

Passion for a Lifetime: Jeanie Spratt (aka “AJ McCoy”) began drawing at the age of three but didn’t realize until college that her gift had any value. Though she’d planned to be a nurse, “The Lord has some interesting ways of twisting and turning our lives,” she says, and she’s happy for His leading into art and the inspiration she’s able to share with others. Her paintings, which are owned by such collectors as Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, can be seen and purchased online at www.ajmccoyart.com. Jeanie is directing her proceeds to the support of the Maskwacis Adventist Church.



JEANIE’S GIFT OF BEAUTY: Donating Intellectual Property

Jeanie and Bob Spratt are adventurous by nature. The couple, who are passionate about the Conference’s mission in Maskwacis (formerly “Hobbema”), came to Alberta to work with Native Ministries and fell in love with the children at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), where Bob became principal in 1994. Jeanie, who had worked at the Adventist Review for eight and half years as an illustrator, signing her work as “AJ McCoy,” soon found herself immersed in the life of the school and the mission church.

Jeanie’s lush mural depicting the pastoral life of First Nations in a time past adorns the entrance to MANS, but no such artistic panorama greets visitors to

the church—a rented facility on Samson band land. That’s something Jeanie wants to change; she’d dearly love to see a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist church on the plot of private land designated for that purpose. So Jeanie came up with a plan: she would use her artistic skill and recognition to help build up a church.

Under copyright law, in Canada, the creator of a work has the right to designate who will benefit from the work during their lifetime and for 50 years after their death. Jeanie, whose work is found in private collections—including those of the US Department of the Interior and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands—is directing the money she gets from sales of her work sold on www.ajmccoyart.com to the mission church in Maskwacis.

Jeanie’s also put a clause in her will that gives her proceeds from her paintings, which will continue to be sold after she passes away, to the Alberta Conference, to be for the church at Maskwacis. She has detailed plans for a naturalist baptistery that she’d dearly love to paint in a new church building—one dedicated to housing the Maskwacis Adventist congregation.

What a wonderful legacy! Jeanie’s work, which mainly depicts animals and nature, testifies to the beauty of God’s creation, and her will continues a stream from that work to support a cause that’s dear to her—one

that will change the course of many lives.

Though “AJ McCoy” has raised funds for wildlife conservation by donating her work in Africa, Central America, Europe and North America; been exhibited by Game Conservation International; and published in *Sports and Field*, *Montana Outdoors* and *Signs of the Times*, Jeanie has chosen to ultimately put her treasure where her heart is—the Adventist mission church of Maskwacis.

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Intellectual property, which includes works of art, writing, and other creative expression, is a valuable asset. People who create and other intellectual property have the right to control who uses them and how they appear. These rights continue for another 50 years even after the author passes away, and can be given away by will.

DID YOU KNOW?