

Alberta

Adventist News

December 2011

God is Good. All the time!

When the General Conference was initially organized in 1863, some vehemently opposed the concept, believing to do so was to become spiritual Babylon. Yet incorporation was necessary to at least hold church properties. At this same meeting the early believers adopted the name Seventh-day Adventist.



With the explosion of growth during the following 30 years, it became apparent that the 1863 organizational structure was inadequate. Ellen White, along with others, appealed for an organizational review, and at the 1901 General Conference session the entire structure was reorganized. With only slight adjustments, that structure continues today. The purpose for reorganizing was, not only to hold church property titles, but also to effectively and systematically preach the three angels' messages to the entire world.

The Alberta Conference, which ultimately would include the Northwest Territories (NWT) was organized in 1906 as part of the sisterhood of Conferences. Its mission, similar to the mission of the world church, is "to reach the Alberta Conference territory with the distinctive, Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist message of Hope and Wholeness."

2011 in Review

Keeping this purpose in mind, the pastors and churches launched an aggressive reaping campaign in 2011 which included about 40 different series. Although not all series came to fruition, more than 257 people have been baptized to date – about 130 more than the previous year. We praise the Lord for these decisions.

Although the 2011-12 overall school enrolment of 638 (including PACeS) did not increase over the 2010-11 year, PACeS currently has an enrolment of 82 students, up over last year. Overall, our educators and school chaplains provide a vital influence in bringing our young people to a decision to accept Jesus as Saviour and join the body of Christ.

The Conference youth department provided many opportunities for young people to make a decision for Christ. Through Pathfinders, Adventurers, Youth Rallies and Weeks of Prayer, we are not only providing opportunities for youth to accept Jesus as their personal saviour, but training them in His service too. Summer camp saw a record number of campers, totalling about 300, an increase of about 40 over last year. Total staff numbered about 35. During each camp, opportunity was given for young people to accept Jesus as Saviour and these names are forwarded to the appropriate pastors for follow-up.

The office personnel are a vital component in managing and providing services to churches and schools, and some significant changes have taken place. We congratulate Bob and Marlene Holdal, long standing employees in the office (Bob in the treasury for about 20 years, and Marlene as secretary to the President for about 22 years) and Evangeline Medavarapu (serving education for 20 years) on their retirement after years of faithful service to the cause of Christ. (see next page for a complete list of personnel changes)

Without continuing education and professional growth opportunities an organization stagnates. Throughout the year at many different opportunities have been provided for leaders and laity. Among them are a Sexual Ethics symposium presented for all employees by General Conference legal counsel, Karnik Doukmetzian; an Adventist Risk Management (ARM) Conference for Administrators; Principle's Councils & teacher cohorts; Lifestyle Coaching opportunities for pastors, teachers, departmental directors and administrators; Conflict Resolution training for pastors and local church leaders; KIDS in Discipleship training for lay leaders and select departmental personnel; Pastors meetings; Interns' Retreat; Elders' Retreat; Camping Association Meetings for Camp personnel; not to mention the seminars offered for laity during Camp Meeting.

Besides the regular Camp Meeting held at Foothills Camp each summer, at least four additional "mini" Camp Meetings are conducted annually, including Filipino, Caribbean, East Indian, and Aboriginal.

cont. on page 3

Our Mission: to reach the Alberta Conference territory with the distinctive, Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist message of Hope and Wholeness.

Alberta Conference Executive Committee

Kenneth Wiebe	President
Larry Hall	Vice President for Administration
Keith Richter	Vice President for Finance
John Alai	Walt Kalkan
Ishmael Ali	Terry Lachance
Ephraim Baragona	Marvin Pineda
Glen Brown	Stephen Reasor
Gloria Diwa	Elaine Sankey
Victor Fitch	Linda Weich
Hugh French	

Administration

Kenneth Wiebe	President & Communications
Larry Hall	VP for Administration
Keith Richter	VP for Finance
Janet Griffith	Education Superintendent
Derek Richter	Youth & Summer Camps
George Ali	Ministerial & Evangelism
Sandra Silva	Personal & Womens Ministries

Ministries

John Blake	Deaf Ministries
Darlene Blaney	Health Ministries
Gerald Chipeur	Public Affairs/Religious Liberty
Darlene Reimche	Singles' Ministries/SAGE
Virgil Covell	Revival & Reformation Ministries
Larry Hall	ADRA/Community Services
----	Men's Ministries

Alberta Adventist News

Derek Richter
Editorial Assistant & Layout

Office Hours

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

5820B Highway 2A
Lacombe, AB
T4L 2G5

Phone (403) 342-5044
Fax (403) 343-1523

E-mail: info@albertasda.org
Website & Blog: www.albertasda.org

The Conference office fire of May 3 had a significant impact throughout the entire Conference. Although "business as usual" was interrupted for a couple of weeks, the office team pulled together, put forth extra-ordinary effort, and continued to serve the field even under adverse circumstances. Special thanks to Dr. Mark Haynal and Canadian University College who graciously provided office space for four months as we endeavoured to find more long-term temporary office space. Special recognition goes to Bob Holdal, then VP Finance, who assumed leadership in managing the interruption. We also thank you, the constituency, for your patience as we try to regroup. There have been times when we could not find files as quickly as normal, telephone, fax and even internet services were severely compromised and at times not even available.

Some frequently asked questions often come to us.

Q. *What was the cause of the fire?*

A. We have not been told the exact cause of the fire, and so it is still classified as "suspicious origin" and that it started in a vacant office on the north side of the lower level of the building.

Q. *Did you lose any files?*

A. We lost some paper documents, but all personnel, financial, or otherwise important files and documents are intact, or can be recopied or retrieved. Although the server had some smoke damage, it was sufficiently operable that all files on it were saved.

Q. *Did we have good insurance coverage?*

A. Yes. We are insured with GENCON, the General Conference Insurance company. Technically this means we are self-insured and the insurance management team have been most cooperative.

Q. *How extensive was the damage?*

A. If you drive past the office, the only evidence of the fire is on the north side. Inside, the north section is burned or severely burn compromised. The rest of the building is smoke and soot damaged, not to mention water damaged, to the point where the cost of repair is greater than the value of the building. Consequently the insurance gave a pay-out up to building replacement value.

Q. *Are you going to rebuild on that site?*

A. Currently we do not intend rebuild on the site. The property is up for sale and we are exploring the possibility of building on the 14-acre property at Lacombe that the Conference purchased a couple years ago for that purpose.

Q. *What is your time-line for rebuilding?*

A. We're just getting started with discussions regarding the type of building we need. We have a two-year lease in the building we are currently occupying.



A look into the Future

Despite inconveniences produced by the office fire, a new staff experiencing learning curves, and a new officer group creating a new management style, the Conference is functioning reasonably well. We are learning to work together as a team that will continue to grow strong in the future. Some of our specific plans for 2012 include:

1. To operate an efficient and effective Conference.

The executive committee has approved an organizational flow chart, bringing clear oversight and accountability into the office and the departments. The conference ministries and services are managed in a “Jethro” style, whereby the various departments and services are accountable to one of the three officers. The visioning committee, set up by the executive committee, is working on a new mission statement document called REACH Alberta, complete with strategic plans for Revival and transformation, Education for discipleship, Alignment of all departments and church entities, Community outreach, and Healthy leadership.

2. The Evangelism Department

Elder George Ali is challenging every church to conduct a reaping series of one form or another under the theme, *Fanning the Flame*. We are seeking for 300 baptisms in 2012.

3. The Personal Ministries Department

Sandra Silva, with the approval of the Executive committee, is launching a School of Evangelism designed to train laity, pastors and Religious Studies students to conduct outreach ministry professionally.

4. Communications & IT

To be effective in providing resources for our members through a new Conference web site and IT support for local churches.

5. Building Projects

There are a number of exciting building projects that will begin in 2012, although not all will be completed within the year. Among them are the Conference office building; Foothills Camp development; MANS expansion to include high school on a phase-in basis (year one: grade 10, year two: grade 11, etc.); Hobbema multi-purpose building; Coralwood Academy expansion, Calgary Central (English) sanctuary upgrade, and Fairview Church completion.

6. Local Church Facility Assistance

Developing a strategy to assist churches without a church home to be able to get a church home. Up to one-third of our congregations are currently in rented facilities. Many of these are in large metropolitan centres with little opportunity to acquire their own facilities due to prohibitive costs.

7. Local Church Infrastructure Upgrade

Developing a strategy to improve many of our facilities so they proudly represent the image of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

8. Yellowknife Mission

Identify the purpose of the Yellowknife “Mission” and implement a strategy for success.

9. Quadrennial Session

The Alberta Constituency session will be held September 23, 2012. It will be preceded by “town hall meetings” with venues strategically located. Watch for dates & locations coming in early 2012.

Each year brings its share of challenges, but we know we are on the winning team. Our courage is good because “*if God be for us who can be against us*” (Romans 8:31).

~ Kenneth Wiebe, President

Alberta Conference Personnel Changes



Solomon Agdon & Family

Robert Hodal: Vice President for Finance, Retired
Marlene Hodal: Administrative Assistant to the President, Retired
Evangeline Medevrapu: Education Secretary, Retired
Keith Richter: Vice President for Finance
Solomon Agdon: Associate Treasurer
Janet Griffith: Education Superintendent
Mildred Weiss: Administrative Assistant Education
Sandra Silva: Personal & Women’s Ministries
Debbie Schwarz: Administrative Assistant for Secretariat
Irma Hartley: Ministries Secretary
Kevin Kiers: Youth & Camps (January 2012)
Derek Richter: Communications & IT (January 2012)
Darlene Reimche: Sabbath School Director, Coordinator for SAGE & Singles Ministries, eAdventist
Wayne & Jeanie Morton: Maintenance Director & Caretaker, Foothills Camp
Frances Chant: Part-time Human Resources

Debbie Schwarz



Upcoming Events in 2012

- Adventist Singles Retreat
Foothills Camp - Feb. 17-19
- Pathfinder Winter Retreat,
Foothills Camp - March 2-4
- Personal Ministries Training
Foothills Camp - Feb.
- Women's Ministries Convention,
Sheraton, Red Deer - April 13-15
- Pathfinder Camporee,
Foothills Camp - May 18-21
- Single Ministries Day
Ed. South Church
- Adventurer Family Camp,
Foothills Camp - May 25-27
- Campmeeting 2012
Foothills Camp - July 13-21
- Alberta Conference Constituency
Session: September 23, 2012

Annual Women's Ministry Retreat April 13 - 15, 2012!

Spread the word! Mark the date! The annual **Women's Retreat** will be held at the Red Deer Sheraton Hotel (formerly the Capri Hotel). The early bird registration deadline is February 23, 2012 and the cost is \$150. Regular Registration is \$199 per person due by March 8, 2012. Please also contact the young ladies (ages 13 to 21) in your churches and invite them to attend as special workshops will be offered with young ladies in mind. To register, call Irma Hartley, Women's Ministries Secretary 403-342-5044, ext 210, or check the women's ministry page on the Alberta Conference website at www.albertasda.org. Keep a look out for more information to come.

"A Single Reflection of Him"

Winter Retreat **February 17-19, 2012** at the Foothills Camp with guest presenter Carol Barron from the North American Division Adult Ministries Department.



www.adventistsingleadultministries.org

Other Events:

- **May 19, 2012** - Edmonton Singles Ministries Day - Edmonton South Adventist Church.
- **July 13-21, 2012** - Featuring a nightly program

Cooking School for Kids - Vegreville

Have you ever held a cooking school for kids? We had 8 children attend, some came from our VBS and some were acquaintances, and only two were Adventist. We used the material from Dr. Barnard's Physician's Committee for Responsible medicine, a special program designed just for children. It is focusing on "Cancer Prevention" using lots of colorful veggies and fruit. Each child had a chart that they put stickers on signifying how many colors of veggies or fruits they ate that day. Each child got hands on food preparation with a teacher, following that a short



Power Point presentation on the value of eating fruits and veggie. The best part was they got to eat what they prepared! Most of the mothers and fathers came to learn along with their child. We will follow up with a cooking class for adults and also a monthly supper club in the New Year.

-Marion Coppock





Ministries in the AB Conference

Reaching the Fastest Growing People Group in Canada

There is a growing opportunity in the Alberta Conference to minister to the largest and fastest growing people group in Canada and North America. According to the Canadian 2006 Census, 51.58% of the adult population is made up of the widowed, the divorced and the never married. (these figures include the young adult single)

Adventist Single Adult Ministries is a ministry focused on this large people group, dedicated to helping single adults develop a strong relationship with their Saviour and Friend, Jesus Christ. Events are "Christ-centered safe places for fellowship, nurture and service." Every single adult across the Alberta Conference is invited and encouraged to participate in all events. You will find Christian fellowship and acceptance while having a very enjoyable time.

A new Alberta Conference Single Adult Ministries Committee has been formed and includes: Gerald Anderson, Lois Graham, Raymond Hansen, Rose Lee, Dianne Yaceyko, and Darlene Reimche.

The Adventist Single Adult Committee is available to present a full church service in churches across the Alberta Conference. If you would like to arrange for them to come to your church please contact Darlene Reimche.

Yes, with 51.58% of the adult population of Canada single, God has given Adventist Single Adult Ministries a real opportunity to draw closer to Him and to reach out to the single adults in our communities. My fellow Alberta Conference Seventh-day Adventist Church members, what are we going to do about it? -*Darlene Reimche*



"Working Together"

Good news from Hobbema! Mamawi Atosketan Native School is growing! The current facility offers a K-9 program. There is a great need for Gr. 10-12 and this is the place to make it happen! We have the students, the need, the passion, the vision, and some of the funds in place to accommodate a quality program to meet the needs of high school students.

Currently, once the students complete Grade 9 they have to go elsewhere in the surrounding communities in order to complete their high school education through Grade 12. The students would prefer to stay where they are because belonging to a safe and caring environment is very important to them.

Our fundraising program is well underway and our students anxiously await the day our doors will open and they can continue their education at our school. The name Mamawi Atosketan means "working together". If you would like to help with this project, we invite you to "Mamawi Atosketan" with us. In other words, we invite you to "work together" with us by praying for this project and through your financial support as we continue to educate God's precious children!

Donations can be made by:

- calling the school at 403-783-4362
- visit us online at www.mamawiatosketan.com
- e-mail us at mamawiatosketan@explornet.com

Thank you for your continued support and donations.

New Alberta SAGE Ministry

Alberta SAGE, *Seniors in Action for God with Excellence*, took its first step on Thursday, November 3, 2011, when new Committee members met at the Alberta Conference office for their first meeting. SAGE is a ministry for and by those fifty years and better, designed to enhance the spiritual, mental, physical, and social health of senior church members. The ministry began in the Washington Conference and has spread to several surrounding conferences, including the British Columbia Conference. And now.....the Alberta Conference!

SAGE activities may include an annual spiritual convention/retreat with outstanding speakers and musicians; building projects for churches and schools, annual banquets and a special meeting at camp meeting; one-to-three day excursions to scenic areas; overseas evangelism, and cultural and musical programs. The first voted upcoming activities for Alberta SAGE are: An introductory event with a banquet at noon on March 11, 2012 at the Lacombe Memorial Centre; a Mamawi Atosketan Project and a Spring work-bee at Foothills Camp.

We are looking for people(a single person or a couple) to be the SAGE representative in their local church, who will work with the senior members in their churches, publicize and promote Alberta SAGE activities to seniors. Church representatives appointed also attend the semi-annual SAGE ministry representative meeting. For more information on how to incorporate this exciting ministry into your church, contact Darlene Reimche darlene@albertasda.org or 403-342-5044 ext 206.

SAGE Committee

President – Victor Fitch

Vice President for Finance – Glen Brown

Vice President to coordinate local church Alberta SAGE Representatives - Bob and Marlene Holdal

Vice President for Building Projects - Alfred Breikreuz

Vice President for Public Relations - Ellen and Bob Bell

Secretary – Joyce Wasylyshen

Vice President for Travel - Keith Clouten

Vice President for Evangelistic Outreach - Pastor John Gilbert

Alberta Conference SAGE Coordinator - Darlene Reimche

Adventist Christian Radio Opportunity in Alberta

About 20 communities where Adventist churches are located in Alberta have the opportunity of establishing a VOAR—Voice of Adventist Radio—repeater station. Communities where an Adventist church is not located is also possible if some church wanted to reach out to a new community.

VOAR is an Adventist owned and operated radio station in Newfoundland. It is the oldest Christian Radio station in Canada. The Canadian Radio and Telecommunication Commission has approved VOAR programming for anywhere in Canada.

The determining factor as to which communities have openings for VOAR radio is whether the community is deemed “media deprived.” There is a formula involving the amounts of TV and Christian radio available to determine whether an opening for VOAR is possible. Usually, locations away from population centers are where the opening occurs.

VOAR radio features Christian music, Adventist content and Christian. It has been well received in many communities and created a new level of relationship between Adventists and other Christian communities. British Columbia has been very successful in establishing these stations (about 30 to date).

The Alberta Conference has invited the British Columbia team to help them with technology, equipment and coaching in establishing stations.

Once the station is established then marketing it and using it for outreach is vital. Nadine Crombie will be the coach to help churches take the steps to getting a station.

Watch for a DVD explaining about VOAR radio coming to your church early in the new year.

For inquires about a radio for your church contact:

Don Corkum, 403-275-5569 or dcorkum1@msn.com.



Church Planting in Alberta

Every church in Alberta was at one time a church plant! In the early years of our movement Church Planting and evangelism went hand in hand to expand and develop the work. You notice I used the word “movement” because that is how our pioneers understood the work of Seventh-day Adventists. The Adventist mission was to proclaim a message and prepare a people for Christ’s return.

We are told that the latter rain of the Holy Spirit is going to see more dramatic events for God than any time since the church started. Planting new churches will certainly be a part of this. So when we start new churches we are working in harmony with God’s plan for a finished work.

In the past five years about 20 new groups have been formed in Alberta.

Recently a new French speaking group has formed (see picture) and has established separate service from the parent church—the Bridgeland church in Calgary. The parent church has been very helpful to the development of this new work.

Each church needs to study and pray how to expand the work of God in their territory. This may begin with small groups, an evangelistic Bible study or a fellowship group. I am sure God would be honored to see church planting on the agenda of every church board and/or business meeting. -Don Corkum



The Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, exists to provide leadership, empowerment and hope to Pastors and members, equipping them to proclaim the everlasting gospel to all peoples in Alberta.

Empowering our pastoral team is of great importance to the Conference. The officers, along with the ministerial director have initiated ARMCo (Alberta Regional Ministerial Consultation), a process whereby administration invests quality time in coaching, counselling and encouraging pastors in progressive ministry. We had one-on-one dialogue with each pastor, and they shared their goals for their congregations, and it was an awesome experience to meet and learn more about the pastors.

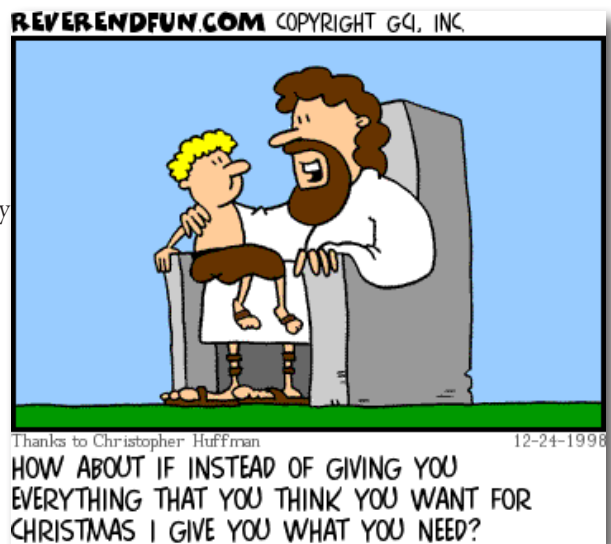
As of November 2011, we have had thirty-five evangelistic seminars conducted throughout the conference which resulted in hundreds surrendering their lives to Christ through baptism. Many more are still studying the bible and attending church in preparation for baptism. We praise God for the 262 baptisms and counting.

Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus within our communities is the mandate given to us from Christ, and to further the cause we have added to our Conference pastoral team, with some positions starting January 2012.

- Pastor Larry Wiedell - Wetaskiwin & Warburg
- Matthew Priesanti - Youth & Associate Pastor at Calgary Central
- Joseph Augustin - Youth Pastor at College Heights
- Andrew Butler - Youth & Associate Pastor at Edmonton South
- Pastor Brent Wilson - Chaplain at Chinook Winds Adventist Academy
- Pastor Ghenadie Girleanu - Beiseker & Strathmore
- Pastor Wallen O'Connor - Calgary Remnant & Calgary Sudanese
- Pastor Massiel Davila - Associate at College Heights
- Pastor Toby Wong - Smokey Lake & Boyle
- Pastor Brian Bechthold - Whitecourt, Edson & Peers
- Pastor Ian Bramble - Part-time at Millwoods & Edmonton North

2012 will be exciting because it has been earmarked this year as "Pentecost 2012 Fanning the Flame!" Our focus will be to encourage every congregation to be involved in some form of evangelism.

As we face the New Year let us face it with confidence in the Lord as our Leader and we as His followers. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 3 :13,14 "...Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God." God's blessing and have a merry Christmas and happy New Year. ~Pastor George Ali



Are you looking for a ministry and spiritual growth within the family? K.I.D. University is a ministry that focuses on life transformation that focuses on life transformation. K.I.D. University is a ministry that trains and equips parents, and children as well as mentors to be effective disciples and disciple makers. On November 2-6, 2011 a team consisting of Cynthia Campbell, Mildred Weiss, Katie Dost, Jessie Francis and Pastor Sandra Silva obtained K.I.D. University training- Train the Trainer. Now we have a team that is trained and certified to train other teams in your local churches and communities. This team will present to equip volunteer members in a life-transformational, experience-based training through presentations, modeling and live labs. Training attendees are taught how to use the K.I.D. curriculum and lead the interactive small groups. For more information, contact Pastor Sandra Silva at the Alberta Conference at 403-342-5044 ext. 216, or by email at ssilva@albertasda.org or www.kidsindiscipleship.org

Adventurers

FUN DAY

Wow! What an awesome Fun Day we had in October. We met at the CUC PE Complex in Lacombe, AB, and were blessed to be able to have the CUC Acronaires help us with our tumbling routines and gym games. Everyone enjoyed swimming as well in the pool. The day was a hit, even though it was rather frigid outside first thing in the morning. But, true to Alberta weather, it wasn't long before Mr. Sun rose and warmed us up by the time we were ready to say goodbye to our reunited friends for another year. Thank you so much Coach Levi for all your help and the lifeguards at the pool as well as the staff who were able to accommodate our needs when we needed them. We can't wait to see each of you again next year. . . *Donelle Clarke, Conference Coordinator, Adventurer Club Ministry*



STAFF TRAINING

What a wonderful opportunity it is for each Adventurer Club's staff and families to improve their knowledge of and open their minds to greater ideas for making this ministry the best it can be. This October staff and parents reunited at Foothills Camp to learn, be reminded of and brainstorm together to foster the growth and development of this ministry. This year we focused on ways to make our clubs safer against abuse of every kind, brainstormed ways of creatively teaching the curriculum and decided on the theme for our upcoming Family Campout in May of 2012. To be able to come together and learn and fellowship with like-minded people who are involved in this family ministry is a tremendous opportunity that one CANNOT miss if they are at all interested in helping families to grow their children in Christ. Each year we focus on different areas in new ways and learn and continue to grow together. It is my prayer that each club will continue they're support by sending as many staff/parents as possible to each year's



weekend training sessions. Thank you so much, each of you who were present, for putting your input into the brainstorming effort and being a part of achieving the goals we had laid out for the weekend. I look forward to seeing each of you and more next year. . . . *Donelle Clarke, Conference Coordinator, Adventurer Club Ministry*

We want to hear from you!

The *Alberta Adventist News* is wanting news articles of events happening in your church, school, or club. Please submit a brief news blurb and .jpg photos to the *Alberta Adventist News* via email info@albertasda.org. Submissions about baptisms, cooking schools, milestone wedding and birthday events, child dedications, and other events that would be of interest to the Alberta churches will be gladly accepted. Thank you.