A Diverse Group

Sam Minde, CEO Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies, Erminskin Band, Maskwacis—A graduate student at Simon Fraser University, Sam and his wife were looking for a place that would value his children and support what they as parents were trying to teach them. "We chose Mamawi because we believe in teaching and guiding our children about Jesus and what He's done," Sam told the crowd assembled for MANS' ground breaking in May. "We also believe in celebrating the uniqueness of our culture and our language, and we feel that Mamawi is able to bring those concepts, those elements to our teaching."



Hope's Mission gave MANS' high school students an experience they will never forget: being part of a student-generated idea that turned into a powerful community ministry.

Deborah Mates, Executive Director, Canadian Welding Association Foundation—Deborah had crossed Canada visiting aboriginal communities, looking for schools with the most promising chemistry—places where a junior high or high school welding program could make a real difference. "What I saw [at MANS] was a different group of kids—very different from what I've seen in any other aboriginal community. They're focussed, they're engaged, and I know it's because of the teachers." Because of her foundation's investment, MANS will have a separate industrial arts centre where not only welding but other hands-on skills can make a real difference.

The Ptarmigan Foundation, Calgary—"I am satisfied that MANS is making a positive difference," a recently-retired executive of an oil industry giant wrote. After visiting MANS, the former CEO/CFO applied his keen mind—honed by decades of data analyzing—to the task of digging deeper, asking incisive questions as he looked for the best places to invest money from his personal foundation. His substantial donation funds the Ptarmigan Cree Cultural Centre.

The Greene Family Foundation, Calgary—"Our family was very moved

by the success of your school and the effect that is having on your community," wrote the matriarch of the family that is helping to make the high school building a reality. She recognized the impact that changing the course of a single young life can have in a community, and she and her family resonated with the story of Hope's Mission* among others.

A Student Perspective

When the Adventist Review did its investigative story on MANS earlier this year,** the reporter captured the insights of a grade seven student who confessed that when she came to MANS, she didn't care about animals or their pain. For many students, that kind of emotional investments comes at too high a cost. Now, the teenager wants to be a veterinarian.

"This school," she mused, "changes peoples' hearts sometimes."

*A brief overview of Hope's Mission can be found in the August 2016 Messenger.

**Adventist Review, February 2016 issue.



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What's it Mean to You?

“I want my art to help build a church in Maskwacis.”

Jeanie Spratt, 2016 Nicodemus Award Winner

A.K.A. AJ McCoy
Artist, past *Adventist Review*
illustrator & MANS Supporter
Bluffton, Alberta



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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