

Alberta Adventist News

March, 2007

In Praise of Our Children

From the president

The first signs of spring are evident all around us—especially when you travel in rural Alberta. New calves are by their mother's side. Newly-born lambs are frolicking in the cold, still winter air. Already there are some fresh buds on the willows. Spring means newness of life in nature. I love this time of the year.



Even the air seems to me to have a new spring smell to it.

One of our nearby churches has had four babies born to families within it since Christmas. Other churches too have been blessed with new babies in their midst. How precious the gift of these new lives!

I have noticed that newborns get much attention and care.

Farmers and ranchers will be up all night assisting with a difficult birth. And then they will make sure the calf or lamb gets up and gets its first drink of its mother's milk. Its health is monitored and preventive vaccines administered all with the intent of ensuring good health. Human babies get not only parental care but the care of a professional pediatrician too. How the other close family members love to dote over them. We want the best for our babies! We want them to be comfortable, healthy and happy. We just love them so very much!

Our babies and our children need our care. Not only when they are newborns but long into the future. The church family can provide good support and encouragement for both the children and their parents. Long ago the wise man said, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). The church can be a real help with this training. It can offer interesting, well-planned, Bible-based Sabbath School programs from Cradle Roll right through Juniors, Earliteen, and Youth. Thirteenth Sabbath programs in which the children have an opportunity to contribute and participate will help the

children know that they are, indeed, a part of the church and at the same time develop their abilities to perform and speak before the public thus preparing them for leadership roles. Investment projects where they can see what God can do will reinforce their faith in their God and at the same time create an awareness of being of help to needy mission fields. (Hopefully Investment programs are not a forgotten element of our church life.) Where children are actively a part of our church programs they feel needed and wanted and cared for.

Christian education in the church school setting is a continuation of the care provided by the church. We want the best for our children and Christian education can provide the best Christ-centered education for them. With our diligent efforts, our prayers, and Christian education, both within the home and within the school, our children will rise to the level we expect of them.

Our children will make their own decisions in life as they grow older. These little babies we hold in our arms now and which are so dependent upon us will soon want to exercise their own independence. They will leave our homes and go out into the world to live on their own. They will make some choices and decisions that will make us proud of them and fill our hearts with joy. Regrettably some of their decisions will not merit our smile of approval. From our experience we will know that they are making some wrong choices which will bring them sadness and may even indicate a walk away from the God we have taught them about. Some of the things they may do may even seem to break our hearts. Just the same we can bask in the assurance that the God we love and serve continues to love them with a never-ending love so we too will continue to love them and pray for them.

Man must have been a disappointment to God when he sinned. Whether we like to admit it or not, we too often disappoint God when the things we do, do not indicate that He is first in our lives. We just want to do our

Continued on page 3

Tell Alberta
Tell Canada

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Glen Brown	Ron Sydenham
Melissa Brown	Ken Taylor
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Darlene Blaney	Health Ministries
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Lois Graham	Singles' Ministries
Evangeline Medavarapu	Prayer Ministries
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Nicole Sydenham	Women's Ministries
Brian Townsend	Men's Ministries

Alberta Adventist News

Marlene Holdal	Editor
Ruth Proud	Layout

Office Hours

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

Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

37541 Hwy 2

Red Deer County AB T4E 1B1

Phone (403) 342-5044

Fax (403) 343-1523

e-mail: marlene@albertasda.org

website: www.albertasda.org

Centennial History Book

Dear Fellow Believers:

It is my hope and earnest prayer that God has been so good to you and your family. The year 2007 is rapidly moving, and we at the Conference office are moving from one calendar event to another.

I am sure that by this time each family in the Alberta Conference has received at least one copy of the centennial book; *Lives Touching Lives*. As you turn the pages of this book you will be made aware of God's guidance and blessings through the years in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta.

Corrine Vanderwerff, Editor, Writer and Lead Researcher of this book, tried her best to gather historical information from church members and travelled to several places to interview many pioneers who are now scattered in Canada and the United States. We have received hundreds of pictures and many, many articles.

Ruth Proud, Layout and Design Editor, had the responsibility to place the articles and pictures that we had chosen to fit within the 160 pages that we had stipulated. As we made changes along in the process of preparing the book for publication, there were numerous changes, alterations, and shifting of pages, making the work a very challenging experience.

Marlene Holdal, Copy Editor, spent many, many long hours working with both Ruth and Corrine to make sure that the materials received were included in their proper places and that the records received were as accurate as possible. Changes had to be made to make sure that all the materials fit into the spaces available.

Members of the Editorial Committee lent leadership in making decisions on the direction that this book should go, and we are so thankful that the book was finished and printed within the centennial year.

We have received so many appreciative comments from those who have received copies of the book from all over Canada and the United States. We have also discovered that we have missed out many valuable data. We have found out that we even left out even the very obvious ones inadvertently.

We have left out the Mirror Church although we had the complete information, and we have left the names of Ernie and Linda Smith from the list of the original charter members of the Lacombe Community Church. I am sure we have several glitches here and there. We apologize for all these glitches and hope overall that you will be blessed as you read through the pages of this book and that your life may be touched by God's Holy Spirit and be inspired to serve Him more faithfully each day.

-Romulo Daquila, VP for Administration



The Mirror Church page insert in this issue of the AAN can be placed on the inside of the back cover of your centennial book simply by removing the adhesive strip. Thank you

own thing. Jesus told a story of a young man who wanted to leave home and do his own thing – live a life of fun. But it did not turn out as he had expected. He must have really disappointed his father. In that story it is quite obvious that the father never gave up hope for he was out there waiting for his son when the son came to his senses and returned home because the father saw him coming when the young man was still a long distance away. You can read the story in Luke 15:11-24.

We do not know what the future holds for our new babies – our children. But, we do know that God holds the future and loves them even more than we do. We do know that he has entrusted them to our care. We can only do the best in caring for them that we know how. However, we must constantly, as parents, and as church members, be vigilant in ensuring that they have the opportunity to learn to know the God that loves them. Our children are our church's future.



Tell Alberta Tell Canada

Searching for the

God of Grace

Stuart Tyner, Pastor for Family Ministries at the La Sierra University Church. There's a Glorious Treasure free, inexhaustible, valuable beyond measure, yet refused, ignored, trampled on, locked up and buried. Elder Tyner will explore the treasure we've struggled to accept.

Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church
Friday evening 7:30, April 6
Sabbath at 9:30, 10:45 at 3 pm and 4:30 pm Apr 7

Please come prepared to contribute to the fellowship dinner as well.

For more information call 403-887-2604

2006 Tithes and Offerings Report

The Lord is good! He has promised to bless us if we are faithful to Him. I believe we can see evidence of His blessing in 2006 as we have faithfully returned His tithe and have presented our offerings of love to Him.

2006 was a year that brought increases in all areas of giving in most churches. The total of the tithes from your increase and the offerings that you gave from a heart full of love and gratitude amounted to the following:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Tithe	\$10,734,617	14.24%
Sabbath School	\$ 334,794	24.11%
Missions	\$ 479,225	15.59%
Alberta Advance	\$ 373,842	19.18%

I am sure that many of you have experienced that you cannot out-give the Lord. It is a great feeling to see the Lord bless as we take Him at His Word and put Him to the test. If you have not experienced this I encourage you to take the step of faith and return to Him a faithful tithe. Trust Him.

On February 25 the Executive Committee for the Alberta Conference passed the budget for 2007. This budget is based on the giving patterns of 2006. We have endeavored to follow the Vision of the Conference which is "Every Member Faithful" as well as the Mission Statement "To Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by Serving, Teaching, and Preaching" in the creation of the budget.

By category, we are spending the portion of the tithe funds that the Alberta Conference receives in the following ways:

To Preach	\$ 5,466,391	57.7%
To Teach	\$ 2,349,703	24.7%
To Serve	\$ 1,655,838	18.6%

There are still many challenges that face the Alberta Conference in the months ahead. We have a committee that is studying the needs at Foothills Camp. As you well know there are areas like washrooms, lodging, and general upkeep of our facility that needs improvement so that we can use it to a greater capacity year around.

To better serve the churches in Alberta, the Executive Committee and a Visioning Committee have made recommendations that we have started to put in place in our budget for 2007. This will enable us to give better support to our churches and schools through manpower and resources.

I believe that as we go forward together to "Tell Alberta, Tell Canada" that exciting things are going to happen. May the Lord bless you as we partner together to finish the work here in Alberta. I'm anxious to go home, are you?

-Bob Holdal, VP for Finance

Seven in Seven in 2007

What have we here? What is Seven in Seven? "Seven in Seven is a simple plan to spread the gospel by encouraging each Seventh-day Adventist church member in North America to distribute **Seven** pieces of literature in **Seven** days in **2007**. It is jointly sponsored by the North American Division, Review and Herald, and Pacific Press." Even the date has been suggested. During seven days in **April, April 7-14**, each member is being encouraged to give out one piece of literature each day. We can give that daily piece of literature to a friend, an acquaintance, or a neighbour. We could just leave it at a laundromat, an office, or maybe even

in a phone booth, or on an airplane seat. Or, we could send it to someone in the mail. Use your own creative ingenuity. Do you think you could do your part by giving out one piece of literature each day for seven days? Yes, just one piece per day for seven days. Hopefully, of course, you will not want to stop there as it may be a good start for something you will want to continue. Ask your personal ministries leader or your pastor for your share of literature – just seven pieces.

God will reap where we have sown.

CONFERENCE OFFICE

New Employees



*Keith (Lorraine) Richter,
Associate VP for Finance*

PASTORS



*Michelle Angulo
Assistant, College Heights*



*Wallin O'Connor
Assistant, Calgary Garden Road*



*Ryan Hodgins
Assistant / Youth, Red Deer*



*Samuel & Angela Millen
Assistant, Edmonton South*



*Shawn & Denise Brummund and family
Edson / January Creek / Whitecourt*



*Dario and Kattlin, Sephora, Joshua and Kasmira St. Louis
Boyle / Lac La Biche / Smoky Lake*



*Dexter Smith
Assistant,
Edmonton West*

... more pastors

T E A C H E R S



*Lindsay Boucher
Gr 3-6, Peace Hills Adventist School*



*Anna Goltz,
Gr 5, Chinook Winds Adventist
Academy*



*Heidi Lehmann, Replacement Gr 1-8
Art, South Side Christian School*



*Andrea Leslie
Gr 4, Mamawi Atosketan
Native School*



*Angela Millen
Replacement Principal / Teacher, Peace Hills
Adventist School*

... more teachers



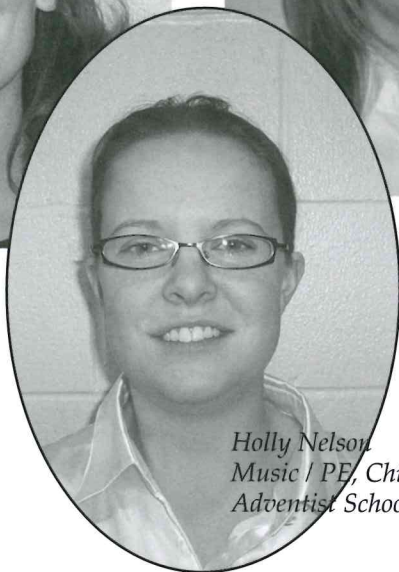
*Tamara Picknell
Replacement Gr 2-3,
Chinook Winds
Adventist Academy*



*Catherine Rosengren
Gr 1-2, Coralwood
Adventist Academy*



*Karen Schafer
ECS, Sylvan Meadows Adventist
School*



*Holly Nelson
Music / PE, Chinook Winds
Adventist School*

Tell Alberta Tell Canada

A Call to Prayer

On December 20, 2006, I was at the Calgary International Airport, standing in line to get my boarding pass for a flight to Orlando, Florida to attend a surprise 75th birthday party for a dear friend. I had an e-ticket; after standing patiently for several minutes, the woman at the counter said that the Denver Airport is closed due to a snow storm and that all flights are cancelled. I was told to go home and to call an 800 number to rebook my flight. However, if I did not arrive in Florida the next day, I would miss the whole purpose of my trip.

In that moment of desperation, I talked with God, and while I was praying I was impressed to call the 800 number before leaving the airport. Before I completed my first two sentences, the voice on the other end said in panic "What time is it?" When I gave the time in Calgary, she said, "A plane is leaving in the next 15 or 20 minutes to Orlando via Chicago. I can put you on that plane." Just like that! Within a few minutes I was on the plane and arrived in Florida within an hour of my original itinerary.

The news the following day showed that hundreds of travelers were stranded in different airports. As I thought about my experience, I said to myself, "What made me so special that day?"

I am sure we wonder sometimes why God answers our prayer immediately and sometimes we have to wait and still other times God seems to say a flat "No!" In my experience and I am sure it is all true with everyone, God truly knows what is best for us and He never withholds any good thing from us.

In January of this year, six local church coordinators and I were in Tucson, Arizona at the North American Division Prayer Conference. We were truly blessed. We came home ready to share our experiences with fellow prayer coordinators. We are holding a prayer coordinators' school of prayer at the Conference office on March 16-18, 2007. As we were looking in the Conference Directory to contact the prayer coordinators, we found out almost half of the churches in the Alberta Conference do not have prayer coordinators.

Dear pastors and church leaders, please appoint prayer coordinators in your churches. If there is a time when we need to connect with God, it is now. This is the time to encourage our members to answer the call to prayer. The time is short, the end is near, let us renew our commitment to prayer.

Our motto should be: Pray to Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is my earnest prayer that we all respond to God's call to prayer.

Evangeline Medavarapu, Volunteer Prayer Coordinator

At around 4:30 on the afternoon of Thursday, December 8, 2006, guests began to come into a room which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The tables were covered with white table cloth, there were ribbons in the centre, glass candle holders with lighted candles in them, beautiful flowers, and other decorations which created the festive mode. Members from four of the churches in the Central Region positioned themselves to serve the arriving guests a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Music was in the air, there were smiling faces of the guests expressing gratitude to be invited to be a part of this celebration.

There were no personal invitation given but two posters pasted in strategic places and about 200 guests came. It seemed that the word-of-mouth invitation did very well. No one was dressed for the banquet – everyone came as they were from the streets of Red Deer.

Every guest was satisfied and left with gratitude to God and to all those who made it possible to enjoy a Christmas celebration.

This event took place on property that was purchased by the Central Alberta Community Services Centre. Funding for this centre came from ADRA National Program, Inner City Fund from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, The Alberta Conference Building Fund, and from four of the churches in the Central Region namely: College Heights, Lacombe Community, Red Deer, and Sylvan Lake.

The Centre, which is located at 5014 - 49 Street in downtown Red Deer, under the leadership of Millie Snow, with the help of the members of the management



A Banquet with a Difference

committee and volunteers from the local churches, has provided weekly meals to the homeless since it opened its door to the public on May 1, 2006.

Since the beginning of September when the cold weather came, the Centre has also participated in the "In from the Cold" program. When the temperature goes to minus 21 degrees C, the homeless could no longer survive outside a heated building, a place must be provided for them to sleep during the night.

At first, the social services providers of the city requested that the Centre participate at least once a week. Since December 2006, the Centre is open seven days a week. The Centre provides between 12 to 35 sleeping spaces each night. Heartfelt appreciation is in order for all the members who volunteered in one way or another to make this project successful. The "In from the Cold" will continue to the end of April.

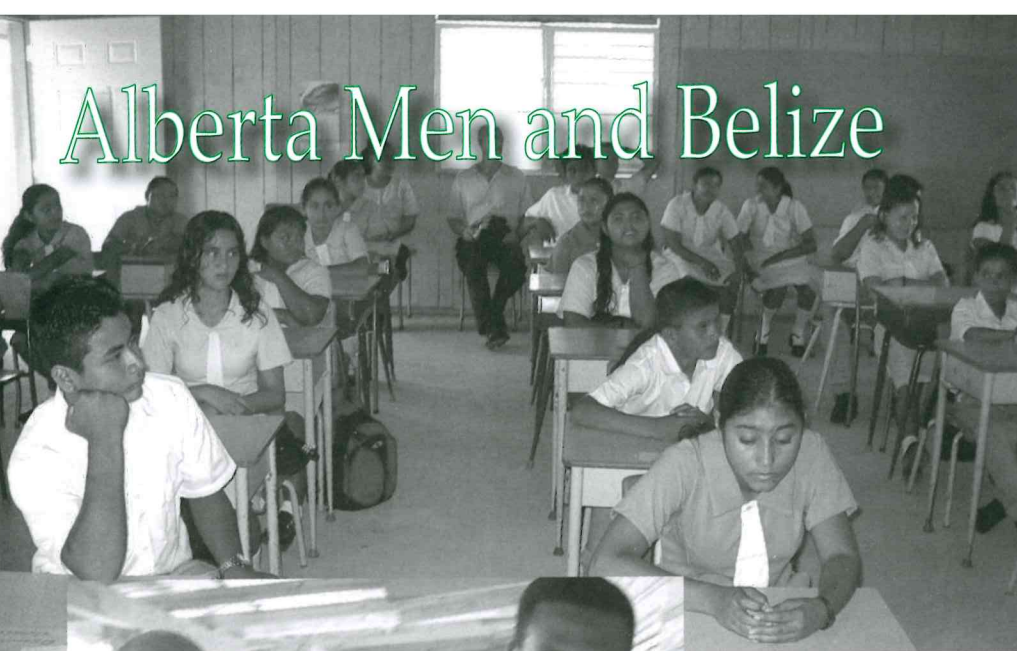
-Romulo Daquila



Millie Snow, Leader and Coordinator, receives a big thank you from guests.



Alberta Men and Belize



Orientation Day, Sep 4, 2006



Belize Conference President Earnel Scott and Valley of Peace Pastor James Brown at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Alberta Men's Ministries and the volunteers who have helped over the last four years are celebrating again.

We have all worked long and diligently for this moment and now that it is here—an opportunity to do something for God is quickly turning into a privilege. Using the word *privilege* allows one to choose whether or not they want to be involved. If we consider working for the Lord as an obligation, we have not yet found the joy of service!

As we look back at the reasons for sacrifice and preparation, perspiration and travel, camaraderie and progress, all who had a vital part in this project to date can symbolically see our God providing a 'cloud for shade during the day and a source of warmth by night.' To be honest, the Lord even 'parted some waters just when we needed a path.' Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

The greatest display of our 'blood, sweat and tears' turning into good and something that someone can benefit from, was when we saw the students arriving at our *Mount Olives Christian Academy* on the morning of September 4, 2006. Even though the students had helped the school staff and AMEN Ministries prepare for school opening a couple of days before school started, there was no greater joy

than seeing the cherubs arriving that first morning. And their uniforms! – What a beautiful outward sign of unity! They actually looked like an army.

Only 20% of our students have Adventist roots, but most of the students have Christian values. Many faiths are at work in the community. We have a tremendous opportunity to share the *Good News* of Christ's soon return while training these 'diamonds in the rough' to be productive citizens here and now.

We must tell you about our staff at *Mount Olives*. The principal, Fausto Cabanas, is a brother from *Valley of Peace* who drove many miles every morning for many years to the school

he taught at many miles away. To have this school is his own back yard is a dream come true. His wife, Magdalena, is also on the staff and a vital resource to the female population of the Valley and the school. Brother Eric from Pennsylvania, came to Belize as a student missionary, stayed, and helped us build a little, and then found a beautiful Belizian to share his life with. The real miracle of our staff is the arrival of Dale and Tammy Burns from Pierceland, Saskatchewan with their two young daughters, Kaylee and Leah and their dog *Spot*. The local people cannot believe a dog can be trained so well and behave so nicely. Truly, *Spot* is a missionary too.

I called Dale the other day to see how things were going, and he couldn't believe the kids could be so well behaved. He really believes we have done the right thing by building a school in this community. Over half of our kids would get no high school education if it were not for *Mount Olives*. Last

The government of Belize has given us a license to open a high school, including grade 9, in the valley of Peace, which started in the fall of 2006!

but not least, is our school secretary. She is a shy 16-year old, but handles the computer and her secretarial duties like a

pro. What a blessing to be part of this agency of redemption. God has given us abundant opportunities to live and share and go for Him. Let's not dismiss this occasion to "stand like the brave."

As we left to return home after the opening of *Mount Olives*, the weight of our next steps will be significant. The day-to-day operations of the school are costing us twice as much as we had planned. A new government law says that a teacher can only teach two core subjects. That is why we have four teachers for 31 students. If we can continue to operate this school we will be most blessed. We will not need any more teachers for next year's school program which will be another blessing. Plans are firmly in place for our 2007 building program – the addition of Grade 10 in September, another container will be leaving in March 2007 with more building materials and school supplies, and our volunteers are stepping up for another demonstration of unconditional loving.



Dale and Tammy Burns with daughters Leah and Kaylee

Here is how you can help!

1. Remember our *Mount Olives Christian Academy* in your devotions and prayers. The minute you place yourself between the devil and our brothers and sisters, the adversary becomes very angry. Not everything is smooth sailing. The great controversy is still alive in the *Valley of Peace*. The name of the village can be misleading!
2. We welcome your willingness to help pour concrete, fabricate walls, wire light fixtures, install roofing, hang eaves troughs, and provide drainage and flower beds.
3. We need financial assistance. Your contributions to AMEN Ministries, marked "Belize VOP" and sent to the Alberta Conference will see to it that we are prepared for Grade 10 in the fall of 2007. A charitable receipt will follow. Call Irma at 403-342-5044 or e-mail irma@albertasda.org to get guidelines and inspiration about how you could help.

God bless your planning.

-Brian Townsend, AMEN Ministries

The youth are excited about their Pathfinder Club.



Generous Alberta Donors Provide . . .

A “Shopping Mall” at Mamawi Atosketan Native School

Julie Bancarz, Principal



The air was full of excitement at Mamawi Atosketan Native School on December 19, 2006 as students examined the multitude of gifts that generous individuals had donated for the students to give to their family members for Christmas. In early December, when the staff pondered how to make Christmas extraordinary for these special children and their families, the thought came to have a “shopping mall.” Planning was the easy part—staying on top of the countless number of phone calls for pickup was the difficult part, but all the donations were collected. There are no words to adequately express the appreciation of staff and students for the enormous generosity of Alberta church members and friends.

On December 18th all the goodies were brought to the gym, tables were set up and many of the Junior High students began the huge task of sorting through the gifts and organizing everything so that December 19th would go smoothly when all the other students joined them to do their “Christmas shopping.” The staff thought that the students would need to be supervised, but as it turned out, the students happily engaged the staff as they looked through items saying, “Remember when?” or “Remember this?”

Donors did not just give inanimate objects. They gave smiles, squeals of delight, an abundance of energy, and an experience of bonding that could not be accomplished in any other way. This was an experience that did not involve “me, me, me.” Not once was a child heard to say, “I wish that were mine,” or “I’ll get that for me.” It was all about everyone else: *kokums* (grandmothers), *mossums* (grandfathers), mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters. The list could go on, but the point is, it was for everyone but the students themselves.

Those who donated gifts not only gave to the students but also to the staff. Around Christmas it is hard to keep up with everything going on, and the stresses of dealing with problems and issues that come to school with some Mamawi students are often overwhelming. But for these two days these children were just that, children! Too many, Mamawi students deal with too many adult issues on a day-to-day basis, and to see them being goofy, trying things on, playing with the toys and different items brought tears to the eyes of staff and smiles to their faces. They were priceless moments that, unfortunately, are too few and far between.

One of several parents called to say "Oh, you sent my kids home with so much stuff for Christmas!! I can hardly see my tree anymore. I can't believe what you did for us!" There are 11 people living in this house and needless to say, funds are low and Christmas was not looking so good.

Mission fields are often thought of as being far away in countries across the oceans and thousands of miles from our own back yard. The truth of the matter is, there is a mission field right here in Alberta. Many Mamawi students and their families were looking forward to a very dismal Christmas. Thanks to an avalanche of gifts from gracious contributors, they had a joyful Christmas instead.

Mamawi Atosketan Native School, located near the Hobbema Reserve in Central Alberta, is the only First Nations Adventist school in Canada. It is an outreach of the Alberta Conference Constituency to over 150 First Nations children and their families. Grade 7 Teacher Kelly Dreger put the school's mission in perspective in the school's fall 2006 newsletter. She wrote:

"We are part of the evangelistic team of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as we bring Jesus to the First Nations people in our own country. Your prayers and funds not only make this evangelistic mission possible, they also go toward Christian Education and the First Nations leaders of tomorrow. Thank you."

For more information or to make a donation, please call Principal Julie Bancarz at 403-783-4362.



One method of support for Mamawi Atosketan Native School is the \$240 Club — Donors who contribute \$240 per year or \$20 per month. Please consider joining this mission outreach by completing the form below:

Yes, I (or We) want to join the \$240 Club to help Mamawi Atosketan Native School:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____

_____ \$240 (or more \$), Enclosed OR

_____ \$20 (or more \$), Per Month

_____ Cheque or Post-dated cheques enclosed.

_____ VISA or Master Card Number _____

_____ / _____
Name on Card

Expiry Date

Cardholder Signature _____

Please Mail to _____

Mrs. Julie Bancarz, Principal
Mamawi Atosketan Native School
RR2, Ponoka, AB T4J 1R2

Thank you for sharing Jesus with First Nation Children

Camp Meeting Music

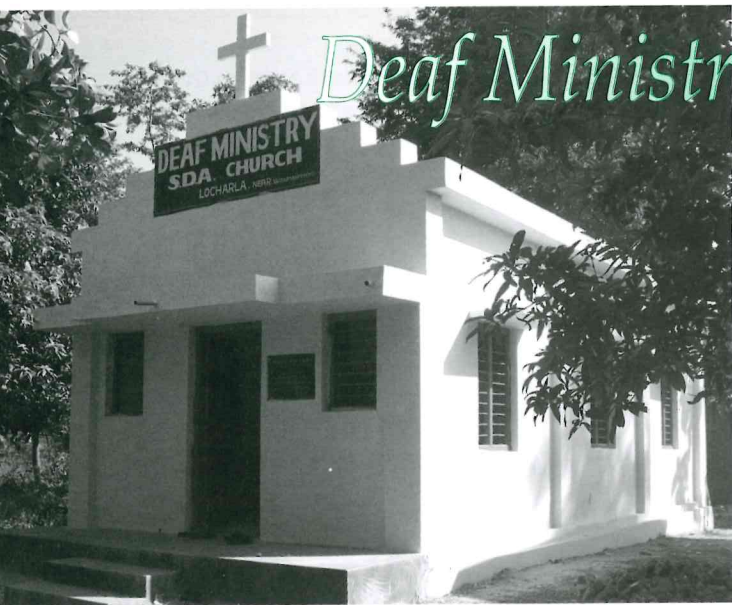
Would you be willing to be a part of the music program at the 2007 Camp Meeting July 6-14?

Song leaders, organists, pianists, vocal / instrumental soloists and groups, evening mini-concerts, are needed to add that special blessing to the camp meeting program.

If you can help, please phone Trudie Comm, Camp Meeting Music Coordinator, at (780) 532-6411 as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

There will be a Camp Meeting choir and orchestra. Please contact Harald Zinner at 780-922-1190 or hgzinner@primus.ca for music and/or information. Also regional rehearsals for Edmonton and College Heights, as well as possibly Calgary, are being planned for late May and June.

Deaf Ministries India Report



↑ This is the only second church we know of ever built just for deaf in the Adventist Church. It is at Locharla in Central India and was provided with funding from Alberta.

Pastor John Blake, Coordinator for Deaf Ministries, recently spent almost one month in India covering 11 areas where there are Gospel Outreach workers for the deaf sponsored from both the US and Canada.

-Pastor John Blake



↑ Here Pastor Blake is seen speaking in Thanjavour, where the first Adventist Church in the world was built with funding from Canada. Blake is speaking and the local pastor (left) is translating into the local sign language, while the Conference Secretary is translating into the Tamil language. By the time he finished speaking on Sabbath, his throat was so sore he could only speak softly by the ear of the translator.



↓ This is a sewing school for deaf girls in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India. The girls attend for nine months and then can take home their treadle sewing machine to earn a living. Santhosi, a burn victim, is badly scarred, but is the teacher and does beautiful embroidery work as well. Some of the girls also later become members.

↑ This is where the fourth church for the deaf will be built at Pedabondapalli, Central India. Funding for this church has also come from Alberta. The lady on the left is the young widow, Mrs. Kruparao, of the pastor who did so much to help foster the deaf group in this area. She is now left with a large medical debt and funeral expenses.



Anniversaries

60th Wedding Anniversary

Dr. Wilford and Anne (Krause) Tetz of Lacombe recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on December 29, 1946 in the Canadian Union (now University) College Chapel and left



for Loma Linda, California where Wilf took his medical training and got his M.D. from what was then the College of Medical Evangelists. Anne worked in the accounting office of the Medical School.

After Wilf graduated in June 1951, they returned to Edmonton where

he did his internship at the University of Alberta Hospital. After finishing that, they returned to Lacombe where they served the medical needs of the community for the next 45 years.

They enjoy living near Canadian University College where their children attended elementary, high school, and college. Their local church, college, and conference activities have been a large part of their family's involvements through the years.

The Tetz had six children: Beverly (Fred) How of Loma Linda, CA; Carol Lynn (Glen) Rick of Aldergrove, BC; James (Shirley Gimbel) of Beiseker, AB; Gerald (Karen Kay) of Portland, OR; Jack (R.J.)(Cindy Tomlinson) of Edmonton, AB; Douglas (deceased 1992)(Deborah Lang). Debby lives in Calgary, AB. They have 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

45th Wedding Anniversary

On February 21 Ed and Judy Knox celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They married when Ed was 19 and Judy was 17. They have four children and eleven



grandchildren. They reside in Coalhurst where Ed is busy being the mayor of a growing town.

Fifteen years ago they celebrated their 30th anniversary at the Lethbridge Church of Chimes (their home church where Judy has been the church clerk for over 14 years) with over 250 guests in attendance. Ed felt Judy didn't get the wedding she deserved so he made their 30th very special for her.

Ed and Judy had their share of illnesses throughout their life but never so much as the past couple of years. So, making it to their 45th anniversary to celebrate it together is not only one of God's many miracles He had in store for them but also His gift. It's a gift they both appreciate with thanks to their Father. They look forward to their 50th, the Lord willing, they will celebrate it together.

50th Wedding Anniversary



Allen Fowler and Airlie Edwards were married in the front room of the Fowler home in the little community of Silver Creek, BC, just outside of Salmon Arm, where they both grew up. Rev. A. O. Clements of the United Church of Canada performed the ceremony. They joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church a year later. Allen joined the BC Forest Service and planned this as his career. However, this came to an end when he refused to work on the Sabbath. Allen and Airlie prayed that the Lord would show them His plan for their lives.

The Fowlers began their life-long service with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1966 when they accepted a call from Elder Kaytor and moved their young family from the mountains of Beaver Valley, BC to the bald prairie of Swift Current, SK, where Allen became the teacher for the local church school. There were seven students, and school was held in the church basement.

Continued on the next page



Another highlight of the weekend was the presentation of a service award and thank you to Carol Morton for her service over the last 11 years as the Conference Pathfinder Coordinator. Bob Holdal, Conference Treasurer, was there to make the presentation. Carol decided to step down last year from the position in order to focus on being a local Pathfinder with her granddaughter. We wish her the best as she continues to serve her local Pathfinder club.

The Pathfinder Winter Retreat was held on February 2-4, 2007. We had a wonderful weekend that was filled with fun and fellowship for the Pathfinders. The attendance was great this year, with 149 Pathfinders attending, including our newest club from the Smoky Lake Church. The weekend was centered on God's love for each of us. Our speaker

for the weekend was Steve Varro. Steve is a Christian Illusionist (he is Adventist). He has an amazing ministry in which he uses slight of hand tricks to amaze the kids and get their attention and then share with them about Jesus' love and sacrifice for them.

-Richard Williams, Youth Director

The Fowlers / Continued from the last page

The next year the school had more students and moved into a small white schoolhouse in the middle of a stubble field, and Airlie was delegated as the school teacher. Allen went on to raise funds for the construction of the Adventist nursing home in Swift Current.

In 1967 the family moved to Alberta where Allen raised funds for the construction of the Sherwood Park Nursing Home (now the Sherwood Park Care Center) and later served as its administrator for 17 years. Airlie worked alongside Allen wherever she was needed – as cook, head of laundry, and finally as Allen's secretary/receptionist. The years at Sherwood Park Nursing Home and the early years of the Sherwood Park Church hold some of the best memories of Allen and Airlie's lives.

In 1986 Allen and Airlie realized a life-long dream when they accepted a call to serve the Lord as missionaries. Allen became the administrator of Karachi Adventist Hospital in Pakistan, Kanye Adventist Hospital in Botswana, and Mwami Adventist Hospital in Zambia. Allen was also the Director for ADRA Zambia where he developed and implemented the *Child Alive* program to provide pre-natal and infant care to rural mothers and babies. Airlie was as involved in missionary work as Allen – she kept the busy 'Fowler Hotel' in order, took care of secretarial work, taught elementary school and Bible and English classes, and supervised food distribution to refugees. Though they missed family and familiar surroundings, Allen and Airlie dedicated their lives to the Lord's work and thoroughly enjoyed their

missionary years. They made many wonderful friends and touched many lives. Allen's signature look of a black cowboy hat and cowboy boots became a legend in the areas where they worked.

In 1998, after 12 years overseas, Allen and Airlie returned to Canada. Allen became administrator of Sunnyside Adventist Care Centre in Saskatoon. Life had come "full circle" as they came back to Saskatchewan, where they began their careers with the church.

In 2002 the Fowlers retired and returned to their home in Sherwood Park. They praise God for His leading throughout their church ministry. The missionary spirit still burns in their hearts. They are actively involved with ADRA-ASI in the collection and distribution of used hospital equipment and supplies for the third world.

On February 3, Allen and Airlie, accompanied by their granddaughters, arrived in a white limousine at the Fairmont MacDonald Hotel in Edmonton where family and life-long friends surprised them with a lovely dinner and enjoyed an evening of "toasting and roasting" their 50 years together. The Fowlers have three daughters: Lorna (Robin) Brekkas of Fort St. John, BC; Dr. Barbara (Gerry) Chipeur of Calgary, AB; Vivian (David) Grinde of Holden, AB. They have five granddaughters: Krista and Erica Fowler, Stephanie and Lauren Chipeur, and Leanne Grinde.

-Lorna Brekkas

Are you an M.D. or R.N.?

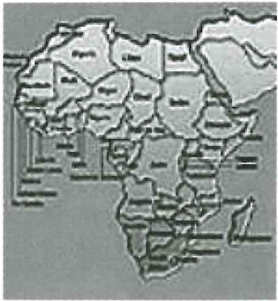
Foothills Camp needs you—doctors or nurses who are willing to come and provide medical care to our campers and staff. There are five (5) weeks available for anyone willing to come serve Jesus and the kids with your skills. If you are interested, please call Irma Hartley or Richard Williams at 403-342-5044 as soon as possible to book your week.

Local Church News

Edmonton Central

African Day - December 9th, 2006

Edmonton Central Church was the setting for a weekend of spiritual insight on how Canada and Alberta in particular was involved in the spiritual growth, culture and customs of the African people, as they celebrated the "Full Cycle: 100 Years of Adventism in Kenya & the Canadian Contribution."



Guest speakers for the weekend were Pastor Sammy & Dinah Ngetich. Originally from Kenya, Pastor Sammy and his wife met while attending the

University of Eastern Africa in Eldoret, Kenya where they both graduated with Bachelors Degrees. They then attended Andrews University in Michigan and both graduated with a Masters of Arts Degree in Community Counseling.

Pastor Sammy pastored in Kenya for 10 years before moving to the US. They have three children (two girls and a boy) and currently reside in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Topics for the weekend were: "Who Switched Dating and Courtship?" "Navigating the Frontier of Love," "Full Cycle -100 Years," "Where are the



Baby Dedication December 9, 2006

Pastor Diulu Meza dedicated Julian Mandla, son of Sandra Moraa and Sidney Muchekeza to the Lord Jesus. (Julian's parents are from Toronto, ON). Maternal grandparents are Charles & Beatrice Ghattuba of Edmonton, Alberta; Paternal grandparents are Julius & Gertrude Muchekeza of Zimbabwe. Shown in picture: Pastor Meza holding Julian with mom (Sandra) looking on.

Men?" "Celebrating Love in a Foreign Culture," "Opening the Secret African Love Potion."

A feast fit for a king followed the Divine Service and featured the delights of African cuisine. Much to the delight of those in attendance were the "National dress" worn by our brothers and sisters from all parts of Africa.

A wonderful weekend of fellowship and praise to a God who supplies all our needs and blessings.

Baby Dedication December 23, 2006

(l-r) Parents Eustache & Esperance Musafili and Baby Egide Mwambali, born April 24, 2006; Parents Joseph & Godlieve Bwasisi and Baby Casta Isaro, born May 16, 2006; Parents John & Elisabeth Wesley and Baby Liam William Wesley, born September 6, 2006.



Edmonton Filipino Company Organized



On February 17, 2007, the Edmonton Filipino SDA group was officially organized as a company. More than 350 friends and co-believers from the Edmonton Adventist churches, as well as members from the Sherwood Park, St. Albert, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge churches joined in the celebration of this special day. Pastor Romulo Daquila, the Alberta Conference Vice President for Administration was the main service speaker.

A brief history of the Filipino group was given by Ben Barboza and he indicated that there are four factors that contributed to the formation of what we know now as Edmonton Filipino SDA Company:

1. Formation of the Filipino Sabbath School class at Edmonton Central.
2. Officers were elected; various activities were conducted (hosting fellowship dinners, camping, etc.)
3. Pastor John Wesley introduced a Sabbath Service focused on Philippine Independence Day where non-Adventist Filipino friends were invited.

4. The Edmonton Filipino group was in charge for the first annual Fil-Can SDA of Alberta camp meeting under the able leadership of Pastor Daquila.

A signing ceremony was part of the Sabbath service, and the first one to sign was Pastor John Wesley, being the senior pastor of Edmonton Central Church and is the "mother church" of this new company. Overall, there were 60 members who signed their names.

Pastor Daquila challenged the members to be united in faith and share the good news to everyone, particularly to the Filipino community in Edmonton where there are about 40,000.

The company choir gave a special music and the company Anklung ensemble (bamboo instruments) performed the closing song. A fellowship lunch followed.

The new company is renting the Kirk United Church across the street from Coralwood Adventist Academy.

-Jocelyn Adante, Communication Secretary

The Anklung ensemble (bamboo instruments) performed the closing song.



Leduc



(l-r) Nadine and Terry, Billy-Jean and Elvin, Bill Olson, Pastor James Rooney

Saturday evening, December 16, 2006, the Leduc Church members gathered to celebrate the season at their annual Christmas Banquet. After a lovely meal and a little program of music, history, and poetry, Pastor James Rooney of the Leduc Church wanted to show special recognition to a family who were inspirational in coordinating the renovations to the Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church. Elvin & Billi Jean Ferster and Terry & Nadine Ferster were very influential in the new and improved changes to the sanctuary. Many donations were made

—from carpet, new doors, and labour. Every corner of the renovations the Spirit of the Lord was felt as He led people to give of their time or money. President Bill Olson was present at the banquet and personally thanked the Fersters for their hard work, their dedication and love for the Leduc Church. Many late nights were spent to finish projects before the weekend so church could resume with little disruption. A very special thank you to a caring and loving family!

-Rayette Hetland

Peace River

According to Health Canada the number one disease in our country is hardening of the arteries—atherosclerosis. But according to Dr. Hans Diehl, the number one disease is hardening of the *attitudes*. That is one reason why the Peace River Seventh-day Adventist Church believes so strongly in the Coronary Heart Improvement Project. It is simply one of the best ways to break down the hardened attitudes many people have towards healthful living and its connection to spiritual growth.

Under the direction of Beverly Tailleux, 25 members registered for our second CHIP program choosing “to be healthy by choice, not by chance.” The program ran four nights a week for one month. Every night there were exciting cooking demonstrations and food samples. The attendees logged over 1400 kilometres during their exercise routines,

and many great friendships were started. Since our first CHIP program, one new member has been baptised and joined the church. We are thankful to God for His health message that helps people to have a more abundant life and for His positive way of bringing them to the truth through the CHIP program.

-Pastor David Beaudoin

CHIP Graduates



Lethbridge

If anyone has knowledge of how to get in touch with Debra (Deb) Gormley, please contact the clerk of the Lethbridge Church at 403-388-4478 or email jaknox@shaw.ca Thank you.



The Lethbridge "Church of Chimes" was a happy scene on February 10, 2007, as Tiffany Brooke Atnip was baptized and welcomed into the family of God. Tiffany was baptized as a Latter-day Saint, by immersion when she was eight years old. This time she knows why she is being baptized—because she loves the Lord.



Six people were baptized in 2006 (l-r): Steven Reimer, Eva Klassen, Neil Klassen (and baby- Adam Samuel Klassen), Cecil Sherret, Jason Holt, Sean Leys and Pastor Mike Lemon.

Also, on that same day three tiny tots were dedicated to Jesus (l-r): Aline and Baby Nicole Atwok Aleng; Eva, Neil and Baby Adam Klassens; Pastor Mike Lemon; Dee Thomas (member) holding Baby Hannah Schmidt; Hannah's Grandma Joan Hanson (member); and Mom Lori Schmidt.

-Judy Knox & Pastor Mike Lemon

Ryley

Tell Alberta Tell Canada



The Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated their Christmas Eve Sabbath service with a re-birth. Pastor Bob Burke had the pleasure of baptizing Chyanne Grinde at an afternoon candlelight service.

Pastor Burke and Chyanne had studied for close to a year before he and Chyanne felt that she was ready to take the last step in her walk with Christ. It was a Christmas Eve service that will be remembered by the Ryley Church family for a long time!

Red Deer

Baptisms November 18, 2006



Shaelyn Thompson and Pastor Ryan Hodgens



Taylor Steinke and Pastor Ryan Hodgens



Sierra Smith and Pastor Ryan Hodgens



Tyson Douglas Thompson (age 7, dedicated) and his mother Jody Thompson



Baby / Child Dedications November 18, 2006 (l-r) Charles, Markell, Sarah and Andrew (age 1 ½ mos, dedicated) Moss; Doyle and Rachel (age 5, dedicated) Steinke; Ty Razor (age 3, dedicated); Heather Thomas; Taylor Steinke; Jody Steinke; Jonathan Razor (age 4, dedicated); Pastor Ian Hartley

Sherwood Park

The annual Sherwood Park Church Fireside Tea sponsored by the local Women's Ministries featured Linda Nawalkowski as speaker and provided a cozy evening of friendship, tea, and inspiration for the church women.

A Friday evening event, the tea this year was held on January 26 at Wendy Kutzner's home and was coordinated by Melanie Wortman, Women's Ministries co-director. During tea time, Melanie shared some of the finer points about teas, pointing out that different brands are known for specific qualities and strength of flavour and that steeping instructions should be carefully followed – for when a tea is steeped too long the impurities inherent in the leaves will leach into the brew. Linda's talk centred around the importance of women developing and maintaining friendships with other women.

"It was a very lovely evening," one of the newer church members remarked afterwards. "It is because of the women who were there and their friendship and caring that I have stayed with this church."

Following the practice that has become part of the fireside tea weekend tradition, Linda also spoke for divine service. Enlarging on her sermon title "Three Score and Ten—Then What?" she emphasized the importance of planning ahead for retirement for those who are younger and challenged the more senior listeners to maximize their retirement opportunities, and cautioned everyone to live to the fullest in the here and now.

Because working couples will suddenly find themselves in the house 24 / 7, she underscored their need to plan ahead so they individually will be easy to live with. She also gave these seven suggestions that will help ensure that there is "life after retirement:"

1. Work on present relationships and develop healthy communication skills—including the ability to listen.
2. Cultivate friendships with those of your own age—then you'll have a peer group when you retire.
3. Cultivate friendships among younger people. They'll be there to stimulate your imagination – and perhaps have children who need surrogate grandparents.

4. Develop hobbies. This is especially important for those who do physical work. Some hobbies may cost money, so plan ahead for that, too.
5. Find people who "need" you – seniors, shut-ins, church members who become ill, and others who need company.
6. When you do retire, volunteer. Offer your skills, expertise, and energy to groups such as RCMP Victims Services, hospitals, schools, animal hospitals, library, or other boards, churches, or other organizations.
7. Never neglect physical exercise.

Linda recounted that as a teenager she told her mother, "When I'm 40 I want to die; I don't want to be a burden to anybody." Now, she and her husband Caesar, both retired teachers, live in Ponoka where they are "retreaded" volunteers for church and other community organizations.

-Corrine Vanderwerff

MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL is looking for a mature individual to fill the position of teacher's aide starting immediately. Position will or email open until a suitable applicant is found so please apply as soon as possible. Duties would include a variety of activities including breakfast and lunch preparation, supervision, reading groups and a flexible character. Please fax resume to Julie at 403-783-3839.

PARKVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY Applications are being accepted for a Science / Math teacher for September 2007. Submit resumes to Tony Reeves, 5505 College Avenue, Lacombe, T4L 2E7; or treeves@cauc.ca. Call 403-782-3381 xt 4112 for more information. Closing date: March 28.



Smoky Lake

Smoky Lake Group

Lay Training

Blithering cold weather conditions and abhorrent driving conditions – nothing could stop more than 50 people from attending a lay-training program hosted by the Smoky Lake Church. The lay-training program was sponsored by the Quiet Hour on November 18, 2006, and members of the Smoky Lake Church and its sister churches Boyle and Lac La Biche attended. In keeping with the Booth Camp evangelism spirit, Pastor Dario St. Louis, the pastor for all the churches, invited Pastor Roy West, president and speaker of the Quiet Hour. He presented a

six-hour-packed program on giving successful Bible studies, how to properly conduct a visit, the importance of prayer, and how to lead a soul to Jesus. The first three-hour session began after an enjoyable fellowship dinner on Sabbath afternoon; and a delicious breakfast was served on Sunday morning before the last three-hour session was presented. Pastor West brought with him a wealth of knowledge, experience, and innovative ideas that inspired a great deal of enthusiasm and the participants. Our sincere and profound thanks to Pastor Roy West!

-Cindy Yarosloski

Baptisms

January 13, 2007 was a high day in the Smoky Lake Church when five youth and one young adult declared publicly in the presence of 113 people their love and their commitment to Jesus by going to the watery grave of baptism. One of the young people, Katrina Rebsomen was baptized by her grandfather, retired but active Pastor Daniel Rebsomen, who was also the speaker for the day. That Sabbath was marked with an atmosphere of joy and celebration without precedent. Their testimony had such an impact on the non-Adventist witnesses that a few of them requested pastoral visitation. Pastor Dario is optimistic that the interest that was stimulated on that day will yield to Bible studies and subsequent baptisms. This great event was the result of the church family's commitment to fulfilling the Gospel commission given to them by the Lord and the love and perseverance of the Youth Leader, Audrey Trenchuk, who took upon herself the responsibility of conducting a baptismal class for the young people in the absence of pastoral staff. The transition was made easy for Pastor Dario to work along the side of the youth leader to finalize their preparation for that great event.

-Pastor Dario St Louis



Pastor Dario baptizes Brant Rebsomen as Sisters Donna Rae and Katrina and Grandfather Pastor Rebsomen witness this special event

(l-r) Church Elders Kevin Trenchuk, Thomas Meier, Adrian Trenchuk and Esther Hackenberg with Baptismal Candidates Leanna Schwab, Brant Rebsomen, Donna Rae Rebsomen, Rebecca Schmidt, Katrina Rebsomen, Kasmira St. Louis, and Pastor Dario St. Louis



Sylvan Lake



Following months of practice, the Sacred Massed Choir performed the cantata "One Small Child" in early December, 2006 at the Sylvan Lake Adventist Church. This was the 19th annual inter-church sacred Christmas concert.

Memories

Ceferino Bautista passed away January 22, 2007 in Edmonton at the age of 82. He is survived by his loving wife Felisa Bautista; sons Philip (Emy) of Philippines, Nehemias (Erlinda) of Edmonton, William (Edna) of Toronto, ON; daughters Rebecca (Gideon) Elevazo of California, Minda of Philippines, Elvira (Steve) Marshall of Edmonton; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Bautista was a member of the Edmonton Central Church.

Joao (John) Raposo Borges passed away February 6, 2007 in Edmonton at the age of 79 years. He will be remembered by his loving wife Maria do Carmo; daughter Maria (Tony) Huether of Edmonton; son John (Maureen) Borges of La Crete; his grandchildren Terri (Brendon) Turner, Christopher Bachinski, Tyler and Zachary Borges; sister Maria Claudio of Calgary; sisters-in-law Rosa Borges and Elizia Borges; and numerous family and friends. Mr. Borges was a member of the Edmonton Central Church.

Clifford Johnson was born October 17, 1918 in Gwynne and passed away January 9, 2007 in Gwynne. He is survived by his loving wife Marina (Simonson) Johnson; sons Myrl (Kay) of Vancouver, WA, and Philip (Loretta) of Gwynne; daughter Caroline (Ken) Taylor of Gwynne; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mr. Johnson's passion for music, his interest in people, and his love for his

Lord has made a significant impact upon his community. Mr. Johnson was a member of the Conference Church.

Dorothy May Roper was born December 12, 1913 and passed away January 20, 2007 in Edmonton. She was predeceased by her husband Ernest, son Bill, grandson Don, sister and brother-in-law Eva (Maurice) Carriere. She is survived by sons Don (Adeline) and Bruce Roper; daughters Judy (Jim) McKay, Beryl (Clarence) Grosso, Maxine Kiehlauch; daughter-in-law Maxine (Jim) Hagerman; brother Pastor Ron (Isabelle) Myers; 20 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Roper was a member of the Edmonton Central Church.

Elsie Swiderski-Schulze was born December 25, 1909 in Witchen, Kreis Lutzkin, Ukraine and passed away two weeks short of her 97th birthday on December 12, 2006 in Didsbury. She was predeceased by her husband Willy in 1989, sister Hulda, two step-sisters Martha and Emma, step-brother Ludwig, and her foster son Walter Krenzler. She is survived by two sons, Wilfred (Kaija) of California; Edwin (Maija) of Olds; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and many friends. Mrs. Schulze was a member of the Conference Church.



Boot Camp II



Tell Alberta
Tell Canada

On the weekend of January 19-21, 2007, approximately 130 people, comprised of departmental leaders, administrators, pastors and laity, joined forces together to rally around the concept of BOOT CAMP lay training for members who wish to participate in evangelism.

As a church we have taught for many years that the work will not be finished until the clergy join forces with the laity.

What was most impressive about this training is the fact that the lay people in Alberta are finally demonstrating their understanding of their place in God's final work. It is exciting to see that the church at its highest level is in full support of releasing the laity to do meaningful ministry.

At the conclusion of the training by Pastor Larry Hall & Stan Jensen from the BC Conference, at least 60 lay people from 40 churches registered to conduct no less than two series of meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall. BOOT CAMP II was a successful follow-up from BOOT CAMP I conducted by Bob Folkenburg Jr, which was equally successful to the honor and glory of God; where 199 people signed up to get involved.

Probably the biggest surprise of the weekend came from the kitchen. Many people could not believe that vegan meals could have tasted SO good. *Kudos* to Darlene Blaney and staff for a job well done!

*Pastor John Adams, Evangelism,
Ministerial & Personal Ministries Director*

Dateline

Mar 9-10	Ellen White Seminar (Cindy Tutsch), College Heights	11-13	Adventurer Family Camp, Foothills Camp
9-11	Health Ministries Leadership Workshop, Foothills Camp	13	Mother's Day
11	Daylight Saving Time begins @ 2:00am	18-21	Pathfinder Retreat, Foothills Camp
15	Panflute, Pipe Organ and Chamber Singer Concert, College Heights, 7:30pm	21	Victoria Day (office closed)
16-18	School of Prayer for Prayer Leaders, Red Deer	24	Conference-wide Schools' Sports Day, College Heights Christian School
23-25	Calgary Youth Rally, Chinook Winds Adventist Academy	27-30	Outdoor School, Grades 5-6, Foothills Camp
30-Apr 1	Womens' Retreat, Red Deer	June 7-10	CUC / PAA Alumni Homecoming
April 6-7	"Searching for the God of Grace" Seminar (Stuart Tyner), Sylvan Lake	17	Father's Day
6-9	Easter Weekend (office closed April 9)	24	Executive Committee and Financial-Statistical Review Committee
15	Executive Committee, Red Deer	24-30	Summer Camp Staff Orientation, Foothills Camp
18-23	ADRA Summit, Foothills Camp	July 1	Canada Day (office closed July 2)
21	Education Sabbath	3-6	Pastors' Meeting & Camp Pitch, Foothills Camp
27-29	CUC Board and Graduation	6-14	CAMP MEETING
May 4-5	Mamawi Atosketan Native School Openhouse		

Tell Alberta
Tell Canada

Dancing in Grapes

I once saw a movie about young lovers and the grape harvest. The married women, in celebration of the harvest dance in a great vat of grapes, crushing the fruit. The juice runs freely.

I think of God's harvest of the earth, the body and blood of Christ; the spirit and the bride; Christ's Spirit/blood crushed and flowing in and among the seeds and the feet of the bride.

Earth's harvest and wine making implies a dance in grapes — Adam's feet in Spirit blood.

The grape: the juice, the skin, the seed encased in voluptuous.

We dance in grapes — we crush that holy orb.
We dance in wine — Adam's feet in holy basin

We drink, and slurp — and kiss
we share the juice, and trade

We grow the seed in wombs of warmth
we laugh and weep . . .
we crush . . .

We dance in grapes,
but always we dance in blood.

Poem and drawing by Ruth Proud