

Adventist News

A window of information for Seventh-day Adventists in Alberta

Wetaskiwin Youth in Action

It was a lot of fun!" Megan Kirk, Melissa Matiko, and Tyler Schafer exclaimed as eleven children attended an Adventurer Club Day Camp in Wetaskiwin August 14-18. Each day from 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. the hours were packed with activity making napkin holders, kites, paper airplanes, cardboard planes for "Build and Fly", listening to many stories, and completing requirements for badges.

The children enjoyed eating lunch outside each day, participating in flag ceremonies where each one had the opportunity to carry a flag, and learning about endangered animals from Gerard, an environmentalist.

One week later, about 300 people converged at the "camp meeting" tent that was pitched on the Wetaskiwin church grounds for a Central Alberta Youth Rally, August 25-27. Each program involved young people from Central Alberta. Sabbath School was conducted

entirely by representatives of small churches in Alberta. **Cindy Tutsch, from the Washington Conference**, spoke Friday evening and also for the divine service on Sabbath. She challenged the youth to be actively involved in sharing their faith.

Christine Zinner, coordinator for the rally, organized an afternoon for the young people to put into practice what they had heard. Participants went door-to-door in Wetaskiwin distributing Bible



Back row: Christine Zinner, Jamie Chartrand, Tress Taylor, Melody Morton. Front row: Devin Demitor, Marlin Morton, Rhett Taylor, Dean Demitor, Jason Chartrand. Not pictured: Cari Demitor, Rosalie Zinner, Steven Gabrys, Warren Hartman

study enrolment cards and inviting people to an upcoming youth evangelistic series. The Sabbath evening concert, featuring Alberta young people, was followed with a film. The weekend concluded with a pancake breakfast and recreation on Sunday.

As a follow-up for the Youth Rally, the young people of Wetaskiwin conducted a "Back to the Bible" evangelistic series. This was held for three weekends in September and had our own Wetaskiwin young people as speakers.

The Wetaskiwin church is proud of our active youth and we have supported and prayed for their efforts this past summer. They are continuing their witnessing by giving Bible studies.

The young people are grateful for the tremendous time and resources volunteered by church members, the financial support of the Alberta Conference, and also to Todd Miller, conference youth director, for taking time to support the Youth Rally. It meant a lot to them.

Joan Matiko and Christine Zinner, Wetaskiwin Church

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

ACTS ALIVE

Banff, AB
January 12 & 13, 1996



personal renewal
ministry
fellowship
recreation

A ministry outing for those youth & young adults that want to step out and Act on the Gospel Commission.

There will be a minimal charge for food & accommodation.

YMO MEXICO

Yecora, Mexico

(New Date)

March 24 - April 7, 1996

- Construction at orphanage
- Children's programs
- Sightseeing

Sponsored by the Man-Sask Conference of the SDA Church

NEW YORK MISSION '96

May 2 - 14, 1996

Greater New York, NY

- Lifetime mission experience
- Van Ministry participation
- Participate in children's outreach at Pastor Bill Wilson's "Mission America."

Information on these events has been or soon will be released to local Churches. Please feel free to call the Alberta Conference Youth Department for information regarding these or other Youth events. 342-5044 ext. 201

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*Conference resource room open during
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The President Writes ...

Possessed by a Vision

Recently the Alberta Conference Executive Committee spent two days seeking, through prayer and discussion, what vision should possess the church in Alberta during this last decade of the twentieth century.

It is true that God empowers individuals with a personal vision for their life. During the past twenty years that I have worked in Alberta I have witnessed many who have made a great difference for God's work. They are people possessed with a vision. They have been trailblazers in such areas as children's ministries, family ministries, small Bible study groups, evangelistic programs, community service work. These people are the modern-day heroes of faith. They are honouring God and preparing many for His return.

Church congregations should also possess clarity of vision corporately to know how to impact their community for God. What a thrill it is to visit a church that is mission-driven and see the members excited about their ministry. No congregation should rest until it is possessed by this excitement.

As a conference we want this vision to exist as a total field. The Executive Committee spent time to find a vision theme that could unify us in Alberta. We considered many possibilities. In the end we came up with three words that could be a unifying theme for our work. Let us know how you respond to this as a vision statement/theme: REVIVE, REACH, RESTORE.

REVIVE—God wants every member of His church to be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit. We are told that revival and reformation is our greatest need. To fulfil God's will we must not only be practitioners of religion, but we must be spiritual people in a close walk with God.

REACH—The church exists to bring salvation to a lost world. Much of the work of the church must be to save the lost. This may mean individual members sharing their faith with their friends; it may mean conducting public evangelism; it may mean planting new churches; it may mean enhancing the radio, television and satellite programs. Reaching out for God should saturate all that we do.

RESTORE—It is not enough to just contact people or even convert them; Christ wants people to be restored into the Divine likeness. He asks us not just to go teach and baptize, but to make disciples for Him.

Restoring people, who have been devastated by a world of sin, into the likeness of Christ is a great goal of the church. Another is to restore church bodies to the spirit and ministry of New Testament Christianity. God is not satisfied just to have organized churches. He desires these churches to be fulfilling the Biblical patterns described in the New Testament. These congregations are to be characterized by love and unity. They are to be spirit-filled with members using their gifts for God. They are to be faithful in proclaiming God's message for this hour.

Previously, we have shared with you the goals of Vision 2000 which you will see some time again in the *Alberta Adventist News*. Would the three words—Revive, Reach and Restore—identify a vision that would unify us as a people to fulfil our mission in Alberta?

Clarification Regarding Principles of Sabbath Observance Quote

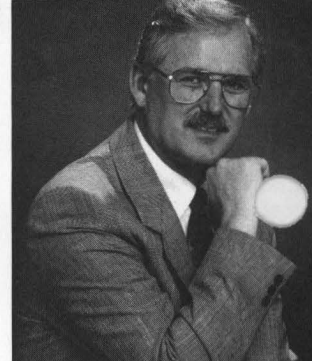
In the last edition of the *Alberta Adventist News*, I included a quotation from the book, *Adventism for a New Generation*, that some found confusing. Under principle no. 4 of service (on Sabbath), it refers to "voluntarily cleaning, painting, repairing or doing whatever that person's particular needs call for."

This part of the sentence did not stand out in my reading of the article so I included it in the quote, unintentionally. I was attracted to the author's four principles with an emphasis on using the Sabbath for service. However, the type of work he identifies could lead to an abuse of the Sabbath. This type of physical work would seem appropriate only in special situations of need.

Perhaps we need to study the life of Christ, the counsel of Ellen White, and materials such as *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness*, anew to receive clarification as to how the Sabbath can be a dynamic day for honouring God and others in this significant hour of earth's history. For many, especially youth with powers of creativity and energy, they want the Sabbath to be a positive experience.

The reference in Samuel Bacchiocchi's book that deals with the Sabbath and service is *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness*, pages 171-214. I would recommend it as a resource for study and discussion.

Don Corkum, President



How to Treat Your Pastor Well

Moses was hand-picked by God to lead His people to freedom. Freedom from physical and spiritual bondage was his mission. Pastors perform the same function as they minister to their churches and communities. And whatever our theological perspective may be, the down-to-earth reality is that the effectiveness of a congregation depends to a large degree on the pastor. As a general rule when the pastor performs well, the church moves forward. When the pastor fails, the congregation tends to fail also.

Many times we fail to recognize that the difference between an effective pastor and one who's not, often lies not just in the pastor but in the congregation's support or lack of support for the pastor. Indeed it is a two-way relationship. The way church members care for their spiritual leader can and will make the difference between his or her success or failure.

Caring can be expressed in all sorts of ways. The following are some earthy ideas that were suggested by some pastors and their spouses:¹

1. Offer to help the pastor in providing ongoing ministry to some troubled or lonely person who the pastor knows is in need of personal attention.
2. Offer to care for the pastor's children especially after the church service in

order to free the couple to minister to the members during the vital hour or so right after the worship service.

3. Extend an invitation to the pastor and his family for a meal at your home. It is amazing how few invitations many pastors receive.
4. Compliment the pastor's spouse about your appreciation for the pastor's ministry. Do the same for the pastor regarding your appreciation for the spouse's service.
5. If you've been helped by a particular sermon, write a card of appreciation to say thanks. Kind words are like apples of gold in silver containers.
6. Offer to baby-sit so the pastoral couple can get away for a few hours or an evening.
7. Seek opportunities to show tangible support for the pastor and family through appropriate gifts at Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthday and wedding anniversary celebrations.
8. Yield not to the temptation to expect the pastoral family to be flawless Christians.
9. If you are an elder in the church, make a conscious effort to pastor the pastor.

Tactfully offer to pray about things concerning the pastor's personal and spiritual life.

10. Finally, and most of all, pray for your pastor and family. Not just in a generic way. Pray specifically. Thank God for their gifts. Ask the Lord to protect them from Satan's assaults and to fill them with Pentecostal fire. If there are failings, ask God to forgive them and help them gain the victory. Pray that their ministry will encourage new people to attend church; Bible study contacts to be baptised; members to become disciplers of disciples while bringing their own lives under the lordship of the Saviour.

I will never forget the Wednesday night prayer meeting when my members gathered around me as their pastor, laid their hands upon me in prayer asking God to continue to bless my ministry in that church. Even the Apostle Paul craved this experience (Col 4: 2-4). So should we—as we seek to treat our pastors well.

¹ Adapted from the *Adventist Review*, Nov. 12, 1992

✓ Donald G King
Conference Secretary and AAN Editor

CAAA Awards Scholarships

For some who were returning to the Caribbean to live, it was the last opportunity of attending CAAA (Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta) Family Camp. For others it was their first. But for all who attended the 19th annual retreat, it was a most unforgettable experience.

The events of September 1 - 3, 1995 brought together Caribbean families from Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Europe, USA, and Alberta to the scenic surroundings of Foothills Camp in Bowden. Under the theme "Staying Power in the 90's" our guest speaker, Dr. George King, from California challenged those present to maintain

sound Christian values in spite of the declining moral standards that seek to erode the family. Complementing his heartwarming messages was the inspiring music from our guest artist, Pastor Winston Hurlock from Toronto.

Another highlight of the retreat was our business session on Sunday afternoon in which the officers presented their reports and new officers were elected. The following individuals were elected to serve for the period 1995 - 1997: President, Lois King; Secretary, Marcia Williams; Treasurer, Una Marshall; Chaplain, Fred Rogers and Camp Director, Ralph Robinson.

It was at this retreat that an important

step in the right direction was taken when scholarships to the tune of \$500 each were awarded to four young people. This move was heartily welcomed by those present in so much that many made pledges to increase the scholarship fund.

And how can we forget the fun, the fellowship and the laughter that we shared at our spectacular Talent Night concert on Sunday night which was an appropriate climax to the weekend of activities.

To the over four hundred people present, CAAA 1995 will be long remembered and considered as one of the best retreats held.

Marcia Williams - Secretary, CAAA



Morning Star Baptism



On Sabbath, September 16, 1995, Peter Rosenberger was baptized in the chilly waters of the mighty Peace River, Ft. Vermilion. Pastor Dean Oliphant officiated, assisted by head elder, Ron Joch. Celebrating with Peter are his wife, Juanita, his daughters, Cheryl and Heather, and the Morning Star church family. Amen.

Food Bank Drive



Parkland Pathfinders, Parkland Adventurers and teen Sabbath School members from College Heights collected 1,667 items of food for the local food bank.

Unusual Baptism in Stettler



The candidates are Leanne Buelow and her brother Philip. Riders observe the baptism from their saddle seats.

This summer a group of about 30 people (eight of whom were nonmembers) from the Stettler church cut their way through a jungle-like forest at Bashaw to hold a baptism. It took 4 x 4's, chain saws, and some who rode by horseback, to get over the steep climbs and past the windfalls to a creek in the forest. One of the candidates, Leanne Buelow, and her friend chose the spot, which is located on the family farm. The beavers had dammed up the water, making a pool deep enough for the baptism.

It was a unique, but impressive, site for a baptism. One young man, a friend of the candidates, came to observe an Adventist baptism and is attending the Stettler church as a result.

✓Henry Bartsch, Former Pastor of Stettler church

Alberta Teachers Meet for Annual Institute

During October 19 through 21, teachers from each of our conference schools met at Foothills Camp for the Annual Teachers' Convention. This was certainly a time of refreshment—physically, mentally, and spiritually—as teachers shared with each other and listened to presentations from seasoned educators.

Kendall Butler gave much food for thought during his presentations on classroom management and Biblical methods of teaching. Curtis Miller shared how our family background makes an impact on our lives and how we can relate to children who have inherited tendencies which make either a negative or positive impact on their lives.

Ron Ritterscamp spent an afternoon giving an overview of the new science textbooks that have been developed by the North American Division, and Karnik Doukmetzian spoke on sexual abuse. All four speakers were appreciated for their contribution to the convention. Many expressed how blessed they were for having attended.

Phyllis Corkum