

# Alberta Adventist News

DECEMBER 2012

## OPERATION ANGEL TREE

New  
Conference  
Building



# What do we need to do to grow?

It's an interesting experience to be the "preacher-boy" from a small church in a mid-sized city. Every time I visited I'd be asked to preach. Invariably the elder, who for years had been my Junior Sabbath School teacher, would ask the same question, "Why are we not seeing church growth? What do we need to do to grow?" My answer was standard, "I wish I knew."

Years later the "preacher-boy" became the president of his home Conference. The church is still about the same size, the elder had passed away and the elder's son filled his father's shoes. Invariably he would ask, "Why are we not seeing any church growth? What do we need to do to grow?" And my answer had not changed much either, except to suggest a few programs and evangelistic meetings.

One day the question reversed. I asked the elder, "Why is the church not growing? What can we do to help make it grow?" His answer was shocking, but full of conviction. "We must stop trying to make it grow. We must stop thinking about the community and evangelism, and start focusing inward. We need a REVIVAL, and until that happens there will be no growth! Give up the idea of church growth here until we are filled with the Holy Spirit!"

Imagine flying to a distant city for an appointment. Along with other passengers, you show your boarding pass and identification, board the plane, find your seat and fasten your seat belt as the flight attendants run through the safety procedures. The plane is pushed back from the gate and the captain's voice comes over the intercom, "This plane is completely certified for safety and fully capable of taking us to our destination. The problem is – it has no engines! We require the most capable passengers to deplane and push the

plane down the runway, hopefully fast enough for us to get air-born...."

You say, "That's the dumbest illustration I've heard yet!" Perhaps, but think about it. Isn't that sort of what we try to do when it comes to church growth? Committees are called, programs are devised and multiplied and evangelistic meeting events are planned. We work fervently to follow through, but the results seem disappointing. For some reason we can't get air-born!

Remember Jesus' words, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

I believe Max Lucado made an insightful observation (I'm paraphrasing), "It's 30 AD in Jerusalem. Peter prayed many days, preached 10 minutes and baptized 3000 people. Today we pray 10 minutes, preach many days and baptize three people."

Don't misunderstand me; we need committees. We need well thought-through plans. Jesus told us we must count the cost before we start. Ellen White tells us we must spend far more time thinking through our plans – they need to be well laid, but both she and the Scriptures agree that all this is useless without the power of the Holy Spirit. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

So what is needed for revival to take place? Three things: recognition that we are powerless; genuine repentance and confession of our sins, and seeking for the divine infilling of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives. Ellen White comments in *Gospel Workers*, "When one is fully emptied

of self, when every false god is cast out of the soul, the vacuum is filled by the inflowing of the Spirit of Christ...He has no confidence in self. Christ is all and in all. He receives with meekness the truth that is constantly being unfolded and gives the Lord all the glory (page 287).

What are the results? She continues, "What is the character of the fruit born? – The fruit of the Spirit is 'love,' not hatred; 'joy,' not discontent and mourning; 'peace,' not irritation, anxiety, and manufactured trials. It is 'long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.' Those who have this Spirit are earnest workers together with God; the heavenly intelligences co-operate with them. They speak words of solid sense, and from the treasury of the heart bring forth pure, sacred things, after the example of Christ" (page 287-288).

Maybe the elder was right. It's not more programs and events that we need – as important as they are. Maybe we need a revival accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit – the "engine" to get us air-born.



Ken Wiebe  
President

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### Alberta Conference Ministries

Adventist Singles Adult Ministries  
Church Planting & VOAR  
Communications  
Community Services  
Education  
Evangelism  
Foothills Camp  
Health Ministries  
Information Technology  
Men's Ministries  
Ministerial  
Personal Ministries  
Planned Giving & Trust Services  
Prayer Ministries  
Public Affairs / Religious Liberty  
Sabbath School  
SAGE Ministry  
Stewardship  
Women's Ministries  
Youth

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### Submission Guidelines

[www.albertaadventist.ca/communications](http://www.albertaadventist.ca/communications)

## Highlights



### Camrose Church Receives Miracle Blessing

For the past 11 years, the 30 member Camrose Church has been renting space for Sabbath services from various congregations until...



### Operation Angel Tree

Edmonton South Church  
partnered with Prison Fellowship  
Ministries in Operation Angel Tree.



### Living Outside the Box

Alberta's first conference-wide  
youth rally in over two decades.

## Index

- 2 Message from the President
- 4 ADRA Canada
- 6 It Is Written Canada
- 7 McQuessview
- 10 Department News
- 11 New Conference Building
- 13 Sabbath School Alive
- 15 Main Event Youth Rally
- 19 G9 Outdoor Education
- 24 Church News
- 24 Edmonton Youth Pray4Togo
- 26 Let's Move Ponoka
- 27 Means & Meaning: Celebrating Alberta
- 28 Baptisms
- 31 Announcements



## Precious Lives in Cambodia Want to Celebrate 5th Birthday

**H**ave you ever rushed a sick baby to the hospital? Anyone who has knows the panic that comes when you fear for a child's life.

As the Associate Director at ADRA Cambodia, I've heard many stories firsthand of women in this country who have lost babies because of a lack of healthcare and proper education about how to keep their young ones healthy.

A number of years ago a Cambodian woman named Mao brought her infant son to a hospital eight hours away. She was told he had a cold. A month later, her son was still sick. She then brought him to a local traditional healer, who could not help her. Tragically, her son died in her arms

on the way home. Can you imagine if this horrifying event happened in your family?

Today, Mao has another son—you can see them together on this page—but she thinks about the one she lost every day. She is being much more careful with her new child's health. She does not want to lose him, too!

In Cambodia, one in every seven children die before their fifth birthday—you'll probably agree that this statistic is unacceptable.

There is a way to help prevent more tragedies like Mao's. ADRA Canada and ADRA Cambodia have partnered on a Precious Lives Campaign in Cambodia. The Canadian International Develop-

ment Agency (CIDA) has already agreed to provide a \$2 million grant to a project for this campaign—but ADRA Canada must also raise \$650,000 to show CIDA that Canadians are in favour of such initiatives. But, because of this partnership with CIDA, any gift you give to ADRA to support this campaign, will have four times the impact!

The assistance from CIDA will give more expectant mothers in Cambodia the support they need to safely bring their babies into the world. It will ensure better healthcare for women like Mao who are scared, alone, and caring for an extremely sick child. It means that more precious lives will be saved.

As Adventist Christians, is it not our duty to help when help is possible? 2 Corinthians 8:12-14 says: *It doesn't matter how much you have. What matters is how much you are willing to give from what you have....It is only fair for you to share with them when you have so much, and they have so little.*

With your compassion today, more babies living in rural areas of Cambodia will live to see the age of five! Your gift can provide a child and her parents with the health and opportunity to celebrate a fifth birthday!

I've been in Cambodia for just over ten years. Over the last year, I have been actively involved in the start-up of a project for the Precious Lives Campaign. We've accomplished so much already.

For example, we've selected and trained community volunteers in the field who will work with the project, and established groups that will meet once a month to work together to address issues affecting their communities.

Mao was involved in the very first meetings to help establish mother and child health groups.

The loss of her son made her eager to participate. As she says in her own words: "I want my children to grow strong and healthy. I want them to be able to learn and complete their studies." Isn't this what every mother wants for her child? Doesn't Mao deserve it?

By sending your support for our Precious Lives Campaign today, you will help us to:



- Build delivery rooms and waiting rooms at local clinics. (This means that women will no longer have to give birth at home alone!)
- Educate mothers, women of reproductive age and caregivers in health and wellness, reproductive health and caring for their sick children. (This will help prevent infant deaths!)
- Continue education of healthcare providers in the fields of reproductive health and childhood illness. (This will make sure that care providers are equipped to give the medical care that is needed!)
- Provide nutritional education training for mothers of children under five, pregnant women and women of reproductive age to reduce disease and preventable illness. (The health of mothers and babies will improve through proper nutrition!)

We are well on our way to developing relationships with over 350 community partners in Cambodia, and have already started working with the children. We've had many mothers tell us: "My life is greatly changed!"

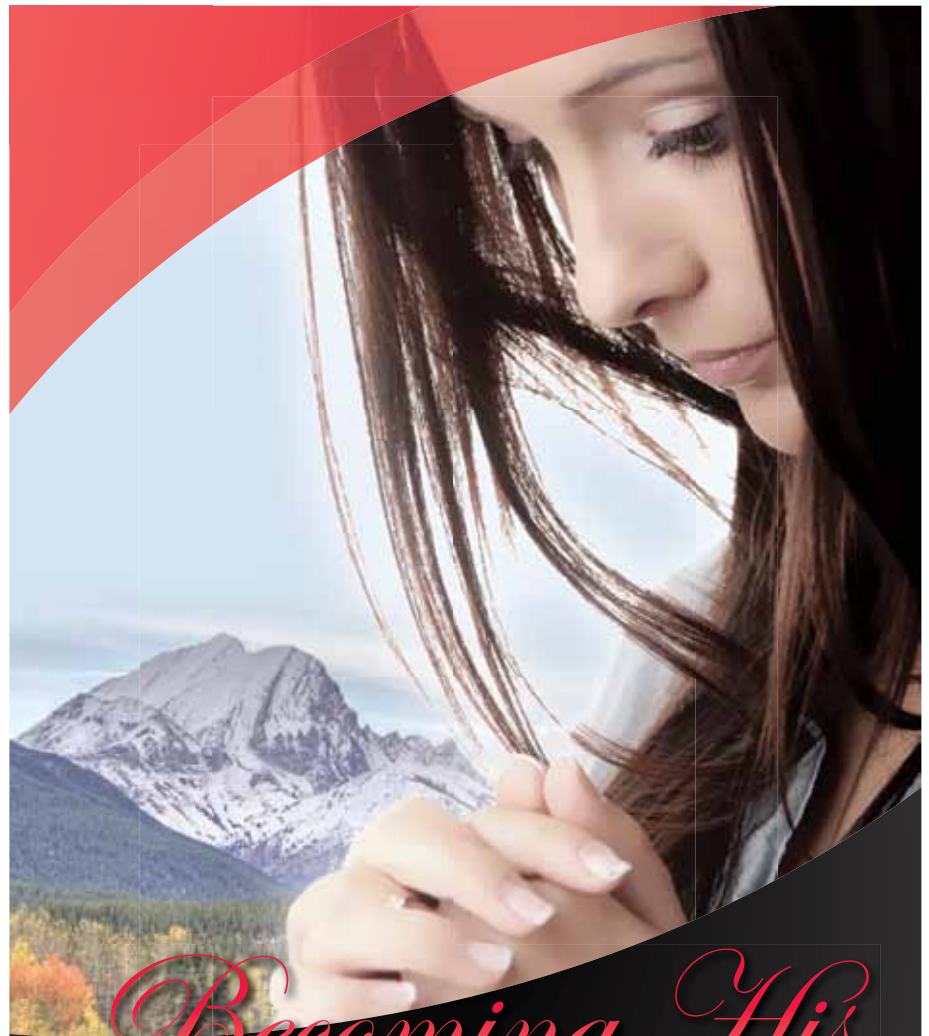
I've seen first-hand the need that exists in Cambodia, and I hope you will become a partner in this life-saving work.



ADRA Canada's 42-month Securing Mothers' and Infants' Lives with Equity (SMILE) project, implemented in partnership with ADRA Cambodia, is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



**Ann Stickle**  
Associate Director  
for ADRA Cambodia



## Becoming His

**2013 WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT**  
**April 5th-7th**

Explore the depth of relationship  
that God is desiring for you.

Esmie Branner is the much sought-after speaker and author of the book "Beyond the Veil of Darkness". Come and hear her compelling story of faith, domestic persecution and deliverance.

**You will not want to miss it!**

For more information contact  
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403-342-5044

Website: [www.abertaadventist.ca](http://www.abertaadventist.ca)

**The early bird registration (by Feb. 28, 2013) is \$189 which includes registration and meals.**

# Touching hearts, impacting lives...

Someone who recently attended a series of evangelistic meetings with Pastor Bill Santos wrote,

“Dear Pastor Santos,

This morning I listened to your message “Why Jesus” at the Bronte Church. It was the closing moments of the service that prompted me to write to you.

At the age of seventeen, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the writings in *The Signs of the Times*, my Dad gave his heart and life over to Jesus, was baptized, and spent the rest of his life telling “the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.” Too numerous to count were the series of evangelistic meetings he held. In the Maritimes, especially in the smaller rural communities, there weren’t many to help out... I was the pianist. At the close of each meeting he’d always have an altar call, just like you did this morning. When your musician began to play, I knew what was coming. Dad would nod at me; I’d slip up on the piano stool, and play the old hymns while he invited those who wanted to side with Jesus to make a public statement by coming to the front.

Dear Pastor, I saw that same passion in you today, heard it in your voice, in your reluctance to bring the meeting to a close lest someone miss the opportunity of accepting Jesus today. No hype, no drama, just an earnest invitation to follow the prompting of the Spirit.

Over the years, doctrine has sometimes gotten in the way of that simple truth that Jesus loves us; itchy-ears preaching has soothed my wayward spirit. Life’s crowded in; circumstances justified behaviour. But last evening I renewed my commitment to worship in God’s house today, and what a feast He’d prepared for me. He carried me back to my roots. Thank you for going where He needed you today. And never ever apologize for drawing out the invitation!”

From Smithville, Ontario



Pastor Santos at Bronte Church

*It Is Written Canada, a ministry of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Canada supported through the sacrificial donations of our donors, is a television media ministry committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost to the people of Canada, but also to the whole world through national and international television programming, Countdown to Eternity Bible Prophecy Seminars, and the development of resources to support church evangelism.*



Bill Santos  
Speaker/Executive Director  
It Is Written Canada



# Adventist Church Connect Features

Last time I briefly discussed the Adventist Church Connect content management system and this time I want to highlight some of its main features. With such a powerful tool it is difficult to build a “best features” list, however I put together my thoughts on some of ACC’s most useful features.

## Prayer Request

The Prayer request feature allows site visitors to submit prayer requests that are directed to any number of emails you wish such as prayer teams, elders and/or church pastors. The prayer feature immediately sends an email response back to the site visitor with Bible promises that relate to their request. Prayer requests can then be followed up with a personal email.

I remember one particular prayer request I received approximately three years ago from a mother in Edmonton. She stated that she had reached the very lowest time of her life. She lost her job, her marriage was in ruin, and she was having suicidal thoughts. She was asking us to pray for her situation and that God would work in a very special way. After I received the email, I prayerfully responded with some encouraging words. To make a long story short, she ended up attending the church I was pastoring in Kelowna, BC along with her two kids.

The prayer request feature has been a doorway to many new relationships and a wonderful tool for providing spiritual encouragement and prayer for many people.

## Calendar of Events

The ACC calendar allows departments to enter and categorize their own events. You can attach documents such as bulletin inserts, agendas, and special messages to each event.

This is a great online resource for church members to stay informed of upcoming events and programs even if they are away or misplace their church bulletin.



## Photo gallery

The Photo gallery is a great tool to display those church events and special programs you want others to get a glimpse about. It is also a great way to showcase the churches outreach and ministry programs such as a strong youth program, cooking schools, CHIP, Easter or Christmas events, etc...

## Audio & Video

The audio and video feature, which is not free, provides the tools for uploading audio and video files such as church sermons. These files can then be viewed and listened to by the website visitors. Approximately seven years ago, I received an email from a Christian business man living in Australia. He explained that his wife was not a Christian and she did not want him attending church. “I watched your sermon online and it really touched my life”, he stated. “From now on I am going to make your church website my virtual church”. Zechariah 4:6, “*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*”

## Built-in User Levels

With the Adventist Church Connect built-in user levels, there are several preconfigured levels of access such as; member, author, editor and administrator. Also added to this section is the ability of the administrator to create additional user levels as needed.

In addition to user levels, Adventist Church Connect allows for individual users to be assigned permission to add or modify specific pages or access specific features. For example, your church’s youth leader could be given permission to add articles and photos to the youth department pages on your church’s website and add youth events to the calendar. Given these permissions, this person could not modify any other pages on the site.

For more information about Adventist Church Connect visit <http://adventistchurchconnect.com>.



Troy McQueen  
Communications & IT Director  
Alberta Conference

# Facility needs **changing?**

Maximize your  
congregation's  
fundraising

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Alberta Adventist Fundraising Schools January 2013

Little Aran  
2002 and 2012

*Seems like  
the pulpit was  
refreshed...*

### Choose your School

### Locations & Course Descriptions

### Get the best tools and training for your church's building projects

Attend at one—or all—of these locations:

#### Southern Alberta Fundraising School

Two evening sessions for those interested in strategic fundraising for building projects, the Biblical principles of faith-based fundraising, and reaching out to people outside the congregation for appropriate projects.

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m. and  
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
(light supper provided)  
Calgary Bridgeland Church  
48 – 12 Street, NE, Calgary T2E 4P4

#### Central Alberta Fundraising School

Single session designed for teachers, school board & school support organization members, and high school or college students interested in exploring fundraising. The focus is small project fundraising for classrooms and an introduction to fundraising principles. Seating is limited; call to confirm availability after January 8. (special session on classroom project fundraising)

Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
(light supper provided)  
College Heights Church (Earliteen Room)  
6915 Maple Dr, Lacombe AB T4L-1Z9

#### Northern Alberta Fundraising School

The same great content as the Southern Alberta Fundraising School, but on a weekend schedule. A supplemented potluck will add to the festive atmosphere between the Sabbath afternoon and evening sessions.

Friday, Jan. 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Sabbath, Jan. 26, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
(supplemented potluck) and 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Edmonton Central Church  
10131 – 111 Avenue, Edmonton, T5G 0B5

#### For more information and to register:

Lynn McDowell  
Director, Planned Giving &  
Trust Services/Philanthropy  
(403) 342-5044 x 233 or  
lmcdowell@albertaadventist.ca



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
Alberta Conference



# Camrose Church receives miracle blessing

For the past 11 years, the 30 member Camrose Church has been renting space for Sabbath services from various congregations while fervently praying that God would bless them once again with their own building. In the past, the Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Church has operated its own buildings on and off since the 1920's but has never been able to maintain a consistent presence in the community. Over the years, many faithful members have reignited the spirit of outreach in the community and built up a congregation only to have to sell their building as economic forces compelled many members to move on. Most recently in 2001, the church was forced to relocate its aging building on the heels of a city expropriation. Unfortunately the costs of meeting updated building codes proved to be too high and the congregation was forced to demolish its beloved church building that same year.

Discouraged but not defeated, the congregation continued to raise funds believing in faith that God would one day restore to them a house of worship. In July of this year, a retired Pentecostal pastor, who has faithfully attended our congregation for

over 20 years, advised us that the Camrose Calvary Pentecostal church was being privately offered for sale. As it turned out a number of other churches and organizations were interested as the availability of church zoning has been severely restricted in Camrose in recent years. In faith, our congregation voted to act quickly and was first to submit an offer of 1.15 million dollars for which they had only \$400,000 in assets. A leap of faith indeed, especially since they only had 90 days to raise the remaining funds! Not to be deterred, members diligently and prayerfully set to work to make known among friends, relatives, and former members the substantial need. Sadly, we fell short by \$200,000 as the deadline came and passed and regretfully advised Calvary Pentecostal that we would not be able to remove the financing subject to clause on the purchase.

As it turned out, this was not the first time that the Calvary Pentecostal and Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Churches had rubbed shoulders on buildings. Pastor Clayton Milgate of Calvary Pentecostal, reminded us that back in the 1920's, they had rented and eventually purchased the Camrose Adventist Church for the sum of \$1,000. The tables had turned and as

we consulted our local church history, indeed it was so! Determined to make this work, Calvary Pentecostal first offered an interest-free loan for the outstanding amount. Unfortunately the Canadian Union Conference advised that the added monthly outlay would be too burdensome for our small congregation. Once again we offered our regrets. In a moment of prayer and reflection, Calvary Pentecostal realized that the church property had included an adjacent unused lot that was already subdivided. By removing it from the deal, they felt that they could sacrificially meet the \$901,000 that we had fundraised as the purchase price and conclude the deal.

Hallelujah! Thanks to God's miracle of timing and fundraising, the generosity and selfless giving of our friends, family, and members, and the determination of Calvary Pentecostal's leadership to continue to bless our long history together, the Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Church is once again restored to prominence in this wonderful community.

— Olaf Clausen is Pastor at the Camrose Church



# News



Nwamiko Madden

## New conference worker

The Alberta Conference is excited to welcome Nwamiko Madden to the team. He hails from Montreal, Quebec where he left his film and television career as a leading actor on syndicated television shows and major motion pictures to use his talents for God. In his local district he coordinated evangelistic efforts while pursuing and completing a technical degree in Sound Design. Just recently he became the recipient of multiple awards for a Christian film covering the story of David and Goliath and will be applying his audio visual gifts to forward the goals of the Alberta Conference. He will primarily be working with the Personal Ministries Department where his past experience as a Bible worker and lay evangelism coordinator will prove to be an asset along with his multi-media training.

## Adventist Single Adult Ministries

Through the good times and through the bad times our Heavenly Father has promised, He Will Carry You. This was the focus of the Adventist Single Adult Ministries Lacombe Happenings, November 16-18, 2012. The weekend started on Friday evening at Lois Graham's place then all day Sabbath and Sun-

day morning at Casey's Cabin. Angel Mariden and Diane Yaceyko shared their testimonies of how Jesus carried them through the difficult and good times of their lives.

The future of this Ministry looks bright as we reach out to the single adults in our communities through friendship evangelism.



Group at the Adventist Single Adult Ministries Weekend



Enjoying meal time and fellowship



Daniel and Raymond racing to fit 20 socks on one foot





It is the time of year when one takes time to remember the blessings of the past year. For the Alberta Conference office staff, one of our truly large blessings is that we finally have a new permanent home to work from. In July we purchased the Fisher building in Lacombe (5816 Highway 2A) for \$1.525M, and most of the tenants were out by the end of September with one left who moved out at the end of October. It is hard to put into words how good it felt to have a home again that meets our needs.

The building is just over 6,700 sq. feet although considerably smaller than the 15,200 sq. feet of the Red Deer building it is much larger than the 3,900 sq. feet we were leasing. We have sufficient room for all our staff and interestingly enough the building is set up much the same as a number of new Conference buildings throughout North America and as you can see by the photos it is very professionally designed and represents our Conference and our God well. We feel it is truly a gift from God as if it was designed for us, origi-

# New conference building

***5816 Highway 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5***

nally the building was set up as a billiards hall and now it is the central location for managing the work of Christ for Alberta. Another blessing is that this building is fully wheelchair accessible so all of our membership has access to their building.

We wish to thank each one of you for your patience and understanding as we went through the turmoil of this past year and a half. Though we still have items to clean up we feel we are well on our way to operating as normal again. I would also like to personally thank each

one of our Conference office staff who through the many temporary moves hung in there and continued to serve the rest of the field to God's glory. When you go through the trials as we have it is during these times of reflection when you look back you can see how God has led us and been right there with us during the storm. May all praise and glory be unto our Lord Jesus for not only getting us through this time but for blessing us as He has with our new home and may His Kingdom be advanced by what He has done.



## SAGE Alberta RV Campout

The first SAGE Alberta R.V. Campout was held at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park September 14-16, 2012. About 50 people from around the Alberta Conference, and RV's of every kind congregated together near the water's edge at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park near Camrose. Campers enjoyed devotional times, singing, hiking, potlucks, a pancake breakfast, visiting and storytelling around the campfire. This recreational and beautiful time in God's nature, was made even more enjoyable by the wonderful weather that God provided. Those 50+ are invited to watch for and join in on next year's campout.



## Work Project at MANS

On August 7, 2012, twenty-three people from 6 Alberta Conference churches participated in the SAGE Alberta Work Project at Mamawi Atosketan Native School. These SAGEs came together to paint, cut grass, wash windows, clean gutters, rebuild stairs, and other necessary cleaning and repair jobs to help get the school ready for the new school year. Volunteers enjoyed a delicious lunch and there was plenty of time to visit and even celebrate several members' birthdays. We believe that because of prayer, God sent not only many willing hands to volunteer on this project, but also people with just the key skills that were needed to make this such a successful project. — Ellen Bell, SAGE Alberta PR Coordinator

## Greetings from the Stewardship Department

At this joyous time of year I want to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas. During this season of giving and time with family, let us not forget the real meaning of Christmas, the Gift of God's Son as a baby in a manger over 2000 years ago.

During a stewardship seminar this year, I was asked if the second tithe should be given on the tithe line of the offering envelope. The tithe mentioned in Malachi would be returned on the tithe line on the offering envelope. I say "return" because we do not "pay" tithe, we only return what belongs to God. The second tithe would include all the other offerings that we give and not necessarily recorded on the tithe line. This is called a tithe because it is another 10% and the tithe and 10% are interchangeable. Remember the children of Israel gave 25% of their increase back to God. That was the reason for their great blessing. On top of the 25% of their normal giving, the sanctuary and temple were both built from additional giving because the tithe could not be used for buildings.

I thought that was a good question because we can think that because it is referred to as tithe that it would go to the support of the gospel ministry, but remember that tithe and 10% are synonymous.

We will keep you informed of Bill C-458, which has received 1st reading in the House of Commons. That bill, if passed, would allow charitable giving by individuals up to February 28 to be used in the previous tax year, the same as RRSP's currently do, for tax purposes. However, for this year make sure that your donations are into the church before 12:00 pm on December 31 or postmarked by that date because Bill C-458 has not passed yet.

I'm wishing you a happy Christmas season and a great New Year.

— Bob Holdal,

Associate Stewardship Director

*For questions about stewardship or to book Bob Holdal for stewardship seminars and speaking engagements please email [bholdal@gmail.com](mailto:bholdal@gmail.com).*



# Sabbath School Alive 2012

1853 is a very significant year for the Adventist Church for it was at that time 159 years ago that Sabbath School was first organized in Rochester, New York by Elder James White. In the very early stages they called it "The Social Hour." They would meet in the homes of the members on a Sabbath afternoon for a meal and socialization, followed by outreach to the community and Bible study. On October 19-21, 2012, Sabbath School came alive at Foothills Camp as 80 plus Sabbath School superintendents, teachers and division leaders met to hear about the growing Sabbath School attendance across the NAD. Guest presenter Pastor Del Dunavant from the Northern California Conference shared four reasons for having Sabbath School:

1. Fellowship – learning to love others as Jesus did and member care
2. Outreach – class projects and world missions
3. Learning – Bible study
4. Application – apply what we have learned to our lives

Guest presenter, Michael Josiah from Maple Ridge, B.C. encouraged Adult Sabbath school teachers to prepare well and to use methods effective in encouraging members in personal Bible study.

Sabbath afternoon children's division leader workshops were inspiring and well attended. The Beginner/Kindergarten workshop was presented by Jeannette Davis and Evelyn Gallant.

Sunday morning the Sabbath School Convention ended as leaders and teachers were challenged to take what they learned, apply it to their Sabbath School and help it to be a growing place where people just can't wait to come each Sabbath morning. A place where people are earnestly preparing to meet their soon returning Saviour. — *Darlene Reimche, Sabbath School Director*



Jeanette Davis, Beginner/Kindergarten workshop



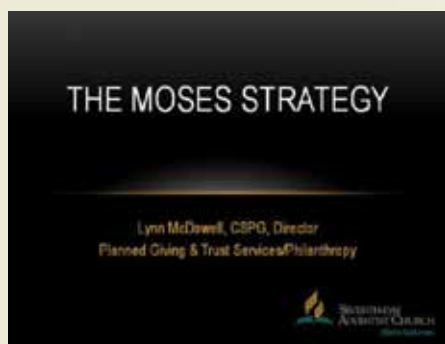
Pastor Massiel Davila Young Adult Workshop



Pastor Del Dunavant



CUC's Proclaim in Concert



## New Seminar by Alberta Adventists for Alberta Adventists

*The Moses Strategy*, the Alberta Conference seminar on the tools available for Planned Giving, was launched in Red Deer on November 26. Stories of real Alberta Adventists demonstrate the creative methods they've used to redirect their tax dollars to the Lord's work.

"Putting *The Moses Strategy* together was an inspiring and humbling experience for me," said Lynn McDowell, a Certified Specialist in Planned Giving and director of Planned Giving & Trust Services/Philanthropy, "but more important, the members of the Alberta Church family who humbly shared their stories are already inspiring others."



Keith and Ngaire Clouten, pictured in Luxor, Egypt, are among the real Alberta Adventists in "*The Moses Strategy*" who share their Planned Giving approach for multiplying tax dollars and redirected them to the Lord's work.

## Pathfinders & Adventurer Staff Training 2012

This year's Pathfinder & Adventurer staff training was a huge success. The theme was, "Mentoring For Eternity." Our speaker was Mr. Kevin Kiers. There were four main components; Mentoring, Leadership, Service, and Worship. Donelle Clarke, the Adventurer Director, taught basic Adventurer Staff Training. Kevin facilitated discussion on mentoring and taught the group how to make a fire from basic materials. Pastor San-

dra Silva did a lovely presentation on Spiritual Leadership. Pastor Lyle Notice encouraged the group to be a servant leader like Jesus. Cheri Notice brought it home with a wonderful presentation on worship and what it means to worship God in spirit and truth. Overall, it was a great weekend of fun and fellowship. The staff were encouraged over the weekend to mentor their clubs not only for today but for eternity.



Pathfinder & Adventurer Staff Training 2012



Kevin Kiers



Donelle Clarke





Song Service

## Main Event Youth Rally “Living Outside the Box”



It was Friday, November 2nd at 4:00pm and the registration line was despondently empty. Though there were more registered applicants than we had expected for Alberta's first conference-wide youth rally in over two decades, no one had arrived for registration yet. It wasn't long before a rambunctious bus load arrived, bringing the youth from Edmonton's Red Willow Church. Alas, the excitement began! The MAIN EVENT Youth Rally, themed “Living Outside the Box” had officially begun, with approximately 140 excited youth in attendance from churches in Edmonton, Calgary and places beyond and in between, including students from Canadian University College. One of the goals of this year's Youth Rally was to encourage the young people of Alberta to get to know new people, not just their

peers in the regions in which they live. Since we are all new youth directors, we also wanted the youth to meet us and get to know us better. The ultimate goal was to inspire the youth to approach and execute ministry differently, using Jesus' life here on earth as the perfect example for “Out of the Box” Ministry. The event itself was an “Out of the Box”

experience with multi-speaker sermons, Sabbath outreach, spirit-filled worships and even a “TED Talks” session. The youth received tools and encouragement including hands-on outreach in the community to get them started in their “Out of the Box” thinking. Just as Jesus healed, ministered to the needy, and lived the truth in unique ways, so must

we approach ministry in today's post-modern culture, ensuring relevance while seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we continue to work with, and reach out to the young people of this conference, we pray that we all will be inspired to stay relevant. Be sure to keep up-to-date on upcoming events brought to you by the Youth Department of this conference through [www.freshalbertayouth.ca](http://www.freshalbertayouth.ca). — *David Benjamin, Youth Department*



Small Group Bible Study

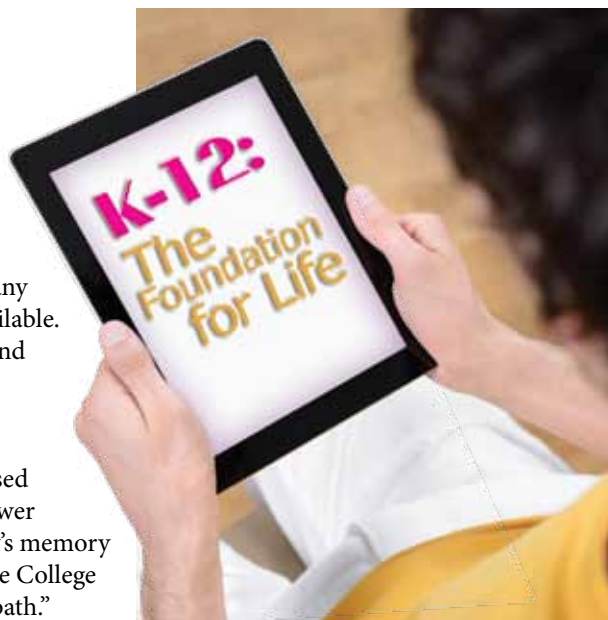
## Krysowaty Trust Helps K-12 Adventists with Communication Challenges

Mary Krysowaty's gifts to the Alberta Conference made many evangelistic campaigns possible, and Mary's most recent gift, made through her Alberta Conference Revocable Trust, will enable students with communication disabilities to keep pace with their peers.

Mary's latest gift allows the Conference's K-12 Education Department to create a lending library of iPad technology for teachers to use with special needs students. Research has

shown that these students can benefit greatly from many of the applications now available.

"This is both education and evangelism," said Elizabeth Tym, Mary's niece. It was fitting that on December 8, the Sabbath after Mary passed away, the evergreen and flower arrangement given in Mary's memory formed the backdrop for the College Heights Church's "Gift Sabbath."



Edmonton Central...3rd place winners

## Coralwood's 2nd Annual Softball Tournament Fundraiser

Perfect temperatures, warm sunshine, and happy spirits provided an ideal backdrop for seven eager teams from all over Alberta who gathered in Beaumont to play in Coralwood Adventist Academy's 2nd Annual Softball Tournament Fundraiser.

Each team was responsible to pay a fee of \$150 to enjoy exercise and friendly competition. Along with proceeds from a concession booth, \$1975.00 was raised in total. Many teams and individual players generously donated more dollars to make the day truly successful. The funds will go toward Coralwood's building and renovation project.

Seven teams: Edmonton Central Church team, two teams from Edmonton

South Church, Sherwood Park Church team, a team of students from Canadian University College, Lacombe Rook team from College Heights, and the Central Alberta Troopers participated in the event.

Coordinator, Pastor John Murley (Pastor of the Edmonton South Church), says that plans are to have a 3rd tournament in September of 2013 (the 2nd Sunday in September). He says, "Gather your friends early and bring your team out for an afternoon of fun, sport, and friendly banter." The reason to form your team early is that it requires a bit of planning to format the team so that there are three ladies on the field at all times. Ten teams have indicated that they will be on the field in 2013. Pastor Murley would love to see more than ten.



No child deserves to feel forgotten and alone. That's why the Edmonton South Seventh-day Adventist Church partnered with Prison Fellowship Ministries in Operation Angel Tree. The Angel Tree program is operated by Prison Fellowship Ministries, a ministry started by Chuck Colson to help prisoners' children know they're not forgotten at Christmas time.

Pastor John Murley, after being contacted by the Provincial Representative for Prison Fellowship Ministries, presented the idea of helping out with Operation Angel Tree to his Church on December 1 and it was met with an overwhelming response. Members were quick to get behind the project and to make it a tremendous success. Edmonton South helped provide Christmas to 16 children and their families this season. Pastor John explained how the program works: Prison

Fellowship provide the Church with the names, ages, addresses, and contact information of caregivers for the children of prison inmates. The inmates themselves had completed an application detailing the names, and addresses, and suggestions for a gift for their children. The inmates then write personal greetings for each child to be added to a card to go with the gift. Gifts are not to be more than \$30.00 per child. Churches are encouraged to contact the caregivers in advance and review the details of the program,

***"This is just one more way for us to share the Gospel with lonely families, and to serve as an example of Christ's love to the parents behind bars."***

gift selections, and appropriateness of the child receiving a gift from their mother or father who is in prison. It should be pointed out that some of the inmates are serving life sentences for very serious crimes. Once the Church has had opportunity to confirm details with the caregiver, the members then purchase the gifts, wrap them beautifully, and then physically deliver them to the home or foster home. The program at Edmonton South also had us adding a gift for the caregiver, a bible, and a special invitation for the family to join us for our Christmas Worship Service on December 22.

Pastor Murley said, "the wonderful folks at Edmonton South feel that this is just one more way for us to share the Gospel with lonely families, and to serve as an example of Christ's love to the parents behind bars." — John Murley is Senior Pastor at the Edmonton South Church



# Edmonton South's Operation Angel Tree

# New to Alberta's Education Roster...

**Several Staff have been added to the Alberta Adventist Education roster of dedicated teachers/principals. Welcome! Let's get acquainted...**

## Erica Bedard Dees

(Coralwood Adventist Academy)

Recently married to Greg Dees, Erica is beginning her second year of teaching. She is teaching Grade 6 and Junior High French. When not in the classroom, she enjoys exercising, walking in nature—experiencing the fresh mountain air of Banff, playing the piano, travelling, and spending time with her husband and their pets...two long-haired miniature dachshund dogs (Dwight & Utopia), a skinny guinea pig, and three fish. The life of Job reminds Erica that God is in control and that “He will not allow my burdens to be more than I can handle. What a wonderful God we serve!” She also notes that 1 Corinthians 13 is particularly meaningful. Note a few lines from v. 8 of The Message: “Love trusts God always... always looks for the best...never looks back...but keeps going to the end.” God bless you, Erica, to that end.



Erica and Greg Dees



Sarah Cresswell & August

## Sarah Cresswell

Sarah teaches Kindergarten at Coralwood Adventist Academy in Edmonton. She enjoys baking, crafting, painting, traveling, and spending time in nature with her dog, August. Some of her travels include frequent visits to her family's home in Chetwynd, British Columbia. Sarah admires Job, who “through thick and thin was able to maintain his faith in God.” Lots of people sharing Sabbath lunch brings a smile to Sarah's face, and more so, if there is pumpkin pie. God bless you, Sarah, as you teach those little ones to love life, learning, and Jesus.

## Michael & Tawnya Willing

Michael and Tawnya are not new to Alberta, but are new to Alberta's teaching roster. Michael graduated in April, 2012 from CUC and is teaching a variety of subjects in Grades 9 & 10 at Coralwood Adventist Academy. PACeS provides opportunity for individuals to work part-time while being a stay-at-home parent. Tawnya is blessed to be able to care for their two children, Ethan (2 ½) and Isabella (7 months), and teach Biology 30 for PACeS (Prairie Adventist Christian e-School). Resulting from a one-year mission term in Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador, both Michael and Tawnya speak Spanish and enjoy a variety of ethnic foods. Tawnya says, “Michael is quite the chef!” Michael also enjoys playing guitar and dabbling in woodworking. Tawnya has taught for seven years in a variety of capacities throughout Alberta and overseas. She also enjoys photography. They recommend seeing the Ice Festival in Banff in February. Michael and Tawnya have dedicated their lives to helping children learn to love Jesus. One



Michael & Tawnya Willing

of Tawnya's favorite Bible events is when Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to him. He made the time. They enjoy organizing mission trips to Colombia where they previously volunteered for a year. May God bless you as you touch many hearts for His kingdom.



### Cheri Notice

We bring the best teachers from the east to the west! Cheri Notice joined the Alberta teaching staff from Toronto, Ontario to teach Grade 6 at Mamawi Atosketan Native School. Playing soccer, running, singing in groups, reading, and performing sign language to music bring joy to Cheri's life when she is not teaching or spending the best of times with her fun-loving husband of four years. They are enjoying points of interest in Alberta. Cheri admires the strength and courage of Jael, a lesser known woman of the Old Testament, who helped to bring peace to Israel for forty years. It is said of Jael, "Blessed be Jael among women." Judges 5:24. May God grant Cheri courage and strength in her walk with God.



Cheri Notice

### Rob & Tammy Parker

Teachers in small schools must have an extra chamber in their heart for all the great things that they need to accomplish for God! David (Rob) Parker is principal, and teaches Grades 5-9 in addition to music, band, and technology at Higher Ground Christian School in Medicine Hat. Tammy Parker brings to Alberta a wealth of experience and an infectious zest for teaching. She has taught class sizes ranging from 6-129 students. She is teaching a small class



Rob & Tammy Parker

in Brooks for PACEs. Not everyone has access to a full-sized hockey rink, swimming pool, Subway and more...but the students in Brooks do, as they grow their new school. Rob and Tammy spent a number of years teaching in Taiwan, Thailand, the Marshall Islands, United States and British Columbia. Their two teenage boys were born in Taiwan and are working on their Canadian citizenship. Tammy and Rob enjoy cooking and eating international food and Christian music. Rob was named after the Psalmist, David. "He strikes a chord with me" says Rob. "He was always real, made grievous mistakes, but maintained a strong relationship with God. He was also musical and wrote beautiful poetry which speaks to the artist in my soul." Tammy and Rob were living in Bangkok when the tsunami of 2004 occurred. "We were blessed that God diverted us to another town just before the tsunami happened or we would have been caught in it." Tammy notes that God was deeply ingrained within David's (from the Bible) heart. "I want to learn to be so trusting and confident of God's goodness!" May you both be blessed as you serve Him in Alberta.

**2012**  
*Year of*  
*Adventist*  
*Education*

*Educating*  
*Children and*  
*Youth for Time*  
*and Eternity*

**A**  
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Gabriel & Roxana Perez with sons  
Matias & Sebastian

### Gabriel Perez

Gabriel and his family left a portion of their hearts in Argentina when they moved to Edmonton in 2011 for Gabriel to pursue a doctoral degree in Education. He currently holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Physical Education from our Adventist University in Argentina. He has taught at academies in Chile and Argentina. Currently, Gabriel is teaching Physical Education for K-10 at Coralwood Adventist Academy as well as other options for Grades 7-10. Gabriel lists “fixing things in the house once a year” as one of his hobbies along with playing and watching sports, and singing. During his day to day activities, he aspires to demonstrate the faith of Joseph. May God continue to bless you Gabriel in your career and studies.

### Matthew Okimi

Matthew is one of five teachers employed by the Alberta Conference who lives outside of Alberta. This is possible through the PACeS program, where the teachers meet weekly with their students from all across Canada and the US on their computers in their homes. Okimi and his wife, Sachiko, live in Hagersville, Ontario. Matthew has taught in British Columbia and Japan for a total of eleven

years. He is teaching Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry for High School students. Sports such as ice hockey, snowboarding, backpacking, golf, and surfing fill spare moments for Okimi. He also enjoys photography, reading, movies, cooking and eating. Matthew resonates with the psalmist, David who “knew how to make a spectacular mess of things, own up, ask forgiveness, and try again.” God’s blessings to you, Matthew, in your walk with God!



Matthew & Sachiko Okimi

### Lara Melashenko

Lara is at home in Alberta, Calgary, and at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy (CWAA) where she serves as Principal. She is passionate about connecting students with Jesus Christ and passionate about inspiring teachers to deliver a high quality Seventh-day Adventist education. Lara identifies with David (from the Bible) who was “ultimately regulated by God’s presence in His life, and who returned to following God at the end of every desert experience.” Lara enjoys traveling, visiting any ocean, biking, hiking, playing soccer, and praising God in music. Her husband, Joel, and three children complete her life. May your commitment, Lara, reverberate with passion, love, and service to our Amazing God!

*\*On September 1, 2012, 806 students were enrolled in Alberta’s ten schools. Let’s keep them in our prayers throughout our days.*

*\*\*These bios were compiled in September. Since that time other teaching staff members have been added. Please watch for future updates.*



Lara & Joel Melashenko with Andre, Shyla and Jonathan





# G9 Outdoor Education

***“Rain, wind, snow, sun, clouds, clear skies...we had it all!” Such was the experience of the Adventist Grade 9 Outdoor Education students (from Mamawi Atosketan Native School, Chinook Winds Adventist Academy, College Heights Christian School, and South Side Christian School) and their seven sponsors during their annual Grade 9 Outdoor Education trip (September 10-12).***

While blue fingers, chapped lips, and wind burn made the days uncomfortable, the spirit and enthusiasm of the 39 students was not squelched. There were challenges to be conquered. Rappelling at Cavalcade Park, canoeing on Goldeye Lake, orienteering in Cavalcade Park, hiking to Siffleur Falls—nothing was left out...nothing was missed!

“The purpose of this event is to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes that contribute to building healthy and empowered youth. They gain respect and appreciation for the incredible environment God has provided for us. Students begin to understand the diversity of life that is at our fingertips. And most important, lasting friendships are established,” explained Janet Griffith, Alberta’s Adventist Education Superintendent.

Students and sponsors experienced a series of miracles when the bus ran out of fuel twice. Finding propane fuel in the Kootenays is no easy accomplishment. Keep in mind there is no (or very little)

cell phone service there. But they were not left stranded. An added bonus of not being charged the fee at the park gate and only being asked to pay minimum costs for fuel and services reminded everyone that God cares...even about propane.

Read, smile and be proud of Alberta’s teens as they respond to the 3-day event:

- “My favorite time was the games. I hid in the grass and was camouflaged.” Ryan
- “When I got to the campsite, I knew I wasn’t going to go rappelling because heights terrify me. It was my group’s turn for rappelling and I had promised my friend, Kalmani that I would at least go once. I ended up going twice and having the time of my life.” Meagan
- “The campout was amazing. Doing activities like repelling, canoeing, hiking, and orienteering was so much fun. I especially enjoyed rappelling; scary but so much fun, once you realize you made it to the ground. Being together with friends and having fun just put the experience over the top.” Sayge

- “The funniest part was when the bus ran out of propane. It was going 5 km/h down the highway for about an hour...running on fumes, but we made it back.” Jamie
  - “I liked the campfires and worships. It was a nice way to connect with friends, and God. All in all it was a great time.” Kalmani
  - “It was great. We did many activities, got to meet new people, see new places, and do new things. I got to dunk my head in the river which was really refreshing. I can’t seem to get the beautiful river from the hike out of my head.” Mikayla
- The above comments were reiterated numerous times. New students commented about the opportunity to get to know others.
- “The time spent in the mountains close to God was an exciting adventure that these students will not forget,” said teacher, Mrs. Victoria Presley. Thank you to Alberta Adventist Education for providing the experience. — Linda Steinke, Education Communications



# Choral Union Concert Ushers in the Christmas Season

The Choral Union presented its annual Christmas Concert at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on Friday November 30, and Saturday December 1, 2012. The Choral Union has been performing since 1977 under the present director and founder, Dr. Wendolin Pazitka-Munroe. The choir combines students from Canadian University College and Parkview Adventist Academy.

The annual Christmas concert not only brings in the student's family and friends but the local Lacombe community as well. The concert is one of three seasonal musical gifts that CUC offers to the community. This year's concert, "An Evening in December," featured old and new pieces of music. Members of the CUC Chamber Orchestra joined the choir for the second half of the concert featuring Antonio Vivaldi's, "Gloria." The choir performed for two full performances sharing the Christmas spirit to all who attended.

For more CUC News visit our website at [www.cauc.ca](http://www.cauc.ca).



Choral Union Christmas Concert, College Heights Church



L-R, Tricia Gabrys, Steve Gabrys, Dr Mark Haynal, CUC President, and Loney Ziakris, Alumni President.)

## CUC Young Alumni Service Award presented to Steve and Tricia Gabrys

The CUC Young Alumni Service Award was presented to Steve and Tricia (Leavitt) Gabrys at this fall's Alumni Fun Fest weekend. Steve and Tricia are both alumni of CUC (Elementary Education 2001). The two began their teaching careers at Port Hardy, BC where Steve taught grades 5 and 6 and Tricia grades 3 and 4.

Steve and Tricia moved back to Lacombe in 2005 where he now serves as vice principal and teaches

Grade 5 at College Heights Christian School. Tricia has blessed the community with her work for the music programs of both the College Heights Church and the church school.

Steve and Tricia believe that Adventist schools are our largest evangelistic field. The purpose behind everything they do is to help students develop a lasting, loving, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



## CUC WISE week

The week of the 17-22 of September was Canadian University College's Week in Spiritual Emphasis (WISE); a time when the entire campus: students, faculty and staff, come together for worship twice a day, every day for a week. During this week, the campus was in war zone. The battle for souls for Jesus Christ was on. I imagine all of Heaven was present and was in fierce conflict, tugging upon hearts, as God, through His servant Pastor Vandeon Griffin, spoke the word of truth. Pastor Griffin, our guest speaker, currently serves as the Youth Director of South Central Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist and is the President of BAYDA (Black Adventist Youth Directors Association). Under the theme "The Fight of Your Life", he encouraged us to engage in the greatest fight ever fought- the fight for our spiritual lives. It was powerful! Decisions were made to follow and live for Jesus, to fight against our sinful tendencies, and to surrender all to Jesus. By the end of WISE, 23 people were baptized. Praise the Lord! This battle might be over, but the war has only begun. We invite the entire church family to pray for the students, faculty and staff at Canadian University College as the Lord moves upon us all and continue to guide and strengthen us to fight the good fight of faith.

— *Andlaine Joseph, Communications Leader, CUC Campus Ministries*



Baptism group with guest speaker Pastor Vandeon Griffin (on far right)



## Parkview Adventist Academy

Parkview Adventist Academy always has something on the go! We have barely finished with volleyball and the basketball season has already started. PAA helped to host the annual junior high volleyball tournament in November this year by supplying breakfasts, snacks and sleeping space as well as referees and the gymnasium. Now we are looking forward to a new event that we hope will become an annual event. We are hosting a Science Fair for all junior high students who attend Adventist schools as well as for Adventist students who attend home school, public schools or non-denominational Christian schools. This exciting event will take place on February 28 at the PAA/CUC gymnasiums. If any student would like to be involved please send an email to [preasor@paa.ca](mailto:preasor@paa.ca) and we'll be happy to pass along the information.

One very exciting event that has taken PAA by storm this past November was Movember. One of our students, Jessie Ganson, had a brain tumor removed last spring and this year he has missed most of the semester due to continuing treatments. His classmates have not

forgotten him. On their own accord the guys stopped shaving in an effort to raise money to help pay for some of the family expenses. So far they have raised \$1000.00 but they want to continue their efforts to reach their goal of \$5000.00. Besides pledges for unshaven faces they have been collecting cash donations and pop cans. If anyone is interested in helping the young men show support for their classmate you can call the Academy office at (403) 782-3381 ext. 4112.

The staff at Parkview Adventist Academy would like to say thank you to everyone for the support that is shown to our school through your prayers. We don't take them for granted and we can always use more.





## Blaney's cooking!

It has been a very busy fall for the Edson Church. In September, Darlene Blaney came and presented a weekend long health seminar. She spoke on eating healthy and taught everyone



Darlene Blaney

how to get their bodies to work their best. The evening seminars brought a few people from the community as well as members of the church. The cooking school, however, had a much larger group of people from the community attended. It may look as though the town of Edson might become more interested in vegetarian cooking, so hopefully this can become an annual event.

## Edmonton youth/young adults Pray4Togo

On December 1, 2012 youth and young adults in Edmonton took part in a prayer campaign organized by the Seventh-day Adventist world church called Pray4Togo. This campaign was a response to the imprisonment of two Adventists in Togo. According to the Inter-European Division website, "Pastor Antonio Monteiro and church member Bruno Amah have been falsely detained for eight months. Even though there is no evidence of guilt, the men have been held without hope of bail or a trial." The Edmonton youth/young adult prayer event was organized by the local youth committee to bring young people



together for the cause of Christ. To get the evening started Nwamiko Madden shared an inspiring devotional message while approximately 35-40 joined the circle. The prayer portion began at 6pm and ran until 1am. It was amazing to see young people who were dedicated enough to give up a Saturday night to pray for seven hours. People prayed about whatever was on their hearts including friends, family, church, health, school, and relationships. A specific hour was dedicated to praying for those imprisoned in Togo. A multitude of blessing was received by everyone involved. The young people have indicated that this is something they want to do in the Edmonton area again in the future. — *Diana Lopez and Wayne Thomas, Edmonton Central Church*



Baby Daxton Ahlf Dedication

## Edson Church

On October 16, the church welcomed their youngest member to the family. Daxton Ahlf was dedicated to the Lord with his parents; Ben and Colleen Ahlf, as well as his brother, grandparents and many aunts and uncles looking on.



## Love is Still Sweet in Leduc!

Elvin and Billie Jean Ferster established their family on April 15 of 1962 in Portland, Oregon. They were blessed with four children: Bonnie, Kevin, Dean, and Terry. These children later enlarged the family to 22 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

More than 100 family members and friends met together on Sunday, September 16, 2012, to celebrate 50 years of marriage, share food, relive memories, and present mountains of good wishes to a very special couple. Billie Jean's mother from the state of Montana was able to attend.

Billie Jean and Elvin have lived in a variety of locations throughout British Columbia and Alberta. They have been involved with trucking, logging, investing, and the construction and management of restaurants and hotels.

The Leduc Seventh-day Adventist church has been blessed by their tal-



Elvin & Billie Jean Ferster

ents (renovations, Sabbath School, music) which they generously share. May God grant you both many more years of sweet life together!

## District gathers for Camrose Consecration

On Sabbath, December 1 approximately 100 worshippers came together for the Consecration Service of the Camrose Seventh-day Adventist Church and congregation. Mrs. Rhonda Clausen initially challenged the Sabbath School classes with a dynamic illustration climaxing with representatives from every age holding a lit candle while singing "This Little Light of Mine."

Five violins and a flute joined with voices in singing praises. The worship service welcome included a brief history and recognition of previous visiting members & pastors, including Elder & Mrs. Nick Kozachenko of Onoway and Elder & Mrs. Dan Rebsomen of Bellis. It was noted that over 100 years has passed since Camrose was initially organized as a church group (February 18, 1911). Current Camrose pastor, Elder Olaf Clausen, introduced the special

music by reading the first verse of "More About Jesus" played then by his youngest daughter, Grace, on the violin. This would be the desire of all Christian hearts. Elder Larry Hall from the Alberta Conference congratulated and challenged the members to continue in community outreach and to maintain their reputation of "Welcome and Love." Pastor Clausen led the congregation in a responsive prayer of consecration followed by Tamara McPherson singing a heartfelt song of dedication and Pastor Clausen's benediction blessing.

The spacious adjoining fellowship hall rang with praise and thanksgiving before a fellowship lunch was enjoyed by everyone. Special thanks was extended to visitors from sister churches, Sedgewick and Ryley, as well as those from Lacombe, St. Albert, and Edmonton for their support, and encouragement in attendance.

## Miracles in Ellscoff

Pictured below is Pastor Toby Wong of the Boyle Adventist church receiving the key to the Golgotha Lutheran church of Ellscoff, Alberta. For some time the Boyle church had been looking for a more suitable building to worship in but were unable to find any but God had a plan!! In the summer of 2011, it came to the attention of the members that the Lutheran church at Ellscoff, a small rural community 15 km southwest of Boyle had shut down. Upon following up, it was discovered that the church had been renovated in 2000 with a new addition added on. The representative for the Lutheran church also indicated that the desire of the remaining membership was to donate the building to a charitable organization. A price of \$2.00 plus the cost of transferring title was negotiated and on August 28, 2012, the property became the possession of the Boyle church. We praise God for His leading and guiding in this matter and pray that He will fill the church with His children who are preparing for His soon coming.

— Veronica Dribnenki



Pastor Toby Wong (right) receiving the key to the Golgotha Lutheran church of Ellscoff, AB.



Some of the children registering

## Ponoka Church

On October 23, 2012 the Ponoka Church sponsored a 'Let's Move' 5-10K walk/bike/run to promote exercise, raise money for the development of the trans-Canada trail through Ponoka and to build awareness in the community. It was the first time the Ponoka Church had done anything like this and were asked to make it an annual event, which they plan to do. The participants ranged in ages from four to 95 years old.

Janice Clark brought her grade five students from Mamawi Atosketan to participate and they really enjoyed themselves. Gifts were donated by town businesses and one of Janice's students won a prize in the draw. The Ponoka Church was able to raise over \$1700 which will be matched by the government. This turned out to be a very fun and positive event for the entire community.  
— Phyllis Shoop, *Personal Ministries*.



Youngest participant, Shanen Walsh, refueling after her 5 K walk



Janice Clark and her students from Mamawi



Oldest participant, Alma Reimche, with her daughter, Loma Boyd

## Yellowknife "Rock Stars"

We call a group of visiting 7th Day Adventist youth "rock stars." That's because they chose to help us for their community service project. The group from Blackfalds and High Level, Alberta, dug all the weeds out of the front yard at our house on Haener Drive (YWCA assisted living house in Yellowknife), then shovelled and raked a mound of gravel into place. The result: a yard that looks good, and savings to us of about \$6,000 in labour costs. Last year, adults in the congregation built a new fence at our Forrest Drive house. And each week, Pastor Brad Dahr delivers food from Food Rescue to families at Rockhill. Thank you 7th Day Adventist congregation—you rock!! — *Reprint with permission from the Yellowknife YWCA*



Group from Blackfalds and High Level, AB, digging up the weeds



# Celebrating Alberta: 105 Years

One of the great privileges of my work is meeting people like Alberta Goltz, who celebrated her 105th birthday on Aug. 8, and the 85th anniversary of her arrival in Canada on Oct. 5. If you spend even a few minutes with Alberta, you will know that one of the goals she's set for herself, especially now that God has given her more than her biblical "three score and 10" years, is to live to see Jesus come.

"God has given me so much," said Alberta when I visited her recently in her Leduc farm home. "A hundred and five years!"

Soon after her first visit to the province's first church (erected in 1903), the young immigrant joined the first Adventist congregation in the province and even in the depths of the Depression paid a faithful tithe — a value she passed on to her children and grandchildren. It's a short leap

from her gratitude for today to gratitude for the path that God has led her on, from exile and strife in Russia to peace and a church family in Alberta.

"The people of Canada are so kind," she says, and thanks me for the flowers I brought on behalf of the Alberta Conference to commemorate her milestone birthday—unprecedented, as far as I know, among Alberta and Canadian Adventists.

Alberta's attitude of gratitude is, when I stopped to think about it, the basis of the Conference's mission for Planned Giving ministry. As we express our thanks for God's kindness and generosity, we are reminded that God gives us good gifts not only because He wants us to enjoy life, but also to demonstrate—model for us, if you will—the

***Remembering God and His work in the financial tools you use to care for those you love—a will, life insurance, RRSPs, Tax-free Savings Accounts, annuities—is a way of letting the world know that God is always part of the equation.***

giving character He wants to share.

God is good, and His wonderful roadmap for life includes sharing. Sometimes we share today—through a testimony, through a loaf of bread or raking leaves for our neighbor, through tithes and Alberta Advance offer-

ings, to name a few. And we reap the benefits of sharing, growing personally and as congregations with expanding ministries.

Remembering God and His work in the financial tools that you put in place to care for those you love—a will, life insurance, RRSPs,



Tax-free Savings Accounts, annuities, etc.—is a way of letting the world know that God is always part of the equation.

If you've remembered God's goodness and His work by making the Alberta Conference a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, RRSP or other tax planning tool, please consider letting me know. The Conference wants to express its thanks to you personally; it's only right that His church administration model gratitude and celebrate your reflection of His character.

God is good all the time. Let's celebrate and acknowledge His generosity—to us, in each other, at every opportunity!

— Lynn McDowell, CSPG  
Director of Planned Giving & Trust Services/Philanthropy

## DID YOU KNOW?

*In addition to wills, Alberta Adventists have used life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gifts of land and other means to shift their tax dollars to the Alberta Conference and God's work during their lifetime. Look for more on these tools in coming issues.*



## Boyle Baptism

Pictured on the right are William and Jenny Barranoik with Pastor Toby Wong just before their baptism on August 11, 2012 at the Boyle church. William was raised in an Adventist home but left the church as a young man. Before his mother died, she encouraged him to read the Scriptures. Shortly after her death in 1996, William and Jenny started reading the Clear Word Bible which was given to them as a gift and began to faithfully keep the Sabbath. A couple of weeks before the baptism, William decided to come “full circle” by returning to church and being baptised and Jenny joined him in the decision. It was a joyful occasion for the Boyle congregation since we had been praying for William for some time. God’s promises are sure: “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it”. Prov. 22:6.

— Veronica Dribnenki for the Boyle church



Pastor Toby Wong giving baptism certificate to William and Jenny Barranoik



Left to Right: Pastor Bechthold, Arlon, Colette and Ina

## Peers Company Baptisms

On November 10, 2012 Colette Breault, Arlon McGuire and Ina McGuire were baptized at the Peers Company.

Colette started attending the church over a year ago after visiting the Helping Hands Community Thrift Store run by the Peers church. She shared her testimony and love for Jesus with 14 year old Arlon who in turn shared what he had learned with his grandmother, Ina. What a wonderful domino effect of spreading the gospel.

When Pastor Brian Bechthold held a Revelation Seminar in Edson, all three sealed their decision to be baptized. The baptism was held at the baptistery in the Edson Church. Whitecourt Company also came to support the newly baptized trio with much gifts and encouragement. It turned into a district baptism. It truly was a wonderful day.

— Dolores Fletcher

## Sylvan Lake Baptisms

Brooke, who is a student at Sylvan Meadows Adventist Academy, studied with Pastor Kay and felt that she needed to give her heart totally to Jesus. Brooke has a strong commitment to her Lord and wants to serve Him completely. Olga attended the Sylvan Lake Church after receiving an invitation to attend a series of meeting by Herb Montgomery in March 2011. Olga hasn't missed a Sabbath since and has been very active with the Sylvan Lake Food Bank, which is located in the basement of the Sylvan Lake Church.

— Penny Marcinyk, Sylvan Lake Communications Secretary



On the Sabbath of November 24, 2012, Brooke Severson (left) and Olga Horaska (right) were baptized by Pastor Warren Kay.



## Drayton Valley Baptisms

**July 28, 2012**

It was a very special evening for the members of the Drayton Valley Seventh-day Adventist Company as Kyle and Kristina Basque were baptized at the Wetaskiwin Church by Pastor John Gilbert. This young couple have been part of the Drayton Valley fellowship from the start, active in the Wednesday night Bible study and prayer meetings, Friday night F.A.S.T. program, and Sabbath School and worship services. Kyle's love for Bible truth

grew during Bible studies in an Adventist home in Drayton Valley that he, his mom and his sister participated in when Kyle was a youth. It was an exciting time for members of the Drayton Valley Company to witness Kyle and Kristina's commitment to each other in marriage in August 2011 and their commitment to Christ through baptism almost a year later. They are already sharing their faith and trust in Jesus with family and friends.



Kyle and Kristina Basque with Pastor John Gilbert

**May 26, 2012**

It was a joyous day for the Drayton Valley Seventh-day Adventist Company, when Pastor John Gilbert baptized Aaliyah Dorigo at the Wetaskiwin Church. This marked the first baptism since the Drayton Valley group officially organized into a company on April 28th. Pastor Gilbert also had the privilege of baptizing Aaliyah's mother, Shelley Dorigo, three years earlier in May 2009 after she was lead to the Adventist faith through Amazing Facts. Aaliyah loves Jesus very much and is active in her Sabbath School class at Drayton Valley. She longs to share Jesus' love with all her family and friends.



Pastor John Gilbert and Aaliyah Dorigo

## Edmonton Filipino Church Baptisms

On March 24, 2012, Pastor Deibert baptized 7 people at the Edmonton Filipino Church. In addition, there was 1 profession of faith and 21 membership transfers.



Left - Right: Waynedale Geollegue, Stella Sabo Watson and children Chantelle & Chloe, Doug Carlyle

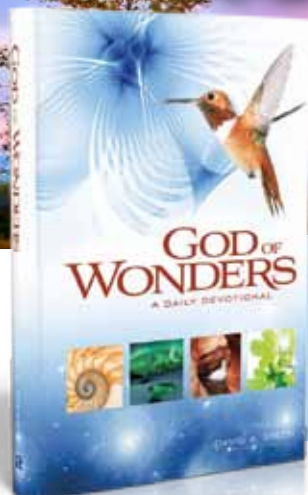


Left - Right: Nenens Mayo, Moira Importante



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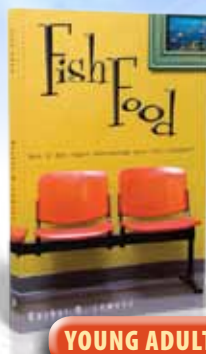


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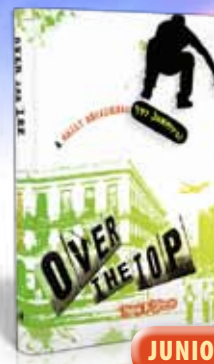


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Review & Herald



# Announcements

## Spirit of Prophecy Seminar

Smoky Lake Church will be hosting Spirit of Prophecy Seminars from January 4-5. Guest Speaker Pastor Mark Howard of the Michigan Conference will be presenting a series on understanding the importance of the Gift of Prophecy. All are welcome to attend these refreshing lessons starting Friday January 4th at 7:00 p.m. and continuing Sabbath January 5th.

## Calgary Remnant Fellowship

Calgary Remnant Fellowship will be joining the sisterhood of churches on January 12. All are welcome to join as we celebrate this momentous occasion. For more info please contact Pastor O'Connor w.n.oconnor@gmail.com or (403) 681-3505.

## "Becoming His" Women's Ministry Retreat 2013

The next Women's Ministry retreat called "Becoming His" will be held April 5th-7th, 2013 at the Delta Lodge in Kananaskis, AB. Esmie Branner is the much sought-after speaker and author of the book "Beyond the Veil of Darkness." Come and hear her compelling story of faith, domestic persecution and deliverance. You will not want to miss it! Register before February 28 to receive the early bird price of only \$189 which includes meals. To register go to [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) or call the Alberta Conference 403-342-5044. For hotel reservations please go to <http://www.deltalodgeatkananaskis.ca> or call 1-866-432-4322 and refer to code #SE0403\_002. Be sure to mention that you are with the Seventh-day Adventist group.

## In memory

Mary Kryswaty passed away on December 2 in Lacombe at the age of 96.

Her life and generosity will be memorialized in the *Messenger Obituary/Tribute* section.



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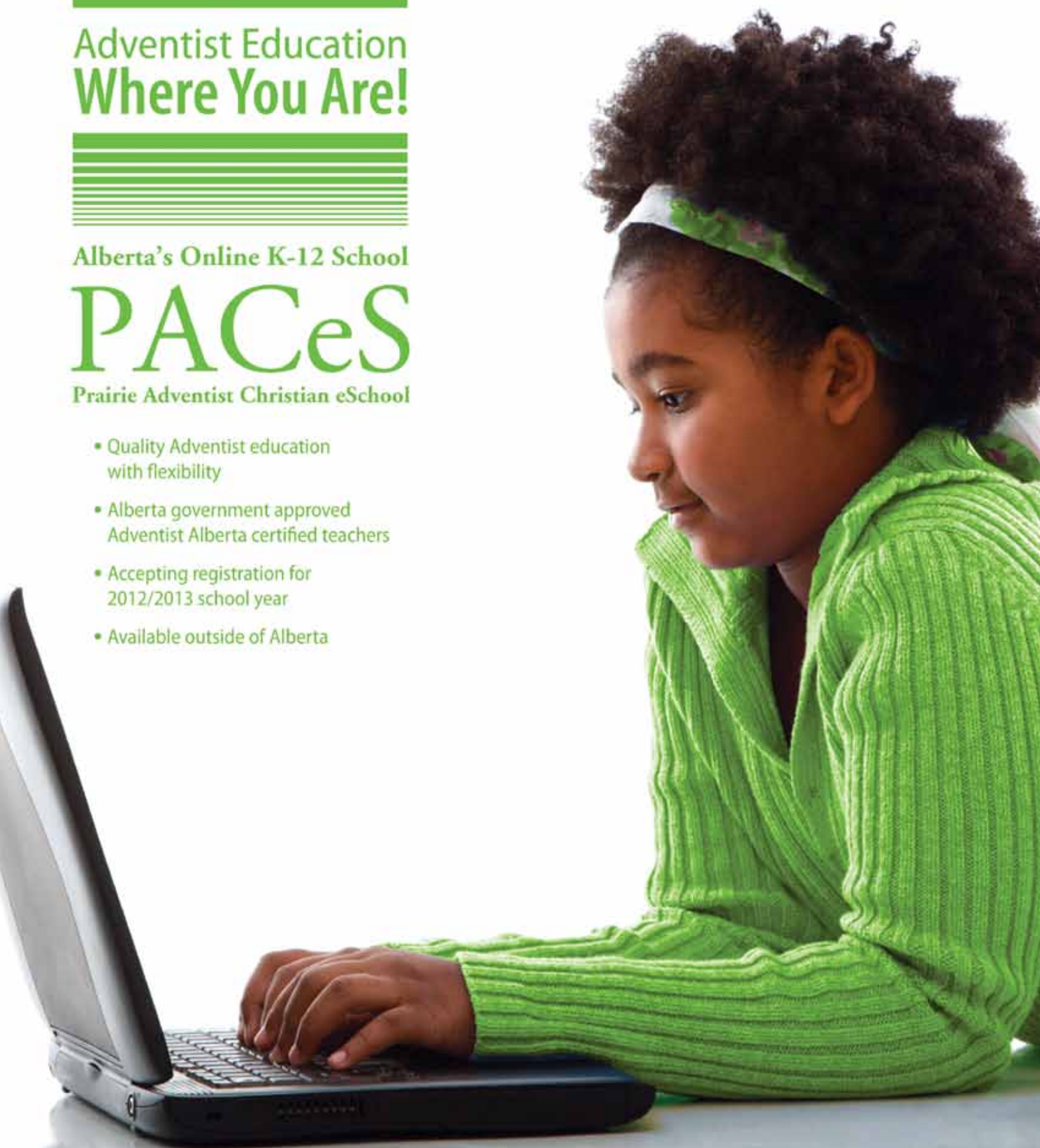


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