

*The Alberta Conference
of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church*

**Session
Reports**

September 28, 2008



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Every Member Faithful



William Olson

Early in this quadrennial, the Executive Committee established a simple vision statement for the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church: **“EVERY MEMBER FAITHFUL.”** Subsequently comments have been received offering various suggestions towards making the vision statement more specific – Every Member Faithful to Jesus, Every Member Faithful to God, Every Member Faithful to the Seventh-day Adventist Church fundamental beliefs, etc. However, our vision statement remains just the three words, **“EVERY MEMBER FAITHFUL.”** These three words, which are intended to be easily remembered by every member, are to be all inclusive in the Christian life. Such imply a love relationship with a God who is a friend and not just the living of a “religious” life.

Indeed, our vision includes our faithfulness to God in our worship of Him, in our communication with Him through Bible study, prayer, church attendance, and an increasing love for Him with all of our hearts and a love for those around us as we regard ourselves. Such faithfulness to our loving God spills over into our activities in stewardship and witnessing and in our interpersonal relationships, both within our own homes and within the communities in which we live. The success of your conference administration should be judged on how well we have given leadership in realizing the reality of our vision among the constituents of this conference. Pause for just a moment while you are reading this and ask yourself the personal question, “How faithful am I as one professing to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian here in the Alberta Conference?” Do I have a loving relationship with my God as my best Friend?

Our mission statement, **“TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERVING, TEACHING AND PREACHING,”** also developed during this quadrennial, might well be considered our “marching orders.” Serving, teaching, and preaching reflect well the activities of Jesus while He was here on this earth. He was the living example of the gospel—we now have the responsibility of sharing it with those around us. This mission statement was not intended to apply just to those involved in community outreach centres, to those standing as teachers in our church schools and academies, or those occupying the pulpits of our churches. Each of us individually has opportunities to use our talents in at least one of these three ways to proclaim the gospel. Our mission statement calls forth the efforts of every member of this conference constituency. How faithful have we been during

these past four years in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, both corporately and individually, is the question we must ask ourselves.

Some of our churches have experienced a decline in Sabbath School attendance. Worse yet, some of our churches have had great difficulty in finding leadership for many of the children’s divisions of the Sabbath School. With this a matter of concern, your Conference Executive Committee appointed a Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director, namely John Adams, with the intent of revitalizing the local Sabbath Schools. In addition to holding Sabbath School workshops, he has been visiting many of the churches offering himself as a resource person to help improve their Sabbath Schools. And, as Personal Ministries Director, he is encouraging individuals in personal faith sharing too.

Currently the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates nine church schools including one academy. Regrettably, ease of access to any one of these schools is not available to all families who want a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education for their children.

Financial reasons have also prevented some of our children from getting a Christian education. With this in mind, your Conference has established a distance learning program using modern day electronic communication so now every Seventh-day Adventist student should be able to receive an affordable Bible-based Christian education. Janet Hall has been hired to give leadership to the development of what we call Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool. (No, the little letter “e” just before School is not a misprint.) This program offers on-line government approved courses for K-12 students. A number of other educational professionals will be supporting Janet as contract teachers in this on-line education program, both in the home and even for satellite schools.

The Alberta Conference is very multicultural in its membership mix. During this past quadrennial we have seen rapid growth and development of Filipino, Caribbean, African (Ghanaians, Kenyans, and Zimbabweans in north east Edmonton and most recently Sudanese in Calgary), Spanish, and Korean congregations. All nine new companies/churches established during this quadrennial have had a specific ethnic group base. We welcome these new members to Alberta and encourage their faithful sharing of the gospel among those of a common language and cultural background.

We must confess to falling short, yes, even failing, one group of people here in Alberta, and they are our aboriginal or First Nations folk. Other than a small group of native church

“How faithful am I as one professing to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian here in the Alberta Conference?” Do I have a loving relationship with my God as my best Friend?

President



Children of MANS demonstrate their ethnic dance at the annual Open House in May.

members meeting on the Hobbema reserve and one K-9 school of 150-170 students just south of the Hobbema reserve, we are doing very little for all the other First Nations people in Alberta or the Northwest Territories. The Hobbema company of believers and the school has been without a pastor for over one year due to our inability to find a pastor with a passion to work for native people. As I write, I am happy to report that Pastor Peter

Ford and his wife, Vicki, have just accepted a call to come from British Columbia to work with First Nations people here in Alberta. Vicki, herself, is from a First Nations people background.

During this quadrennial, increased activities and programs for our youth have been encouraged. Youth rallies in the northern and southern areas of our conference have been held in addition to those held in Calgary, College Heights, and Edmonton. Youth from Alberta have been involved outside of our conference on mission trips to relieve suffering in hurricane-stricken New Orleans, in Kenya, in Mexico, in the Caribbean, and elsewhere. Young people have evangelistically been involved in ACTS and have attended the General Youth Conference and North American Prayer Summit. Youth in Alberta are an active part of this conference and do have a passion to reach out to others about them. Youth pastors have been appointed in some of our larger churches: Calgary Central, College Heights, Edmonton West, Garden Road in Calgary, Edmonton South, Edmonton Red Willow, and plans are for more to be added.

The economy of the Province of Alberta has been booming at an unimaginable rate along with the rocketing price of fossil fuels. One politician recently said our provincial government was almost embarrassed at the budget surplus it had achieved. Such financial success and the influx of personnel to meet labour needs created by this economy have had both positive and negative effects. We have seen yearly increases to our tithe and offerings income. On the other hand, we have been faced with high housing costs for our pastors and teachers, administrative and support staff, necessitating higher salaries and benefit packages. Costs for holding public evangelism meetings have risen dramatically when venues other than local churches are being utilized. The faithfulness of the constituents of this conference continue to give us the resources to carry on our public programs in churches, schools, and halls as you see reflected in the yearly increases to our tithe and offerings income and the fact that our financial position is positively in the black.

Real estate development has taken place all around the conference office rapidly increasing the value of our property. However, for some undetermined reason, the water table under our office building seems also to have risen. Frequently our basement floor is flooded creating concerns about mold and other associated health issues. Sump pumps are running constantly and must be continually monitored. Discussion with engineers has not produced any seemingly feasible solutions. Completely tearing down and rebuilding without a basement or moving to another location are options for consideration. Adequate land has been purchased from Canadian University College as an investment and possible site for relocation of the conference office should that be deemed necessary.

From the other reports you have been given, you can see the growth of this conference in membership as a result of baptisms and transfers. Regrettably our membership growth



Edmonton Filipino Church was organized in 2008.

has not been what it should have been so that we could be well over 10,000 members by now. The population of this province has been increasing at a faster rate than has our church membership. You will also review the financial reports and see the increase in tithes and offerings and the enviable financial position. For all of this we gratefully thank our loving God.

What you cannot see and what we cannot measure numerically is the growth in our own spiritual lives. All the efforts of conference administrators, department heads, pastors, and teachers have been in vain if the constituents of this conference have not grown in their relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son through the working of the Holy Spirit on their lives. Jesus is still our best Friend who invites us to walk faithfully with Him.

I have appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to work in this great conference for almost five years now. I have appreciated the friendship, prayers, and support of the membership. I have had a great executive committee, fellow administrators, and office support staff with which to work, and their support has made my job so much easier. Thank you to each and every one of you. May my successor enjoy the same prayerful support as you have given me. May God be praised!

Marlene Holdal, Administrative Secretary





According to the North American Division Working Policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Vice President for Administration is:

Romulo Daquila ♦ Associated with the President as an executive officer and serves under the direction of the Executive Committee, as well as the vice-chair of the Executive Committee.

Report: The VP for Administration has supported the President in preparing the agenda for Executive Committee and Administrative Committee meetings. He has accompanied the President, the VP for Finance, and Departmental Directors in church visitation to address issues pertaining to the work of the Conference in fulfilling the vision and mission statements.

- ♦ Responsible for keeping the minutes of the Administrative Committee, Executive Committee, and the Constituency meetings and to provide copies of the minutes of these meetings to those who should receive them.

Report: Drafts of the minutes of the meetings are sent to respective members within 72 hours and final copies are provided when the minutes are approved. Approved minutes are also kept in the Conference vault.

- ♦ Responsible to provide pertinent information as requested by the President or the Executive Committee.

Report: Statistical reports are provided in this document on membership as well as reports on churches and companies in the last quadrennial period. Statistical reports are sent yearly to higher organizations. Minutes of the meetings of the Administrative Committee are presented to the Executive Committee as consent agenda during the regular meetings.

- ♦ Responsible to perform such other duties as usually pertains to the office.

Report: The VP for Administration has accepted invitations to preach, hold seminars, attend church boards, school boards, and school constituency meetings. He has also assisted in the formation of new companies and in the organization of new churches.

He has provided information to conference workers regarding the application or implementation of the *Employment Handbook* of the Alberta Conference, the *North American Division Working Policy* and the General Conference.

Service Records

The Secretariat Department is responsible for keeping service records for all Conference employees safe, accurate, and current. We are happy to report that service records of all workers are up to date, thanks to the diligent work of Marlene Holdal who is in charge of this aspect of our ministry.

Stewardship

Stewardship is the lifestyle of one who accepts Christ's lordship and walks in partnership with God, acting as His agent in managing His affairs on earth. (NAD Policy 2003-2004, p. 407)

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:12)

We are all accountable to God for the management of our:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Time | The Kingdom (Evangelism) |
| Treasure | The Environment (Nature) |
| Temple (Body) | Ties (Family) |
| Talents | Testimony (Witnessing) |

Stewardship seminars were held in several churches during the quadrennial period. Elder Ed Reid, Stewardship Director of the North American Division, held a Stewardship Emphasis seminar in the Calgary region at the Calgary Garden Road Church and a Stewardship workshop at camp meeting.

Churches are encouraged to appoint stewardship leaders to provide training and resources on stewardship.

“Stewpot” is a monthly stewardship publication that can be downloaded from the Alberta Conference website – www.albertasda.org.



Many dedicated helpers regularly help at Red Deer Central Alberta Adventist Community Services Centre each week.



Alex Tym (centre) of the Loyalist Church has ingathered the local businesses for the past 60 years.

ADRA & Community Services

Alberta Conference Community Services includes:

1. Food Banks
2. Clothes Distribution Centres
3. Soup Kitchens
4. Healthy Eating Clubs
5. Inn From the Cold
6. CHIP
7. First Nations Ministries
8. Health Education Seminars



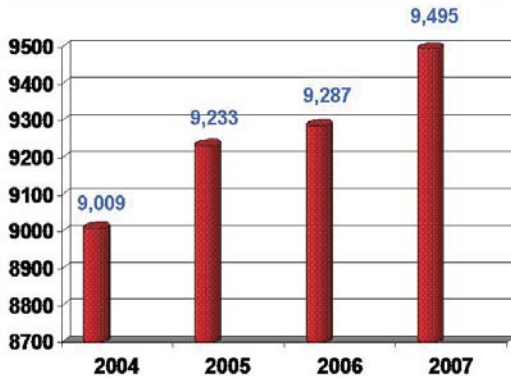
The annual ADRA Summit is held at Foothills Camp in early May.



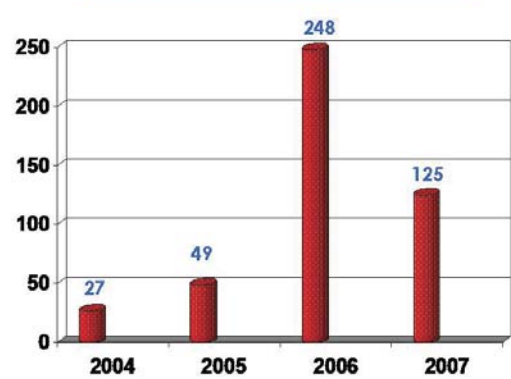
Christmas dinner at the Centre.

Membership Ministries

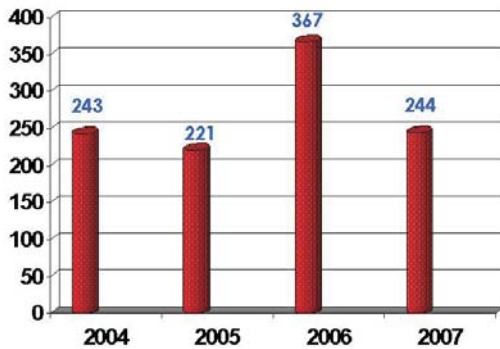
Membership December 31, 2007:



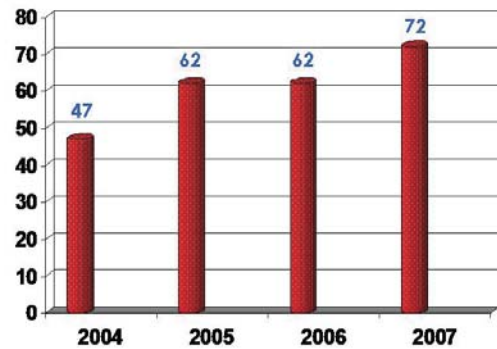
Apostasy/Missing 12/31/07:



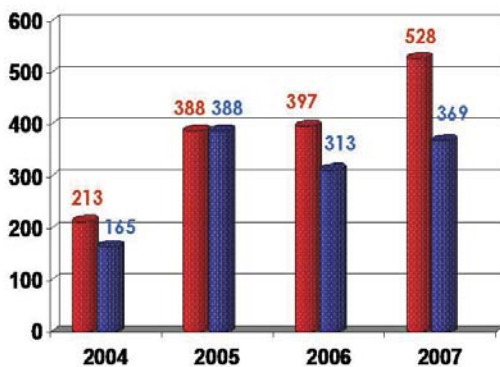
Baptism & Profession of Faith 12/31/07:



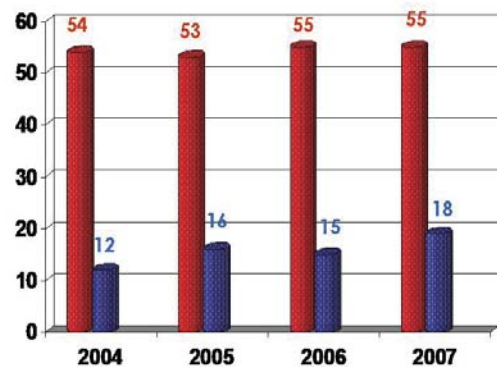
Deaths to 12/31/07:



Transfers In/Out 12/31/07:



Churches and Companies:



Membership Ministries

New Companies Organized to 31/12/07

1. Calgary Maranatha Spanish
2. Calgary METRO Filipino
3. Calgary Northwinds
4. Calgary Remnant
5. Edmonton Filipino
6. Edmonton Maranatha Spanish
7. Edmonton North

Churches Organized to 31/12/07

1. Edmonton Mill Woods - 2006
2. Parkland - 2006

Church Disbanded

1. Peoria – Smoky - 2005

Churches Organized 2008

1. Edmonton Filipino – March 2008
2. Edmonton North – February 2008
3. Calgary Filipino – July 2008
4. Calgary Maranatha Spanish – Aug 2008

Company Dissolved 2008

1. Tofield – February 2008

eAdventist.net

- ◆ is the membership ministry of the North American Division.
- ◆ is the web-based membership update system of the Alberta Conference.
- ◆ is the system that records all church membership transactions of the Conference.

- ◆ The Alberta Conference is now fully active in this web-based membership system.
- ◆ Joyce Wasylyshen, Administrative Secretary in the Secretariat Department, continues to provide training to all the church clerks.
- ◆ The Secretariat Department thanks all the church clerks for their continued dedication in helping the Conference ensure that membership records are accurate.
- ◆ Fifty-eight churches and companies in the Alberta Conference are online with eAdventist.net. These local church clerks do all the membership transactions via the internet. The rest are processed via our office.
- ◆ All 58 North American Division Conferences are now online with eAdventist.net.



In January, 2005, Brian Ford held a training session for clerks on eAdventist.net at the CUC computer lab.



Joyce Wasylyshen, Administrative Secretary

Vice President for Finance



People Are Important

Bob Holdal

A treasurer's report would not contain very much information if it were not for the volunteers who function throughout the conference. Most charities exist because of the volunteers who believe in the cause they support. The Alberta Conference is no different. Without the local church treasurers and their teams who count the funds, receipt the donations, report to the local board, and submit to the Conference the funds that get passed on to support a world-wide work on a timely basis, we would not be the organization that the Lord wants us to be. Thank you to each local treasury team that has served your church over the last four years.

We have had several changes in the Conference treasury as well. Carolyn Osmond retired as treasurer on June 30, 2006. (She later accepted a part-time position as trust director for the Conference). Eunice Marube joined us in October, 2007, from the Division office in Africa, replacing Curtis Polishuk who found employment elsewhere. Keith Richter joined our team in June, 2007, when the associate position became open when I accepted the position as treasurer. Kim Lebel and Penny Marcinyk round out the treasury team at the Conference. We are here to assist you in any way we can.

In the fall of 2007 we held a training weekend at Foothills Camp. Most of the weekend was spent looking at how we can do missions while living in Canada. Canada is not the land of the free when it comes to your charity dollar. There are strict Canada Revenue Agency rules governing how charities can spend donation-receipted money. Our weekend was spent discussing those rules and our mission.

Financial Review

As we look at the history of our member-giving over the last four years, we can see how the Lord has blessed His people who live in this great province. The per capita tithe has risen from \$910.12 in 2004 to \$1,239.25 in 2007, the highest per capita giving in Canada. We need to thank God daily for the blessings He gives to us.

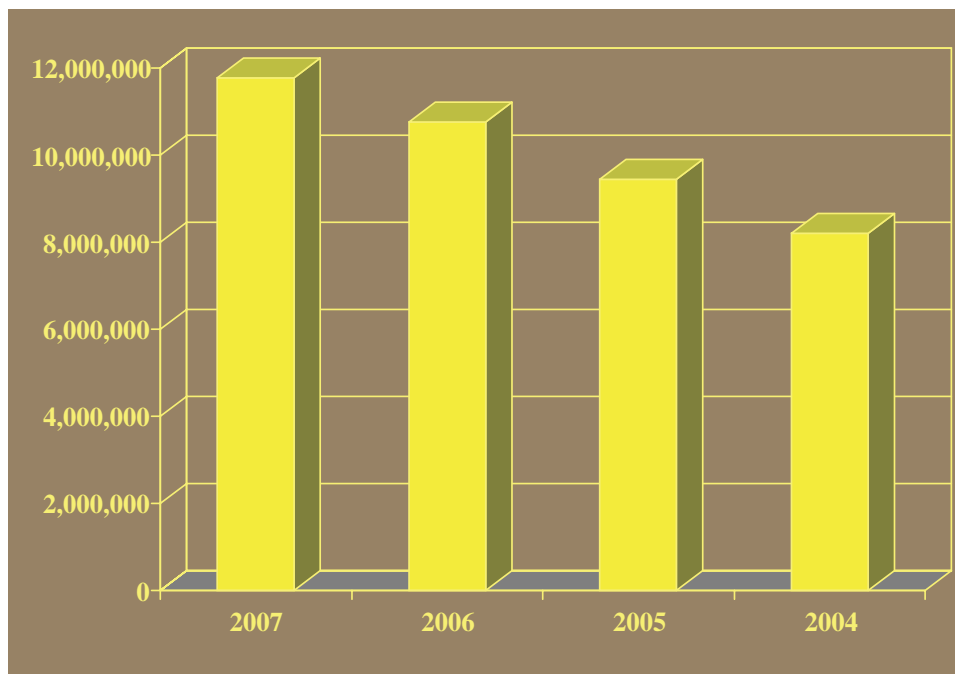
| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gross Tithe | \$11,766,684 | \$10,742,460 | \$9,445,504 | \$8,199,287 |
| % Increase | 9.53% | 13.73% | 15.20% | 6.80% |
| Members | 9,495 | 9,287 | 9,233 | 9,009 |
| Tithe/Member | \$1,239.25 | \$1,156.72 | \$1,023.02 | \$910.12 |

Tithe

You can see the tithe growth over the four years (see graph on the next page) has been consistent from \$8,199,287 to \$11,766,684. We return His tithe to acknowledge His ownership of all that we have. The tithe is to be used for the work of the gospel ministry, the administration of that ministry, and for the religious portion of education for our young people.

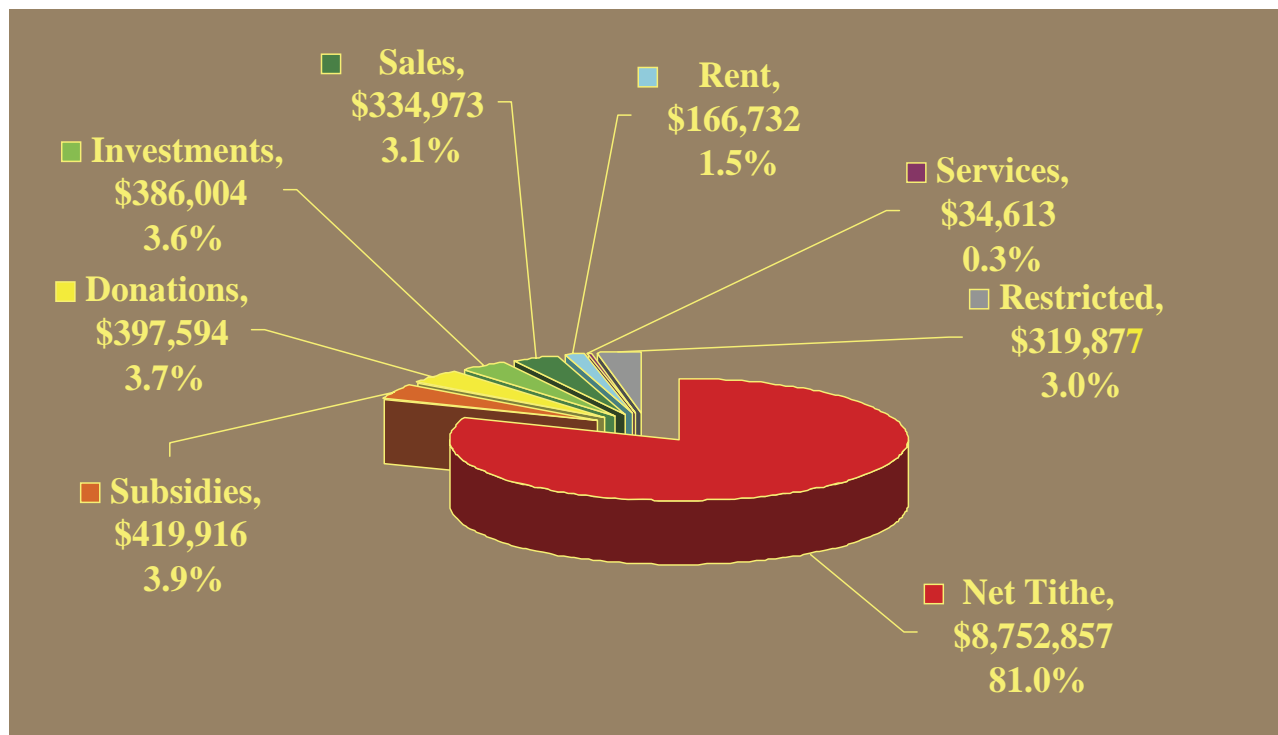
Vice President for Finance

Tithe Graph



Alberta Advance

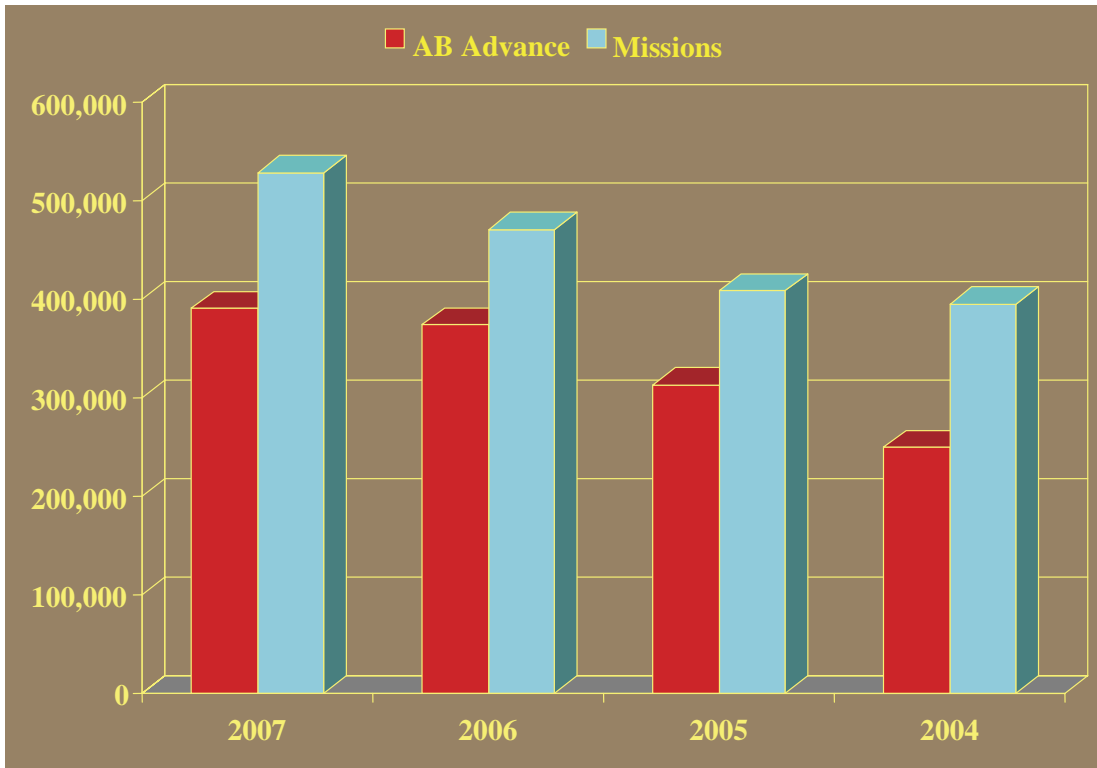
Alberta Advance is the monthly offering taken in your church for the Conference. Alberta Advance is used by the Conference for non-tithe purposes. It is used to support church and school-building programs, campground improvements, Christian education and student aid at all levels, evangelism, and the youth camp. These are all important areas which need our support to allow many special projects to be completed. Below there is a chart showing the different sources of income to the Conference.



Vice President for Finance

Mission Offerings

Mission Offerings, which include the regular Sabbath School offering as well as the different annual mission offerings, are our contribution to the world-wide mission work. If you give on the budget plan, 75% of that amount is allocated to world missions. We appreciate the free-will offerings that our members give from the blessings they have received from the Lord. Below is a graph showing the increase of the mission offering and the Alberta Advance.



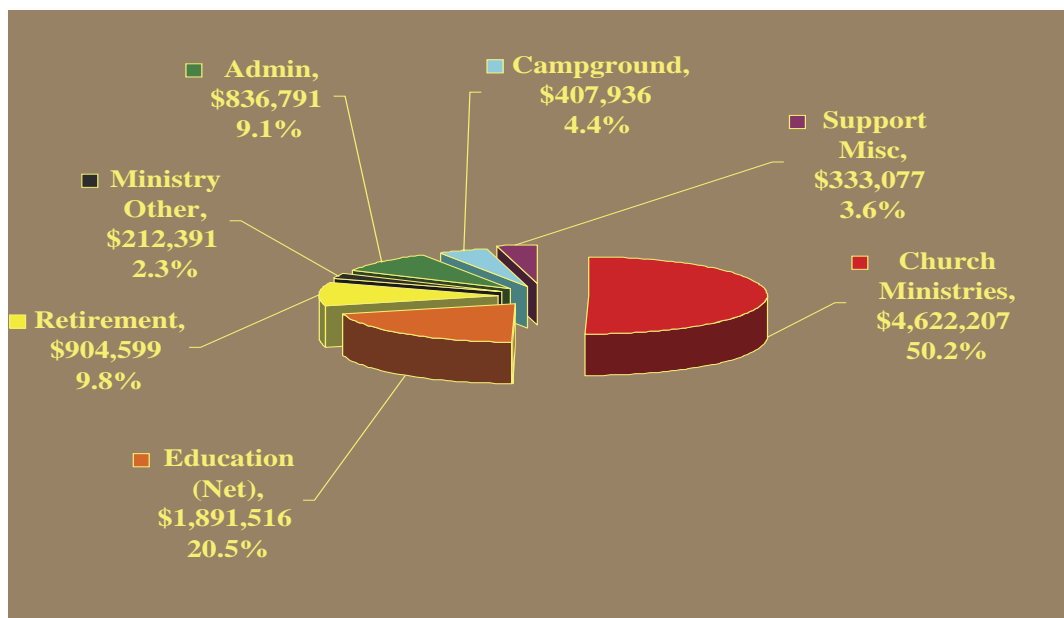
Current Financial Position

In closing I will share with you the financial health of the Conference. We are in a positive financial position. As you will see from the four-year summary, we have had an increase in our net assets and have met the requirements for working capital.

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Assets | <u>23,943,013</u> | <u>22,053,144</u> | <u>20,656,606</u> | <u>18,598,841</u> |
| Liabilities | <u>12,795,094</u> | <u>12,537,833</u> | <u>12,966,106</u> | <u>11,742,348</u> |
| Net Assets | <u>11,147,919</u> | <u>9,515,311</u> | <u>7,690,500</u> | <u>6,856,493</u> |
| Total | <u>23,943,013</u> | <u>22,053,144</u> | <u>20,656,606</u> | <u>18,598,841</u> |

Vice President for Finance

This last graph shows the distribution of the income of the Conference in 2007.



Challenges at the Alberta Conference

The booming Alberta Advantage has caused some challenges for the Conference over the last several years. The cost of living in Alberta has increased substantially over the Canadian average. This has put pressure on the Conference to increase the cost of living allowance to enable us to continue to attract new employees into our province. Our labour force is our most valuable asset, and we endeavor to meet their basic needs. We have been able to stabilize our work force in Alberta and maintain a work force of 1 pastor for every 196 members. This is one of the better ratios for the larger conferences.

The Property Management Committee has been challenged about development at Foothills Camp. There was a major effort to find a better camp site near a lake in Central Alberta. They searched several possible sites from Innisfail to Lake Isle. They could not find a site that met the needs of the Conference at a price that they could afford. The youth camp might have been able to move from Central Alberta, but it was important because of the large number of people that drive in only for the weekends at camp meeting that the camp be kept between Edmonton and Calgary. The search ended at the end of 2006. We are looking at new plans and improvements for the existing camp. We are looking for support to improve the existing lodge, new washroom facilities, a new housing facility, as well as the regular maintenance that needs to be done on an ongoing basis. We thank you for the support for these programs over the years and are looking forward to working together to supply your needs from the Conference.

Our office building has been under attack over the last two years since a major storm hit in the summer of 2006. That storm did a lot of damage to the building and brought flood water to within eight feet of our door. Needless to say, our basement did not stay dry. We have worked with many engineers and construction people from that industry. No one has been willing to do an outside repair of the problem, because we sit on sand and are below the current water level, and they don't see a long-term solution. Our sump pumps outside the building pump water for 11 months of the year. This has been a strain on all office employees and an extra stress on many. We are still looking for a long-range solution to our water problem.

Keith Richter
Associate



Eunice Marube
Auditor / School Accountant



Penny Marcinyk
Administrative Secretary



Kim Lebel
Accountant





“Educating Children & Youth for Time and Eternity”

The training of a child involves a team of God-directed specialists:

Isaac Zayachkowski,
Superintendent

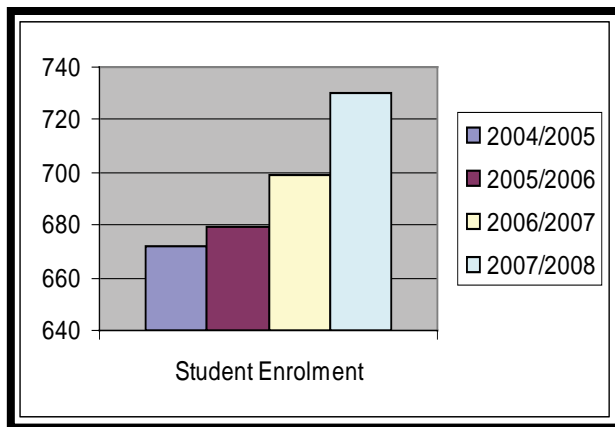
◆ individuals who intentionally focus on providing each child with tools that will empower them to be successful in God’s chosen path for their lives.

◆ each classroom teacher and each administrator in-tune with their Creator to intercede on behalf of each child who enters the doorway of their schools.

Enrollment

Enrollment trends report continued growth as shown by the graph below:

| Date | Student Enrollment |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 2004/2005 | 672 |
| 2005/2006 | 679 |
| 2006/2007 | 699 |
| 2007/2008 | 730 |



Coralwood Adventist Academy

Schools

To date the Alberta Conference operates seven K-9 schools, one junior academy and one senior academy.

| School Name | Grades Taught |
|---|-----------------------|
| Chinook Winds Adventist Academy (Calgary) | Senior Academy (K-12) |
| College Heights Christian School (Lacombe) | K-9 |
| Coralwood Adventist Academy (Edmonton) | K-9 |
| Higher Ground Christian School (Medicine Hat) | 1-9 |
| Mamawi Atosketan Native School (Ponoka) | K-9 |
| Peace Hills Adventist School (Wetaskiwin) | K-9 |
| South Side Christian School (Red Deer) | Junior Academy (K-10) |
| Sylvan Meadows Adventist School (Sylvan Lake) | 1-9 |
| Woodlands Adventist School (Ponoka) | K-9 |

PACeS

For the 2008-2009 school year, the Alberta Conference will be starting a new school: Prairie Adventist Christian e-School (PACeS).

- ◆ It will be an on-line distance education program that will offer Adventist Christian education for all Seventh-day Adventist young people throughout the province.
- ◆ PACeS will provide options for parents in areas where there presently are no Adventist Christian schools.
- ◆ The intention of PACeS is also to provide resources and option classes for regular school programming, which will enhance the courses offered by all schools in the Alberta Conference.

Education

Curriculum

A number of new curriculum initiatives have been added since 2004. The North American Division has developed a new reading series with a language arts focus called Pathways. Pathways includes a framework for integration of reading into all subject content areas. It includes a writer's workshop component whereby students are provided with an excellent opportunity to develop their writing skills.

The Bible courses have been revised and focus groups are developing programming for kindergarten and the integration of faith and learning.

The provincial government also has revised the curriculum for Language Arts, Social Studies, and upper division Science. The introduction of a second language will begin at the Grade 4 level. Each succeeding year an additional grade will be added until all grades from four to nine will provide second language instruction.

Evaluations

We, as education providers, continue to monitor our schools' quality of education.

- ◆ Evaluations are carried out by our system for our K-9 schools every five (5) years. These schools are evaluated by teams formed by the Office of Education of the Alberta Conference.
- ◆ Junior academies are evaluated by teams formed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.
- ◆ Senior academies are evaluated by teams coordinated by the North American Division.
- ◆ Alberta Education also holds on-site reviews every five years to confirm that correct documentation and educational processes are followed.

Journey to Excellence

The North American Division's long-range plan is to develop an environment of excellence. The J2E (Journey to Excellence) has four components that require constant intentional planned improvement.

- ◆ In order to maintain excellence, purpose must be established for the educators, students, parents and constituents.

- ◆ When the partnership is developed, careful planning for professional development, innovation, technology and fund utilization must be determined.
- ◆ The journey also requires implementation of best teaching practices.
- ◆ In order to continue the cycle of excellence the product must contain a regular evaluation so preferred practices are always the watch word.

As a supportive partner, the Alberta Conference will continue to expect the personal best from its students, teachers, parents and constituents.

Brain-Based Instruction

In order to complement our journey to excellence, the Alberta Conference has determined the course that incorporates strategies and philosophies that espouse best teaching practices. The model that has been considered was developed by Susan Kovalik and Associates. However, because of the unique nature of Adventist Education, we are in the process of incorporating many of the Highly Effective Teaching (HET) strategies; strategies that relate to brain-based research, Glasser's Choice Theory, and Concepts from Differentiated Learning and Multiple Intelligences.



CWAA young people share their talents in local area churches.

Best of the Best Institutes (BOBI)

These professional growth in-services have been provided to the Alberta Conference teachers so that they are not only told about best teaching practices, but also have an opportunity to see how these strategies are practically implemented during their participation in these institutes.

Sessions that leadership groups of conference teachers have attended are:

- ◆ *Bismarck, North Dakota* – Focused on school themes, learning/school plant environment and community interactions.
- ◆ *Seattle, Washington* – Focused on curriculum, English as a second language, and discipline.
- ◆ *Grand Rapids, Michigan* – These sessions highlighted literacy through content, student engagement strategies, character education through life skills, and a creative collaborative community, as well as break-out sessions on assessment, math, differentiated instruction, science, etc.

Teachers Convention

North American Division Teachers Convention 2006:

A gathering of 6000+ teachers from Canada, US, and Bermuda went to Nashville, TN, for a three-day experience of exploring new teaching strategies, resources, and technologies. The many in-services provided occasions for networking with colleagues from across North America.

Tribes

This week long in-service provided teachers with tools to enhance the learning process where they would be able to develop a positive classroom and school environment that promotes human growth, learning, and community building.

The yearly time that we have been spending for conventions other than the ones mentioned have been used for implementing and providing power days twice a year where the teachers gather together at College Heights to develop curriculum key points and units of study.

Outdoor School for Grades 5 and 6

Every year Grades 5 and 6 from all the schools in the Conference, including home school students, meet at Foothills Camp. The main focus of the program is:

- ◆ to provide students with a unique experience in education; and
- ◆ to empower teachers with material and opportunities to conduct education in God's great outdoors.

Outdoor School provides teachers with ideas and lesson plans that can be taken home and replicated in their own classroom environments. Topics of study are:

- ◆ River flow and how it impacts the environment.
- ◆ Pond an opportunity to get to know the creatures of the pond and the lasting results our habits and practices have on their environment.
- ◆ Forest management can enhance or destroy



someone's home creating favorable or un-favorable results on the creatures that live there.

Outdoor School teaches team building skills.



An ITI classroom.

- ◆ Other learning experiences – edible plants, electricity, the fish cycle, owl study, bees, canoeing, and model rocketry.

Outdoor School for Grade 9

Grade 9 O.S. provides opportunities for students to:

- ◆ value the out-of-doors.
- ◆ appreciate the value of relationships.
- ◆ develop trust and a clearer understanding of nature which provides lifestyle choices and activities.

Future Plans

Four areas of future growth will focus on building on the infrastructure that has already been developed:

Spiritual Intentionality

- ◆ Bible Study
- ◆ Writing assignments related to Biblical research
- ◆ Train students to be ambassadors for Christ

Outreach

- ◆ Neighborhood Bible Clubs
- ◆ Conference VBS Bands

Marketing Adventist Education

- ◆ Websites
- ◆ Students tell the story
- ◆ Billboards

Professional Development

- ◆ Model teaching week / demo class rooms
- ◆ Train teacher coaches
- ◆ Tribes trainers

Janet Griffith,
Assistant



Janet Hall
Assistant,
PACeS



Evangeline
Medavarapu,
Secretary



Eunice Marube,
School Accountant

Youth



Richard Williams,
Director

The Youth Ministry Department wants to:

- 1) Keep our youth in the Church.
Statistically we know that about 50% do not stay!
- 2) Help youth develop a meaningful personal relationship with Jesus!
- 3) Help our young people feel connected to each other and to the Church as a whole.
- 4) Find ways that each young person can serve both Jesus and the Church.

How do we accomplish these goals? I believe that the key to all of these goals revolves around one word – Relationships!



Edmonton West Church
Youth Quake Team.

If we foster stronger relationships between the adults and youth in our churches, then we know that the young person is more likely to stay in the church. We need adults who are willing to love the young people in their church, through the good times and bad times in their lives. Knowing that they have adults that love them no matter what happens will go a long way to helping them feel connected to their church—and keep them in our church.

We need to help our young people in their search for a meaningful relationship with our Creator. By the programs, events, and resources we can develop and give our youth, we can aid them in the journey they are on.

If we foster stronger relationships between the adults and youth in our churches, then we know that the young person is more likely to stay in the Church.

We need to help them find connections to other youth in the conference. By giving them opportunities to network together and build lasting friendships, we also help them feel connected to their church. It can also be a chance to help each other grow in their relationship with Jesus.

As we grow stronger together in our relationships, the needed output is then to build relationships with the world around us—imagine a church with young people on fire to serve the community, to reach the community for Jesus.

Accomplishments

Mission Trips

- ◆ Hurricane Katrina Recovery I in 2006 : 16 youth and adults—six families were helped.
- ◆ Operation Restore Hope, Louisiana in 2008: six youth and adults—two families were helped.

Youth Rallies

Northwest Region

- ◆ May 2006 – Grande Prairie
- ◆ 2007 – Peace River

Southeast Region

- ◆ June 2005 – Lethbridge
- ◆ May 2006 – Lethbridge

Calgary Region

- ◆ Each year March 2004-2008
- ◆ Creation of a Youth Federation, which is currently planning multiple activities throughout the year

Edmonton Region

- ◆ Each year 2004-2008 in either April or November
- ◆ Continued work with council of youth leaders and pastors from area churches to plan rallies
- ◆ Edmonton Spanish Youth Rally in December 2007

Central Region

- ◆ Annual Bible Camp – February 2006-2008
- ◆ Empower Weekends – September 2005-2006
- ◆ Central Alberta Youth Rally – November 2007

Outside Conference Events

- 1) **Just Claim It** – NAD Youth Prayer Congress, Dallas, TX – Feb-March 2007. 50+ from Alberta attended.
- 2) **ACTS for Christ** – Adventists Commissioned to Train Servants, Vancouver, BC. We have been helping send delegates in 2007-2008.
- 3) **Generation of Youth for Christ** – Minneapolis, MN – December 2007. 30+ attended from Alberta.

Summer Camps

- ◆ Our attendance at summer camps ranged from approximately 350-450. Last summer we had 399 campers.
- ◆ We began an optional Bible study class during the daily rest period in 2005. It has been well attended in most camps.
- ◆ We also began doing commitment cards in 2005. We have seen the numbers of children and youth committing to Jesus and those asking for Bible study increase each year since. Last summer we had more than 70 young people ask for Bible studies at home following camp. We have had positive reports from some of our pastors who are following these interests up.
- ◆ Thank you to all churches that supported youth to camp last summer. We had several needy campers who would not have been able to attend had it not been for help. In every case their local church was willing to support them being at camp!! Thanks for helping us make a difference for these kids!!!



Summer camps are so much fun for children of all ages.

Planned Events to Come

2008

- ◆ SDACC Youth Summit – Pugwash, NS: “Think It, Believe It, Do It!” for ages 16+—September 18-21
- ◆ Cruise With a Mission: Young Adult Mission Trip—December

2009

- ◆ International Pathfinder Camporee – Oshkosh, WI—August

2010

- ◆ SDACC Youth Summit: Vancouver, BC—February. This summit will coincide with Winter Olympics and will provide outreach activities connected to the Winter Games and people visiting because of the Olympics, street ministry, evangelism, etc.

Pathfinders

There are 12 clubs functioning in the Alberta Conference. At this time there are also three new clubs in the process of developing. We have ranged between 8–12 clubs over the last four years. Our clubs are involved in a variety of activities throughout the year. Highlights of the past four years include:

- ◆ Senior visitation including worship, yard work and home improvement
- ◆ Pathfinder organized and executed church services on Pathfinder Day
- ◆ Ingathering and caroling
- ◆ Community service
- ◆ Food bank drives
- ◆ Campouts
- ◆ Field trips
- ◆ Fund raisers
- ◆ Unit work and honors

Community Service plays a big role in the local activities for several of our clubs, and for some churches, it can be the most active presence they have in their community. Through community-based activities, Pathfinders can both share their faith and build their faith by being involved in a tangible service activity.

The Pathfinder Department of the Alberta Conference sponsors three main events each year:

Youth

♦ Winter Retreat – February

The Winter Retreat is usually held in late February or early March at Foothills Camp. Pathfinders and staff stay in the lodge and cabins. It is a program-based weekend with a guest speaker and many opportunities for Pathfinders to build relationships with other clubs through group-building activities and team challenges.

♦ May Camporee – Victoria Day Weekend



May Camporee is a high point of the year for most Pathfinders.

*Edmonton
Pathfinder
Food Drive.*

Each May long weekend,

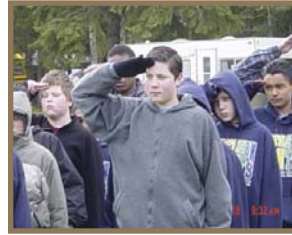
clubs come together for an activity-based weekend at Foothills Camp. In 2007 Elder James Astleford from ADRA Canada was our guest speaker. Our focus was on community service and the Pathfinders completed some of the ADRA honours. One of the highlights was a field trip for the teens where they did a community service project for the town of Olds. They were asked to paint a large fence that was along a very visible stretch of road. The fence looked terrible before—one local resident mentioned the major difference it made when the Pathfinders were done! The younger Pathfinders did a project right in the area around the camp. Our neighbours on local farms were treated to a big crew of Pathfinders picking up trash in the ditches. In 2008 we offered the Pathfinders a choice of honours such as:

- ♦ Pinewood derby cars
- ♦ Rocketry
- ♦ Airplane modeling
- ♦ Archery
- ♦ Weather
- ♦ Felt crafts
- ♦ Soap crafts

The weekend ended with derby races, a rocketry show, and an archery demonstration. It was a lot of fun!!

♦ Staff Training Weekend – September/October

One of the highlights of staff training in 2007 included a survival training weekend near Rocky Mountain House, where our staff and team leaders participated in activities to build their outdoor leadership skills. There is a good-sized group



Pathfinder Parade at Foothills Camp Meeting.



Calgary Crusaders Pathfinder Club at Oshkosh.

of people working to become Master Guides and some are working on their Pathfinder Leadership Award. We have had several weekend trainings over the last four years.

Camporee 2007

We are presently looking forward to the 2009 International Camporee in Oshkosh, WI. This major Camporee will see more than 30,000 Pathfinders from around the world come together to have fun, meet one another, and grow closer to Jesus. Please help the local Pathfinder Club in your area as they prepare and fundraise for this event. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime event for many of these young people.

In Appreciation

Unfortunately we also said goodbye to our Volunteer Ministry Coordinator for this position in 2006. Carol Morton has served the Pathfinders here in Alberta for many years, and we want to say a BIG thank you to her for her past ministry and her continued support.



Carol Morton



Pathfinder Camporee 2004.

Youth Quake 2004 Summer Ministry.



*Janet Griffith,
Assistant
Summer Camps*



*Pauline Keenan,
Secretary*



Ministerial & Evangelism



John Adams

Ministerial

Fall 2004 — June 2007

When Jesus had called the twelve together He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)

The fall of 2004 was a transition period. Much of the planning and preparation for 2005 activities began during this time: the Ministries Convention in Toronto, the Pastors' Evangelism Seminar and particularly the Calgary city-wide *It Is Written* series.

The year 2005 began with department leaders and administrators attending the Ministerial Convention in Orlando, Florida. This convention is held every two years as a means of providing training to leaders in the North American Division to enhance ministry in the home field.

The gathering of Canadian pastors and leaders from across the country in Toronto, January 16-20, 2005, was an amazing feat. For the first time, pastors from one end of the country to the other had the opportunity to meet, greet, and acquaint themselves with fellow workers in an environment of learning, friendship, and relaxation. Mark Finley and wife, Tina, were fabulous in their presentations. The *It Is Written* leaders were dynamic and insightful. Many of the pastors left Toronto feeling it was the best thing that ever occurred in their ministry, while at the same time longing for a repeat of the same.



Many were baptized at the Calgary *It Is Written* series of meetings.

During the months of February to June, there were several important events, such as: preparation for the *It Is Written* series in Calgary, Town Hall meetings, and In-office Mentoring for new and unordained pastors. The In-office Mentoring

of Interns is a program designed to assist new and unordained pastors with leadership skills in their ministerial journey.

The largest and most meaningful gathering of Seventh-day Adventists anywhere occurs once every five years when the leadership of the world body meets to elect new leaders to direct the work of the church. This gathering is better known as the General Conference Session. I had the opportunity of being asked to be a delegate to the session with the privilege of voting.

2006 began with the Pastors' Meetings at Foothills Camp. This semi-annual gathering of pastors, administrators, departmental leaders, some staff, presenters, and other invited guests is designed to facilitate leadership, enhance learning, promote comradie, and better prepare workers for ministry.

The year 2007 started with a Ministerial Convention in Tuscon, Arizona. There were an abundance of informative workshops structured to address the needs of the attendees.

Other highlights for that year included a ShareHim lay training workshop for the whole conference and the organization of a few Fellowship Groups into (Church) Companies.



ShareHim Boot Camp planning session at Foothills Camp.



Larry Hall

Summer 2007 — Fall 2008

This is my first year in my role as ministerial director of the Alberta Conference. To keep our department in line with the larger Alberta Conference vision of "Every Member Faithful," the Ministerial Department vision is:

*"Every Pastor Faithful and Joyful
— Making Disciples for Jesus."*

In order to help the Ministerial Department facilitate this vision I have personally committed to four "core values" that guide me in my work. They are: friendship, communication, team building, and disciple making. These values help me focus my resources, time, and energy to fulfill our vision.

Ministerial & Evangelism

Pastoral Team

Currently, our Conference has 20 intern pastors out of a total pastoral staff of 47. This is an unusually high number of intern pastors in relation to the more experienced ordained pastors working in our Conference. To help these interns be their best for Jesus, I personally feel the need to spend significant time with them in a leadership-coaching relationship in as much as my schedule will allow. Such a relationship will go a long way in developing each young pastor to be successful in their future ministry.

Interns

On May 12, 2008, the intern pastors met with administration and were given a portfolio binder to guide them on their journey to ordination or credentialed licensing. This portfolio lists six areas of pastoral competencies for them to get experiences in and to be evaluated on so that they can grow in their ministerial giftedness:



Pastor Bob Burke was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in June, 2007.

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Scholarship
- ◆ Teaching/mentoring
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Leadership

These evaluations will occur on a regular basis and will be followed up by an evaluation review to make these evaluations a meaningful process. The portfolio process for interns mandates that an intern be in a coaching and/or mentoring relationship as mentioned above.

Workers' Meetings

For our Workers' Meeting in January 2008, the focus was on the dangers of sexual addictions and how, by God's grace, pastors can get help with this addiction if it is a problem in their lives. They also learned strategies to help them relate to those with sexual addictions in their congregations.

The speakers for this year's camp meeting workers' meetings were Richard and Jo Ann Davidson from Andrews University. They spoke on how we find a good God in the Old Testament.



John Adams

Evangelism

Fall 2004 — June 2007

The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).

We closed off 2004 with several reaping evangelistic series, the preparation for which began months earlier. There were at least twenty-eight requests for evangelistic projects. We praise the Lord for the success He gave. January 2005 can best be described as explosive as far as evangelism training was concerned. January 7-13 saw all department leaders, administrators, pastors, and many lay people meet in Orlando, Florida, for ministerial training. The presentations were wonderful, edifying and practical. January 16-20 brought all pastors and other leaders from across Canada to Toronto for "How To" workshops in Evangelism. This was a joint effort between *It Is Written*, SDACC, and the Conferences.

2005 was a significant year for evangelism in Alberta as well. The largest and most comprehensive being the *It Is Written* series with Henry Feyerabend and Bill Santos in the Calgary area. At the conclusion of the series over one hundred souls were baptized, to the glory of God.



Baptism at the Calgary Garden Road Church.

On the Thursday night before Camp Meeting began that year, the Alberta Conference made history. While all the pastors were busy at Foothills Camp with their duties and facilitating workshops and other activities, Pastor Justis St Hilaire, along with eighteen Masters of Divinity students from Andrews University, conducted a rare and possibly the first summer series in Alberta, baptizing at least thirty souls in a province where we believed for years it wasn't possible to do so in the summer months.

In 2006 at least twenty-five churches and companies applied for evangelism funding with varying degrees of success. The evangelism that year took different forms from Veggie Dinner Clubs to seeker-friendly services, *It Is Written* interest follow-ups from 2005, to lay training, to evangelistic reaping series.

2007 began with another training convention, this time in Tucson, Arizona. The break-out sessions, workshops, and

Ministerial & Evangelism



Boot Camp training with Bob Folkenberg Jr.

definitely the preaching was memorable and impressive. In January we had another ShareHim Boot Camp in Alberta to further prepare our workers, both lay and clergy, for ministry in the Conference.



Bridgeland Baptism.

The month of February was especially exciting for evangelism exposure and training. February 8-11 saw several pastors invited to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to witness an evangelistic phenomenon, Bill McClendon, a lay person with a passion for souls. He started a fellowship group with five families (approximately 27 people) which grew to over 600 people in six years, conducting between four to six reaping series per year. This was indeed an inspiration to me and hopefully to all.

In February 25-29, the Alberta Conference partially sponsored twenty people to the Festival of the Laity in Orlando, Florida, to experience this very popular North American Division event. Upon returning home, several people attempted to apply in their home churches what they had learned and committed to implementing these ideas.

Baptism at Edmonton West.



Baptism at Fort McMurray.



Veggie Dinner Clubs are a community outreach.



Larry Hall

Summer 2007 — Fall 2008

There are many models for evangelism that a pastor/church family could follow in fulfilling the great commission given to us by Jesus. The Alberta Conference Evangelism Department is encouraging, however, the model shown us by the Master and described this way:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." ... Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit. (Ministry of Healing, p. 143)

Evangelism in this model is not an event but rather "evangelizing"—a lifestyle of mingling, sympathizing, ministering, winning confidence, proclaiming, and inviting to follow Jesus. In a nutshell, it is a cycle of ongoing preparation, proclamation, and preserving souls for Jesus' Kingdom until human probation ends.

In 2008 there was a crucial meeting held by the Evangelism Committee. It voted to make 2009 a "Year of Pastoral Evangelism" in our conference as suggested by the North American Division Ministerial Department. That means every pastor on our team is challenged to either do or facilitate two reaping evangelistic events during 2009. To help make these efforts as effective as possible, 2008 is designated as a year when churches spend much time in prayer and Holy Spirit revival; it is a time to encourage small group ministry and community outreach to show the compassion and love of Jesus to those around us. After the reaping in 2009, churches are to specifically focus on preserving, training, and integrating new believers into the family of God.

In 2008 the Alberta Conference baptized about 230 individuals whom we are to love, train, and empower to join us in proclaiming the three angel's messages.

Irma Hartley, Secretary



Planned Giving & Trust Services



Carolyn Osmond,
Director

Quadrennial Personnel

In April 2004, near the beginning of this quadrennial, the Trust Director, Frances Chant, moved out of province. She had revived the department after the absence of a director since 1995. Her legacy was a well-organized office, a large increase in the number of wills, camp meeting Wills Seminars, Trust church services, Wills Seminars throughout the Conference, and the reformatting of NAD Trust materials for the Alberta Conference.

From May 2004 to June 2006 the Vice President for Finance and Associate VP for Finance, both Certified Trust Officers, added Trust Services to their duties. Then in July 2006, on the retirement of the VP for Finance, Carolyn Osmond, ADCOM requested that she take on Trust Services on a half-time basis. Her associate is Robert Holdal, current VP Finance.

Department Name Change From "Trust Services" to "Planned Giving & Trust Services"

Following the lead of the General Conference, North American Division and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, in 2007 the Alberta Conference changed this department's name from "Trust Services" to "Planned Giving & Trust Services." This change reflects an increased emphasis on planned charitable gifts from the assets of individuals, couples, or families that can be mutually beneficial to donors as well as to the Alberta Conference, its churches and schools, and other Adventist registered Canadian charities.

Planned Giving Gifts & Opportunities

During the quadrennial, this department worked with estate gifts, charitable cash donations and planned gifts, including future gifts for the Conference and its entities from Charitable Gift Annuities, Revocable Trusts, and Real Estate.

Quadrennial Statistics, December 31, 2007:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Estate Bequests Received | \$471,916.00 |
| Cash Charitable Gifts Received | \$218,998.00 |
| Future Planned Gifts on Hand | \$631,352.00 |
| Wills in Trust Vault | 772 |
| (2008 Activity to June 30 = \$494,000.00) | |

Website Development

Current Planned Giving & Trust Services information on the Alberta Conference website is provided by the North American Division and is US based. Your director is in the process of putting together Canadian information for this website.

Planned Giving & Trust Services Objectives

Seventh-day Adventist Planned Giving & Trust Services is designed to meet changing needs throughout the life cycle, not only providing useful financial, estate, and gift planning information, but also discussing how to arrange care for children or elderly parents and how to name individuals to make decisions for them if they are unable to do so. By placing these services in the context of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs—and making them available to all—Planned Giving and Trust Services provides a unique opportunity for our church family to achieve personal, financial, and spiritual objectives.

Educational Program to Meet Above Objectives

- ◆ Numerous home Wills visits, phone calls, and email.
- ◆ Regional Wills Workshops held in Edmonton, Calgary, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Sedgewick, (Peers and Fort McMurray 2008).
- ◆ Camp Meeting 2007: Canadian Planned Giving Seminar.
- ◆ Camp Meeting 2007 and 2008: Two Adventist lawyers available on the campground to do Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney, and Personal Directives.
- ◆ Preaching appointments as invited.

*"The liberal soul shall be made fat:
and he that watereth shall be watered
himself." (Proverbs 11:25 KJV)*

Thank you for your liberality and generosity toward fulfilling the Gospel Commission in Alberta and beyond.

Sabbath School & Personal Ministries



John Adams,
Director

Sabbath School

Every church should be a training school for Christian workers.
(Ministry of Healing, p. 149)

During the years of 2004-2007, Pastor Mike Lemon, then Sabbath School director, conducted several workshops throughout the Alberta Conference, including those done during Camp Meeting at Foothills Camp. People still speak fondly of him and the workshops he did.

The main objective of the Sabbath School is to Win, to Hold, and to Train men and women for Jesus Christ through the following focus areas of emphasis or goals: FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, and WORLD MISSION.

With these objectives in mind, starting September 2007, I conducted several workshops to begin the process of reviving Sabbath School in our conference.

For the churches that have completed parts I & II, a two-hour Sabbath afternoon implementation workshop is recommended as part of an accountability process.

Sabbath School Workshops

2005-2007 Pastor Mike Lemon conducted a series of workshops throughout the Alberta Conference including the ones done during camp meeting in the children's and youth's divisions.

2007

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| September 8 | Edmonton Filipino |
| September 27 | Calgary Southside |
| September 27-29 | Festival of the Laity |
| November 3 | Parkdale/Calgary Southside |
| November 10 | Beiseker |
| November 17 | Metro Filipino |
| December 1 | Calgary Mtn View Part I |
| December 8 | Ponoka/Rimbey |
| December 15 | Yellowknife |

2008

January 25-27 SS Workshop Training with Faith Crumbly (R&H). Very practical hands-on training for Adult SS teachers and Superintendents.

February 2
March 28-29

Fort McMurray
Training Workshop for Children, Youth and Young Adults, with Darlene Reimche (BC) at Foothills Camp.

April 12
April 26
May 10
May 31
June 7
June 21
June 28
July 9-11

Bentley Church Part I
Bonnyville
Leduc
Edmonton Maranatha Spanish
Grande Prairie
Calgary Bridgeland
Lethbridge
Foothills Camp with Gary Swanson (GC) - Young Adults & Adults.

Sabbath School Workshop Format

1. Basic: Divine hour presentation Part I followed by a potluck meal

Two-hour afternoon hands-on workshop Part II
2. Advanced: A two-hour follow-up session of a 'How to' implementation is recommended for any church that has completed Parts I & II
3. Small (Cell) Groups Workshop Part IV

The Samaritan woman models what it means to be an effective Sabbath School member. To every one work has been allotted, and no one can be a substitute for another.

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony (John 4:39).

Personal Ministries

The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers (Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 19).

2004 The Fall of 2004 ended with campaigns that were in process throughout the year.

2005 Personal Ministries being so closely linked with evangelism may take different forms. Hence several of the training events can go either way.

Several Personal Ministry messages or sermons were preached in various churches.

Sabbath School & Personal Ministries

Following a potluck meal, a discussion or workshop followed on how to lead a soul to Jesus Christ, the merits of witnessing in today's society, whether door-to-door outreach is still relevant in modern society, what materials should be used, and where to obtain such materials for outreach work. These and other topics, sometimes requested by the audience, made up the bulk of the workshops.

Jan 7-13 Ministerial Convention, Orlando, Florida
- Personal Ministries Training event

Jan 16-20 Evangelism and Personal Ministries
Seminars, Toronto, Ontario - For pastors,
departmental leaders, and administrators

June 18 Personal Ministries Day message -
Calgary Bridgeland

2006

June BOOT CAMP pre-planning meeting with
Bob Folkenberg, Sr.

Sept. 29-30 We had our first training event at Foothills
Camp with Bob Folkenberg, Jr. There
were over 250 in attendance. When the
appeal was made, approximately 200
lay people volunteered to get involved in
outreach ministry.

There were approximately 10 Personal Ministries events
throughout the province.

2007 The year began with a *ShareHim* training
event at Foothills Camp. *ShareHim* is the
new name for BOOT CAMP. The presenter
was Pastor Larry Hall who would
later become our Ministerial Director.

In spring there was a training event in Tucson, Arizona,
followed by another *ShareHim* Boot Camp at Foothills Camp.

The weekends of June 23, July 21, and July 26-28 saw
presentations on evangelism and church growth and a Personal
Ministries workshop for Metro Filipino Company in Canmore,
AB.

2008

March 9-15 "Pentecost and More" in Kingston,
Jamaica. An invitation was extended
to the Alberta Conference, 12 people
responded and participated in a series of



ShareHim Boot Camp regional planning session.

mission projects throughout the Kingston
area. In the first quarter of 2008 over 7,300
souls were baptized in Jamaica and 38,000 in
the Inter-American Division

May 3 Church Planting Sabbath Pt. I & II -
Grande Prairie

May 16-18 Panorama, BC - Metro Filipino: a church
planting weekend workshop Parts I, II, & III

Workshops Available

- ◆ Personal Ministries Training
- ◆ Cell or Small Group Evangelism
- ◆ Discipleship Ministry
- ◆ Spiritual Gifts Seminar
- ◆ Church Planting Parts I, II, III & IV

*The people have had too much
sermonizing; but have they been
taught how to labor for whom Christ
died? (Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 431)*



Irma Hartley, Secretary

Volunteer Ministries



Singles' 2008 Winter Retreat.

Mens'

Womens'

Adventurers

Health



Prayer

Belize graduating class of 2010.

Singles'

Deaf

PARL

Pauline Keenan, Secretary



One of many CHIP graduations.

Adventist Singles Adult Ministries



Lois Graham,
Volunteer
Coordinator

As ambassadors for Christ we need to know how we are most effective in our ministry. ASAM members have been challenged at the annual winter retreat workshops to be a more effective person and have a personal touch in our ministry. Our workshops in the past four years have been building on these premises:

Who We Are

This was a seminar on personalities and how best we work with others or as individuals. What our best way of working is – The Planner, The Worker Behind the Scenes, The Up Front with People, The Spontaneous Enjoy the Moment – type person. We all approach a job from our personal view and that flows through to our personal view of God and people. It was a new way of seeing ‘the total of the parts that make the whole, and that we can all work together to complete our missions.’ (Presented by Bill & Gwen Spangler)

Fit for Your Mission

Do you fit well in what you are doing? Are you trying to be an imitation of someone else and not yourself? Your mission should be an extension of who you are and how you relate to the Lord, and it will show in your work with people. If all you are free to do is give a smile, you have made someone’s day brighter. Work in your comfort and talent zone. (Presented by Travis McMurray)

We Are His Hands

How do we present our Lord to those we come in contact? There are as many ways to do ministry as there are people. Each one of us is unique and has a one-of-a-kind mission that is part of God’s plan in showing the world His love and salvation. Seek and find your own and live it; it is your choice. Your life is a picture of Christ to those you come in contact with every moment of each day. (Presented by Paul & Donna Lee Lehmann)

We Are His Voice

How you do your personal ministry—speak, sing, play, even just a smile – speaks volumes to those we encounter every day. You are a leader for the Lord. Your manner, tone, silence, and voice will either up lift or discourage, make life seem a delight or a burden. Again, it’s your choice of what kind of messenger you are. (Presented by Randall Skoretz)

It was a new way of seeing ‘the total of the parts that make the whole, and that we can all work together to complete our missions.’

- ◆ August long weekends find ASAM at a Family Campout near one of Alberta’s lakes for fellowship with family and friends.
- ◆ The end of November brings the ‘Lacombe Happening’ for a holiday-type weekend, banquet, fellowship, and planning for winter events.
- ◆ During the year we have visited several of the small churches for a ‘Singles Sabbath’ where ASAM leads out in the Sabbath School and church services for them and fellowship with the members over a potluck lunch. There have been times when the influx of singles has more than doubled the attendance and all have been blessed.

Outreach Projects

Some of the outreach projects we have been involved in are:

- ◆ One weekend, the ASAM members came for a weekend to donate our time at Foothills Camp. We attended the Olds Church on Sabbath and then Sunday saw us building and painting a new fence around the camp caretaker’s yard.
- ◆ Staying in touch by: Card ministry, email ministry, phone calls, speaking at various churches, providing music, and van driving for ADRA projects.
- ◆ As ambassadors for Christ we are blooming where we are planted – in our homes, work and community!

Fixing and painting the fence at Foothills Camp.



2008 February Retreat at Foothills Camp.

Adventurer Ministries



*Donelle Clarke,
Volunteer
Coordinator*

The Alberta Conference greatly appreciates the service Lorelei Domaschuk actively gave to the Adventurer Club during her tenure with the Conference as its coordinator. Donelle Clarke of Calgary has accepted this volunteer role along with two area coordinators, Julie Shipowick and Beverly Prangle, from Central and Northern Alberta respectively, as of May, 2006.



Lorelei Domaschuk

The Adventurer Club has taken part in the following three Conference-sponsored events annually:

- ◆ In the fall, the club endeavors to promote itself through a Conference-sponsored "Fun Day." Each club joins together for fellowship and fun in its pursuit to promote greater numbers within each club locally, as well as to inspire other churches to develop clubs of their own.
- ◆ In the spring, the club enjoys a Family Camp held at Foothills Camp. This is a weekend for each club member and their families to come together in fellowship and appreciation of our Lord and Saviour in the pursuit of both fostering new as well as reuniting old friendships. Themes are chosen for each event and Conference patches are created to distribute to those in attendance.
- ◆ In the summer, the annual Alberta Conference camp meeting parade has always been a joy for the club to take part in. All Adventurer-aged participants have been drawn by carriage throughout the campgrounds while throwing candy to bystanders that watch each club member sing the theme song, carry their flags, and display their club uniforms.

The intent of the Adventurer Club is to facilitate in its members, from an early age (4-9 years), a daily relationship with their Creator and Friend, Jesus Christ, in the pursuit of cultivating leadership roles within the church and thus a desire for Him and ability to share Him with those around them. We know our Saviour is coming soon to take His children to heaven. And it is our aim to be a vessel He uses toward that end.



Adventurer Club from Edmonton having song service for Family Camp 2007.



Adventurer kids just hangin' round in the school gym during Fun Day 2006.



Adventurer Club participation in the 2006 Camp Meeting Parade.

Deaf Ministries



*John Blake,
Volunteer
Coordinator*

Exciting things have been happening in the past four years through the Alberta Conference Deaf Ministries Department! One of the most influential is a project that is happening as this report is being written. The Alberta and B.C. Conference Deaf Ministries Departments have combined together to send a Deaf Ministry Info Kit to all 300+ Adventist

pastors from Newfoundland to B.C. as well as 100 of the largest churches in Canada. We're also sending two DVDs which show samples of all the video materials available in sign language for the deaf in North America. Also included is a super booklet called "Can You Hear Us?" by Esther Doss explaining what it's like to be deaf in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The sample DVD features the full *Really Living* TV program of Elder Don Schneider where he interviews Esther Doss about the booklet she wrote. The Deaf Info Kit also shows what is available for Deaf Ministry in both DVD and printed materials. If your church would like a free sample kit, just ask our department.

In November 2007, Greg Greenwood, a deaf church member from Calgary, led out at a booth at the Deaf Expo 2007 in Edmonton. There we were able to give away many samples of DVDs plus, for a donation, hand out sets of our video tape signed productions to interested deaf.

A major accomplishment has been the distribution of our professional two-hour DVD called "Our World: A Theater in God's Universe." Illustrated with 236 paintings and pictures, this signed production presents the whole story of the plan of salvation in a chronological Great Controversy format. This has been distributed all over North America at some of the most prominent public deaf conventions through Adventist Deaf Ministry booths. By the time you read this, well over 3,000 copies have been distributed as far as China, India, and Central Africa.

Each year we join with the B.C. Conference to conduct a Canadian Mini-Deaf Camp Meeting during the first weekend of the regular B.C. Conference Camp Meeting at Hope. This year, one of deaf presenters is from Alberta. Our main sign language teacher will also be from Alberta. We also have had Deaf Ministry display booths at both the Alberta and B.C. Conference Camp Meetings.



Our Alberta deaf joined together to help get the new Deaf Info Kits ready for mailing in May 2008.

One of the most exciting departmental projects is to equip the new deaf pastor, Vasily Yagotin, at Lviv in the Western Ukraine Conference, with all the basic equipment needed to produce sign language DVDs for Ukraine, Belarus, and all of Russia. The Bentley Church originally helped Vasily as a deaf student when at the Russian Zaosky Seminary, and this finally led to helping spread both his and his wife's work potentially to the deaf in many Eastern European countries.

We have also been working to provide churches for the deaf in India. There are now six churches for the deaf in India—mostly provided for by members in Alberta. Coupled with Gospel Outreach USA and Canada, we are working with 34 full-time workers for the deaf in India, two in Liberia, one in the Philippines, one starting in Kyrgyzstan, and one in Kazakhstan. Dorothy Watts has given us a request for 18 new workers for India. Since starting with donations from Alberta in 1998, the work in India has expanded to the point of 700 baptisms of deaf in India in 2007, for a total of about 1,300 since 1998.

We also meet many times during the year in Edmonton, Calgary, Ryley, and Lacombe, for Deaf Fellowship Days with local deaf and hearing members. Our Canadian Deaf Ministry International web site continues to provide help to deaf around the world (www.deafhope.org). We ask for your prayers to strengthen the work here in Alberta as we expand to include other needy areas as well!

Vasily Yagotin from Lviv, Ukraine, standing beside video equipment provided by a donor through the Alberta Conference Deaf Ministry Department.



Greg Greenwood and Leah Nahirnich sign with visitors at the SDA booth at Deaf Expo 2007 in Edmonton.



*Darlene Blaney, MSc, NCP
Volunteer Coordinator*

Looking back over the past four years, Health Ministries in Alberta has grown! The enthusiasm to have the health message taught in the various churches and their communities has been encouraging! As much as possible, I make it an effort to fit into my schedule a variety of health workshop presentations to the various churches. Over the past few years, workshops and Sabbath sermons have been held in:

- ◆ Airdrie
- ◆ Beiseker
- ◆ Calgary
- ◆ Edmonton
- ◆ Olds
- ◆ Westlock
- ◆ Sherwood Park

As time continues and the last events on this earth take place, we will see the Health Ministries grow faster and deeper as it reaches people not only on a physical level, but a spiritual level as well.

There are many other churches requesting workshops, making the demand difficult to keep up with at times. However, I consider this to be a good problem! As I work through each church, I not only present the health message to them, but I also make a point of training individuals in each church to facilitate and instruct health programs on their own. There are a number of good resources now available through DVD,



Cooking School at Sherwood Park.

PowerPoint, etc., that make it simple for the churches to present a health ministry seminar. I try to help the church by suggesting which program would best fit their needs and budget.

It is good to see a number of Veggie Dinner Clubs still in action with a number of new ones beginning. Once again, many times I am a guest speaker for these dinners, and I always try to be available to them for support, if needed.

Over the past year and a half, I have taken on the role of Foothills Camp cook. I accepted this position as a ministry. I felt if I had the opportunity to prepare total vegetarian food that tasted good, this would be one of the most powerful ways to convince people of this wonderful lifestyle!

We continue to present our Annual Health Workshop weekends. This year will be the tenth annual workshop! We have taken on a slightly different approach to our health workshops, bringing in the concept of “Total Health” of body, mind, and spirit. In the past four years our speakers have included:

- ◆ Pastor Richard Willis speaking on the “Holistic Approach” to health—warning us of the spiritual battle that is going on in our world when it comes to “natural healing” and warning people to be careful when going through and accepting various treatments.
- ◆ The Haywards focused on relationships. If we are not happy in our relationships, which is a high percentage of the population now in our world, we cannot experience “total health.”
- ◆ “Love and Respect” was a DVD presentation that we presented on the campus of CUC. This was focusing again on relationships. The positive effects of this program led to a continuation of the program now being presented once or twice a year under the facilitators of Diana and Dan Clarke (who personally experienced a miracle in their marriage!)
- ◆ We were blessed to have Pastor Dick Tibbits come and present to us “Forgive to Live” once again on the CUC campus. He taught not only to forgive, but HOW to forgive, giving us a new lease on life! That same weekend, Michael Harris brought to us a ‘real’ message through his music ministry and testimony of his life. This weekend was so well attended, we would like to repeat this weekend seminar again sometime in the future!

As time continues and the last events on this earth take place, we will see the Health Ministries grow faster and deeper as it reaches people not only on a physical level, but a spiritual level as well. There is nothing more rewarding than to watch people’s lives change and then, better yet, their hearts change as they turn towards accepting God as their personal friend and Saviour. Once again, I thank God for the ability and opportunity to serve Him as He leads!



Peace River CHIP graduates.

Sherwood Park CHIP demo.



Men's Ministries



Brian Townsend,
Volunteer
Coordinator

The only reason for a men's ministry at any level of church functioning is to help restore the image of Christ in men. The adversary of men's hearts is seeking whom he may distract and deface. Hence, the Men's Convention is attended by men who seek to put on the whole armour of Christ and then demonstrate by some selfless action, their new found, enhanced, rekindled, faith in Jesus Christ.

2005

In March, Steve Wallace came to Foothills Camp from his mountain retreat in Montana and shared with Alberta men the real essence of godly men and dominion. Men must wrestle with self and the urge to control and rule over others. Unless Jesus dwells in the heart, men will not be able to pass on their true legacy.

Alberta Men to Belize also took hold and we were able to get 15 volunteers to help construct our first classroom building. We built in March, sent our first container of school supplies and living staples, and also had our first missionary coordinator at the Valley of Peace mission site. The government was slow in approving grade 9 at the new school and so the school was not able to open in September. Although Alberta men were quite disappointed, we were also quick to realize that God's timing is wonderful, and so we waited for September, 2006.

Rhonda MacFarlane then volunteered her services at Foothills Camp Meeting time, and three weeks later, on August 10, she was in Belize tutoring young Spanish students in the new school house, even though school was not officially open. She served us well and had a marvelous experience. She was also our first baptism as a result of this mission school.

2006

In March, Dan Augsburg came to speak to 80 Alberta men. "Reckless or Devoted? – How to Really Walk on Water" was our theme for the weekend and the men were treated to the lives of some modern men of faith. Hudson Taylor and Peter Mueller were an inspiration to God's people in their day but also a riveting reminder to us of how faithful our God is and what He wants to do in our lives—the lives of his modern-day disciples.

*Unless Jesus dwells in the heart,
men will not be able to pass on
their true legacy.*

The Belize mission project is still on many minds, and we had three trips to Belize to build. Twenty-five volunteers made a large contribution by building two more classroom buildings. The Belize Ministry of Education inspected our campus in early April and was very impressed. Approval to operate a high school in Valley of Peace was granted on July 4. Dale and Tammy Burns and family travelled to Belize by car from Alberta and helped with the teaching. Dale says he had the best year of his teaching career and promised to return for the first graduation in June, 2010 when the first students of the high school will be graduating. On August 27, Orville Ferris and Brian Townsend travelled to Belize for the school inauguration. Truly a high day!



Dale and Tammy Burns -- teachers in Belize -- with daughters Leah & Kaylee.

2007

Kent Hanson, a lawyer and writer from California, joined us in March for the annual men's convention. "Grace at 30,000 Feet and Other Unbelievable Stories" is his latest book, and he related experiences of how God speaks to us and what He is doing to redeem us. The 70 convention attendees were shocked on Sabbath afternoon when Charles Townsend passed away suddenly. The spirit of the convention became very serious and somber, but the men carried on.

The building season for Belize has always been January, February, or March, and 2007 was no different. Twenty-five volunteers attended the Valley of Peace to complete a new classroom building, pour sidewalks, build timber residences, and tune-up computers that had been sent down by container. We had one volunteer from New Brunswick and one young volunteer, Jose Mejia from Edmonton Spanish Church, stayed at the site for two months. He was a big help and wonderful example of Christian service to our 30 students in grade 9. Dale and Tammy Burns and family are still teaching and are enjoying the experience.

Young men in Belize, as anywhere, need something to do and so a vocational carpentry program started in September 2007. We also have 70 students in grade 9 and 10. Of the 70 students, only six have any Adventist roots. This is profoundly a mission school. Mario and Mandy Guzman from Mill Woods offered

Men's Ministries

to teach the carpentry program but some health issues brought them home. Clayton Wepler, a young man from Swift Current, Saskatchewan, volunteered to be our first carpentry instructor and also led out in the physical education program.

2008

The Men's Convention was cancelled in March of 2008. We were unable to find a replacement speaker after our first choice was not able to make it on short notice. To help keep the spirit of camaraderie alive, several churches in Edmonton and Calgary had a men's weekend.

As I travel around Alberta telling the mission story of Belize, many are inspired and a few make plans to attend. March, 2008 was no different as 34 volunteers made their way to Mount Olives High School in Valley of Peace. We were able to frame our new water purification and bakery building and another classroom building. We poured more concrete sidewalks, built some much-needed roads on campus, and most of all, prepared next year's building site. Our current office, library, and computer lab is going to move into the new building for September, 2009.

Alberta Men's Ministries has a web site at www.albertamen.com and you can drop in to find out what has happened, is happening, and will happen regarding conventions, men's ministries church events, home mission projects, and, of course, our Belize Mission Project.

God bless your sacred missionary endeavors at home and abroad.



Computers were an important learning tool in the new school.

Ninth group to Belize.



Pouring concrete for classroom.



Belize Orientation Day September, 2006.

Prayer Ministries



Evangeline
Medavarapu,
Volunteer
Coordinator

Tremendous blessings were received from the LORD during the last three years through the Prayer Ministries as many prayer events and some major prayer conferences were hosted in the local regions. Men and women of God who are gifted in the area of PRAYER were guest speakers to the Prayer Conferences hosted jointly by Alberta Prayer Ministries and one of the local churches in the region. This gave opportunity for the whole congregation from local churches to attend who would not have otherwise been able to in a private setting.

Alberta Prayer Ministries is passionate about:

Proclaiming the Love of God through Praying, Planning, Preparing and Presenting.

Prayer events were planned and hosted by local churches throughout this quadrennial where the Conference Prayer Coordinator and members of the Prayer Ministries team assisted in the weekend program.

In 2007, six prayer coordinators from the different regions were



Speaker: Steve Wallace, Montana: Pastor,
Revivalist, and Health Educator
Theme: Constant Communion
Date: February 1-3, 2005
Location: Red Deer SDA Church



Speakers: Sally & Jim Honberger, Montana: Pastor,
Counselor, Author of books on relationships
Theme: Empowered Living
Date: April 1-3, 2005
Location: Sylvan Lake SDA Church



Speakers: Derek & Bodil Morris, Florida, Pastor &
Founder of Scripture memorization through music
Theme: Praying, Preparing, & Proclaiming
Date: April 13-15, 2006
Location: College Heights SDA Church



Speaker: Dan Linrud, Hamilton, ON: Pastor
Theme: Fresh Encounter Through Prayer Power
Date: September 22-24, 2006
Location: Edmonton Central SDA Church



Speaker: Dan Augsburger, Michigan: Pastor
Theme: School of Prayer
Date: March 16-18, 2007
Location: Conference Office, Red Deer



Speakers: Dr. Ganoune Diop, Oakwood College:
Theology Prof. & Janet Lui, Prayer Coordinator, SEC
Theme: Biblical Foundations to Discipleship & Worship
Date: May 4-6, 2007
Location: West Edmonton SDA Church

able to attend a prayer conference in Tucson, Arizona assisted by sponsorship from the local churches and Alberta Prayer Ministries. Elder Mark Finley and five other dynamic Prayer Ministry speakers presented workshops and plenary sessions there in Tucson. The theme was "Prayer for Evangelism." It was a delight to see Elder Bill Olson and his wife Judy there at the Prayer Conference.

Two college students who were passionate about church planting were able to attend the SEEDS Conference at Andrews University and attend the General Conference Session. This experience will never be forgotten by these young people.

July 7, 2007, was a very important date as a global call to prayer was made through "Global Rain." Many across the world joined hearts in prayer asking for one thing "the outpouring of the Holy Spirit." As this event came in the middle of Alberta Camp Meeting, each morning prayer walk was arranged by Shari Hagen, Pastor Ron Sydenham, and the Alberta Prayer Ministries team. Many prayers were offered for the campers in tents and trailers and their prayer needs. Prayer made the difference and was felt throughout the camp.

Future Plans

- ◆ To increase the awareness of the importance of personal/individual prayer life through regional prayer events. Plans are under way for a youth prayer conference designed to promote a strong prayer life in our young people.
- ◆ To work in conjunction with the local pastor and local leadership to promote powerful corporate prayer life.
- ◆ To train and build a strong and vibrant prayer team in every church and school.



Public Affairs

The Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to play a very active role in the public square in Alberta. A number of significant events took place during the last four years, including:

Gerald Chipeur QC,
Volunteer Coordinator

- ◆ Canadian University College hosted successive Ministers of Advanced Education for Alberta, the Honourable Lyle Oberg and the Honourable Ron Liepert. As a result of interaction with those Ministers, Canadian University College achieved recognition for its Bachelor of Education degree.
- ◆ Senator Anne Cools of Ontario visited the Alberta Conference Camp Meeting and brought greetings from the Parliament of Canada. She was welcomed by fellow Barbadian General Conference Vice President Dr. Calvin Rock.
- ◆ The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, visited the Alberta Conference Camp Meeting and brought a Christian message.
- ◆ Calgary M.L.A. Jonathan Denis brought greetings from the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and thanked the Seventh-day Adventist Church for its education and health ministries in Alberta.
- ◆ Sherwood Park Care Center has been recognized by the Minister of Health and Sherwood Park M.L.A., the Honourable Iris Evans, as one of the best seniors care facilities in Alberta.

Religious Liberty

The resources devoted to the defence of religions have yielded important dividends over the last four years:

Frank Corlis

Frank Corlis asked the Alberta Human Rights Commission to investigate the refusal of a major oil and gas service firm to employ him and his personal services corporation in light of Frank's commitment to keep the Sabbath. When the Commission brought this issue to the attention of senior management within the oil and gas business, the management agreed to recognize Frank's right to keep the Sabbath and not lose his job. Management also compensated him for lost income. This willingness to stand for principle led to a precedent being established by the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Personal services corporations now have the

same rights as individuals to claim the protection of Alberta's human rights laws.

Supreme Court of Canada Decisions

In the PARL report since the last quadrennial, the intervention of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in several Supreme Court of Canada appeals was highlighted. The arguments we made on behalf of the Church were accepted by the Supreme Court of Canada, and the following principles were established:

- ◆ When a municipal authority refuses to issue a building permit to a church, the authority must disclose lawful written reasons for such a decision; and
- ◆ Under human rights laws in Canada, individuals are entitled to reasonable accommodation for their religious beliefs, even if the beliefs are not mandatory in nature, so long as they are sincere and religious in nature.

Union Membership Exemptions

The Alberta Labour Relations Board has institutionalized the process of granting exemptions from union membership for religious reasons. This has significantly simplified the steps necessary to achieve an exemption order. The decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada referred to above have also made it easier to secure exemption orders.

Unfortunately, not all efforts have been successful:

Marriage Reference

In 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada issued its decision on the subject of the definition of marriage. Notwithstanding the decision to approve a new definition, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that churches and religious leaders are entitled to refrain from accepting, approving, or participating in marriage ceremonies inconsistent with their moral beliefs.

Marriage Commissioners Accommodation

The Government of Alberta has decided to respect and accommodate the religious beliefs of marriage commissioners. This is good news. Unfortunately, not all provinces have decided to protect the religious beliefs of marriage commissioners (the matter is now before the courts in Saskatchewan).

Pastor Stephen Boissoin

Recently, a human rights tribunal ruled that the desire to be free from criticism for one's religious beliefs trumps the right to maintain and express one's religious beliefs. This

Public Affairs & Religious Liberty Ministries

decision is under appeal. We will argue in that appeal that the Boissoin decision turns the human rights laws of Alberta into instruments of oppression.

Conclusion

Of great assistance over the last three years has been the work of Grace Mackintosh. Grace is a member of my law firm, Miller Thomson LLP, and a member of the Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Together, we have worked as a team to address Public Affairs and Religious Liberty issues in Alberta.

Women's Ministries



Nicole Paradis-Sydenham,
Volunteer Coordinator

I was coming down the church aisle and noticed her crying. It was her first visit to an Adventist church. I welcomed her and discovered that her husband had just recently left her for a younger model. I encouraged her to come to the Women's Ministries (WM) Retreat. She turned to her friend jokingly and said, "I can always collect bottles on the highway." I told her, "You fill out the application and don't worry about the fee." She now attends church every Sabbath and has requested Bible studies. She is bringing friends to Adventist functions and would like to go on a mission trip with *A Better World*. She has found a new family, a support group, but, most of all, found Jesus as her Saviour.

Helping women to find a support group and a sense of acceptance by knowing God is the Women's Ministries mission.

Women's Ministries is a form of friendship evangelism. Each year we have approximately 25-35 non-Adventists who attend retreats. Several of the 2008 attendees have already requested Bible studies.

Retreats

As you can see from this chart, our Women's Retreat had to move to a bigger location in 2006. The attendance keeps on growing and again, we may need to find another larger venue.

Women's Assistance Retreat Ministries (WARM)

The WARM fund is an offering taken at the retreat to be used the following year for financial support for those who need assistance to attend retreats. To qualify, recommendations (names and a short explanation why they need assistance) must be submitted from the local women's ministries leader or pastor. This year, the WARM fund has distributed a total of \$2800 (the amount of last year's offering) to 55 ladies. Following the Conference's lead, some churches have

established a WARM fund in their local area. Hopefully that initiative will continue to grow.

An additional \$1000 was given to assist Spanish ladies to attend Alberta's first Spanish WM Retreat. A total of 53 ladies

attended the event, which was held at the Red Deer Lodge in September, 2008.

In 2008, we had over 100 young adult women at the retreat—a significant increase from other years. An emotional highlight was when the keynote speaker (her ministry is "Praying for our Children") had the other women lay hands on at least one young lady and pray for them.

In addition, we have begun to see interest from pastors' wives, with 17 attending in 2007 and 14 attending in 2008 (compared to just two to five attending in the past.) Thanks to Cheryl Kay for organizing the pastors' wives meetings.

In 2008, we had over 100 young adult women at the retreat—a significant increase from other years. An emotional highlight was when the keynote speaker (her ministry is "Praying for our Children") had the other women lay hands on at least one young lady and pray for them.

| Year | Theme | Speaker | Location | Attendance | Non-SDA | Baptism/Reclaim |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------|---------|---|
| 2005 | Know His Heart . . . Be His Hands | Ginny Allen | Black Knight Inn | 192 | 24 | 6 |
| 2006 | Joy on the Journey | Heather-Dawn Small (GC WM Director) | Red Deer Lodge | 225 | 25 | 7 |
| 2007 | Getting It Together | Carla Baker (NAD WM Director) | Red Deer Lodge | 242 | 27 | 4 |
| 2008 | Come Away . . . Relax . . . Enjoy | Deborah Harris (Director of Praying for our Children Ministry) | Red Deer Lodge | 300 | 31 | Still being followed up—I believe the number will be high |

Women's Ministries

Training/Mentoring

I am happy to say that the assembly for training/networking has doubled in attendance this year; we now have over 50 ladies attending. This is a strong indication of interest in being involved with ministries.

In the last four years as Women's Ministries Director, I have had the privilege of preaching in more than a dozen churches and also of conducting afternoon training/mentoring programs in most of those churches.

A special thanks to my current committee: Shelley Agrey, Loma Boyd, Elvira Gascoyne, June Mainville, Lorraine Richter, Belinda Bader, and Virginia Whitehead.

Alberta Women's Ministries mission is to advance God's Kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve, and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Pastors' wives who attended the Women's Retreat in 2008.



Praying for younger attendees was the highlight of the 2008 retreat.



Executive (l-r): Shelley Agrey, Loma Boyd, Nicole Paradis-Sydenham, Elvira Gascoyne, June Mainville, Lorraine Richter, Belinda Bader, and Virginia Whitehead.